

Sagarika Sundaram: Reservoir

Audio guide

HENRY MOORE
INSTITUTE

Stop 3. *Rope*

In Gallery 2, you will also find *Rope* – a colourful woollen sculpture, about as thick as an adult's loose hug. It rests directly on the floor, one end folded over itself to create a lift in the work.

It's made of thousands of threads, laboriously spun, dyed and twisted together by hand. Approach the sculpture and pay particular attention to its ends, where you can see the full intricacy and colour variation of the hand-dyed strands in reds, yellows, blues, as well as the natural greys and browns.

In the following audio, artist Sagarika Sundaram describes her interest in rope as a form of textile technology and explores the simple processes of twisting and tension that give it strength.

Sagarika Sundaram: Another work in the show is called *Rope* and it's literally a rope and I've really been dreaming of making a rope for the longest time. I think about construction a lot when I make my work and I think that's what at, is at the heart of textiles. It's construction. You're thinking about the way in which the cloth is constructed literally. And so all of these tools around us that are made of cloth, including rope, I see as technology. You know, felt for me is a kind of technology. These constructions have not changed over millennia and when a thing has not had to change over so long, like the wheel, I think it's quite perfect and in its simplicity.

So the way felt only needs three forces, water, soap and friction to form a cloth. The same way rope needs tension and twisting to create, you know, this very strong interlocked linear form that I have really been excited to recreate. And so I've been researching medieval rope making techniques which date to, you know, Egyptian times and even like older, you know. Rope is such an elemental, basic part of human civilisation. It's something humans figured out very early on from natural fibres. So rope in this work you could say is an homage to that, the rope as technology, textile as technology.

End of Stop 3.

This is a transcript of an audio guide produced by Henry Moore Institute for the exhibition *Sagarika Sundaram: Reservoir*, on display from 30 September 2026 – 10 January 2027. For more information visit henry-moore.org/whats-on/sagarika-sundaram-reservoir