



Dayanita Singh **ARCHIVIO**

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April 17 – July 31 2026

Archivio di Stato, Venezia, Italia

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 12 am – 6 pm

**Entrance from: Rio Terà San Tomà,
30125 Venezia**

The exhibition is admission free.

For the first time in its history, the **Archivio di Stato in Venice** will open to the public as an exhibition venue, with **Dayanita Singh's ARCHIVIO**.

ARCHIVIO is Singh's tribute to both the Italian archives she has photographed over the past decade and to her own evolving archive of images made in Italy over the last 25 years. **Opening to the public on 17 April 2026 at the Archivio di Stato in Venice**, in conjunction with the 19th edition of the Incroci di civiltà international literature festival, the exhibition brings together two intertwined bodies of work: Singh's long engagement with institutional archival repositories and her decades-long visual conversation with Italy's architecture, interior spaces, artworks, friends, archivists, flowers and more.

With a total of over 350 photographs, the exhibition is primarily structured around **15 wooden structures scattered throughout the exhibition space, each capable of holding 20 images**.

One of the structures is instead located at the main entrance of the Archive and is a **gift from the artist to the institution—a testament to Singh's gratitude for the opportunity to work within this fascinating place that preserves collective memory**

The exhibition is curated by **Andrea Anastasio** and, after the Archivio di Stato in Venice, it will travel to the Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia, Rome, to the MAO-Museo d'Arte Orientale, Turin, and to the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, New Delhi, presenting each time a site-specific works' selection that connects to site, in collaboration with each Museum and its specificity.

In **ARCHIVIO**, **the act of photographing becomes a form of cataloguing** – an ongoing attempt to understand how memory is shaped, structured, and preserved. **Singh revisits images she has made in Italian cities since the late 1990s**, placing them in dialogue with her extensive studies of archives in India and elsewhere. Through this encounter, the exhibition proposes the archive not as a static storehouse but as a **living organism**, continuously rearranged through the artist's editorial play, display structures, and resequencing of images.



Curator Andrea Anastasio situates Singh's practice within the broader question of how we construct cultural memory. The installation reflects his interest in the poetic and philosophical resonance of archival labour – **ordering, containing, protecting** – while allowing Singh's photographs to remain open and porous, shifting with each new context.

ARCHIVIO continues Singh's ongoing exploration of **the museum-as-book and book-as-museum**: portable, re-composable architectures for knowledge. The exhibition foregrounds her belief that the archive is not merely a place of preservation, but a generative space – one that shapes the stories we tell and those we have yet to discover.

The over **350 photographs on display are divided among the various cities and subjects captured by Singh. Sixty images are dedicated to the Archivio di Stato in Venice and other emblematic locations in the city**—Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Iuav University - Project Archives, and the Church of San Sebastiano—as well as the lagoon, the homes of friends and acquaintances, past and recent exhibitions, Murano glass furnaces and archives, and details of artworks. Another **sixty feature Rome**, whereas **forty** each capture **Florence and Turin**, while the selection for **Bologna, Naples, and Palermo** consists of **twenty-four** photos per city. To these are added **sixty photos taken in various archives in India** and a selection of **twenty images of patrons and friends** who have made her work in Italy possible over the years."

The exhibition will be opened during the 19th edition of *Incroci di Civiltà* and will be accompanied by a **public program of lectures and book presentations**, organized by the artist and Chiara Spangaro, in collaboration with **Università Ca' Foscari Venezia** - Dipartimento di Filosofia e Beni Culturali, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, **Università Iuav di Venezia**, and other institutions, according to the following schedule:

- April 18, 5:00 PM: a conversation between Dayanita Singh and Geoff Dyer, part of the Incroci di civiltà festival program; Auditorium Santa Margherita - Emanuele Severino.
To book: <https://www.unive.it/web/it/5482/programma>
- April 28, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM: Ca' Foscari - Ca' Dolfin, Lectio with Dayanita, in conversation with Cristina Baldacci (Contemporary Photography), Stefania Portinari (Contemporary Art), and Andrea Anastasio.
- May 5–9, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Archive visits with Dayanita Singh.
- May 9, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Special opening of the exhibition during the Preview of the 61st Venice Biennale.
- May 19: Lecture by Kapila Venu at the Archivio di Stato.



Singh will also organize a **Mentorship Program** for university students, in collaboration with Università Iuav di Venezia in the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its foundation, and with the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia department of Filosofia e Beni Culturali (Philosophy and Cultural Heritage) and of Studi Umanistici (Human Studies).

With support from the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in New Delhi, India, for its Venice edition; and the Archivio di Stato, Venice, Italy. The exhibition is organized also with the collaboration of Università Iuav di Venezia and Università Ca' Foscari Venezia.

Special thanks to Studio Sonnoli for the graphic identity of the exhibition, designed by Irene Bacchi e Leonardo Sonnoli.

Thank you to Silvia Vavassori and Gianvittorio Trevisiol from the early music ensemble class at the “Benedetto Marcello” Conservatory of Music in Venice, and to Professor Elena Russo.

Special thanks also to: Roberta Angelini, Cristina Baldacci, Tamara Ballo, Paola Benussi, Matilde Buzzoni, Alberto Cattelan, Daniela Decaro, Nicoletta Fiorucci, Flavio Gregori, Jane Hamlyn, Mark Hanley, Rosi Kahane, Angelo Maggi, Giorgio Mastinu, Stefania Portinari, Esterita Vanin, Angela Vettese.

Dayanita Singh was born in New Delhi, India in 1961 where she lives and works. She studied Visual Communication at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad and Photojournalism and Documentary Photography at the International Center of Photography in New York. Selected solo exhibitions include *Zakir Hussain: Learning to Learn*, National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, India (2025); *A Photo Architect*, Kanoria Centre for Arts, Ahmedabad, India (2025); *Mona and Myself*, Gallery White, Vadodara, India (2025); *Photo Lies*, Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation, Mumbai, India (2024); *Dancing with my Camera*, Gropius Bau, Berlin (2022) touring to Museum Villa Stuck, Munich (2022), MUDAM, Luxembourg (2023) and Serralves Museum, Porto (2023); *Sea of Files*, Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenburg (2022); and *Museum Bhavan*, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (2017).

For more information on the artist, visit

www.dayanitasingh.in

www.frithstreetgallery.com/artists/dayanita-singh



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