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Press Release

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Announces Summer Programme — *Perminder Kaur: Mirror, Mirror* and *Prem Sahib: Doubles*

26 June – 21 September 2025

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



Perminder Kaur, *Untitled – Bed*, 2020. Steel, fabric and copper. 86x177x80cm. Photo by Richard Davies.



Prem Sahib, *Apotropaic 1*, 2023. Steel, aluminium, hoods, wadding. 145x60x50cm. Photo by Ben Westoby.

Ealing, London: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery is excited to announce the pairing of British artists Perminder Kaur and Prem Sahib in site-specific presentations of new and existing sculptural works across the galleries, manor, and gardens of architect Sir John Soane's former home. Whilst Kaur's exhibition *Mirror, Mirror*, will expand from the contemporary gallery spaces into the rooms of the historic manor, Sahib's major new bronze sculpture in Pitzhanger's gardens will be the starting point for *Doubles*, a series of interventions in the manor.

This is the first time that the artists have responded directly to a heritage setting, and with the experience of architecture central to their practices here they relate specifically to Sir John Soane, a master at casting and recasting materials, and deploying *trompe l'oeil* to suggest one thing is another. Both artists embrace this legacy, investigating similar themes of doubles, reflections and (a)symmetry. Their works suggest the familiar and the strange, Sahib drawing on personal and political histories of the surrounding area, and Kaur exploring the territory of childhood.

Perminder Kaur: Mirror, Mirror

Mirror, Mirror is the largest solo presentation of Perminder Kaur's work in a London institution to date. Her installations use toys, clothing, and shelter to explore how domestic settings shape individuals, and how identity and background relate to these things. Child-like figures equipped with claws, horns, or beaks haunt the gallery like sentinels or misfits, suggesting protection, defiance or both. Drawing on cultural symbolism, including ceremonial Sikh colours such as saffron and blue, her works camouflage themselves whilst simultaneously asserting their presence. Throughout, motifs suggesting a high society

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country house — such as pairs of antlers — are set against felt, fleece or richly patterned fabrics, refer to the safety of a childhood comfort blanket or cuddly toy as well as the underlying realities of everyday life.

Kaur will insert new and existing works into the historic interiors of the manor, to bring a heightened dialogue between the home of Soane's day and now — introducing familiarity and uneasiness equally. Her interventions reference hierarchy and status, reflected in Soane's architecture and design. Chameleon-like figures will appear to morph and merge into the eighteenth century fabric of the building — at once interlopers and guests.

Mirror, Mirror presents new and previously unseen commissions such as *Threshold* (2025), a ceremonial arch comprised of symbolic knives and fluffy balls, and *Washing Line Beds* (2024), an installation of black steel bed frames overhung with washing lines of brightly coloured garments. In evoking the character of the mirror in *Snow White*, Kaur points to childhood as a key site of identity formation to ask who is the truth-telling voice in the mirror, and where does it come from?

Perminder Kaur said: "I feel honoured to have been invited by Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery to show 'Mirror, Mirror'. This exhibition marks both my first major solo exhibition in London and the first opportunity I have had to place my work in a stately home. The setting has offered me interesting possibilities to locate my work within both a gallery and a traditional domestic setting, aligning strongly with my continuing interest in 'Home'."

Prem Sahib: Doubles

Responding to the unveiling of their first major public sculpture in the grounds of Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, Prem Sahib presents *Doubles*, a succession of site-specific responses inhabiting the rooms and spaces of the historic building.

Apotropaic 2 (2025) is a new sculpture that will be sited in the front gardens of the manor and mirrors an earlier work *Apotropaic 1* (2023), housed inside the building. Both sculptures — one cast in bronze and the other made from fabric — are of a pair of suspended hooded sweatshirts, one hovering above the other in an ambiguous embrace, perhaps one of tenderness or protection.

Doubles brings together objects and sculptural interventions from the last decade or so of Sahib's practice to reference meaningful local public spaces and events. Some works evoke memories of former buildings and past encounters in neighbouring Walpole Park, and others explore the idea of a copy or replica in performance, memory, deception and perceived threat to destabilise. Questions of mimicry, marginalisation, and queer desire will suffuse Pitzhanger to question who belongs, who is seen and heard in museums and civic spaces.

Front (2017) is Sahib's architectural re-rendering of a window from a public toilet that once stood in the park now transposed to an interior room of the manor. Another installation *Archive* (2019), brings narratives from the local area inside: a display of letters, newspaper clippings and other ephemera from the archive of Sahib's uncle, a race equality campaigner during the 1980s in Southall. At night, a light installation, *Liquid Gold* (2016), will illuminate the manor in bright yellow, turning the building into

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a beacon. In September, the installation will be joined by another light beacon in a building of importance to Southall's history of community action.

