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## Re-Enacting Borderlands: Tending to the Fragments of Archives, Memory and Home

**Savneet Talwar & Amrita Laljee**

Historically, archives have served as privileged spaces of power, shaping memory and determining which histories are preserved or erased. Drawing on Gloria Anzaldúa's concept of *borderlands* and decolonizing methodologies, this workshop explores the archive as a living, contested space where embodied narratives, displacement, and belonging intersect. Rather than viewing archives as fixed repositories of knowledge, we approach them as dynamic, imaginative sites of repetition, return and repair—spaces where the personal and political, the remembered and forgotten, converge.

Revisiting histories of land theft, migration, and separation from ancestral homelands, we consider how 'tending' to the archive becomes an act of radical care—interrupting the residues of intergenerational trauma and reawakening collective memory. Through this lens, remembering is not simply a retrieval of the past but a relational process of re-membering what has been fragmented.

This workshop features a collaboration between a theater educator from India and an art therapist from the United States, engaging the 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan as a site of inquiry and remembrance for the past year. Through movement, storytelling, and art-making, participants will explore their own embodied histories of borders and boundaries that shape identity and the idea of home.

*Re-Enacting Borderlands* invites participants to see the archive not only as a site of loss but as a place of reimagining—a space where care, creativity, and community can transform inherited wounds into gestures of connection and love across the borderlines of history and self.



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## Biography

**Savneet Talwar** is a Chicago-based American Studies scholar, fiber artist, educator, and art therapist. She is a faculty member at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she teaches in both the Art Therapy and Fiber & Material Studies departments. Her interdisciplinary work lies at the intersection of archives, memory, feminist politics, and questions of care, belonging, and resistance. She is the author of *Art Therapy for Social Justice: Radical Intersections* and has widely published on ethics of care, intersectional feminism, feminist pedagogy, the politics of crafting, culture and identity, ethics, law and cultural competence and trauma informed art therapy.

**Amrita Laljee** is a New Delhi based Theater in Education practitioner, educator, and psychosocial facilitator with over 35 years of experience across education, community development, and corporate training. She is currently training theatre students at Bargad from historically marginalised communities to democratise access to theatre education. In 2023, she was a visiting faculty at SOIL (School of Inspired Leadership) teaching MBA students ethics of leadership, facilitating creative workshops and mentoring students in rural India at Spreading Smiles in New Delhi. She is deeply committed to enabling transformative learning pedagogy through drama, music, storytelling, embodied practices, and emotional literacy.

## Recent Publications

Talwar, S. & Laljee, A. (2025). *re-Thread: Mending for Radical Hope* (June 2025). Co-facilitated workshop, Air BIEN 2025, Kranj, Slovenia.

Guest Editor: Talwar, S. & Sajnani, N. (2022). **Intersectionality and ethics of care in the creative arts therapies.** *Arts in Psychotherapy*.

Talwar, S. (2022). **Foreword.** In J. Collier and C. Eastwood's (Ed.) *Intersectionality in the art psychotherapies*. Jessica Kingsley.

Talwar, S. & Wallis, R. (2020). **Quilting across prison walls: Craftwork, social practice, and radical empathy.** In L. Leone's (Ed.) *Craft as power: Craft in art therapy*. Routledge.

Talwar, S. (2019). **Feminism as practice: Crafting and the politics of art therapy.** In S. Hogan's (Ed.) *Inscribed on the body: Gender and difference in the arts therapies*. Routledge.