

# Spandita Malik

Photo London  
8 – 12 September 2021

indigo+madder

**Spandita Malik (b. 1995, India)**

Spandita Malik is a New York-based artist from India, whose work often addresses women's rights and gender-based violence. Her ongoing project, *Nāri*, features embroidered photographic portraits made in collaboration with women in India. These works were developed over time, through an incredibly layered, participative process. She travelled to several regions in India, known for their traditional embroidery styles and distinctively woven fabrics, to interview women in self-help embroidery groups for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. Through recommendations, she also began meeting many women such as Sindhu, Kirna Devi, Poonam and others, who were either not allowed or did not feel safe enough to come out to the centres, but would embroider in their domestic spaces. Malik embarked on a project to interview and document their stories, and photograph them in spaces within which they felt most comfortable. She eventually printed these images on fabric and invited the group to manipulate and embroider the surfaces. The resulting works are rich, layered tapestries, each unique to the personality of its embroiderer and testament to the networks and friendships formed in these spaces. They harness the rich tradition of using embroidery as a form of resistance, self-expression, means of communication and finding community. These collaborations have a layering of diverse positionalities, break down distinctions between art and craft, and explore ideas related to identity and agency.

Malik received her MFA in Photography from Parsons School of Design, where she was awarded the Dean's Merit Scholarship, Photography Programmatic Scholarship and Graduate Travel Grant Award. She was recently awarded the Firecracker Photographic Grant and South Asian Arts Resiliency Grant. Malik was chosen for Studio Vortex Artist Residency by Antoine d'Agata in Arles, France (2018); Baxter St Workspace Residency in New York (2020); Feminist Incubator Residency by Project for Empty Spaces in New Jersey (2020); and The Center for Photography at Woodstock Artist in Residency Program, Woodstock, NY (2021). She is also selected for The New York Times Portfolio Review and NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program for Visual & Multidisciplinary Artists. Malik's work has been featured in magazines like Musée Magazine and Harper's Magazine, she was named 'Ones to Watch 2020' by British Journal of Photography. Malik has forthcoming solo shows in 2021 at Visual Art Centre of New Jersey, New Jersey and Baxter St, New York. Her work has been featured internationally in China, France, India, Italy, New York and New Zealand.



**Spandita Malik**

*Sindhu*  
Nari series, 2020  
Photographic transfer Print on Khadi, Embroidery, Appliqué, Beadwork  
22.5 x 32 in

£3620





**Spandita Malik**

*Rukmesh Kumari*

Nari series, 2020

Photographic transfer Print on Khaddar, Phulkari silk thread Embroidery

40 x 49 in

£7250





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*Kirna Devi*  
Nari series, 2020  
Photographic transfer print on Khaddar Fabric, Phulkari Silk thread embroidery  
11.5 x 16 in

£1800







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*Poonam*  
Nari series, 2020  
Photographic transfer print on Voile Fabric, Chikankari embroidery  
34 x 41 in

£5450