Prem Sahib said: *"The works I am bringing together are unified by a deep connection to the surrounding area — sometimes focusing on seemingly fleeting details like a reflection, and other times, with weightier histories and biographical underpinnings — a double-take on the emotional residues embedded within a place."*

Richard Parry, Head of Public Programmes at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, said: *"We are thrilled to be presenting the work of two outstanding sculptors across the entirety of the manor and galleries this summer. The exhibitions by Perminder Kaur and Prem Sahib each speak to the theme of doubles and converse with the legacy of Sir John Soane here at Pitzhanger. Both invite visitors into the artists' worlds and to reimagine the extraordinary architecture of Soane in new ways that are at once inspiring, relatable and at times unsettling."*

Mirror, Mirror is supported by a National Lottery Project Grant from Arts Council England.

Prem Sahib's outdoor bronze work *Apotropaic 2* is made possible by funding from the Frampton Fund.

Tickets and further information will be available on pitzhanger.org.uk/perminder-kaur and pitzhanger.org.uk/prem-sahib

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Listing Information

Perminder Kaur: *Mirror, Mirror*

Prem Sahib: *Doubles*

Date: 26 June – 21 September 2025

Press View

25 June 2025, 10am–noon

RSVP to press@pitzhanger.org.uk

Artist

Perminder Kaur

Prem Sahib

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Perminder Kaur: *Mirror, Mirror* is supported by



Supported using public funding by
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ENGLAND**

Prem Sahib: *Doubles* is made possible by the kind support of Phillida Reid, London.

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)

Admission

£12 Standard / £6 Students / FREE Under 16

FREE for Members

Pay-what-you-can for Ealing Borough residents every first Thursday of the month 5–8pm, and every Sunday 10am–noon

The admission ticket includes visit to Sir John Soane's historic house.

Exhibition Events

Perminder Kaur and Prem Sahib in Conversation

Thursday 3 July 2025, 6.30–7.30pm

Further details about the exhibition, including programming and public events, will be released closer to the opening date.

Notes to editors

About Perminder Kaur

Perminder Kaur's artistic practice extends over more than three decades, during which time she has become one of Britain's most innovative artists. Known as much for her deft manipulation of materials including glass, metal, and fabric, as for her evocative exploration of home, childhood, memory and cultural identity, Kaur's practice defies easy categorisation. With its fastidious regard for scale and form, Kaur's work is both alluring and contemplative.

Her *Overgrown House* (2020) is included in Compton Verney's major new *Sculpture in the Park* project for 2024 alongside legendary sculptors such as Louise Bourgeois and Helen Chadwick. Solo exhibitions include *Nothing is Fixed* (2024) John Hansard Gallery, Southampton; *Jhaveri Contemporary* (2023); *Outgrown* (2022), The ArtHouse, Wakefield; *Home*, 5 Howick Place, London (2020–21); *Interlopers*, University of Hertfordshire (2016); *Hiding Out*, Djanogly Art Gallery, Nottingham Lakeside Arts (2014) and *Cold Comfort*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham & Mead Gallery, Coventry (1996).

Her work was recently included in the major Arts Council Collection show *Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women since 1945* (Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Djanogly Gallery, University of Nottingham; Levinsky



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Gallery & The Box, Plymouth; Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, and The New Arts Gallery, Walsall, 2021 – 2023) and *If Not Now, When? Generations of Women in Sculpture in Britain, 1960 – 2022*, Hepworth Wakefield and Saatchi Gallery, London (2023). *At Home with Art*, Tate & Hayward Touring (2000), featured Perminder's *Shower Curtain* (2000).

Perminder Kaur completed her MA at Glasgow School of Art and lives and works in the UK.

About Prem Sahib

The work of Prem Sahib (b.1982 in London, UK) embodies a poetic and provocative “destabilised minimalism”. It references the architecture of public and private spaces, structures that shape individual and communal identities, senses of belonging, alienation and confinement. Mixing the personal and political, abstraction and figuration, Sahib's formalism is suggestive of the body as well as its absence, drawing attention to traces of touch and frameworks of looking.

