

# Midway Contemporary Art

**Jagdeep Raina**

*Daytimers*

**June 1 – July 20, 2019**

Jagdeep Raina's solo exhibition at Midway continues his exploration of the representation of multi-generational Kashmiri and Punjabi populations living in his native Canada as well as Britain. A narrative series of works on paper, as well as new textile-based pieces, show his feverish and deft hand exploring dark and melancholic figurative imagery. Since graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2016, he has explored the private and public spaces of the Sikh diaspora using archives of images spanning the past century. Previous works have portrayed scenes ranging from domestic interiors to South Asian grocery storefronts, as well as images of early immigrants taken at the turn of the 19th century.

Raina's interest in the archive as a site of exploration into race and identity is visible in his new body of work, which specifically focuses on imagery from Bhangra dance clubs in Toronto and London during the 80's and 90's. The resulting installation introduces a sense of seriality, which creates a brooding, cinematic atmosphere. His sources range from stills from the films of Gurinder Chadha, to photographs by David Corio, to archival footage from news documentaries. Bhangra, an updated traditional Punjab music mixed with hip hop and house music, was born in the 1980's in London and Birmingham, and then expanded into Canada, Australia, and the United States before making its way back to India. Beyond being seen as a fusion of musical influences that was a cultural phenomenon, it represented a fracturing of generations within immigrant communities. Asian, African, and Caribbean teens, and a mix of Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh youth, would leave school to visit daytime clubs to dance — an act of rebellion as the younger generation broke away from the older. It created a space for collective self-pride and desire where it was possible to strip away binaries and external markers of identity: gender, race, sexuality and class.

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Jagdeep Raina (b. 1991 Guelph, Ontario) received his MFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2016 and his BFA from Western University in 2013. He has participated in artist residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Fine Arts Work Center, and the Camden Arts Centre/Slade School of Fine Art. Raina has presented solo exhibitions at Grice Bench, Los Angeles, and the Art Gallery Of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario; he has an upcoming solo project at Cooper Cole, Toronto, later this year. His work has been featured in group exhibitions throughout the United States and Canada as well as the 11th Shanghai Biennale.

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