

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Financial Times

What to see: top commercial gallery shows in London and beyond

Kristina Foster

10 May 2021



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Even if the UK's museums aren't open yet, there are treats on view: an American minimalist, ghostly structures by Rachel Whiteread and plenty more

Henry Taylor (Hauser & Wirth Somerset)



Image: Henry Taylor's 'Portrait of my cousin GF: Dana Gallegos' (2020) © Henry Taylor. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth. Photo Fredrik Nilsen

In a process he describes as “hunting and gathering”, American painter Henry Taylor gleans his subjects from friends, family members, strangers, celebrities, historic events and the media to create generous paintings which offer a varied image of contemporary life. The artist's vibrant portraits are joined by his installations and sculptures at Hauser & Wirth's countryside outpost.

John Akomfrah: The Unintended Beauty of Disaster (Lisson Gallery)



Image: Film still of John Akomfrah's 'Triptych' (2020) © Courtesy Smoking Dogs Films and Lisson Gallery

Reflections on the tumultuous events of the past year await at the gallery's Lisson Street space where a selection of works by British artist John Akomfrah unpicks race, identity, post-colonialism and the idea of “skin as a monument” through photography and video.

Robert Mangold: A Survey 1981–2008 (Pace)



Image: Robert Mangold's 'Red/White Zone Painting II' (1996) © Robert Mangold/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York and DACS, London 2021. Courtesy Pace Gallery. Photo Damian Griffiths.

This solo show of the American minimalist Robert Mangold features three decades of paintings through which the artist reimagined the medium with sculptural shaped canvases and a subtle balance of line and colour.

Luiz Zerbini: Fire and Threadbare (Stephen Friedman)

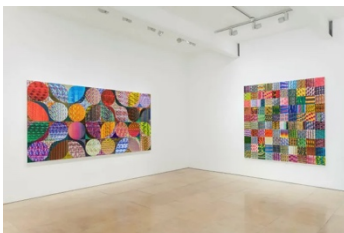


Image: Installation view of 'Luiz Zerbini: Fire' © Luiz Zerbini. Courtesy Stephen Friedman Gallery, London. Photo Mark Blower

Pattern and colour reign at two enticing exhibitions at the Mayfair gallery, one with works inspired by South American rainforests by Brazilian artist Luiz Zerbini who weaves flora and fauna into mosaic-like grids, the other a group exhibition called Threadbare featuring works by Jonathan Baldock, Huguette

Caland, Jeffrey Gibson and Tau Lewis, which explore the bodily associations of textiles while challenging notions of identity, gender and sexuality.

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Ugo Rondinone: A Sky. A Sea, Distant Mountains. Horses. Spring. (Sadie Coles)



Spanning both London galleries, this exhibition of Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone intends to mark the (partial) end of lockdown with works that celebrate “themes of time, nature, renewal and the psyche”. His brightly-hued sculptures of horses, paintings of stacked rocks and watercolours of sea vistas offer a simplified but spiritual take on the natural world.

Image: Ugo Rondinone’s ‘a sky . a sea . distant mountains . horses . spring .’ (2021) © Ugo Rondinone, courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, London.

Frank Walter and Luc Tuymans (David Zwirner)



Image: Frank Walter’s ‘LANDSCAPE Untitled (Airplanes over boats in harbor)’ (n.d.) © courtesy Kenneth M. Milton Fine Arts and David Zwirner

A posthumous exhibition of the Antiguan polymath Frank Walter illuminates the breadth and depth of the late artist’s works. Upstairs, master of quiet unease Luc Tuymans presents paper and animation works created during lockdown where the blurring of reality and media images have produced strange visions verging on the nightmarish.

Rachel Whiteread: Internal Objects (Gagosian)



Detail of Rachel Whiteread’s ‘Poltergeist’ (2020) © Rachel Whiteread. Photo Prudence Cuming Associates. Courtesy Gagosian

At Gagosian’s Grosvenor Hill gallery, Rachel Whiteread presents a new series of works which continue her interest in uncovering the hidden stories behind everyday objects. Moving away from her iconic castings, the artist has built original structures resembling abandoned cabins whose palpable sense of absence quietly suggests notions of ghostliness.

Idris Khan: The Seasons Turn (Victoria Miro)

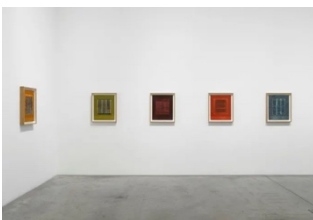


Image: Installation view of ‘Idris Khan: The Seasons Turn’ © Idris Khan. Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro. Photo Jack Hems

Art and music converge at the north-east London gallery which spotlights the British artist Idris Khan and his works created in the past year, including a series of watercolours and works on paper that incorporate fragments of Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons.

Kevin Harman (Ingelby)



Image: Kevin Harman’s ‘Transcendental Anaesthesia’ (2020) © Courtesy of the Artist and Ingelby, Edinburgh. Photo John McKenzie.

This scintillating show of paintings on glass by artist Kevin Harman validates the maxim that good things come to those who wait. Opening at the Edinburgh gallery a year after planned, this exhibition rewards visitors with swirling abstract compositions whose rich colours suggest natural vistas glimpsed on walks through the Scottish countryside.

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From Here to Eternity: Sunil Gupta. A Retrospective (The Photographer's Gallery)



Image: Sunil Gupta's 'Untitled #22' (1976) © Sunil Gupta. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2020

This first major retrospective of the New Delhi-born UK-based photographer Sunil Gupta traces the artist's oeuvre from the 1970s to present day, bringing together street photography and narrative portraits which offer a diverse picture of race, migration and sexuality across the world.

Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq and Marie Jacotey (Hannah Barry)

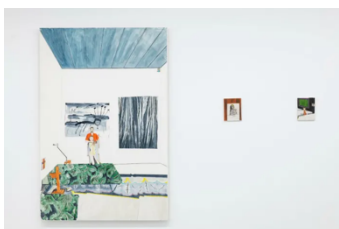


Image: Installation view of 'Marie Jacotey: Don't you worry honey' © Courtesy the artist and Hannah Barry Gallery. Photo by Damian Griffiths

The Peckham gallery reopens with 13 new drawings by Mohammed Qasim Ashfaq which use depth and mass to explore the concepts of universal truth and pastel works by French artist Marie Jacotey, which tenderly render scenes of everyday life.