

# MERGING CULTURES

DAVINDER SINGH BRAR



Merging Cultures is the celebration of modern multicultural Britain, the beauty of everyday phenomena plus the life of photographer and immigrant Davinder Singh Brar. Born in 1935, in India, his obsession with documenting daily life began from a young age and by 25 he had built his own dark room to develop his images. These never before exhibited photos, reflect the simple yet elusive nature of everyday life, as well as the creolization that has taken place in the UK. Davinder captured anything deemed worthy but had a particular passion for the people in his life. The beauty of both places and people are captured in an ineffable fashion, unique in their own way yet connected through this perspective.

In a social climate where xenophobia is on the rise, and racial tensions high, seeing and experiencing other walks of life is paramount to battling prejudice. Understanding other people's backgrounds, countries, traditions and religions, and being able to appreciate other walks of life is key to addressing issues of inequality and intolerance.

Davinder Singh Brar passed away in January 2021, with a cache of over 30,000 images of India and the UK, this show is in commemoration to him, his great mind, and his dedication to his camera.

To access the digital model of the exhibition please visit:

[https://www.artsteps.com/embed/607d7c770da8626aa9226fa2/560/315" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>](https://www.artsteps.com/embed/607d7c770da8626aa9226fa2/560/315)

*Early images* – This first section of images were all taken when Davinder still lived in India, featuring, various family members, events , friends, college peers and more. One image in particular shows his father who was a major in the army and served in Burma in WW2.

*Arriving* – These images were taken as he arrived in the London, and then onto Newcastle where he settled.

*Newcastle* – Davinder began working in Newcastle's brewery's, very quickly he adapted to Newcastle Geordie culture. Previously Davinder was more dedicated to his Sikh religion, he had uncut hair, did not drink, eat meat and more. However he naturally integrated into the lifestyle present in the city, he cut his hair and went by the nickname 'David'. A transformation which we can see as time passes through the images.

*India* – David visited India a few times later in his life, his visit that is featured in this show took place roughly between 2002-03. Unfortunately we are unable to know the exact date stamps for the images because of the artists unfortunate passing.

*The Golden Temple* – also known as Harmandir Sahib, meaning "abode of god", is a gurdwara located in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, India. This is the preeminent spiritual site for Sikhism.

