

The Art House re-examines the important project, **‘Lovers: Ten Years On’** by critically acclaimed photographer Sunil Gupta, and premieres a new collaborative work **Lovers Revisited**, 40 years on since the series began.



Sunil Gupta, Lovers - Ten Years On, Brian & Pas 1984/85



Sunil Gupta + Charan Singh, Lovers, Revisited, Nicola & Willy, Paris 2023

Sunil Gupta: Lovers: Ten Years On & Sunil Gupta and Charan Singh: Lovers, Revisited, 15 June–31 August 2024, The Art House

The Art House is delighted to welcome internationally renowned artist Sunil Gupta to present a solo project in Yorkshire for the very first time.

The exhibition will revisit Gupta’s significant project, **Lovers: Ten Years On** which he first began in 1984 to reframe the lives of gay couples and challenge commercial stereotypes in visual culture. Approaching a milestone 40th anniversary, the artist will present a selection of the original series, alongside brand-new large-scale photographs shown for the very first time, for the premiere of **Lovers, Revisited**, made with artist collaborator, and husband, Charan Singh.

With a career spanning more than four decades, Gupta has maintained a visionary approach to photography, producing work that is pioneering in social and political commentary. The importance of giving space to **Lovers: Ten Years On** extends beyond its significance as it stood in the 1980s, by creating a thought-provoking opportunity to reconsider its positioning in today’s society.

Lovers, Revisited premieres new portraits made in collaboration with artist Charan Singh. Gupta and Singh are both recognised for their distinctive style and approach to photography. Recently their practices came together creating exciting dialogues between their work. As an extension to the original project, Gupta and Singh have created large-scale digital colour works by using the same camera lens. They document couples today, from all over the world, as well as reshooting one of the participants from the original series.

Gupta moved to the UK in the late 1970s during a time when the Gay Movement was gaining momentum and challenging the idea that “homosexuality” was a mental disorder. Gupta has always focused on representation and racial sensibilities, being politically driven in both gay and multicultural activism and later Aids/HIV activism. In 1984, he began creating portraits to reframe the lives of LGBT+ couples in response to challenging stereotypes in visual culture, which often depicted the community as exclusively promiscuous sexual beings. Set within domestic environments, Gupta created narratives and identities which, at that time, were unseen or not breaking through.

However, the arrival of AIDS/HIV [HIV was first termed in 1986] had a drastic impact on the community. This was not just due to the virus itself, but also because of society’s response, which was fuelled by vicious campaigns in the media to label queer people as sick and irresponsible. or heavily saturated images of ill gay men.

The timing for this project goes beyond a celebration of the original series’ milestone. It is a reminder of the past struggle and ongoing importance of visibility for queer communities at a time where the UK grows less safe for LGBTQIA+ people – which is why this body of work can act as a pillar for connection with communities and discussions on representation and politics of visibility.

Alongside **Lovers: Ten Years On & Lovers, Revisited**, The Art House is proud to present **The Promise of Beauty**, the first major solo exhibition in the UK by Charan Singh.



Above: Sunil Gupta, *Lovers - Ten Years On*, Lisa & Emily, Below: Sunil Gupta + Charan Singh, *Lovers, Revisit Renée & Emily*, London, 2024

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Images and interviews by arrangement.

Notes to Editors

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Opening Times

Monday: Closed (appointment only)

Tuesday: 09:30 – 16:00

Wednesday: 09:30 – 16:00

Thursday: 09:30 - 16:00

Friday: 09:30 - 16:00

Saturday: 09:30 - 16:00

About The Art House

The Art House provides time, space and support for artists, makers and creative businesses to develop their practice. It is a place where artists and audiences of all kinds are welcome to experience contemporary visual art and learn about the practice of being an artist through a year-round programme of exhibitions and events.

Established in 1994 by a group of disabled and non-disabled artists, The Art House is both a visual arts development agency and registered charity. Alongside a programme of training, mentoring, residencies and commissions, The Art House develops a range of projects designed to engage audiences in the artistic process and contribute to an essential discourse around diversity in contemporary visual arts practice. The Art House's three Maker Spaces (Print Studio, Darkroom, and Ceramics Studio) host a year-round programme of workshops and courses, supporting both the public and members in their artistic development. As well, the Maker Spaces are utilised to support a Learning programme that is targeted at both pupils and teachers to develop their skills, as well as team development for organisations.

The Art House is the recipient of The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's second annual Award for Civic Arts Organisations 2022. It is the UK's first Studio of Sanctuary, a role which sees them engage Wakefield's Asylum Seeker, Refugee, and Settled communities in creative projects, and was awarded Gallery of Sanctuary in 2023.

TAH offers free private view appointments, designed to be covid-safe and offer maximum access accommodations to visitors who otherwise find themselves excluded from visual arts spaces. For more information and to book a private view visit The Art House website: <https://theartouse.org.uk/about/access/>.