

Imprinted

Suman Gujral on *Traces*

This exhibition shows a number of print works that are part of my *Traces* series. These works came from researching and reconnecting with my Indian heritage as well as excavating my experience of cancer. The works are all created using printmaking process.

During the course of my MA, and for the first time in decades, I spoke to my mother about the experience of being forced to leave her childhood home because of Partition. I began to understand the impact of this displacement on her view of the world. Simultaneously, I began to see how both of us had to rebuild our lives in the aftermath of trauma.

The printmaking process, and specifically etching, is where the acid 'bites' into the metal plate. This parallels how memories, and personal and global histories are embedded into our psychologies, leaving marks on the plates as life does on us.

The artworks include responses to my mother's story, the loss of my father and the untold stories of refugees lost at sea. These works are mostly autobiographical, but all tell stories of how life leaves its traces upon us. This can be through controlled or chance circumstances and can lead us in unexpected directions.

Artist Biography

Suman Gujral was born in India and came to the UK aged three. A printmaker for twelve years, she studied etching at Oaklands College and at the world-renowned Curwen Print Study Centre in Cambridge. She recently completed an MA in Fine Art at the University of Hertfordshire, specialising in printmaking with a particular focus on monoprint and etching. She has exhibited regionally and nationally including at the New Maynard Gallery in Welwyn Garden City, Parndon Mill in Harlow, The Mall Galleries and Candid Arts Trust in London.