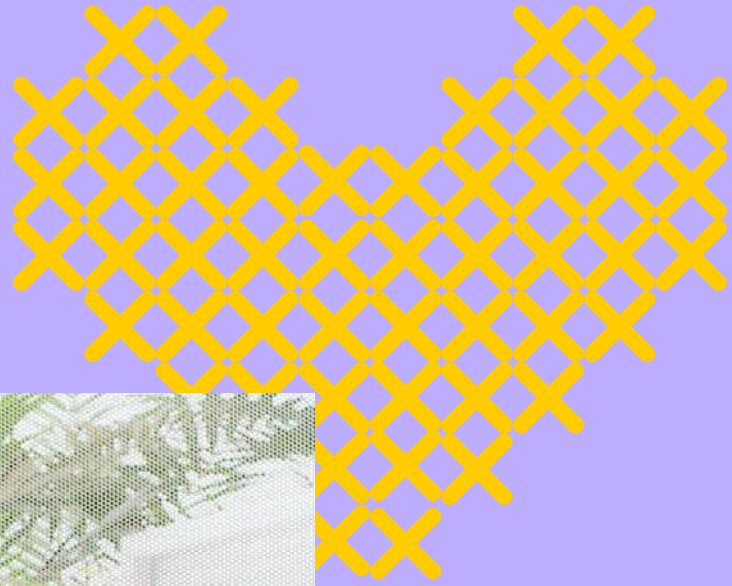
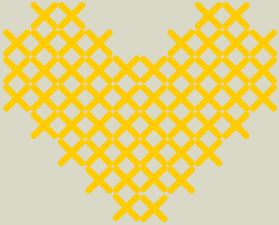




2024-25 Impact Report

**The
Social
Studio**



SUMMARY

This year The Social Studio delivered one of its most ambitious projects to date, resulting in first-time employment for 10 newly-arrived Afghan women and a collection of artworks reflecting the pride and heritage connected to traditional Afghan embroidery.

‘Suzani Stories’ was the culmination of 6 months of creative workshops and storytelling, made possible through the support of Creative Victoria, Creative Australia and the exhibitions team of Bunjil Place. In collaboration with a group of 14 women from the local Hazara and Pashtun communities, we developed a series of original self-portraits, illustration and poetry inspired by their lives and experiences.

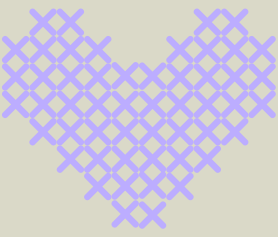
An all-female team, including Afghan-Australian bicultural workers, artists, poet and photographer, were recruited to the project to ensure cultural safety and integrity. All exhibition materials were translated into Dari.

Alongside this project, The Social Studio continued to provide its flagship program, an accredited Cert III in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles, including wraparound support and pathways planning for our refugee and newly-arrived students.

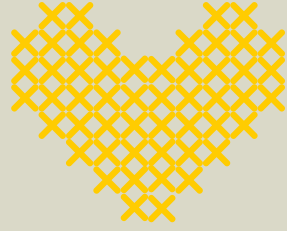
This year several students and alumni were supported into work with fellow social enterprise The Beautiful Bunch, offered further creative opportunities through industry partners or were engaged as workshop facilitators during both Melbourne Fashion Festival and Melbourne Fashion Week.

We were also shortlisted in the 2024 Victorian Premier’s Design Award for fashion for our ‘Moon Of My Heart’ collection of pieces featuring Afghan embroidery, following on from our 2023 win for our Alpha60 x Kay Abude collaboration.

In March we began development of our Sari Project, an intergenerational storytelling and design project centred on 100 donated saris and the wisdom and experiences of women from Melbourne’s Indian and Sri Lankan diasporas. Delivery due November 2025.



