

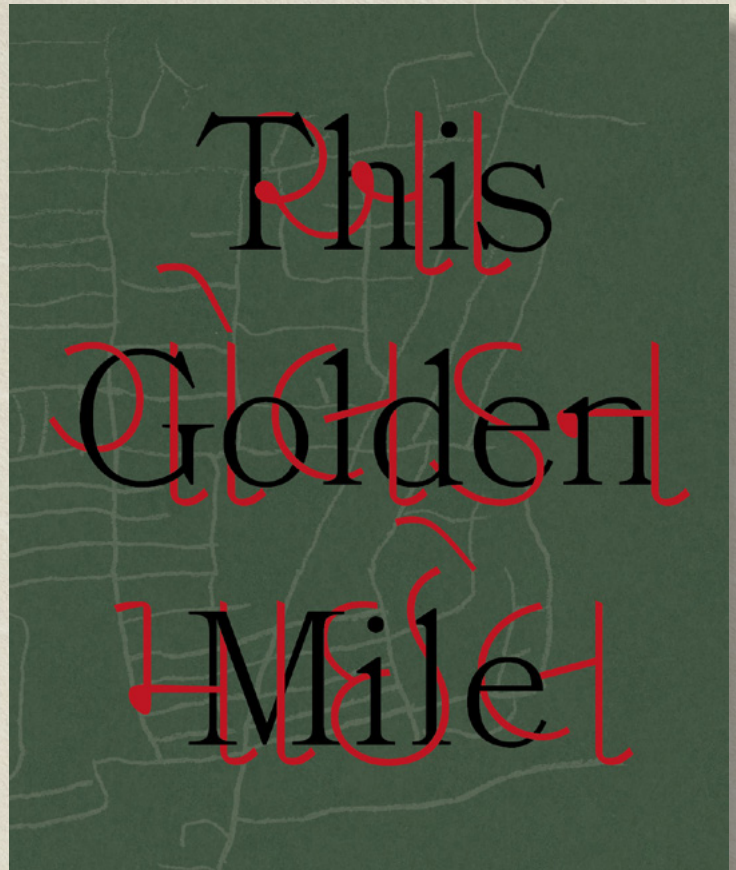
This Golden Mile Kavi Pujara

Book: Published by Setanta Books, October 2022

Events: 7 October 2022 – Opening party at
Martin Parr Foundation

Exhibition: 6 October - 18 December 2022,
Martin Parr Foundation, Bristol

8 October 2022 – Kavi Pujara will be giving a
talk at BOP Festival



Kavi Pujara began to photograph the neighbourhood around Leicester's Golden Mile as a way to reconnect with the city, its residents and his own past after 30 years of living in London. The resulting images form *This Golden Mile* which will be exhibited at Martin Parr Foundation in October to coincide with a book of the project published by Setanta Books.

'This Golden Mile is not about the one-mile stretch of Melton Road that turns into Belgrave Road with its sari shops, Indian restaurants and jewellers. It's about the arteries and veins that come from it, giving life to the parts of the neighbourhood away from the central commercial thoroughfare. This Golden Mile exists in the poetry of homes, temples and street corners; it's down the alleys and through the gaps in steel fencing leading to crumbling industrial plots. This Golden Mile is both an entry point and an ending, the last mile of a long journey to Britain.'

– *Kavi Pujara*

Pujara was born in Leicester in the early 1970s, just ten minutes from the Golden Mile and would visit most weekends to see his grandmother. It was a time when overt acts of racism—being spat at, chased by the National Front, being called 'wog' or a 'paki' and being told to 'Go back home'—were common. As soon as he turned 18, Pujara moved to London and never looked back. When he did return, nearly 30 years later with his young family, making pictures allowed him to rediscover the community he grew up in but no longer knew.

A few weeks after Pujara returned to Leicester in 2016, the UK voted 'leave' in the EU referendum. The blame was later placed on Europeans, immigrants, and asylum seekers by Home Secretary Priti Patel, who in a speech on immigration in 2021 said, "People across the country do not want their communities and way of life to change beyond recognition." In 2020, the Conservative government introduced The Nationality and Borders Bill, reforming immigration laws which included many controversial policies and has been criticised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It is against this backdrop that Pujara made these photographs.





Special Edition Prints



Book Specifications:

Hardcover
265x220mm
116 pages
57 Images

Regular & Print Edition available soon.

For press enquiries please contact: press@setantabooks.com



Kavi Pujara (born Leicester, 1972) is a self-taught photographer. He works as a film editor for the BBC alongside independently making personal, long-term documentary photo projects. His work has been included in the touring group exhibition Facing Britain. British documentary photography since the 1960s which has been exhibited at Museum for Photography, Krakow, Poland, Mönchehaus Museum Goslar, Germany and Kunsthalle Darmstadt, Germany. Sept 2021 - Jan 2022 . Pujara was one of the winners in the British Journal of Photography, Portrait of Britain 2020 and recipient of a Martin Parr Foundation photographic bursary in 2020. Two portraits from This Golden Mile have been selected for the National Portrait Gallery's Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022 exhibition and will be on display at Cromwell Place, London from 27 October - 18 December 2022. This Golden Mile will be his first solo exhibition and his first monograph.



‘For over fifty years, families around This Golden Mile have had a shared experience of migrating to Leicester and have re-articulated their South Asian identity to exist within an English context. These experiences bond this community, and they bond them to me. I made this book to give voice to that bond, and I also hope it will contribute to the conversation around immigration to Britain. We have a multicultural society because Britain is the product of a multicultural empire. Communities like this are not an erosion of British values or its culture, but a vital artery in our intertwined and tangled colonial histories.’

– *Kavi Pujara*

‘What a pleasure to see the work of Kavi Pujara growing and flourishing into a book and exhibition. He first came to our attention through the Martin Parr Foundation bursary scheme, and this has proven a very good way of finding emerging talent. We love to give photographers their first shows, and this is a prime example.’

– *Martin Parr*



