

# Roo Kaur Dhissoou



B. 1992 Birmingham, UK/Raised Punjab, India / Studio - Grand Union, Birmingham

Artist/researcher Roo Dhissoou works with communities, diasporas and her own histories. Using [community engaged practice](#), [craft](#), [cooking](#), [performance](#) and [installation](#) she explores how communal and individual identities are formed. Roo's PhD, "Cultural Dysphoria: British South Asian women artists beyond binaries" is due for completion in July 2025 after going part time in 2025. The research is a practice-led interdisciplinary pursuit based between Cultural Studies, Media and Fine Art.

## Contact:

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## Education:

2021-present, PhD, Birmingham College of Art, Design and Media, UK (AHRC Scholarship) (Part Time - due for completion July 2025)

2019-2020, MA Fine Art, Birmingham School of Art, UK (Bowater Scholarship)

2011-2014, BA Fine Art, Birmingham School of Art, UK

Course Leader and Lecturer, GramOunce - Alternative Food and Art MA, Madrid

## Previous Work:

**2024**

Board Trustee, DASH Disability Arts Shropshire and Herefordshire, UK

**2023**

Board Trustee, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, UK (2020 - 2023)

**2022**

Lecturer in Critical Theory and Contextual Studies, BA 2nd Year, Birmingham School of Art (Sep 2022 - Dec 2022)

**2021**

Studio and Research Assistant to Dr Bharti Parmar (Mar 2021 - Oct 2021)

Research Assistant, IKON Gallery, Birmingham, UK - funded by the Paul Mellon Centre (May 2021 - Sep 2021)  
Studio Teaching Assistant (MA), Birmingham School of Art, UK (Oct 2020 - Aug 2021)

**2020**

Information Assistant, IKON Gallery, Birmingham, UK (Feb 2020 - Sep 2021)

**2019**

Various Managerial, Office, Projects - Lidl GB (Sep 2012 - Feb 2020)

## Permanent Collections:

Arts Council Collection, UK  
Surrey Art Gallery, Canada  
New Art Gallery Walsall, UK

## Publications and Texts:

Courses for Dis-Course(s), published by Primary and Jalebi Press ISBN: 978-1-7397790-3-0

Launching September 2024

Stages #12: Being in the World, Care Work, Published by Liverpool Biennial, ISSN 2399 9675 ([link](#))

Commissioned text in response to Emii Alrai's 'The Courtship of Giants' ([link](#))

Nangal Pend-ing/DarkVillage.STL published by Primary, written by Sahjan Kooner and Roo Dhissoou ISBN: 9781739779009

A Very Special Place: Ikon in 1990's Published by Ikon, ISBN: 9781911155294 ([link](#))

ArtLicks Issue 28 - The Idea of a City, Published by Art Licks ISSN: 2046-9349 ([link](#))

PMC Notes by Paul Mellon Centre - Cold Comfort and Cultural Identity ([link](#))

Sage Journals, European Journal of Cultural Studies: Movers and Makers: Uncertainty, Resilience and Migrant Creativity in Worlds of Flux ([link](#))

## Awards/ Certificates:

**2024**

New Contemporaries Award  
Serpentine Support Structures for Support Structures

**2023**

### Autism Awareness Award

Jerwood Survey III Nomination  
Arts Council England Project Grant  
Conviviality and Access Grant for Courses for Dis-Course(s)

Grain Projects Research Grant/ Bursary Award: A Voyage on Water—Vancouver/ Surrey, BC, Canada  
Government Arts Collection Nomination

**2022**

AHRC UKRI - M4C Engagement Fund for Gramounce Food Cosmogonies and Expeditions Residency with Bursary  
**Food Hygiene and Mass Catering award  
Level III & Mental Health First Aid Award**  
BCU Post Graduate Research Development Award

## Solo Shows and Commissions:

2024

Hospital Rooms - Sandwell CAHMS

2023

Courses for Dis-Course(s)—GLOAM, Sheffield and Primary, Nottingham  
Khao peyo aish karo, but don't hurt anyone's heart—Eastside Projects, Birmingham

2021

SHEDDING, SHIFTING, SLIPPING—The New Happiness, Birmingham

## Group Exhibitions:

2025

Made in the Middle—Leicester Gallery, UK  
New Contemporaries—ICA London

2024

New Contemporaries—Plymouth  
Greenwich & Docklands International Festival  
Don't play with your food—Sunny Bank Mills, Leeds  
There is Strength in Softness—Hospital Rooms x Sandwell CAMHS, Birmingham  
Rhythm with Osman Yousefzada—Ikon, Birmingham

2023

Concealed/ Reveal, with Curating for Change— Bristol Museum and Art Gallery  
GET WELL SOON—Ormston House, Limerick, Ireland  
Jaag Collective—Soho House, Birmingham

2022

explorers, zines and DIY culture with Hamja Ahsan— Tate Liverpool, UK  
breathe, spirit and life 呼吸、靈魂與生命— Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool  
Conversations from Home with Gugan Gill—Vivid Projects, Birmingham - Postponed  
Summer Show—Eastside Projects, Birmingham  
Cotton: labour, land and body, showing work for Bharti Parmar—Crafts Council Gallery, London  
Art Licks Launch, The Idea of a City—Recent Activity, Birmingham  
Landedness in collaboration with BLK SWN Society & MADEYOULOOK/ documenta 15—Primary, Nottingham  
Regenerative Neighbourhood Festival: Home & Heritage: Panjab—Civic Square, Birmingham  
The Big Lunch—Civic Square, Birmingham