IMPACT



\$100,534

in wages and super
paid to refugee and
asylum seeking staff

\$3430

in artist fees to refugee
facilitators and
collaborators

10

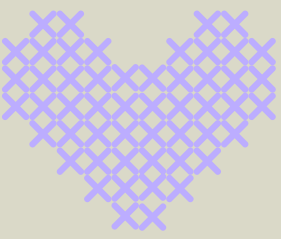
first-ever paid jobs for
newly-arrived Afghan
women

4560

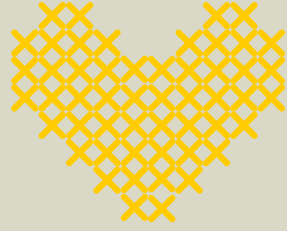
hours of free, accredited
training delivered

690

hours of psychosocial
support delivered



IMPACT



Video still: Suzani Stories exhibition
documentary

Video: Libby Chow

Interviews/translation: Tahera Rashedi

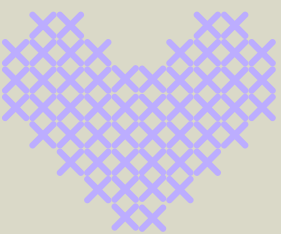
Link: www.thesocialstudio.org/projects



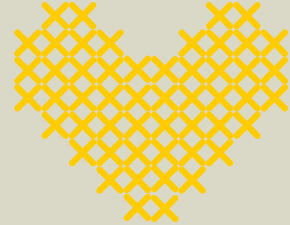
“I chose to embroider my lips because Afghan women have always been forced to stay silent. The things we feel inside, we can’t express them in fear of being judged.”

Artist statement: Sakina

Photo: Libby Chow



IMPACT

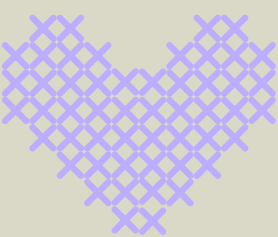


Graduation celebration and exhibition for Cert III student, Reem.

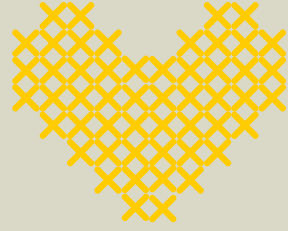


**“ I really love everyone at The Social Studio.
Everyone is understanding and caring and I
really will miss everyone.”**

Photos:
Dewi
Cooke



IMPACT



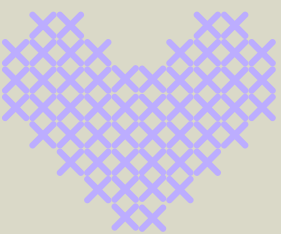
Donors of 100 saris for TSS' intergenerational storytelling project and retail collection, The Sari Project



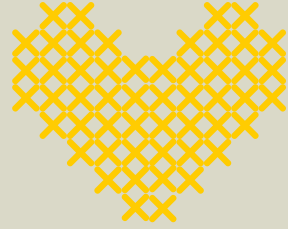
Kolkata-based sari designer Naina Jain demonstrating draping techniques with TSS students.

“The sari is love”

