

Space  
Time  
Reflection  
Seeing  
People  
Place  
Travel  
Identity  
Home  
Questioning  
Land  
Stories  
Learning  
Unlearning  
Relearning  
Documenting  
Archiving  
Discovery  
Diaspora  
Transcultural  
Growing  
Routes  
Scattering  
Tradition  
Conversation  
Generational  
Community  
Heritage  
Care  
Love  
Support  
Cultivate  
Motherland  
Navigate  
Inherited  
Culture

# Stories From Home

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Culture

Stories From Home  
By Gugan Gill  
Birmingham School of Art  
Art and Design 2022

for Mum and dad,  
for nani ji and nana ji  
for Taran  
for myself

**DIASPORA:** The etymology of the term deriving from the Greek verb 'diaspeirō' translating to 'scatter' such as to scatter seeds.

Incommensurable meaning which engage in ones 'roots' and 'routes'.

We continuously *grow* and we *cultivate*.

Ithihas: The closest Punjabi word to indicate history, translating to "thus it was", a humbling saying that is culturally embedded into how people tell their stories and view their history as a community. This kind of consciousness of past events shapes Indian mythology, in genealogies and historical narratives and it's unlike the histories we learn at school. This different interpretation of history is something that is subtly ingrained within Indian culture, ithihas is a consciousness and acknowledgement of the past and shapes a culture and way of life.



# A visual and poetic investigation into understanding my identity as part of the South Asian Indian Diaspora.

Here I explore the relationship between people and place and how my family and I transverse between space and time, using histories and narratives that operate on a global, local and personal scale based on lived experiences. I speak specifically as a Punjabi Diaspora and here I decolonise the Western Eurocentric bias that I have grown up with.

This work can be considered a personal pursuit, reclaiming and exploring my heritage, inherited knowledges and the stories that have helped shape me.

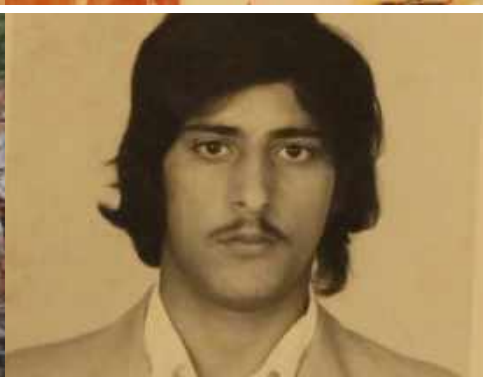
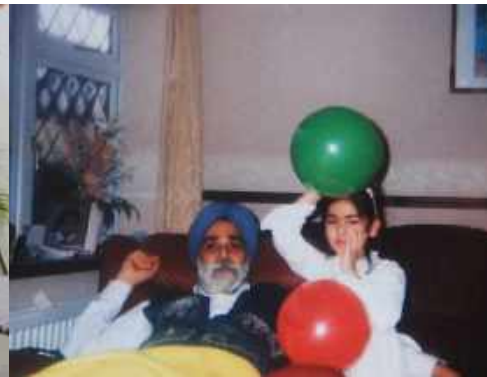


“Hence it is with a certain feeling of urgency that I seek the nature, subject, words of the other story, the untold one, the life story.”  
(Le Guin, 2020)

## Seeds

Oral histories  
Home Archives  
Immigrant and Diaspora  
The Carrier Bag Theory  
Life Story  
Place and time  
Generational  
Identity  
Beyond the Archives  
Colonialism  
British Raj  
The Archived Photo Album  
Ugandan Railway  
Farming  
The Archived Films  
Living A Feminist Life  
Radical De-learning  
Film Night  
Brick Walls  
Intersectional Feminism  
Conversation With Nana Ji  
Conversation with Nani Ji  
Film  
Super 8  
Home  
All About Love  
In Conversation: Stories from  
Home  
Nostalgia  
Homeland  
Scattering  
Routes  
Stories from Home: The Garden  
Roots  
Growing  
Cultivating







The emotional effects of South Asian Diaspora are notably unheard of, simply accepted and not understood, intricately and subtly sown into Stories from Home, these stories being an integral part of understanding our "own historically situated experience" (Kirsch and Rohan, 2008).

The simplicity of conversation gives us the opportunity to uncover histories and knowledges yet unknown to us. My work is a practice and my practice is research and where this intersects is where my work comes to life.

The discovery of Stories From Home comes from having conversations, observing and practicing, applying these tools to how I approach research and made way for radical relearning of my identity and history. My family history is central to the research and making of my project, using this discoveries to help me make sense of my transcultural and diasporic identity in which I believe there is no conclusion but an understanding that helps us interrogate the systems we live in and our places within our communities.