Our Joy— Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, UK

Art Track—Dudley, UK

(ASTRAL VILLAGE) sloooooowwww—

ArtCore, Derby (duo show with Sahjan Kooner)

Best Seat in the House curated by Rankin—Oxo Gallery, London

Coventry Biennial, Hyper-possible—Coventry and Warwickshire

2021

Welcome to New Earth ( ARC\_Artist Rehab Club, with Larissa Shaw)—Vivid Projects with Black Hole Club, Birmingham

Best Seat in the House curated by Rankin—Oxo Gallery, London

Coventry Biennial, Hyper-possible—Coventry and Warwickshire

The Twenty Twenty Collection—The New Art Gallery Walsall, UK

Drawings and Research for Kadhi by Bharti Parmar, British Textiles Biennial—

Blackburn Museum, Blackburn, UK

SAAC bazaar II—The Hive, Birmingham

SHOW UP—Allotment show, crated by

Sofia Niazi, with Sahjan Kooner, Fred

Hubble, Sarah Taylor-Silverwood, Aleesha

Nandhra and Larissa Shaw

The Big Lunch—Civic Square, Birmingham

Revolution with melissandre varin—

Arcadia, Coventry

Duo Show with Jan Agha—Niru Ratnam, London

DOOM, Black Hole Club—Vivid Pejects, Birmingham

Traces of Others: Collaboration with

melissandre varin and Ryan Christopher—Arcadia Gallery, Coventry

Ikon for Artists—Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

Speculating—Arcadia, Coventry

2020

AIS festival—Leicester, UK

Unavoidable—Birmingham School of Art, UK

Peep at Stryx—Stryx Gallery, Birmingham

2019

PLAY—Stryx Gallery, Birmingham

Pittu Garam—Stryx Gallery, Birmingham

Pittu Garam—Arhus, Denmark

SAAC Summer Show—Ward End, Birmingham

2014

I make therefore I am, BA Show—Birmingham School of Art

**2021**

Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice Award  
AHRC UKRI - M4C Doctoral Funding Award  
SEDA Postgraduate

**2020**

AIS Inaugural Award An Indian Summer Arts Festival  
Tate Liverpool Artist Award

**2019**

Recipient of the Gertrude Aston Bowater Bequest Award

### Talks and Conferences:

**2024**

Timber Festival - Research Conference - Jugaad: Reusing Timber  
AN Assembly Black Country: Black Box with Black Curators Forum  
Transition, Artist Lecture Series, Sheffield Aftercare Symposium - Liverpool Biennial and British Council  
Loughborough University and Radar - Artists and Carework with Dr Lucy Lopez  
Coventry Artist Lecture Series  
Three Ways of Imagining Disability  
Activism Panel Discussion and Research Zine - Comrades x Outside IN

**2023**

The Aesthetics of Diversity: A Symposium - A Symposium from the Centre for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Arts co-curated by Lara Ratnaraja and Dr Karen Patel  
Photography and Social Research - New Art Gallery Walsall, Grain Projects  
Qisse of the Komagata Maru - A Voyage on Water - Research Synposium Grain Projects and MAC, Birmingham  
Panel discussion with Dr Jasmine Chohan  
Artist Lecture series - Leeds School of Art and Design  
Feminist Reading Groups - Primary, Nottingham  
Art School Presentation - East Bristol Contemporary, Alternative MA with Jack Lewdjaw  
Wolverhampton Literature festival - Panel Discussion with Punjabi Writers  
Vancouver, University of British Columbia - Lecture Series and Research Symposium

**2022**

DIY Culture: An Interdisciplinary Culturally Responsive Method for Knowledge Production in Art and Design Education - NSEAD

Explorers Tate Liverpool DIY Disability Conference with Hamja Ahsan  
Derby School of Art - Studio Art Lectures  
Andrea Luka Zimmerman's 'Art Class' - A Symposium and Panel Discussion  
New Vocabulary for Collaboration with Sahjan Kooner: Spike Island, Primary, Eastside Projects and The NewBridge Project  
Rest as a radical act - Online talk with Ashokkumar Mistry  
AN Assembly Leicester: Access and Disability, Online conference with Sonia Boue, Hannah Wallis and Iarlaith Ni Fheorais  
Leicester Art Gallery Artist Talks

**2021**

Birmingham School of Art Lecture Series  
Cold Comfort: 25th Anniversary - Permindar Kaur and Roo Dhissou - Ikon Gallery  
Creative Conversation with Female Artists of the Global Majority A round table discussion between artists Hira Butt, Nilupa Yasmin, Dr Bharti Parmar and Raksha Patel - Ikon Gallery  
In Conversation with Independent Textiles Curator and Researcher Uthra Rajgopal

**2020**

Art House Open Lecture Series 2020/21  
Meadow Arts  
Stryx Artist Talks Series  
Creative Black Country Pecha Kucha  
Ikon Youth Project Artist Talks

### Residencies:

**2024**

Material Matters with Civic Square and Material Cultures

**2022**

Residency with East Bristol Contemporary

**2021**

New Midland Group Collaborative Residency/ Bursary Award with Sahjan Kooner  
JOYA Arte + Ecologia—Sierra Maria, Almeria, Spain  
12ø Collective, Online Residency, #30works30days  
DAAJ, Asylum Artists Quarter, Residency/ Bursary Award—Wolverhampton

**2020**

Storytelling with Roo, Stryx Gallery, Residency/Bursary