

Dominic Pillai

Art Curator/ Multidisciplinary Artist

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Profile

I am an art curator/multidisciplinary artist with extensive experience in creative project management.

As a curator, I have worked in partnership with arts and cultural organisations such as The Whitworth, Manchester Museum, Castelfield Gallery and HOME.

As an artist, my work has been showcased at Tate Liverpool, The Lowry, BBC 6 Music and the Cannes Film Festival to name a few.

Trained as a visual anthropologist, I am passionate about accessibility, diversity and innovation within the arts.

Qualifications

MA in Visual Anthropology (Merit)
The University of Manchester, 2020-2021

BA in Film, Radio and Television (2.1)
Canterbury Christchurch University, 2005-2008

BTEC National Diploma in Moving Image (Triple Distinction)
South Kent College, 2003-2005

Curation

Liminal Art Lab (LaL)

2026- present

This countercultural, intersectional curation project nurtures creative innovation, artistic intervention and radical thought. The first event, Ecosystem, took place at Cafe Blah on 18 Jan 2026

Recoverist Curators (The Whitworth)

Oct 2024- July 2026

This co-curated exhibition, featuring work from Francis Bacon, Tracy Emin and David Hockney, re-narrates artworks from the Whitworth collection through the lens of recovery from substance use. Winner of the Making a Difference Award for Social Responsibility. Find out more [here](#)

Artefacts of Interaction (HOME)

Sept 2024- March 2026

This exhibition explored the intersection between neurodivergence and substance use through four large-scale co-produced paintings emerged from a series of workshops led by artist Will Belshah. Find out more [here](#)

ANEW Way to Peel an Orange (Castlefield Gallery)

Jan 2025- Oct 2025

Video

Rivers of My Father

2016- 2023

Focusing on childhood memories of my father growing up in colonial India, this kaleidoscopic short film explores the fluid and transient nature of memory. Diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia, this personal artist film was shot during the last few years of my father's life and completed three years after his death. Watch [here](#)

Falling (Reggae Version)

2022

This video was a collaboration between artist Horace Lindzey, musician Alice Merida Richards and myself, created as part of Conversations Series III: Narratives residency. It has been showcased at Tate Liverpool, The Manchester Contemporary and The Lowry. Watch [here](#)

Hearing Voices

2019

Commissioned by Folkestone and District Mind, this immersive audio/visual work compiles a series of interviews with people with the lived experience of hearing voices. Screened at Normal? Festival of the Brain 2017 as part of the event 'Hearing Voices: Inspiration or Insanity?' Watch [here](#)

Jazz 625

An ambitious [exhibition](#) of co-produced work developed during celebrated designer Joe Hartley's five-month residency with ANEW recovery community in Tameside (Greater Manchester, UK). Find out more [here](#)

African Objects: Psychoactives, Spirituality and Mental Health (Manchester Museum)

Sept 2024- Sept 2025

Working with Manchester Museum's Living Cultures collection, this project explored the intersection between African heritage, spirituality, and mental health, examining the question of how to return provenience to objects whose cultural identity has been stripped away by colonialism. Find out more [here](#)

20/20 Sensory Arts Festival (online)

March 2020- July 2020

This three-day online arts festival explored the theme of the senses through a wide selection of disciplines including film, theatre, music and fine art as well as interactive workshops.

Audio

PLEASUREDOME

2022- present

Co-presented with Adam Porrino, this experimental radio show has featured on City Wall and Slack's Radio. Listen [here](#)

The Remedy Sessions

2022- 2023

A monthly takeover of the Qwell podcast, produced by mental health company Kooth explored aspects of male mental health. Listen [here](#)

Midnight of the Apocalypse

2022

Under the name THAMBI (தம்பி), this drone/noise track featured on [Stuart Maconie's Freakzone](#) on BBC 6 Music on 4th Dec 2022. Listen [here](#)

Soft Machines 0.1

2022

This drone/noise track was released under the name THAMBI (தம்பி) by the experimental record label Industrial Coast on the compilation album The Ugly Spirit. Listen [here](#)

