## Isabella Layla Sharif

'The Surreal Realms of Solihull' (2025), Digital artwork Isabella Layla Sharif is a self-taught artist based in the West Midlands who "picks up a pen and gives it a go", as she says. In her digital artworks she celebrates colour and pattern in a semi-realist, illustrative style. Weaving together the traditional and abstract, she conjures up creative, visually pleasurable playgrounds for her viewers to fall into.

In 'The Surreal Realms of Solihull', Sharif has explored the intersection between Surrealism and Solihull's historic identity, drawing direct inspiration from the town's coat of arms. Patterns and colours

reminiscent of Emmy Bridgwater's style and palette weave throughout the scene, adding a dreamlike quality to the composition.

Through a total of 59,000 strokes, Sharif has framed the borough's local identity while adding her own Surreal twist, inviting viewers to feel pride in Solihull's history through her unique and modern lens. Sharif has been shortlisted twice by Talenthouse and Surreal Solihull marks her first professional exhibition as an artist.

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