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## Cover Artists: 'Twin Studio'

Amrit Singh

Rabindra Kaur Singh

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### Abstract

'Considered amongst the freshest of the new British artists' (Daily Telegraph), Rabindra and Amrit are twin sisters of Indian origin. Born in London in 1966, they moved with their family to Merseyside in 1974 where they are now based.

AMRIT & RABINDRA KAUR SINGH

## Cover Artists: 'Twin Studio'



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'Considered amongst the freshest of the new British artists' (*Daily Telegraph*), Rabindra and Amrit are twin sisters of Indian origin. Born in London in 1966, they moved with their family to Merseyside in 1974 where they are now based. Educated in a local Catholic Convent school their initial intention was to follow a vocation in Medicine; their career in Art developed by chance when circumstances pushed them both to read for a

BA Hons. in Ecclesiastical History, Comparative Religion and Contemporary Western Art History. During this period the Twins began to develop their unique style of painting largely in rebellion against the intense pressure they experienced to conform to Western models of contemporary art. They drew inspiration from the Indian Miniature tradition which had captivated them five years earlier when they visited India for the first time. By 1987 they had established this tradition as the most pertinent means of expressing their artistic and cultural identity; since which time they have steadily built up a reputation as accomplished artists, receiving international media coverage and awards for their paintings. Described as 'both challenging and fascinating' (Dr Swallow, Victoria and Albert Museum) and as 'some of the most optimistic images of our Multi-cultural world' (*The Guardian*), the Twins' paintings can be seen in both private and public collections worldwide. In 1994 they were elected as members of the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts.

Their work has been displayed in many venues and was included in The Arts Council of Great Britain touring show, *Krishna the Divine Lover* (1997). In 1997 their personal interest in and dedication to promoting Indian art, led to their curating 'Zindabad 1997' – a major festival of South East Asian Arts celebrating 50 years of Indian independence. From late 1997 to early 1998 the Twins toured Switzerland and France with other top artists from Merseyside. In September 1998 they represented Liverpool painters in the Cologne Festival of Liverpool Arts, and continue to be invited to exhibit in Europe. They are currently involved in a UK tour from March 1999 to mid 2000 opening at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and concluding at Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art.

Featured in *Women of Substance* – a book on successful Asian women in Britain – they were nominated to be profiled in *Asians in the Millennium: the definitive Who's Who of Asians in Britain*. They were commissioned by the Sikh Foundation in California to write an illustrated book of poems as part of the 1999 international tercentenary celebrations of the founding of the Khalsa in 1699.

The Twins' empathy with each other's thought and style allows them to work as one on the same project. This can be seen in the photograph, Rabindra on the left and Amrit on the right working on a picture depicting the Storming of the Golden Temple in 1984.