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Rungh means Colour

Rungh is a journey, a conversation, a strain of music that you just can't get out of your head... Rungh is a meeting place for South Asian artists of every discipline to engage with home, migration, identity, culture and belonging... Rungh is perspectives converging, ideas colliding, cultures fusing... Rungh welcomes you to this unfolding story...

Rungh began in the throes of the identity politics which gripped Canada in the late 80s; a politic which simultaneously created and destroyed definintions. As we broach the end of the 90s the seeds of conservative politics have become well rooted and identity politics are increasingly regarded as having marginal value. When Rungh began there was a window of opportunity to discuss what it meant to be 'Canadian' or 'western' while still having roots someplace else in the diaspora. We fear that the window is beginning to close. The rhetoric of globalism, technology, deficit reduction, and corporatism continue to create further distance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots.' All too often the communities which contribute to and support Rungh find themselves on the losing end.

We are at heart dreamers and optimists. We believe in the strength of communities and the power of creative labour to resist oppression. Such resistance, however, increasingly requires equal doses of open-eyed pragmatism, faith in ones beliefs and the support of a greater community. We believe that there is much work to be done and that Rungh has a continuing role in doing it.

Rest assured that the spirit of Rungh will not disappear.

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A Short History of the Rungh Cultural Society

The cultural terrain in Canada in the early 1990's was faced with the challenges of race/identity politics and issues of systemic in/exclusion of artists of colour from the Canadian arts and culture scene. The Canadian challenge, given our "multicultural paradigm" was different than that of the black/white binary of UK's Black Arts Movement and USA's "melting pot". The Rungh Cultural Society was founded in 1991 in response to a gaping need for a pan-South Asian presence in arts and cultural communities in Canada. One of the society's main projects from 1992-2000 was the publication of an international contemporary arts journal,

Rungh Magazine—A South Asian Quarterly of Culture, Comment and Criticism. The Society and Rungh Magazine included the energies and voices of names that are now well known but were then considered "emerging", names such as MG Vassanji (writer/publisher), Shani Mootoo (writer/poet/visual artist), George Elliot Clarke (writer/poet/academic), Ian Iqbal Rashid (filmmaker/screenwriter), Lillian Allen (poet), Ali Kazimi (documentary filmmaker) and others.

Rungh was a pioneer as a society and as a journal. It created bridges between various communities of artists (whether defined by race, culture, geography, sexuality, gender) and stimulated the arts dialogue of the 90's. It provided a role model for similar organizations and projects such as Rice Paper and Diaspora. Rungh, despite having a South Asian focus, was not essentialist but rather inclusive to many community voices. There had been little like us before in the Canadian cultural landscape—a credible, professional journal of record presenting the conversation and concerns of Canadian Artists of Colour, all in a graphic design package that itself sought to visually express the experience of cultures meeting and fusing in harmony and contradiction.

Who is Rungh?

The Rungh Cultural Society is an incorporated Canadian not-for-profit organization active in the cultural sector. The Rungh Advisory Board includes:

- Dr. Ramabai Espinet Ramabai Espinet - academic, writer and critic. Professor of English at Seneca College in Toronto. Published Canadian author
- Ian Iqbal Rashid - poet, writer and film writer-director.
- Chris Creighton-Kelly - interdisciplinary artist, writer and critic.
- Ali Kazimi Ali Kazimi - filmmaker, director and cinematographer.
- Ashok Mathur - writer, Canada Research Chair in Cultural and Artistic Inquiry at Thompson River University (Kamloops, BC) and Research Associate at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.
- Dr. Yasmin Jiwani - author and Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Concordia University, Montreal.
- Shahid Quadri - web designer and all around fool.

Curator Sherazad Jamal has over 15 years experience in visual art, architecture, creative writing, graphic design, magazine publishing and arts policy. She has a BA in English literature from UBC, and a Bachelor of Environmental Design and a Masters in Architecture from Dalhousie University. Her artwork draws on such themes as cultural narrative, myth/spirituality/ritual, cultural diversity and the immigrant experience.

