

BIJAL PATEL



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Everything Comes Next

I am a multidisciplinary British South Asian artist living and working in Vancouver, Canada (b. 1978, London, UK). Through a multitude of forms, including mixed media, sculpture, painting, drawing and ink, I express concealed emotions and my journey of loss and trauma in relation to grief and being a 2nd generation immigrant living between cultures. The struggle in finding physical and emotional spaces in which to fit into, be seen and accepted is a constant theme throughout my work. Much of the complexity of my life is hidden; deep emotions, grief and cultural translation which is explored through the negative and obscure spaces within my work.

I begin my work blindfolded, responding to music in black ink which happens organically, channeled by inner emotions. This is my process of expressing psychologically challenging and complex emotions that tend to be buried allowing a release onto the canvas. Having turned my deep emotions and experiences outwards, I then remove the blindfold to explore the empty spaces with color and line work. Each piece is deeply personal, and I use color to bring to life, and journey through, the hidden and express hope, liberation and freedom.

My intimate work highlights unseen spaces and offers the audience a chance for reflection on their own emotional landscapes and psychological places that may be concealed for them. Through my work, I intend to offer hope; opening conversations by allowing the audience freedom to connect with their own inner emotions and to surface hidden spaces into the light in the world.

This is an offering for others to journey to the other side of their struggles with a focus on how living is most important, through the play on shadow (through use of black ink) and light (vibrant colours and line work). Inviting the audience to hold and express both, simultaneously, focusing on the future to contemplate what is next where there is infinite freedom for everything to come next.