

The  
title and the  
exhibition

The work derives  
from the  
workshop with  
three other  
artists,  
during  
which  
Nicola  
took the

photographs  
represented in the  
screen prints. One of the participants,  
while discussing the content of the  
workshop, used the phrase 'pushing  
attention' to characterise their  
experience. Nicola Singh felt that this  
phrase appropriately framed the  
entire work by highlighting the  
time and attention to details  
involved in the creation of  
the piece.

Female body and politics

Nicola considers her work as 'offering a  
different way into thinking  
about what is political' in its  
expansion of our understanding  
of political statements and their  
aims. 'Pushing Attention' contributes  
to the debate about feminism and  
representation of a female body but  
does it in a subtle, rather than explicit,  
manner. As all aspects of our lives have  
political undertones, the artwork similarly  
comments on the female body, and  
challenges the way we might normally  
perceive it by producing a distinct  
presentation of the body. The  
exhibition encourages  
reevaluation of what is  
traditionally considered  
as 'female activities',  
such as weaving.  
The unlimited  
scope of  
meanings in the  
work invites the viewers for  
participation in the discussion  
about the themes of the  
exhibition.

Performance and the installation

The performance forms the central  
aspect of Nicola's practice. This is evident  
in the application of the process of  
making the performance to the creation  
of the  
exhibition—the  
approach that  
traces back to  
earlier works of  
the artist, such as  
'Sweet Spot' (2017).

The artist is interested in disputing  
conventional qualities of the exhibitions such  
as immutability and permanence. Nicola  
achieves this aim through introducing  
photographs made in the performative  
workshop, responding to those images in the  
course of the creation of  
the tapestry. The  
exhibition will  
change throughout  
the show as the  
artist's  
performances and  
tapestry develop  
reacting to the

installation as a whole.

The atmosphere of a human inhabiting and  
affecting the space has significant place in Nicola's  
piece as it further relates the installation to the  
performance, where body is seen as the essential part  
of the work.

## Perspective and perception

Fluidity of the work is evident in the constantly changing perspective from which the artwork is viewed. The piece presents multiple ways of seeing the body through images of the prints and the artist's movement around the space during the performances. The same parts of the work might feel different—being closer or further, clearer or vaguer—depending on the position of the viewer. The translucency of the tapestry provokes alternative perception and interpretation, contributing to the plasticity of the work.

The  
creative process, materials and the  
final piece

The connection between the media and the work is twofold. The nature and colour of the materials respond to the exhibition space at Eastside Projects, with the metal scaffolding referring to the gallery's industrial roots.

'Pushing Attention' also examines the human body and its relation to touch through the body's materiality and ability to create, which

is presented in the screen  
prints dominating  
the gallery space.

The intimate and time-consuming procedure of creating the screen and the tapestry emphasises the close relation between the artist's body and work. The physical, manual labour involved, as opposed to digital, manipulation of the photographs, is evident in the marks left from the handling of the materials. This makes the artistic process behind as significant a feature of the work as Nicola's installation on display.

This research document is part of the ongoing Black Box interpretation project and explores Nicola Singh's 3-Phase exhibition at Eastside Projects. It has been produced by Laura Adcock, Yuk Yin Lee, Shumi Mungwira, Tarnya Trainor, Kenizzi Yamalimbu and Oxana Zhigalova who are part of Eastside Projects volunteer community.

If you would like to volunteer at Eastside Projects please ask a member of staff or email [sahjan@eastsideprojects.org](mailto:sahjan@eastsideprojects.org)