

# PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

Press Release

For Immediate Release: 5 September 2024



Year 6 children from Khalsa Primary School, Southall, *Protestors Pass the Himalaya Palace Cinema*, 23.04.1979, 2024. Silk Painting, 100 x 100cm.

## Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Announces New Exhibition: *Southall Resists 2024*

21 September – 3 November 2024

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ

**Ealing, London:** Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery is proud to announce the opening of *Southall Resists 2024*, an exhibition that powerfully intersects art, local history, and anti-racism. This exhibition, from 21 September to 3 November 2024, showcases silk paintings, objects, and a film created by local children through the Young Voices programme—a Southall-based initiative dedicated to educating young people about their community's rich and complex history.

Southall, part of the London Borough of Ealing, often known as "Little Punjab" or "Little India," has been a significant hub for migrant communities since the 1950s. However, Southall's history is not just one of

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cultural richness but also of racial tensions and the community's resilient fight against racism, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s. The tragic events, such as the murder of Sikh teenager Gurdip Singh Chaggar in 1976, the death of anti-racist activist Blair Peach in 1979, and the 1981 race riot at the Hambrough Tavern, have left an indelible mark on Southall's collective memory.

Guided by local activists Janpal Basran and Suresh Grover, as well as artist Mahenderpal Sorya, the Young Voices programme engaged children in workshops, encouraging them to collaborate to visually represent and commemorate these pivotal moments in Southall's history. The exhibition includes eleven silk paintings, other artworks, and a film that reflect the children's interpretations of Southall's past, focusing on themes of anti-racism and the experiences of migrant communities. These artworks serve as both a reflection on history and a means for young artists to explore how these issues affect them today and how they might shape the future.

The children's works were first exhibited at Villiers High School during Southall Resists Day on 23 April 2024. This day, now commemorated annually, brought the community together to honour its history of resistance and resilience. *Southall Resists 2024* at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery is the first major exhibition to celebrate this new commemoration, providing a platform for a broader audience to engage with the voices of Southall's youth and the enduring significance of its history.

This exhibition resonates deeply with current events, particularly in light of the recent 2024 riots across the UK, which have again highlighted the need for communities to stand united against racism. *Southall Resists 2024* stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Ealing's communities and their ongoing commitment to confronting racism and honouring past struggles.

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, said: *"We are incredibly proud to host the 'Southall Resists 2024' exhibition at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. This exhibition is a powerful celebration of Ealing's rich and diverse communities, particularly in Southall. It is a privilege to showcase the voices of local children as they explore and honour their history through art. We warmly welcome everyone to visit us and engage with this important reflection on our community's past and its ongoing journey towards unity and understanding."*

Janpal Basran, Director of the Southall Community Alliance, said: *"The 'Young Voices' project has been a fantastically successful collaboration between Southall Community Alliance, Southall schools and activists. Hundreds of school children were involved in learning about Southall's history of activism, and some stunning artworks were produced that record their understanding. We are now delighted that Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery will be the prestigious location for an exhibition showcasing the beautiful silk paintings made by the children. We hope this brings a renewed appreciation and pride in Southall."*

Mahenderpal Sorya, the artist and workshop coordinator, said: *"It has been a pleasure teaching art workshops on the 'Young Voices' project and witnessing children's connection to Southall grow through art. Children not only learnt about Southall's past but also created together whilst learning new and technically challenging art-making methods. The project film has also been inspiring to create and, I hope, demonstrates the children's passion and interest in learning about local history."*

*Southall Resists 2024* runs concurrently alongside Pitzhanger's other exhibitions: the exhibition of Grayson Perry's tapestries, *The Vanity of Small Differences*, *William Hogarth: The Satirist*, and Antoni Malinowski and H el ene Binet: *Pigments and Photons*.

[pitzhanger.org.uk/southall-resists-2024](https://pitzhanger.org.uk/southall-resists-2024)



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust  
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To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign-up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at  
[pitzhanger.org.uk/newsletter](http://pitzhanger.org.uk/newsletter)

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## Listing Information

### **Southall Resists 2024**

Date: 21 September – 3 November 2024

### **Supported by**

Southall Community Alliance  
The Monitoring Group  
John Lyon's Charity

### **Participating Schools**

Blair Peach Primary School  
Dairy Meadow Primary School  
Durdan's Park Primary School  
Dormers Wells Primary School  
Featherstone High School  
Greenford High School  
Hambrough Primary School  
Havelock Primary School  
Khalsa Primary School  
Lady Margaret Primary School  
Three Bridges Primary School  
Tudor Primary School  
Villiers High School

### **Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery**

Address: Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ  
8-minute walk from Ealing Broadway Station (Elizabeth, Central, District Lines & National Rail)

### **Opening hours:**

Wednesday to Sunday 10am–5pm, including Bank Holidays (First Thursday of the Month: 10am–8pm)

### **General Admission:**

£12 Standard / £6 Students / FREE Under 16

FREE for Members

FREE for Ealing Borough residents every first Thursday of the month 5–8pm, and every Sunday 10am–noon



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## Notes to editors

### About Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

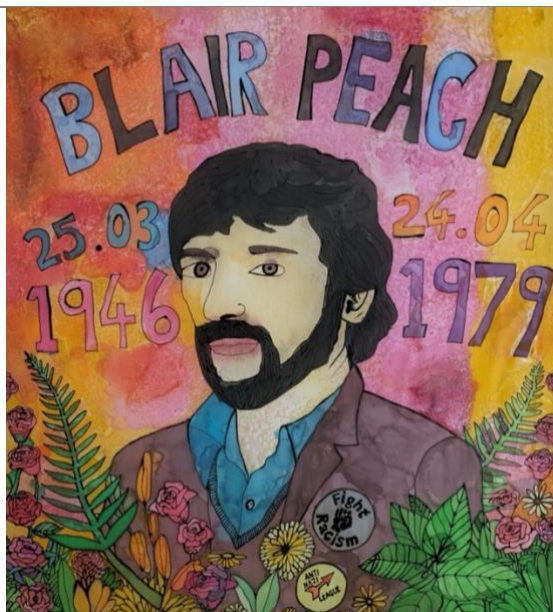
Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, built 1800–1804, is the historic country home of one of the most influential English architects Sir John Soane. Pitzhanger’s mission is to promote Sir John Soane’s legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture and design and nurturing creativity for all. It celebrates Sir John Soane’s genius and influence as a designer, juxtaposing his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions, and an extensive outreach and events programme. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return the Manor to his original design, with support from HLF, ACE, Ealing Council, and other generous donors.

### About Sir John Soane

Sir John Soane (1753–1837) is one of Britain’s most visionary architects, and one of the very few from his time to have come from a working class background. His buildings are celebrated for their idiosyncratic take on the neoclassical style and mastery of natural light. Soane bought Pitzhanger in 1800. He demolished most of the existing manor house apart from the Dance Wing and from 1800–1804, designed and built a new house as his country estate sitting in 28 acres of parkland. The legacy of Soane’s distinctive buildings, teachings and collections has influenced generations of artists, architects, and designers.

## Image Sheet

Please download high resolution images from [the Press Kit](#).



Year 7 children from Featherstone High School, Southall, *Southall Remembers Blair Peach*, 2024. Silk Painting, 100 x 100cm.

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Year 6 children from Three Bridges Primary School, Southall, *Southall Remembers Gurdip Singh Chaggar*, 2023. Silk Painting, 100 x 100cm.



Year 6 children from Three Bridges Primary School, Southall, *Celebrating Southall: The Wheel*, 2023. Mixed Media.

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Front façade of Pitzhanger Manor. © Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. Photo by Andy Stagg