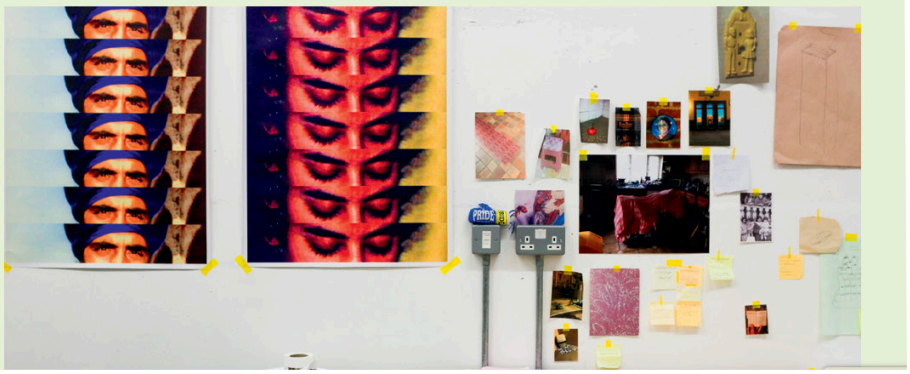
AD

FIVE SOUTH ASIAN ARTISTS IN LONDON

AD visits young trailblazing artists from South Asia and its diaspora in their London studios to discover their practices and unique interpretations of a shared history.

TEXT: MAANAV JALAN PHOTOS: ATHUL PRASAD

Architectural Digest India, January – February 2025

JASLEEN KAUR

Kaur's shared studio in Somerset House holds the prototypes and remnants of her object-based installations, including from *Alter Altar* (2023) at Tramway, Glasgow that won the artist the prestigious 2024 Turner Prize. A "cut and paste" spirit guides her works, which combine elements from her life growing up in Glasgow's Sikh community and contemporary life in London. Kaur grew up around her father's hardware shop, "surrounded by goods, specifically cheap imported goods", and completed her formal training in jewellery-making at the Glasgow School of Art in 2008. Over the years, the artist has come to wield her closeness with craft and mass-produced objects "without shame" and intuitively. An early sculptural work, *Father's Shoes* (2009), for example, collages her father's blue rubber chappals and leather brogues into one piece of footwear. Her treatment of family photographs is now instantly recognizable for their use of torn-up pieces of roti and orange-tinted resin, the colour of Scotland's favourite soda, Irn-Bru. In her hands, objects from various registers of life come together and transform but keep their dignity intact. Faces are covered up, words are not too legible and works are installed at a safe distance from our eyes. "NOT WANTING TO BE DIGESTED", says one of the Post-it notes pinned to her board, a reminder that we are not entitled to see it all.