Nighthawks

2022

This weekly late-night radio show was produced for Unity Radio, featuring interviews, features and music. Listen [here](#)

500kHz: Above the Sea & Below the Sky

2021

2018

Using primarily archive footage from the BBC programme Jazz 625, this video art piece was commissioned by the Surge in Spring II Festival 2018 and explores the way black performance has been consumed and appropriated by white audiences. Watch [here](#)

DICHOTOMOUS FLUIDITY/binary vision

2017

This 5 hour time based video installation is a collaboration between Los Angeles based artist Ryan Andrew Regan and myself, exploring the shared lived experience of being diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 2016. Shown as part of the Folkestone Triennial in 2017. Watch an extract [here](#)

Siren's Bay

2016

This psychological gothic horror features an all-female cast, starring Naomi Cooper- Davis (Coronation Street, The Sandman, Peep Show, Little Britain) and Lisa Williamson (Hollyoaks). Premiered at the Short Film Corner of the [Cannes Film Festival](#) in 2016. Watch [here](#)

Writing

Friday the 13th in Piccadilly Gardens

Superpresent, Spring 2026

This flash fiction is a haunting tale of the intoxicated madness of modern life. Read [here](#)

The Trip and the High- Water Mark of '67

Psychedelic Scene Magazine, 26 Sept 2025

This essay explores how the film The Trip (1967) perfectly encapsulates a crucial countercultural moment. Read [here](#)

The Reckoning

Offcut Festival, July- Aug 2025

Performed for two nights at 53two, this 15 min play imagines four characters in a peer support meeting for "the reckoning", an unexplained traumatic event that each character has experienced in their own personal way.

Pacific Coast Highway

Poem Stellium, 28 March 2025

This semi-autobiographical short story depicts liminal moments of a young man as he backpacks across California. Read [here](#)

This soundscape engages with Dover's South Foreland Lighthouse, the location of the first international wireless transmission in 1899. It was broadcast on 16th July 2021 for Dover Community Radio. Listen [here](#)

Employment

Portraits of Recovery

July 2024- present

Portraits of Recovery is the UK's only contemporary arts organisation working with people in recovery from substance use. My role as [Curator of Social Engagement](#) involves building partnerships with arts and cultural organisations, artist development, creative producing and exhibition curation. I am also the chair of the Recoverist Union, an advisory group made up of people in recovery to help inform the future development of the organisation

Venture Arts

July 2021- July 2024

I supported learning disabled and neurodivergent artists in engagement schemes within arts and cultural organisations such as Factory International, The Royal Exchange, Contact Theatre and Reform Radio. I was a founding member of the organisation's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion steering group. Find out more [here](#)

Screen South

Sept 2014- Aug 2020

I initially started as an intern on uScreen, an accessible filmmaking website for young people launched as part of the 2012 Paralympics. I worked my way up the organisation as a facilitator on youth based projects such as the BFI Film Academy.

Touchbase Care

April 2014- Aug 2020

This community interest company supports adults with physical and sensory impairments. In my role of Network Coordinator, I was responsible for building networks, fundraising, PR, marketing and social media for the organisation. During this time, I also ran Mind the Gaps, a six month film and animation project for adults with disabilities which I acquired funding for from The Big Lottery Fund.

Residencies/Workshops

Mindful Acting

2025- present

I regularly attend this interdisciplinary workshop that combines acting techniques, mindfulness and humanistic psychology.

Conversations Series III: Narratives

2022

This collaborative residency with arts charity Venture Arts working explored personal narratives and cultural identity. The final outcome of the residency being the music video Falling (Reggae Version). Find out more [here](#)

HOME Artist Film Lab

2022

This 3-day residency concentrated on different domains of support including self and collective care navigating institutional support.

Making Solo Work

2022

This one-day multidisciplinary workshop provoked creative ideas for autobiographical work.

Online

Website

[Linkedin](#)

[Instagram](#)