# Research through practice and practice based research

## Triangulation

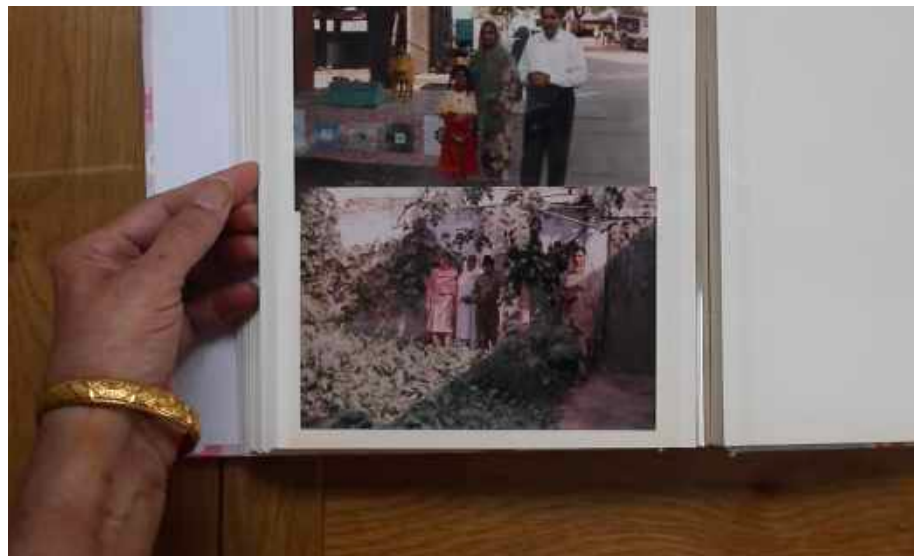
- Fiction
- Storytelling
- Writing
- Conversation
- Narrative
- Life story
- Imagination
- Reality
- Fictioning
- Fiction as method
- Reimagination

## Archive

- History
- Research
- Human
- Documents
- Chronicles
- Writings
- Extracts
- Oral histories
- Information
- Conclusion

## Diaspora

- Place
- Time
- Identity
- Travel
- Homeland
- Home
- Scattering
- Immigration
- Exodus
- Opening



# Seed

## The Archived Photo Album

“Through family archives we are met with the past and it is here we meet with lives before ours, places unlike the ones we know and discover stories that when pieced together help us get a understanding of where we come from.

An encounter with a photograph is an encounter with a story and it is with such perspective and knowledge I begin to consider how such narratives are a record of the past informing the present and future.”

- Transcript from ‘The Archived Photo Album’







