

# The South Asian Salon Archive

## What is the SAS Archive?

The South Asian Salon Archive is a community-first platform dedicated to transforming the landscape for South Asian creatives. Our primary mission is to connect, uplift, and promote talent from *Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka* by fostering a supportive local and glocal network, as well as showcasing their work to a global audience. To us 'creatives' lie in the expansive fields of *Architecture, Craft, Design, Film and Media, Food, Music, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts*.

Equally important is our commitment to reclaiming erased histories and challenging colonial narratives, by documenting cultural heritage, personal stories, and traditional practices. We seek to build an enduring archive that educates and celebrates South Asia's rich and diverse legacy. This initiative not only fosters cultural pride but also promotes unity, and shared humanity within and beyond the South Asian community globally.

We're inviting South Asian writers globally to pitch original pieces for South Asian Salon. To be considered, your pitch should fall under **one of our four editorial verticals** (you'll name which one). **Please note that SAS is currently a volunteer-driven platform and cannot pay contributors.**

The South Asian Salon Archive is dedicated to publishing and giving visibility to people, communities, cultures, crafts, traditions for all 8 south asian countries. **Please specify the cultural lens that you are writing from when you submit your piece.**

### VERTICALS:

**MEET:** A space to know upcoming and established South Asian creatives from around the world

- Headed by Bhavani

**SPOTLIGHT:** Projects that have impact on society, done by South Asian creatives from around the world

- Headed by Dona Pabasara

**CULTURALLY:** A deeper look into the arts, crafts, cultures, traditions, music, food and history of communities of South Asia

- Headed by Karishma Tuladhar

**RECOLTURING:** Offers a regional, immigrant and diasporic lens on decolonising identity by intentionally re-engaging with South Asian culture.

- Headed by Nasreen Ahmad

## **MEET**

Meet is a series dedicated to celebrating the work and stories of talented South Asian creatives across diverse fields—spanning artists, designers, architects, musicians, chefs, and more—through interviews and diverse visual content! We are building a proud archive of South Asian talent that feels like a connected network.

### **Goals of MEET:**

- Bringing more South Asian representation to the global creative stage
- Showcasing interesting people, their journeys and their lessons within their creative spaces
- Bridging more connections
- Building a repository of South Asian creatives

### **Who MEET Covers:**

- South Asian creatives from across South Asia; (diaspora and regional)

### **Who MEET Does Not Cover:**

- Initiatives, organisations, traditions, collectives

# SPOTLIGHT

**Spotlight** highlights current initiatives and projects by South Asian creatives worldwide that are driving positive change. From creators and pathbreakers to problem-solvers, we bring their impactful stories to our community.

## **Goals of SPOTLIGHT:**

- Underrepresented creatives
- People, organisations, initiatives putting South Asia on the map
- Giving a platform to South Asian creatives

## **Who SPOTLIGHT Covers:**

- Collectives, organisation, initiatives or movements (diaspora and regional)
- Try and get direct quotes, if possible
- Socio-cultural impact of the subjects chosen (through qualitative means, or storytelling)

## **Who SPOTLIGHT Does Not Cover:**

- Individuals (diaspora or regional)

# **CULTURALLY**

**Culturally** dives into the rich heritage of South Asia - historic crafts, textiles, fashion, architecture, art forms, techniques, food, and music from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. This is our way of documenting traditions often passed down orally, preserving methods of creation and survival.

## **Goals of CULTURALLY:**

- Culture through the lens of what's not prominent in mainstream discourse
- Traditions on the brink of disappearing
- Interconnectedness within South Asia (how things travel between borders)
- Educating ourselves on South Asian traditions
- Preserving our way of living and expressing

## **Who and What CULTURALLY Covers:**

- Traditions, histories, crafts, food, architecture, art forms, design, environments, film, fashion across South Asia (diaspora and regional)
- Culture through history

## **Who and What CULTURALLY Does Not Cover:**

- Individuals, interviews
- What's going in the present

# **RECOLTURING**

**Reculturing** offers a regional, immigrant and diasporic lens on decolonising identity by intentionally re-engaging with South Asian culture.

## **Goals of RECOLTURING:**

- A space to decolonise identity by re-engaging with South Asian culture
- Giving equal space and voice to creatives from the region, immigrants and diasporic South Asians
- Allowing for there to be a dialogue in the different experiences of what it means to be 'South Asian' in this generation
- Stories are specific with anecdotal evidences to make case and point

## **What RECOLTURING Covers:**

- Reculturing is a personal narrative that is written from the first person lens from across South Asia (diaspora and regional)
- The individual writing expresses their own story and context and takes responsibility for only that perspective

## **What RECOLTURING Does Not Cover:**

- The personal narrative does not make conjectures about group or communal identities
- There is no room for disrespect or hate speech about any peoples, places, cultures or countries

## EDITORIAL NOTES

At SAS, we are interested in sharp, research-backed, narrative pieces. We are interested in a diversity of voices - whether academic, reported or commentaries. We do not accept opinion pieces. Every claim should be backed by research or reported events. A few things to remember when writing for SAS:

1. Your voice and your context matters. We will make edits for basic syntax, structure and facts. We will not edit your voice.
2. Every article should be between 800-1500 words.
3. Include anecdotes and/or quotes. Build a story: don't just tell us what something is, tell us why and how.
4. Hyperlink mentions of reported events. For academic papers, mention a list of sources at the end. Optionally, you can add in-text citations for sentences that are directly taken from academic papers. For quotes taken from other websites, mention in-text, like 'as told to <website name here> and hyperlink the source.
5. Make a separate folder for images. If for some reason you cannot provide us with any, do let us know well in advance. All images require captions that mention the source.

**To submit your pitch, go to our Google Form:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSrGuChNejzURuqhFOfuh3Z4I2nb4SmFv819zqcNPzWJPS-A/viewform?usp=header>