Photos:
Seren
Paing,
Piyali
Somaia

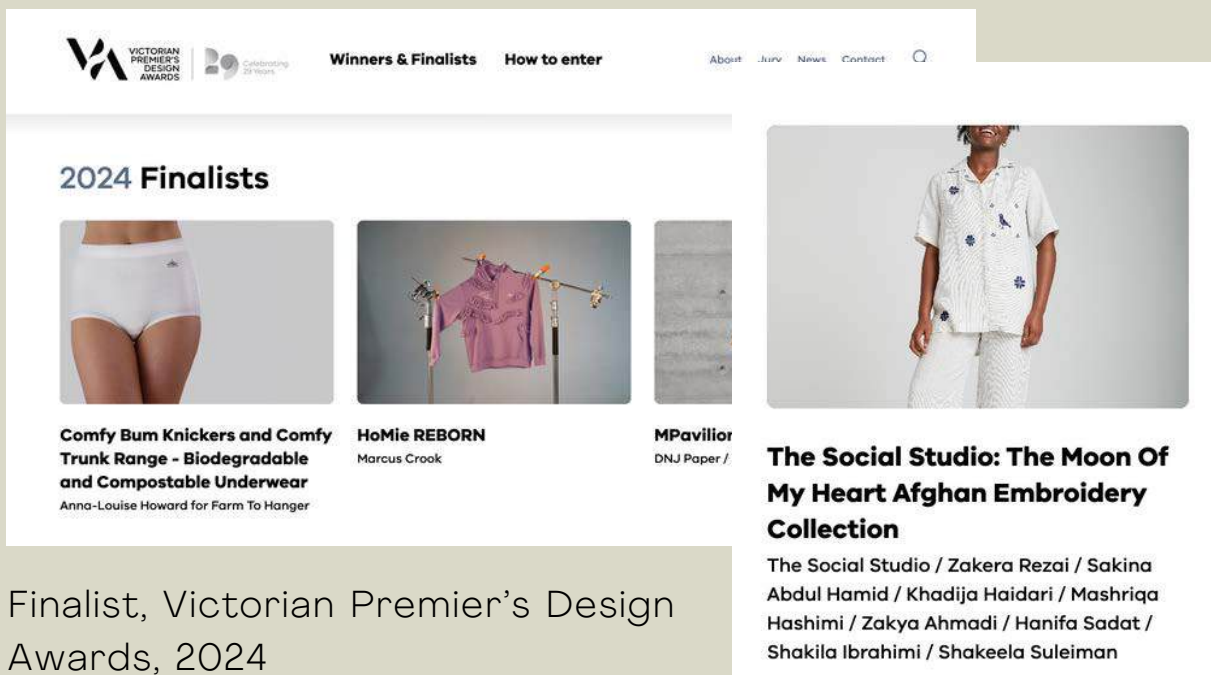


PRESS AND AWARDS

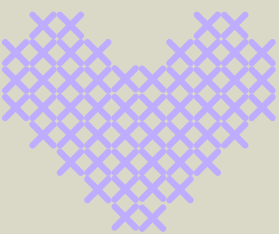


ABC News: 'The Social Studio exhibit Suzani Stories highlights the time-honoured art of Afghan women',
by Jinghua Qian, 08/11/24

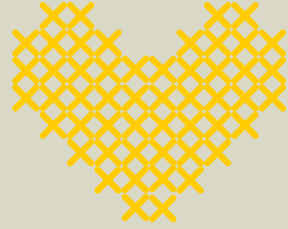
Link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-08/suzani-stories-an-afghan-embroidery-exhibition/104544918>



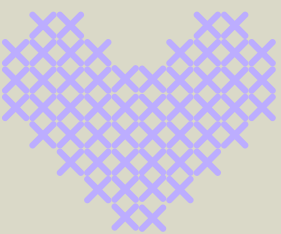
Finalist, Victorian Premier's Design
Awards, 2024



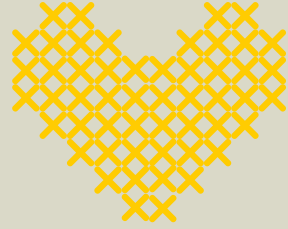
EXHIBITION



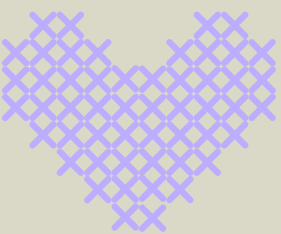
Photos:
Dewi
Cooke



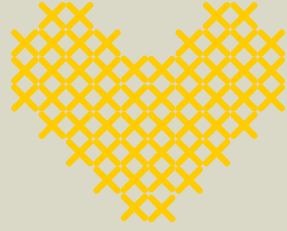
EXHIBITION



Photos:
Dewi
Cooke



THANK YOU



To the students, staff and supporters of The Social Studio, all of whom contribute to what makes our organisation so special.

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Farah Farouque, Chair
Alberto Furlan, Deputy Chair
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Mariam Tokhi
Vinisha Mulani
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Our funders:

Creative Victoria, Department of Home Affairs, Creative Australia, Sidney Myer Fund, Brian M Davis Foundation, Inner North Community Foundation, Spotlight Foundation, William Buckland Foundation, Westpac Foundation, Scanlon Foundation, the late Christopher Baker via The Social Studio fund and Perpetual's IMPACT fund.