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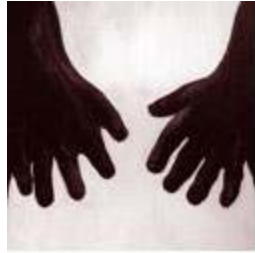
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Artists and Writers from 1992 to 2000

- Ayisha Abraham
- Amir Ali Alibhai
- Shabana Azmi
- Anita Rau Badami
- Shelly Bahl
- Ven Begamudré
- Shauna Beharry
- Sujata Bhatt
- Sadhu Binning
- Ann Birch
- Gurinder Chadha
- Weyman Chan
- Zahid Dar
- Sarindar Dhaliwal
- Phindar Dulai
- Lianne Harris
- Donna James
- Sadru Jetha
- Anees Jung
- Smaro Kambour
- Lakshmi Kannan
- Anita Kaushik
- Ali Kazimi
- Inderjit Kohal
- Mina Kumar
- Yasmin Ladha
- Damian Lopes
- Ashok Mathur
- Sur Mehat
- Michelle Mohabeer
- Shani Mootoo
- Bharati Mukherjee
- Shirin Neshat
- R. Niche
- Kauser Nigita
- Pratibha Parmar
- Anand Patwardan
- Alistair Raphael
- Ian Iqbal Rashid
- Julian Samuel
- Edward Said
- Adrienne Vasanti Salgado
- Geeta Saxena
- Shyam Selvadurai
- Ranjan Sen
- Shyam
- Roger Sinha
- Allan de Souza
- Leila Sujir
- Vivan Sundaram
- Alia Syed
- Farah Jehangir Tejani
- Aritha van Herk
- MG Vassanji

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rungh means colour

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Upcoming Events and Calls for Submissions

For upcoming events, check the [Red FM web site](#)

For submissions, please contact Rungh at info@rungh.org

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Why Rungh is relevant

The Rungh Cultural Society is a non-profit society registered in British Columbia. The Society is dedicated to the development, documentation and exhibition of contemporary South Asian arts and cultural work. The Society plays a role in the definition of an evolving South Asian cultural identity through assisting and encouraging South Asian artists with their arts practices. The Society is a source of information exchange, dialogue, collaboration and investigation around issues involving South Asian cultural production in Canada, the US and the UK.

The aims and objectives of the Society as stated in its constitution are:

- To foster, provide resources for and facilitate arts/cultural dialogue and community animation within South Asian diasporas
- To foster, provide resources for and facilitate arts/cultural dialogue and community animation between South Asian diasporas and Canadian communities
- To develop and preserve the languages, heritages and cultures of the South Asian diasporas, and
- To achieve the above purposes through the encouragement and development of professional skills in, but not limited to, a variety of traditional and contemporary forms of art and culture.

Rungh

rungh meets colour



The Home Issue

Volume 1, Numbers 1 & 2

Desh Pradesh Conference '91 · Violence Against Women · South Asian Women and Film · Indo-Caribbean Theatre · Lesbian and Gay Identities · Home - A Conversation · Cover Art and Artist Run Centre by Amir Ali Alibhai · Interview with Srinivas Krishna · Poetry by Ian Iqbal Rashid · Review of Memory and Desire (visual art show)



The Film and Video Issue

Volume 1, Number 3

Cover Art by Geeta Saxena · Interviews with Anand Patwardhan, Om Puri and Akesh Gill · Two Takes on Srinivas Krishna's Masala · Gita Saxena's Identity Quest · Michelle Mohabeer, Filmmaker in Exile · Artist Run Centre by Leila Sujir · Reviews of the Vancouver Film Festival, Of Customs and Excise (fiction), and Mississippi Masala (film) · About Face, About Frame Conference



The Body Issue

Volume 1, Number 4

Cover Art by Kauser Nigita · Struggling to Represent Our Bodies · Interviews with Neil Bissoondath and Alistair Raphael · Referendum in Québec · Artist Run Centre by Ashok Mathur · Short Fiction by R. Niche · Art and the Interaction of Communities · Reviews of Eyes of Stone, Something Like a War, and Kamlabai (films); to visit the tiger (visual arts show); Racial Minority Writers Committee of the Writers' Union of Canada (conference); and English: Writing with an Accent (conference); A Sari Tale and Hair Scare (videos)