Recent presentations include *Documents of a recent past*, Studio Voltaire, London, 2025 and *Alleus*, a live performance work co-commissioned by Somerset House Studios and The Roberts Institute of Art, which was performed in 2024 at Somerset House and the Edinburgh Art Festival. Other recent exhibitions include *The Life Cycle of a Flea*, Phillida Reid, London and the 12th Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art, Göteborg, both 2023. Solo institutional exhibitions include *Balconies*, Kunstverein Hamburg, 2017 and *Side On*, ICA London, 2015. Their work has been included in group shows at Sharjah Art Foundation, Migros Museum, Whitechapel Gallery, Hayward Gallery, KW Institute of Art, Des Moines Art Centre, and the Gwangju Biennale, among others.

That Fire Over There, an artist's book developed from *Descent*, Sahib's three-part show of 2020-21 at Southard Reid, London, was published in 2023 by Book Works.

Their work is in the collections of Tate, The Royal Academy of Arts, London, The Arts Council, Government Art Collection, UK; KADIST, Paris, France; Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Norway; MONA, Australia; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA.

About Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, built 1800–1804, is the historic country home of one of the most remarkable English architects, Sir John Soane. Pitzhanger's mission is to promote Soane's legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture, and design and nurturing creativity for all. The museum celebrates not only Soane's lasting influence as a designer, but also combines his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions across the house and contemporary gallery. Pitzhanger runs an extensive learning outreach and events programme. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return the Manor to Soane's original design, with support from NLHF, ACE, Ealing Council, and other generous donors.

About Sir John Soane

Sir John Soane (1753–1837) was one of Britain's most visionary architects, and one of the very few of his time to have come from a working-class background. His buildings are celebrated for their

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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 to 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.

The work the firm undertakes is cross-border, multi-jurisdictional and complex, spanning seven core practice areas: Corporate; Dispute Resolution; Employment; Impact; Innovation; Private; and Real Estate.

Sharing with you selected highlights from our exciting programme of exhibitions in 2025

Artist	Date	Description
<i>Alison Watt: From Light</i>	5 March – 15 June 2025	A major solo exhibition featuring new paintings exploring light and shadow, inspired by the architecture and emotional depth of Sir John Soane's Pitzhanger Manor.
<i>J'Accuse...! Sculptures by Nicole Farhi</i>	19 March – 22 June 2025	A series of small busts focussing on victims of miscarriages of justice across the world.
<i>Howard Hodgkin: In a Public Garden</i>	September 2025 – February 2026	A retrospective showcasing the vibrant and emotionally charged print practice of Howard Hodgkin, depicting moments and memories through bold, abstract forms.

Image Sheet

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



Perminder Kaur, *Washing Line Beds*, 2024. Steel, rope, fabric. Photo by Nosa Malcolm.

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Perminder Kaur, *Ten Teddies & Barrier*, 2017.
Steel and fabric. Size variable. Photo by Reece Straw.



Perminder Kaur, *One Swedish Sloth*, 2018.
Copper and fabric. 46x36cm. Photo by Luke Shears.

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Permindar Kaur, *Red Gold Indian Teddy*, 2023.
Copper and fabric. 59x30x24cm. Photo by
Richard Davies.



Permindar Kaur, *You & Me*, 1997. Polar fleece.
Size variable. Photo by Peter Barker.

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Prem Sahib, *Apotropaic 1* (detail), 2023. Steel, aluminium, hoodies, wadding. 145x60x50cm. Photo by Ben Westoby.



Prem Sahib, *Archive*, 2019. Wood, painted steel, acrylic, archival material belonging to Kamaljit Sahib. 79x300x80cm. Photo by Lewis Ronald.

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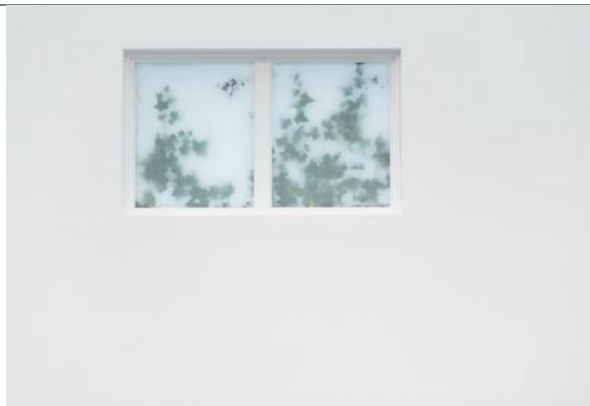
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Prem Sahib, *Archive*, 2019. Wood, painted steel, acrylic, archival material belonging to Kamaljit Sahib. 79x300x80cm. Photo by Lewis Ronald.



Prem Sahib, *Cul-de-Sac*, 2019. HD video projection, 5:58 min (loop).



Prem Sahib, *Front*, 2017. Photo by Mark Blower.

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