

Centre of Expertise on Asia

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13 October 2014 - 28 February 2015

[Open evening for couples planning to tie the knot](http://asiahouse.org/events/open-evening-couples-planning-tie-knot-2/)

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2 February 2015 @ 17:30 - 19:00

[Alexandra Kremer: Faces of Freedom](http://asiahouse.org/events/alexandra-kremer-faces-freedom/)

[\(http://asiahouse.org/events/alexandra-kremer-faces-freedom/\)](http://asiahouse.org/events/alexandra-kremer-faces-freedom/)

3 February 2015 @ 10:00 - 15 February 2015 @ 18:00

[From Peking to Paris: China and the First World War](http://asiahouse.org/events/peking-paris-china-first-world-war/)

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[On Kawara: One Million Years](http://asiahouse.org/events/kawara-one-million-years/)

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[Arts & Learning](http://asiahouse.org/events/category/arts-learning/)

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Alexandra Kremer: Faces of Freedom



[\(http://asiahouse.org/events/alexandra-kremer-faces-freedom/\)](http://asiahouse.org/events/alexandra-kremer-faces-freedom/)

3 February – 15 February

10.00 – 18.00 Monday to Saturday

Free admission

A brand new exhibition by the international artist **Alexandra Kremer-Khomassouridze** (<http://www.alexandrakremer-khomassouridze.com/>), will be launched in London at Asia House this month, exploring the relationship between identity, beauty and the inner faith.

Alexandra Kremer-Khomassouridze's **Faces of Freedom** (<http://www.butafestival.com/events/faces-freedom/>) photographic series depicts 50 women from Azerbaijan, Russia, Iran, France, Georgia, England and the United States – ranging from different cultural backgrounds and professions – exploring their perception of identity in relation to freedom of choice.

The fascinating, monochrome, passport-style photos, which portray the women appearing first unveiled and then wearing a hijab, opens at Asia House on 3 February and runs as part of London's second annual **Buta Festival** (<http://www.butafestival.com/>) – a celebration of Azerbaijani arts and culture.

Kremer-Khomassouridze's moving and intimate work, curated by Farah Pirieva, embraces the complexity of the issue of the veil, currently a hot topic of international

debate and controversy.

In the artist's own words: "No one left my studio the same. Our conversations had a lasting effect on each of the ladies, as well as myself. The complexity of the process was amazing. Some of my models, experiencing this for the first time, cried and preferred not to wear a hijab at all; some responded exactly the opposite, telling me that they would consider wearing it one day, others who entered the studio wearing a hijab refused to take it off."

The international photographer, who left Azerbaijan in 1989, was inspired to capture the photographs upon returning to the country's capital, **Baku** (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/azerbaijan/baku-baki>), in 2011.

"When I left Azerbaijan 22 years ago the hijab was in decline, particularly among younger women who preferred to wear jeans and mini skirts as a sign that they were embracing a new ideology of multiculturalism.

"When I returned 22 years after, I was amazed to see young Azeri women choosing to wear the hijab again. I felt like I had discovered a new Baku, full of interesting contrasts where freedom could look different to different people. **Faces of Freedom** (<http://www.butafestival.com/events/faces-freedom/>) is my way of interpreting and exploring these differences – the freedom to wear a hijab and the freedom not to wear it."

Alexandra Kremer-Khomassouridze is a recognized professional photographer and a graduate of the prestigious photography schools Efet and IRIS. She has also studied Fine Art at the Azerbaijan State Academy of Arts in Baku, and received her Master's degree in photojournalism, supervised by a celebrated war correspondent Yan Morvan. As an international photographer, her work has been showcased in exhibitions across major world cities, including Moscow, St Petersburg, Kornberg, Baku, London, Paris and she has been published in the international press, such as Paris Match, Le Monde, Le Figaro, Diapason and others.

Born in Moscow and raised in Baku, Alexandra Kremer-Khomassouridze has Azerbaijani, Georgian and Russian roots. For the past 25 years she has been a resident in France, living and working in Paris. She is the author of the book *Life Music* presenting the world famous classical musicians and their lives behind the stage. Alexandra Kremer-Khomassouridze's work is held in corporate and private collections worldwide.

Faces of Freedom runs at Asia House from the 3 – 15 February 2015.

The 2015 **Buta Festival** (www.butafestival.com) provides a window to the Azeri Arts in London, offering unique insights into a country that is arousing our curiosity.

For further information about the festival, visit www.butafestival.com (<http://www.butafestival.com/>). Updates about all things Buta can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – butafestival

Neither Europe nor Asia, Azerbaijan is a country of diversity, rich culture and contrasts. The historic mix of ancient empires and the emerging contemporary nation are producing a fascinating cultural scene.

The Faces of Freedom exhibition is open Monday to Saturday 10.00 to 18.00.

It is open to the public and entry is free.

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(<http://asiahouse.org/events/category/learning/paff/>)
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Details

Start:
3 February 2015 10:00 (2015-02-03)

End:
15 February 2015 18:00 (2015-02-15)

Event Category:
Exhibitions & Fairs

Organizer

Buta Festival

Website:
www.butafestival.com
(<http://www.butafestival.com>)

