

**Call for ideas: Banu Rangoonwala Sculpture Terrace, South Asia Gallery, a British Museum Partnership Gallery**

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, is delighted to announce that Uthra Rajgopal, an Independent Curator based in the UK, has been appointed to scope out ideas for the new Banu Rangoonwala Sculpture Terrace (BRST). This is an exciting new space, forming part of the South Asia Gallery, a British Museum Partnership Gallery, which will open in late 2022.

Please note that at this stage, this is **not** a call for proposals, commission or loan as such. We are very much at the preliminary stages, exploring ideas and the potential of what this space could become.

**About the South Asia Gallery**

The South Asia Gallery is an exceptional new space (350 m<sup>2</sup>) creating the first permanent gallery in the country dedicated to exploring the stories, experiences, cultures and contributions of South Asian diaspora communities in the UK.

Presenting a dynamic, contemporary take on South Asian and British Asian culture, it will bring world-class material from the British Museum to Manchester, to be displayed alongside the very best of Manchester Museum's own South Asian collections and those of some of our partners across the city. The South Asia Gallery will have significance far beyond Manchester. It is an unprecedented opportunity to work with communities of South Asian heritage – regionally, nationally and internationally.

A place for emotional connections and new perspectives, the gallery is being designed and built with a spirit of collaboration and co-production, with a unique Collective of educators, community leaders, artists, historians, journalists, scientists, musicians, students and others from the South Asian diaspora. Studio C102 and Mobile Studio Architects have been appointed as the design team to create this exceptional new co-curated and co-designed space.

The gallery's displays will be created using an 'anthology-based' approach, sharing multiple voices and perspectives around key overarching themes: British Asian / Movement and Change / Past and Present / Sound and Dance / Innovation and Language / Environments

At the heart of the gallery will be a space, dedicated to showcasing the very best live music, dance and performance from and inspired by South Asia. This performance space will be shaped by ideas and contributions from South Asian diaspora communities and programmed in collaboration with both local and international artists and performers.

**The Banu Rangoonwala Sculpture Terrace (BRST)** will form an exciting part of the South Asia Gallery. This outdoor space will be seen directly by visitors at either the start or end of their journey around the South Asia Gallery. The BRST will provide artists, museums and galleries with the opportunity to bring artwork which will be featured in the South Asia Gallery. This will create a dynamic space, which connects local, national and international audiences.

Important points to note about the BRST

- The BRST has no public access; it is a very large, enclosed area, open to the sky.
- The BRST can only be viewed from the internal space of the South Asia Gallery.
- The BRST measures approximately 5m length x 2m width.
- The height of the door, allowing access to the BRST, is 2m and the width is 0.8m. The load bearing capacity is 2 tonnes. Electrical lighting and power to the area is possible.
- There is no fixed definition of sculpture and it is very much open to interpretation but of course it must be related to South Asia. Any artwork can connect to more than one country in South Asia, for example an ancient geographical area.
- The sculpture may have moving elements; it may rely on materials such as light, rainwater or even air and need not be fixed to a plinth.
- Depending on the size and weight of the artwork, there is potential to display more than one piece in the BRST.
- This will form part of a rolling programme of temporary displays, rather than being a permanent fixture.
- Please note, the glass windows looking out onto the space are highly reflective.

**Deadline for ideas on the BRST (at this stage) is Friday 4 June 2021. Please email ideas to [udrajgopal247@gmail.com](mailto:udrajgopal247@gmail.com)**

There is more information about the South Asia Gallery on the Manchester Museum website:  
<https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/about/hellofuture/southasiagallery/>

You can find out more about the Rangoonwala Foundation on their website:  
<https://www.rangoonwalafoundation.org>

For further information about the Banu Rangoonwala Sculpture Terrace, please contact Uthra Rajgopal: [udrajgopal247@gmail.com](mailto:udrajgopal247@gmail.com)



*View from the South Asia Gallery, looking out onto the Banu Ragoonwala Sculpture Terrace.*



*Inside the Banu Ragoonwala Sculpture Terrace.*

(Note: there will be no visitor access to this area, the people included here are for scale only)

**ENDS**

**Notes:**

**About Manchester Museum**

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, first opened in 1890. It is the UK's largest university museum with a collection of about 4.5 million items from every continent. Its combination of the academic and the popular is what makes the Museum so distinctive and lies at the heart of its widespread appeal. The Museum's vision is to build understanding between cultures and a sustainable world. Every year over half a million people visit. Manchester Museum is working towards an exciting new £13.5 million project *hello future*, to transform and develop the Museum becoming more inclusive, imaginative and caring to the diverse communities it serves.

The *hello future* transformation includes:

- A beautiful two-storey extension
- A new Exhibition Hall
- South Asia Gallery
- Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery
- Belonging Gallery
- A new space for learning and environmental action
- New entrance and visitor facilities with focus on inclusive and accessible design

[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)

@mcrmuseum

**About Studio C102 and Mobile Studio Architects**

Studio C102 and Mobile Studio Architects have formed a consortium to collaborate on the design and delivery of the South Asia Gallery project. The consortium will be headed by the two studios' respective principals.

- Studio C102 was founded by Kyriakos Katsaros in 2013 and is based in Dalston, East London. The studio works on the principle that good design should be accessible to everyone and not just limited to the few. Studio C102's recently completed projects include the fit-out for a new gallery in Deptford for architectural photographer Gareth Gardner.

Principal Kyriakos Katsaros has previously taught at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, and is currently a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Brighton. [www.studio-c102.com](http://www.studio-c102.com)

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Mobile Studio Architects was founded by Chee-Kit Lai in 2010 and is based in Dalston, East London. The studio has extensive experience in the design of exhibitions, with a portfolio of academic and public engagement shows. Mobile Studio Architects was awarded The ARUP Prize for Emerging Talent in Architecture, at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2016.

Principal Chee-Kit Lai is a Senior Teaching Fellow at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, and also holds a part-time position as Director of Exhibitions at The Bartlett.

[www.themobilestudio.co.uk](http://www.themobilestudio.co.uk)

### **About The British Museum's National Programmes**

The British Museum has a national presence, working with hundreds of partner organisations across the UK each year through its wide-ranging National Programmes activity. This includes single-object Spotlight Loan tours, touring exhibitions, Partnership Galleries, as well as both short-term and long-term loans, with the lead support of the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe. In 2019/20, over 2,800 objects were loaned to 105 venues in the UK, reaching 10 million people outside London. National Programmes also facilitates knowledge exchange programmes and trainee schemes to help young people to break into the museum profession. The Museum will continue to develop partnerships across the UK as part of its commitment to sharing the collection as widely as possible.

A UK Partnership with

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