

Sagarika Sundaram: Reservoir

Audio guide

**HENRY MOORE
INSTITUTE**

Stop 5. *Glossolalia*

In the final gallery you encounter a single sculpture: the deep, slightly sulphurous, vibrant yellow *Glossolalia*, evoking a flower or a sea creature.

Metal armatures give this sculpture its three-dimensional, octopus-like form, with arms held outstretched in the space. From each arm hang hundreds of tendrils of wool and occasionally silk, further evoking movement.

In the following audio, artist Sagarika Sundaram describes the form of *Glossolalia* and the process of making her work which involves folding, tying and dyeing the felt.

Sagarika Sundaram: Another work that I'm making for this show is a quite wild floral-looking creatures. It's called *Glossolalia*. The title of the work refers to speaking in tongues and when I look at these forms, which are very organic, floral, but not pretty enough to be really flowers. They're sort of menacing at the same time. I think of something, you know, like it's very active and alive and almost speaking in its own language.

And I'm thinking about movement and space. There are lots of tassels hanging and gravity that bring line and direction to the way the work, you know, the limbs of the work, when they curl, they hang with a fringe and draw the eye in a certain way.

So what I do is first I fold, I tie, I dye and then I open up. And then I fold again, I tie again, dye another colour and then open up. And then I do this again. And that relationship between control and risk and chance is very exciting to me. When you open it up, it's so exciting. Everybody's dying to see the way in which colour has moved across the cloth. And then when I cut in multiple places, and then I hang it up, and then either folds work with gravity or against gravity. So understanding all of that happens only at the very end. So that moment, I won't say it's a surprise, but it's a moment that I anticipate. There's a lot of bated breath. My heart is in my mouth because I've faithfully followed a methodical way of working that has also been very playful and inspired and, you know, sort of me moving without even thinking or being conscious of my own body. So seeing that all come together is very exciting.

End of Stop 5.

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