The Food Issue



The Roots Issue

Volume 2, Numbers 1 & 2

Cover Art by Sarindar Dhaliwal · The History of South Asian Immigration to British Columbia · Remembering the Komagata Maru · Archival Project by Inderjit Koha · Profile of Vancouver Sath · Interviews with Rohinton Mistry and Trichy Sankaran · Artist Run Centre by Shauna Beharry · Personal Journeys, Personal Views of Alia Syed (filmmaker); Ayisha Abraham (visual artist); Roger Sinha (dancer); Sur Mehat (visual artist) · Short Fiction by Shani Mootoo · Poetry by Damian Lopes and Sadhu Binning · Reviews of A Suitable Boy (fiction); Chandralekha (dance); Telling Relations: Sexuality and the Family (visual art); A Balancing Act: Family and Work (video); Latifa & Himli's Nomadic Uncle (film); Desh Pradesh, 1993 (conference); National Association of Women and the Law (conference)



The Literature Issue

Volume 2, Number 3

New writing by Bharati Mukherjee (The Holder of the World) and MG Vassanji (The Book of Secrets) · Interview with Ven Begamudré · Ragas from the Periphery: Artist Run Centre by Phindar Dulai · Reviews of Culture and Imperialism by Edward Said; A Lotus of Many Colours (gay and lesbian anthology); Horse of the Sun, Maya Memsaab and The Burning Season (film)



The Visual Arts Issue

Volume 2, Number 4

Guest Editor: Amir Ali Alibhai
Cover Art by Ranjan Sen · Interview with filmmaker Gurinder Chadha · Hair of the Dog?: Contemporary South Asian Visual Arts in Great Britain · Off Colour: Curating Beyond Race · Self Not Whole: Curating within Community · Indian Aphorisms: Artist Run Centre by Allan de Souza · New Fiction by Farah Jehangir Tejani · Reviews of Shani Mootoo's Photocopies & Videotapes, the South Asian Gallery at the Met and Desh Pradesh

The Queer Issue



Jeha and Mira Kumar · Excerpts from a work in progress by Smaro Kambour · Interview with filmmaker Shyam · Art by Donna James · Poetry by Sujata Bhatt · Review of Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asian Diaspora (anthology of writings by American South Asian women)



Pradnya Parmar & Zainab Dar · Alistair Rapraet's haunting Interrupt · Barbie Goes South Asian in colour with Adrienne Vasanti Salgado and Ian Iqbal Rashid—plus Anita Kaushik's Oriental Mistress, Plastic Passions full-colour digital collage · Shyam Selvadurai's Funny Boy · Shani Mootoo's Her Sweetness Lingers



The Film and Video Issue II

Volume 3, Number 2

Interviews with actor/activist Shabana Azmi; documentary-makers Ali Kazimi & Anand Patwardan; and visual artist Vivan Sundaram · Reviews of Narmada: A Valley Rises by Ali Kazimi (film); Bandit Queen by Shekhar Kapur (film); Beyond Destinations (film and video) curated by Ian Iqbal Rashid; two videos by Julian Samuel; and an asian film programme curated by L.Somi Roy · Sheyfali Saujani visits with her Meena Foyba · Review of Her Mother's Ashes edited by Nurjehan Aziz (anthology of writings by Canadian South Asian women)



The Publications Issue

Volume 3, Number 4

Browsing the Racks: Rungh takes a look at the South Asian periodical scene by Zool Suleman and Sherazad Jamal · Bissoondath · The Home Poems by Sadhu Binning · Jerry Gill interviews Cornershop · Andrew Sun talks with Ristesh Das of the Toronto Tabla Ensemble · Shelly Bahl's Noble Women Smoking the Hookah · Reviews of Deepa Mehta, Julian Samuel, Larissa Lai and others



The Racism Issue

Volume 4, Numbers 1 & 2

Cover art by Winslow Delaney · Anti-Racist Work in the Classroom by Louise Saldanha and Aruna Srivastava · Aboriginal women & women of colour working together · Everyday People by Hiren Mistr · KRS-1 and signs of blackness · Poetry by Wayde Compton, Rajinderpal S. Pal, De Poonani Posse, S. Ramnath and Minal Hajratwala · Fiction from Marwan Hassan, Himani Bannerji, Kevin d*souza and Arif Noorani, Rabindranath Maharaj and Phinder Dulai

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