

## Without Shape Without Form Unstruck Melody at the V&A



Artwork by Nirbhai (Nep) Singh Sidhu.

From Without Shape Without Form, 'Unstruck Melody' is a unique collaboration with British-born Canadian artist Nirbhai (Nep) Singh Sidhu. As part of the London Design Festival at the V&A South Kensington, this special installation includes tapestry, and film which explores ideas of spirituality and self-discovery through Sikh teachings. The display will be on view from 16 September 2023 – Sunday, 15 October 2023.

Nirbhai (Nep) Singh Sidhu is an interdisciplinary artist who works with textile, sculpture, painting, video, and sound. Interested in the metaphysics of form and spatial rhythm, his poetic and symbolically-rich work explores formlessness as a metaphor for the divine and endless possibilities.

For Unstruck Melody, he is showcasing large-scale tapestries, mixed-media paintings and a take-away publication. The title is a direct translation of Shabad Guru, the internal sound that can be heard within everyone through deep listening and is the access point to knowledge.

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The artworks were created to inspire curiosity, encouraging the audience to engage deep listening and a process of self reflection. In the newly commissioned film, the artist and curator, Deep K Kailey, discuss ideas around contemporary Sikh teachings, such as Simran, a focused practice for the mind, Seva, selfless service, and Sangat, community practice and mutual commitment.

## **Friday Late performance and talk**

As part of Unstruck Melody, there will be an immersive Simran sound performance performance and a talk between the artist and curator during the V&A's special late opening, Friday Late, on 22 September 2023.

## **Notes to editors**

### **Project details**

Commissioned and produced by Without Shape Without Form (WSWF) for the London Design Festival at the V&A South Kensington 2023.

Curated by Deep K Kailey, artistic director, Without Shape Without Form.

Further information is available:

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/QZQZEW3Gep/ldf-sept-2023-nep-sidhu>

### **Nirbhai (Nep) Singh Sidhu**

Nirbhai (Nep) Singh Sidhu British-born Canadian is an interdisciplinary artist who works through the metaphysics of form and spatial rhythm within the infinite arcs of community and self-expression. Through material investigations of textile, sculpture, painting, video, and sound, Sidhu's work seeks symbolic pathways that help to realise the formlessness of the divine through endless possibility and search.

He is a member of the Black Constellation collective, designs adornment and clothing under the moniker of Paradise Sportif, and helps to run Sher- E- Punjab Boxing Academy for Women in Chakar, Punjab with a local community since 2009. Sidhu has exhibited at the Aichi Triennale, Nagoya City Museum, Japan; the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto; the Aga Khan Museum amongst others.

[instagram.com/nepsidhu](https://www.instagram.com/nepsidhu)

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## **Without Shape Without Form**

Without Shape Without Form (WSWF) is a volunteer-led arts organisation that fosters genuine exchange and dialogue around art, spirituality and mental health through contemporary Sikh teachings. They nurture personal growth embodying the values of (un)learning and creativity as necessary tools for a better world. Celebrating diversity and inclusivity and offering a safe and welcoming space for artistic expression and exploration, WSWF champions arts as a catalyst for social change.

[withoutshapewithoutform.com](https://withoutshapewithoutform.com)

## **The V&A**

The Victoria and Albert Museum, London (V&A) is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity, spanning 5000 years of human creativity. It was established in 1852 to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, its purpose is to champion creative industry, inspire the next generation, and spark everyone's imagination.

[vam.ac.uk](https://vam.ac.uk)