

# HUMBER STREET GALLERY

EXHIBITION GUIDE

## *FLESH 'N' BLOOD*

JASLEEN KAUR

22 SEPTEMBER – 24 DECEMBER 2021  
SPACE 1

### *INTRODUCTION*

This new body of work by Jasleen Kaur for Humber Street Gallery began with the encounter of a text written by a member of the artist's family. A charmed item that acts as an instructional guide to healing the body, and a point of speculation to missing kin.

The artist explores our relationship to the body. What is latent and carried intergenerationally, and the visceral emotions of grief and ecstatic healing that are inherited and repeated. "If trauma can leave a chemical mark on a person's genes, then so can radical healing, right?" she writes. Biological and chosen kin are invoked through collaborative making and rituals.

In this series of mainly sculptural works, play and making are tools to invoke, remedy and create new language so that we can understand the body and its stored emotions. Kaur remixes traditional practices and objects that enable healing. Works are ingested, transformed by the gut, carried beyond the gallery walls and excreted. The exhibition invites you to engage with organs and senses, and to take part in this shared bodily experience.

The centrepiece of the exhibition sees a new textile artwork, taking the form of a 4 metre long custom made, double ended, kameez, a traditional dress commonly worn across central and south Asia. The fabric is stained and marked with the spice turmeric, known for its anti-inflammatory properties, and a series of symbols and text are embroidered onto the surface. The imagery that spreads across the dress tells a story of overlapping, generational identities. The Kirpan, a sacred ceremonial Sikh dagger used to bless food, now resembles a Nike 'just do it' tick. A long plait of uncut hair straddles the words 'MART-HER' signifying legacies of Sikh martyrdom and ongoing sacrifices of women. A colon excretes the words 'colonial indigestion' pointing to historical hangovers and the gut as a storer of trauma. Idioms such as "cry your heart out", "getting something off one's chest" and the title of the exhibition itself, "flesh and blood" mirrors how Kaur finds metaphors through materials and objects to describe the relationship between our physical bodies and our emotions.

Internals of the body extend further to the low platform, resembling a colon, that meanders through the gallery and plays host to a number of smaller sculptures. This acts as a subtle reference to the idiom of "having a gut feeling", something that suggests the overriding power of intuition over a more considered and rational approach to making a decision. Memories of objects that frequented homes and spaces of worship — acupressure flip flops, irn bru, ceremonial instruments — make appearances but have evolved, departing from tradition moving towards future rituals and practices. You can even eat revered scripture held in a prayer stand, suggesting the body is a sacred, magical entity. The show is accented by a series of new works by Priya Jay including 'Bless this flesh'; a prayer held in parshad (blessed food) bags that also stem from traditional devotional practices but moves beyond them and brings your attention to your body.

Spread across two large walls of the gallery are enlarged images sourced from the artist's family photo albums. Blown up to a scale which dominates the space, the presence of the women depicted is felt. Dressed immaculately and gathered in congregation, they suggest something ceremonial and intimate is taking place that they are there to witness. This intimacy is mirrored in the works in the show, often made collaboratively with chosen kin and with materials and processes from homeplaces.

Some of the works in the exhibition are intended to be touched, eaten or drank. These are identified by an \* on the floorplan. If you are unsure, please speak to a member of the gallery team.

# THANK YOU'S

Jasleen Kaur would like to thank the following people for their continued support:

Sarbjit Kaur Chohan

Priya Jay

Jamie Bracken Lobb

Michael Marriott

Ellie Sweeney Studio

Divya Osbon

And to those left anonymous

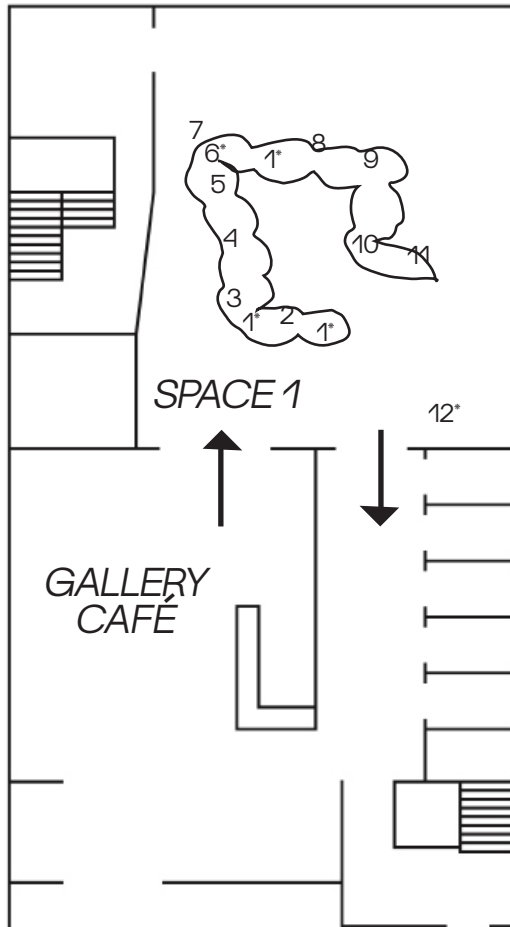
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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jasleen Kaur (b.1986, Glasgow, Scotland) is an artist based in London. Her work is an ongoing exploration into the malleability of culture and the layering of social histories within the material and immaterial things that surround us. Her practice examines diasporic identity and hierarchies of history, both colonial and personal. She works with sculpture, video and writing.

Recent commissions include Wellcome Collection, UP Projects, Glasgow Women's Library, Market Gallery, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Eastside Projects and Hollybush Gardens. Her work is part of the permanent collection of Touchstones Rochdale, Royal College of Art and Crafts

# WORK DETAILS, GROUND FLOOR



## FLESH 'N' BLOOD: SPACE 1

1. Imbibe, 2021  
Etched glass jugs and water  
By Priya Jay
2. Felt Sense, 2021  
Flip flops, plastic nuts and bio resin
3. An Invocation, 2021  
Elastane fabric
4. This Will Take Your Whole Life, 2021  
Plastic aubergines, beads and tassel
5. Freedom Massi, 2021  
3 mins 29 secs
6. Guides and Ancestors (hand stand), 2021  
Sapele Wood and Rice Paper
7. Definitions of Love, 2021  
Lotus seed, bitter gourd seeds, bottle gourd seeds, citrine, bay leaves, gold
8. Within the Body, God, 2021  
Worship bells and painted MDF
9. Anointment, 2021  
Irn Bru, cowrie shells, string
10. An Infinity of Traces, 2021  
Cotton, tumeric
11. Cure All Dis-Ease, 2021  
Milk carton, healing oil, reeds
12. Bless This Flesh, 2021  
Pocket size prayer, hand map, bay leaf, roses, popped lotus seed and sugar clouds  
By Priya Jay

## RELATED ACTIVITY

Access ouR in person and online public programme to learn more about the artists and the exhibition. You can book access all of the related activity by following the links on the [exhibition page](#).

*THURSDAY LATES: OTIS MENSAH AND G*  
THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 7PM – 9PM  
SPACE 1 & GALLERY CAFE  
BOOKING REQUIRED

A double bill will see new performance work by writer and performing artist Otis Mensah, and cross disciplinary artist, G. Taking influence from Jazz, Hip-Hop and spoken word, both Otis and G will develop unique performances of newly commissioned work alongside some existing pieces in response to themes of family, identity and the body present within Jasleen Kaur's new solo exhibition *Flesh 'n' Blood* on throughout Autumn at Humber Street Gallery.

*IN CONVERSATION: JASLEEN KAUR WITH PRIYA JAY*  
WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 6 – 7PM  
SPACE 1 & CAFE/BAR  
FREE  
BOOKING REQUIRED

Join artist and writer Priya Jay and artist Jasleen Kaur as they discuss the artist's latest body of work for Humber Street Gallery, *Flesh 'n' Blood*.

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## ABOUT US

Humber Street Gallery is an Absolutely Cultured project. Originally established in 2017 as part of the City of Culture programme, it has developed into a vibrant, high-quality contemporary visual art space for Hull. It is now a significant contributor to the contemporary visual arts offer in the north.

Our ambition for Humber Street Gallery is to further develop the venue into a multi-artform and multi-functional creative centre, showcasing a wide range of art and activities providing something for everyone from visual art, dance, music to spoken word. Increasingly the space will be used to showcase more work by local as well as national and international practitioners.

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## OPENING TIMES

### GALLERY

WED – SUN: 10:00 – 17:00

### GALLERY CAFÉ

Wed – Sun: 10:00 – LATE

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## CONTACT US

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Get the latest updates by following Humber Street Gallery on our official social media channels.

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TWITTER [@humberstgallery](https://twitter.com/humberstgallery)

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