

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chila Kumari Singh Burman brings bling and zing to FACT in a newly designed gallery space
From 13 August**



Image: Chila Burman & neons, 2021. Courtesy of Tate

A brand new redesigned gallery space is opening at FACT on Saturday 13 August. Artist Chila Kumari Singh Burman takes over with a mixture of culture-clashing visuals, neons and sculptures. The gallery will be an installation in its own right and a space for the presentation of artworks by FACT's artists-in-residence, a host of artist-led events, and hands-on workshops.

Chila Kumari Singh Burman has a widely recognised, unique visual identity that has been shaped by her working class childhood in a Liverpool household. In this year's HM The Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours List, Burman received a MBE for her vibrant and uplifting installations which are known for bringing people together. With a nod to her recent accolade, the artist's playfully titled installation, *Merseyside Burman Empire*, will contain new commissions including an immersive Tuk Tuk. The Tuk Tuk will be a kaleidoscope of colour, made up of layered collages, glitter and embellished elements featuring motifs including Hindu deities, Bindis and

tigers. The installation will also incorporate screenings of Burman's films *Kamla* (1996), *Candy Pop & Juicy Lucy* (2007) and *Dada and the Punjabi Princess* (2017) which will screen on rotation. Alongside the films, Burman's trademark neons (a tiger, a lamp, and the words 'dream' and 'bizarre') will be restaged from her previous public installations. The presentation of her tiger neon marks the celebration of 2022 as the Chinese zodiac Year of the Tiger.

Born in Bootle, to Punjabi-Hindu parents, Burman is celebrated for her radical feminist practice which examines representation, gender and cultural identity. Burman's upbringing has shaped her practice and experience of the world, and is one of the key reasons why her works have come to speak to several generations of young multicultural communities in Britain. She works across a wide range of mediums including printmaking, drawing, painting, installation and film. Continually seeking to break stereotypes and emancipate the image of women, she often uses self-portraiture as a tool of empowerment and self-determination.

As part of FACT's commitment to working with and developing the next generation of cultural and creative talent, the newly designed gallery space allows for more experimental presentation and production spaces within the building. The gallery will allow both local and international artists and curators to test their approaches to art-making and interact with the public through workshops, residency exchanges and presentations.

Opening in August, the gallery will host a series of 8-week long presentations by artists-in-residence at FACT. The newly designed gallery provides the artists with a space to experiment and engage with the public. The first residency showcase opens from 28 September - 30 November 2022, featuring **Agnes Varnai** and **Tina Kult** (awarded the European Media Artist in Residence Exchange in 2022) alongside **Lucy Hutchinson** (Jerwood Arts x FACT Fellow 2022). The second showcase will see **April Lin** (Jerwood Arts x FACT Fellow 2022) exhibit alongside **Erin Dickson** (FACT Together 2021) from 30 November - 5 February 2023, before a third showcase presents **Hope Strickland** (FACT Together 2021) and **Ashley Holmes** (Jerwood Arts x FACT Fellow 2022) from 15 February - 9 April 2023. The final showcase takes place from 19 April - 18 June 2023 and features **Kerolaina Linkevica** and **GLOR1A** (both awarded FACT Together residencies in 2021).

FACT have collaborated with Bundobust for the opening event taking place on Saturday 13 August with Indian street food and musical celebrations. Register for free at fact.co.uk/whats-on.

The gallery will also host the majority of FACT's art-related events programme including talks, tours, performances, family workshops and group visits and is free to visit Tuesday - Sunday, 11:00 - 18:00.

Chila Kumari Singh Burman said: *"The team at FACT are just wonderful to work with. I am over the moon to exhibit a brand new Tuk Tuk alongside my ongoing neons and new collages which will wrap the walls and furniture within the gallery. The space is going to be fun, playful, experimental and artistic to invite and welcome everyone inside. I was born in Walton Hospital and went to Bootle Girls Grammar School so it's great to be back home, bringing my heart, soul and creative*

vibes to FACT with an urban ring bling and zing. This project is dead sound and unique, and my late mum and dad will be well chuffed with my MBE... their dream."

NOTES TO EDITORS

General opening: From 13 August 2022. Exhibition open Tuesday - Sunday, 11:00 - 18:00.

For further information, please contact:

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Image credit: Chila Burman & neons, 2021. Courtesy of Tate.

ABOUT CHILA BURMAN

Chila Kumari Singh Burman has a widely recognised, unique visual identity that has been shaped by her working class childhood in a Liverpoolian household. She is British, and was born and raised within the wonderful Punjabi Hindu culture of her parents. Chila's upbringing has shaped her practice, and experience of the world and is one of the key reasons why her works have come to speak to several generations of young multicultural communities in Britain.

With a practice devoted to challenging stereotypes, and placing alternative perspectives of Britishness at the forefront of art history. Her works reach global audiences. She has exhibited widely in both solo and group shows nationally and internationally, and represented Britain at the Havana Biennale in 1996. A number of her works and film pieces are represented in museums and notable public institutions such as the British Council, Victoria and Albert Museum, BFI, Wellcome Collection, Science Museum and Tate. She recently featured in Sky Arts documentary special Statues Redressed and BBC2 documentary Art That Made Us. In 2017, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate and Honorary Fellowship from the University of Arts in London. In 2022 she was awarded an MBE for her services to the arts.

ABOUT FACT

FACT is the UK's leading film and media arts centre, bringing people, art and technology together. Based in Liverpool, FACT's award-winning building houses three galleries, the Picturehouse cinema, a bar and cafe. Now celebrating 19 years in its Liverpool home, FACT has welcomed over 5 million visitors and commissioned and presented over 350 new media and digital artworks from artists including Pipilotti Rist, Nam June Paik, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Wu Tsang, Ryoichi Kurokawa, Agnes Varda and Isaac Julien. fact.co.uk

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