



Where Meaning Lives

Blyth Arts Fellowship Exhibition
Ronak Sabu & Melina Lee



23/06 - 09/07 Main Entrance,
Imperial College London,
South Kensington Campus, London SW7 2AZ



Intro

How do we assign meaning to our experiences? Places, people, and memories fit together to form the context that shapes us. In the global culture of the 21st century, these influences grow ever wider. Travel and immigration have always shaped culture, and the freedom to move from place to place continues to influence our sense of identity and belonging. Through this two-person exhibition, we explore how personal tensions and geographical landscapes shape who we become, dwelling on themes of privilege, inheritance, memory, childhood, and the roots we continue to carry through change.

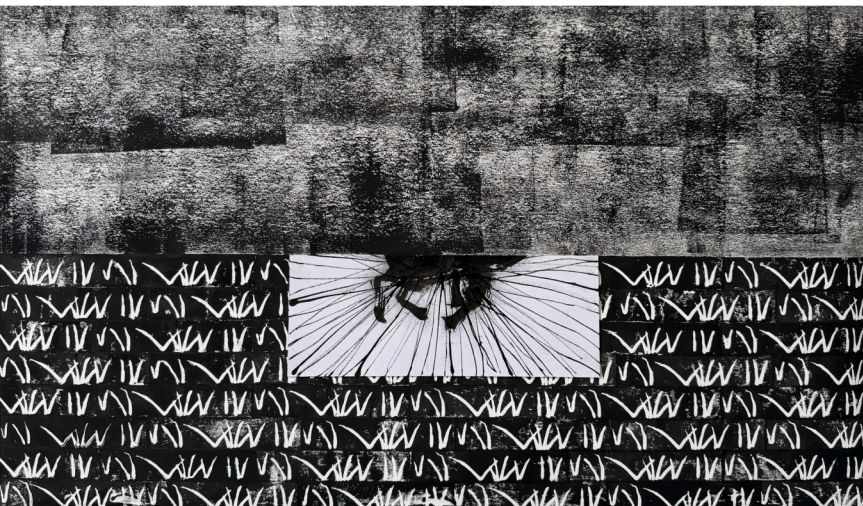
Welcome to our show.

Ronak Sabu

The spaces we inhabit aren't just physical places - they are complex lattices of meaning and memory, constantly shaping who we are and what we go on to do. But these lattices take time to build, and we often feel most connected to the places where we grew up. Throughout my life I've moved often between India and the UK, spending formative years in Essex, Bangalore, Lancashire, Kerala and Cambridge before moving to London for university. I often wonder how to succinctly answer the question "So where are you from?"

More recently as I've travelled through communities that weren't my own, my attention was drawn to my own place as a passer-by. Attempting to capture the unfamiliarity of merely looking into a space rather than being in it resonated with the part of me that is becoming increasingly aware of my "otherness". These photographs slip between the picturesque, painterly calm of day and the sharper, more ominous undertones of night much like the transition between safety and unease we feel passing through a landscape we are othered in. With this body of work I ask viewers to consider the privilege of feeling safe in places not built for them, and question the ways our backgrounds inform our freedoms of movement.





Melina Lee

This exhibition explores journey, identity, and memory through a fragile black-and-white world of insects, roots, creatures, and movement. Across Chinese ink, graphite, printmaking, clay, papier-mâché, and Xuan paper, the works reflect on the tension between escape and confinement, belonging and displacement, growth and entanglement. Wasps strain against cages, a horse appears caught in motion, roots become bodies, and suspended forms carry fragments of memory. Together, the pieces suggest that identity is not fixed, but shaped by what we inherit, what we carry, and what we struggle to move beyond.





Desire Lines

2024
Archival pigment print
12 x 8



Legs

2025
Archival pigment print
18 x 12



Everything is Expanding

2024
Archival pigment print
12 x 8



Third Space?

2024
Archival pigment print
12 x 8



Integration

2026
Archival pigment print
12 x 8



Voyeur

2024
Archival pigment print
24 x 16



Nighttime Person

2025
Archival pigment print
12 x 8



Beach at Parton

2024
Archival pigment print
18 x 12



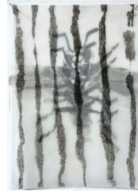
Neighbourhood

2025
Archival pigment print
12 x 8



Unbecoming

2026
Chinese ink, linocut print on paper
60 x 35



Not Meant to Stay

2026
Chinese ink on xuan paper, graphite on tracing paper
11 x 16



Inherited Ground

2026
Chinese ink on xuan paper
16 x 21



Where do I go?

2026
Clay in wooden frame
26.5 x 6.6 x 13.5



A Sky for Strange Things

2026
Papier-mâché
20 x 20 x 35

Full Catalog:



Ronak Sabu (b. 2003, Southend-on-Sea) is a fine-art photographer and 2nd year Medicine student at Imperial College London. Using diverse practices of digital and film photography alongside digital illustration, graphite and charcoal, his work explores themes of isolation, liminality and movement. In his free time, Ronak enjoys road trips, spending time in nature, and going to the theatre.

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Melina Lee (b. 2002, Hong Kong) is a mixed media artist and final year Civil Engineering student at Imperial College London. Working across Chinese ink, xuan paper, clay, printmaking and sculptural forms, she creates quiet, delicate works shaped by childhood, family, relationships and memory. Having grown up closely connected to nature, she often turns to roots, insects, horses and butterflies as personal symbols of attachment, change, restraint and belonging. Her practice comes from a sensitive and introspective way of looking at the world, using art to process thoughts, preserve memories and hold emotions that are difficult to express directly.

for enquiries: @melinaxlee on Instagram

We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to Mindy Lee and Naomi Anderson-Eyles for their support in organising this exhibition and administrating this fellowship.

Ronak: I'd like to thank my mentors Srinivas Surti, Kadie Salmon and Vanessa Walters for the inspiration and incredible insights they provided me in our tutorials. I'd also like to specially thank Jon C. Archdeacon for going above and beyond in lending me his equipment and providing me with invaluable advice. I'd like to thank my family and friends, who are always a willing sounding board for ideas and a source of courage. Finally, thank you to Katelyn A. Nee for her unwavering support whenever I felt like this show was never going to come together.

Melina: I'd like to thank my mentors, Thomas Hylander, Alice Browne, Sarah Gillham, and Clare Mitten, for offering insightful ideas and advice during our tutorials and helping me take my artwork to the next level. I would also like to thank my loving parents for always allowing me to explore and make my own decisions, and my amazing brother for being a great source of inspiration. Lastly, I'd like to thank Kai Yao Zhuo for his support, thoughtful discussions, and inspiration throughout the development of these works.

The Blyth Centre has facilitated music and visual arts activities and events happening at Imperial College London for over 20 years. Their art classes and workshop events run throughout the academic year.

The Blyth Art Fellowship provides creative fine arts support for current Imperial students. The Fellowship provision runs across one academic year and includes tailored mentoring sessions and a bursary.

Find out more here:

