

# ***Sagarika Sundaram: Reservoir***

## **Audio guide**

**HENRY MOORE  
INSTITUTE**

### **Stop 4. *Dancer***

In Gallery 2, hanging from the ceiling, almost touching the floor, is a large spiral of felt – titled *Dancer*. It spins gently, just off-centre in the room.

*Dancer* was created from a single cut through one large, thick rectangle of felt and it evokes natural forms – an orange peel, a shell or some other organic growth pattern. Move closer and you'll see its intricate, handmade qualities: complex patterns of brown, off-white and red running through the felted wool on the outside and inside of the spiral.

Listen to the artist Sagarika Sundaram as she describes the form of *Dancer* and the everyday movements and gestures that inspired her.

**Sagarika Sundaram:** This is a spiral form that, you know, either you can think of it as curling downwards or curling upwards. It's a form that I've been working on for a few years right now. What I love about it is that it's one cloth and one cut, and that creates this almost like an orange peel form that again, the viewer can go around. And then there's space and there's, you know, there's the actual cloth that takes space, but then there's the negative space and the relationship between the two creates certain tension that I'm very interested in.

My childhood, I spent as much time in India as I did outside of India. So I grew up both as an insider and outsider, and one of the things that I just love being around is, you know, the ways

in which things are done by hand here. So something like, you know, as simple as on the street, you know, somebody cutting open a tender coconut, you know, with a machete or somebody preparing a mango with chilli powder and salt or a sliced guava.

I find the way in which the hand moves here so inspiring, so fluid, so artful, the gesture, the style and the flare they bring to each plate of food that they present. It's something that I used to, you know, my father always used to make me stop on the street and say, "Oh look, let's watch how that thing is being made." or, "Let's talk to that uncle and see how it's being made." And it always used to embarrass me, but I think those are the moments that have stayed with me being in wonder and being in awe and in, you know, taking joy in these, just observing the world around me.

End of Stop 4.

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](https://henry-moore.org/whats-on/sagarika-sundaram-reservoir)