Still images from 'The Archived Photo Album' film,  
3: 18 min, 2022

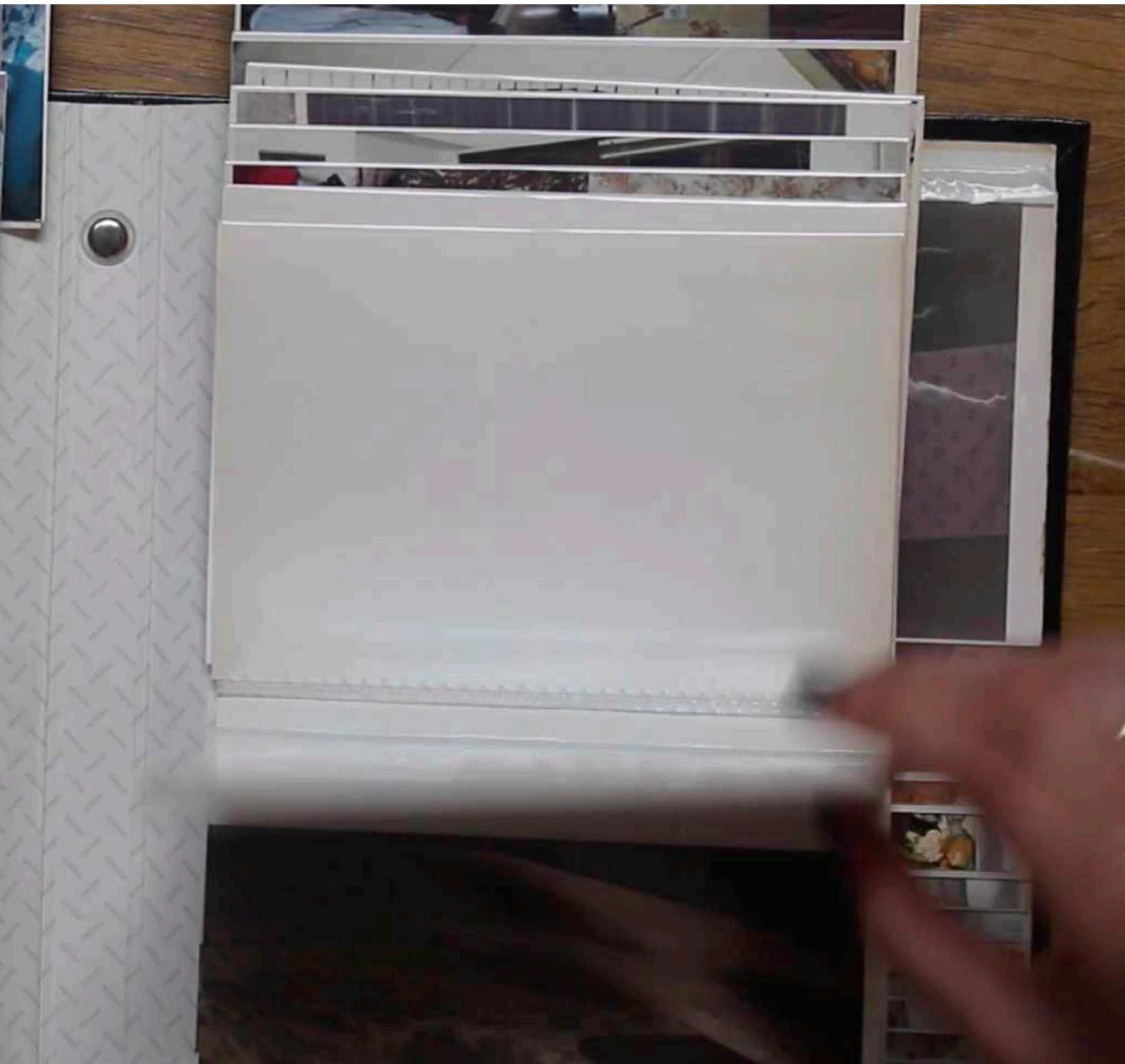




Ways of seeing:  
My Nani watched and listens  
to herself talk of a different  
time in her life;  
different times;  
I am lucky to share that  
moment with her.  
She smiles and tells me I've  
done very well. ♡







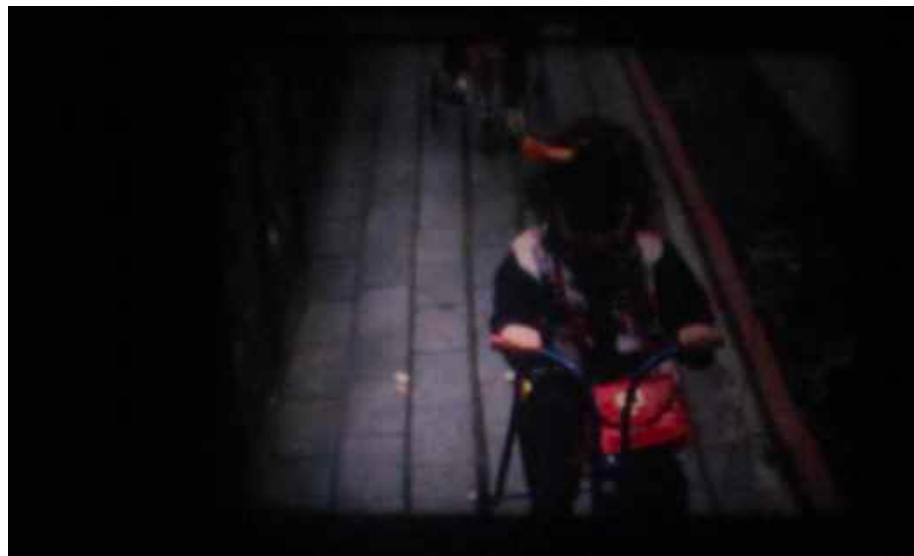








“The materials hidden under the beds and in the attics of friends and family might not, thus, seem appropriate for these collections. Yet these records— produced and contained within the lived experiences of our friends and family— are valid, and potentially enormously influential, sources for historical and archival scholarship.”  
(B. Sharer, 2008)



# Seed

The Archived Films

“understand and explore the fissures of historical narratives, the places at the margins that where voices have been suppressed, silenced or ignored.” (Kirsch and Rohan, 2008)

“The archived films are a window into the past, memories of days out, birthdays, weddings and the wonder of everyday are brought to life through old reels of film, a projector and a white sheet hung from the door frame.”

- Transcript from ‘The Archived Films’



Still images from 'The Archived Films' film,  
6: 05 min, 2022



































































































































































