

EXHIBITION GUIDE

EPISODE 15: RAHEEL KHAN

MEMORY POLICE

24 Oct – 14 Dec 2025

Raheel Khan (b. 1992, Nottingham) is the latest artist to take part in Goldsmiths CCA's ongoing commissioning series *Episodes*. Khan's new constellation of works pivot between paranoia and security, in response to shifting political realities in the UK and a sense of latent catastrophe. At the heart of the exhibition is *Island*, a large-scale sculptural installation constructed from disused front doors gathered from around south London. Brought together they form an enigmatic structure, suggestive of a home, or hastily erected shelter. Misted windows provide no clear view inside, the only observable aspects of the internal space are the intermittent glow of lights. A projection onto a high wall declares a faintly whispered and looping 'YES', whose meaning, through repetition, slides from affirmation to authoritative imperative. Far above, a tannoy plays out a sound of breath passing tonelessly through a trumpet.

The exhibition's title references *The Memory Police* (1994) by Yōko Ogawa, a surreal dystopian novel set in an authoritarian state that enforces the disappearance of objects and their associated memories. The book accompanies Khan's research into contemporary political realities and historical moments in which individuals navigate various structures of state control; from surveillance to language itself. In Khan's work, these forces are brought into contact with the poetics of the suburbs, counterposing public and private space, particularly through the concept of 'prospect-refuge'; a theory of humanity's desire for habitation that is protective, but that also gives an opportunity to view the environment for potential threats. *Island* provides this dual aspect, situating the home as both shelter and confinement, and prompting a parallel reading of the uniformity of suburbia, authoritarian drives, and the isolationist state of the nation.

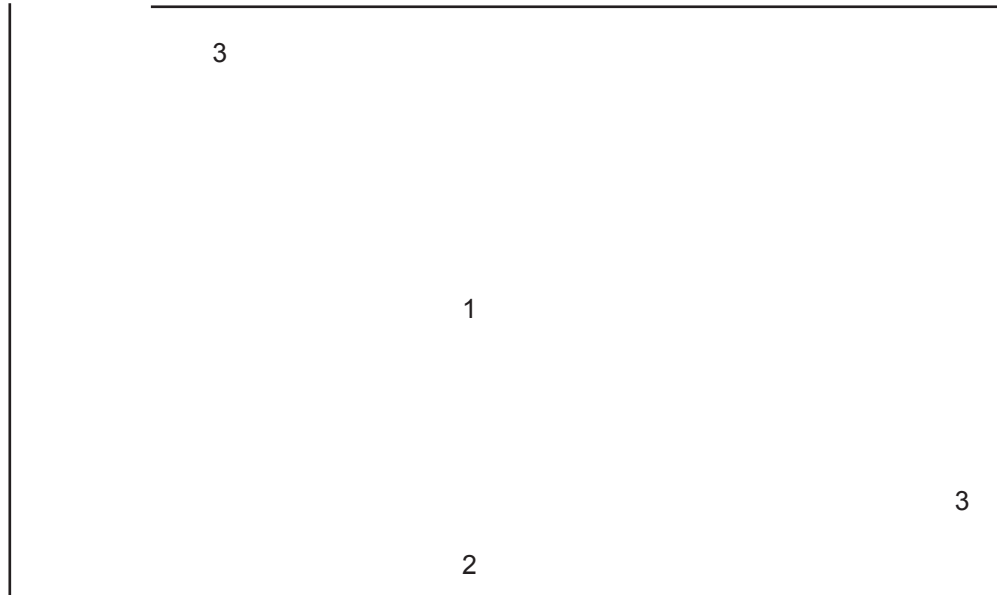
Tannoys mounted high in the space play out the sound of an empty trumpet, and bass episodically rattles from the structure itself. In Islamic eschatology, the angel Israfil waits for a sign from God to make a trumpet blast and signal the Day of Judgement. The angel rests, the trumpet at its lips, in patient readiness to proclaim the as-yet-unrealised calamity. This work extends Khan's use of a compositional and research framework that abstracts the terms machine, devotion and acoustic, into themes addressing policy, time-loops, mystics, religion, and frequencies.

The new commission at Goldsmiths CCA is part of a series of interconnected events by Khan, running across Camden Arts Centre, London Performance Studios and Goldsmiths across the Autumn. Responding to the exhibition's themes through sound and live performance, each element of the programme has been developed with collaborators.

BIOGRAPHY

Raheel Khan (b.1992, Nottingham) who graduated from MFA Fine Art at Goldsmiths University of London, is a London based artist & composer working in installation, performance & text. Recent presentations and performances have been at Bold Tendencies, London (2025); Nottingham Contemporary *Your Ears Will Know to Listen* (2024); Auto Italia, London (2025); South London Gallery, London (2024); Lisson Gallery and Bomb Factory Art Foundation, London (2024); Palmer Gallery, London (2024); Longsight Community Art Space, Manchester (2024); Deptford X, London (2023); Ovada Gallery, Oxford (2023); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2022); Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester (2022); Tramway Gallery, Glasgow (2021); Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Edinburgh (2021). Khan is the recipient of the Almacantar Studio Degree Show Award (2024) and Goldsmiths Alumni Award (2025), was nominated for Frieze Artist Award (2025) and shortlisted for the Arts Foundation Futures Award (2025). Khan previously graduated from BA Economics at Manchester Metropolitan Business School.

FLOORPLAN



WORKS LIST

1 *Island*, 2025
Doors, wood, lights, subwoofer

2 *YES*, 2025
Projection

3 *Israfil Sleeps*, 2025
Tannoys
Duration: 6:05 mins

EVENTS

07 Nov, 6.30–9pm **PERFORMANCE:**
GRAIN PRESENTS: THEODORA LAIRD, CAIUS WILLIAMS, BILLY STEIGER & GUESTS

GRAIN presents an evening of performances at the Great Hall, Goldsmiths, University of London. GRAIN Residency is a concert series, label and archiving project for experimental and improvised music, largely operating out of Avalon Cafe, South Bermondsey.

12 Nov, 7–8.30pm **TALK:**
ANDREA ZARZA CANOVA IN CONVERSATION WITH RAHEEL KHAN

Artist Raheel Khan and curator Andrea Zarza Canova will extend their ongoing discussions around sound and sonic histories relating to cultures and communities. The event will provide an opportunity to unpack Khan's practice, particularly as connected to the exhibition *Memory Police*.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

21 Nov, 7.30–9.30pm **PERFORMANCE:**
WHERE OR WHEN?: RAHEEL KHAN & GRAY WIELEBINSKI AT LONDON PERFORMANCE STUDIOS

A new collaborative performance by Raheel Khan and Gray Wielebinski. Together, they investigate ideas of repetition and synchronisation, exploring the cycles of melancholia, of anticipating yet never arriving, through a series of split vignettes.

08 & 09 Dec, 6pm **PERFORMANCE:**
RAHEEL KHAN: 0 AT CAMDEN ARTS CENTRE

Raheel Khan, recipient of the Goldsmiths Commission Award 2025, presents a new site-responsive performance developed in partnership with Goldsmiths Exhibitions Hub, iniva, and Camden Art Centre. Working with archives and the acoustics of the gallery, Khan combines research with live experimentation using brass and wind instruments to create a sonic dialogue between spatial acoustics and memory.

For more information on upcoming events at CCA visit goldsmithscca.art

CREDITS

Musician: Christos Stylianides
Lighting: Francis Albrecht