

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The Week

Where to buy; The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery, Denzil Forrester at Stephen Friedman Gallery

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Denzil Forrester

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It wasn't easy being young and black in 1980s London. A toxic combination of heavy-handed policing, poverty and institutional racism created an environment in which the descendants of the Windrush generation faced appalling prejudice and few prospects. But it was also an environment that gave rise to first-rate music and poetry, cult cinema and some terrific visual art. In this survey exhibition, the Grenada-born artist Denzil Forrester (b.1956) vividly recreates the atmosphere of the period, evoking the heady fug of the dub sound systems, underground clubs, and the constant threat of unwarranted arrest in a series of paintings that make extensive use of odd perspectives and bright colours. The compositions meld the dynamism of cubism or Italian futurism with the explosive, anarchic

© WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.; DENZIL FORRESTER. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND STEPHEN FRIEDMAN GALLERY, LONDON



After Carnival Dub (1990)

verve of 1980s street art, depicting scenes of uninhibited revelry that also contain hints of darkness; the policemen in the periphery of many of these images cast a shadow of paranoia over the riotous scenes depicted. Prices from £125,000.

25-28 Old Burlington Street, London W1 (020-7494 1434). Until 25 May.