



Press Release

SHILPA GUPTA TO PRESENT NEW WORK EXPLORING STORIES OF ROCHDALE RESIDENTS

Shilpa Gupta will present a new sound installation at this year's Manchester International Festival, inspired by stories of communities in Rochdale. *You are the place* will be at RISE Inavate Centre from 4 – 20 July 2025.

In creating the piece the artist worked with local residents, including recent immigrants, asylum seekers and more established communities, asking them to describe or draw something that they miss from home. The responses expressed deep feelings of love, hope and longing. Many spoke of missing people they left behind, including parents and siblings, while others reminisced about childhood memories, different landscapes and even specific fruits.

Their responses were shared with 8 local song writers who used them to create new songs recorded in Ukrainian, English, Urdu, Portuguese, Cantonese, Punjabi, Polish and Arabic; the most common languages spoken in Rochdale. Gupta has developed these into a sound work, with the voices heard across the space through a series of hanging microphones.

Audiences will also be able to view Gupta's work *Still They Know Not What I Dream* (2021) and be able to use a reflection space to share and leave responses to the work.

Shilpa Gupta, Artist, said:

"In *You are the place*, visitors to and from Rochdale will hear words being sung which speak of love, longing and mobility. Some will be in languages they know and others not. Dreams too come from a space of us not knowing when we sleep. The work invites us to consider that not knowing is part of knowing and it is what makes us human."

Low Kee Hong, Creative Director of Factory International and MIF, said:

"Drifting between languages, landscapes, and emotions, *You are the place* invites a pause and listen and consider, a new way of imagining ourselves and each other."

This is the first time that MIF is presenting work beyond the city centre, with commissions to take place across Greater Manchester. The work is presented as part of Rochdale's year as Great Manchester Town of Culture, a spectacular year of festivals, live performances, exhibitions and art. The title, awarded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority celebrates the town's rich history, creativity, talent and diverse art scene.

Created in partnership with the Rochdale Development Agency

Listings Information

You are the place
4 – 20 July 2025
RISE Inavate Centre
Smith Street
Rochdale, OL16 1YH
Free

For further press information please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

About Factory International

Factory International is the organisation behind Manchester International Festival and the city's landmark cultural space, Aviva Studios. Factory International commissions, produces and presents a year-round programme of original creative work and special events at Aviva Studios, online, and internationally through its network of co-commissioners and partners. It also stages the city-wide Manchester International Festival (MIF) every other year.

MIF is one of the world's leading arts festivals, and the first to be entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work. Staged every two years in Manchester since 2007, the festival invites world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds to create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work in venues and spaces across Greater Manchester. Previous artists include, Björk, Jeremy Deller, Akram Khan, Yayoi Kusama, David Lynch, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Yoko Ono, Maxine Peake, Skepta, and The xx.

Factory International plays an important role in the lives of Greater Manchester residents, bringing jobs, skills, training and creative opportunities. Through the Factory Academy, Factory International is training the creative workforce of the future, while its pioneering creative engagement and artist development programmes create year-round opportunities for local people to get involved, from participating in flagship commissions to shaping the organisation through involvement in its public forums.

Aviva Studios was designed by the world-leading practice Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), with Ellen van Loon as lead architect – their first major public building in the UK. Its development was led by Manchester City Council, with backing from HM Government and National Lottery funding from Arts Council England.

Factory International is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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