

Parasol unit

foundation for contemporary art

14 Wharf Road | London | N1 7RW

citizenMag

Rana Begum: The Space Between

David Solomon, *CitizenM Magazine*, 15 September 2016, link (if applicable)

Rana Begum: The Space Between

A centre for contemporary art, in-house publishing, and engagement with the local community, Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art in London is one to consider.

There is a trend happening in contemporary art that while not new is very fresh. It feels more important than ever thanks to new artists that employ the technique of using geometry, light and reflection originally made solid by the pioneering Light & Space artists of Southern California. The Bangladeshi-British artist Rana Begum is pushing ideas of light and space into fresh territory. Begum isn't just good, she's killing it and to say that it's all been done before is just so tired. We want to see an artist that is contributing to a language and making it his or her own; in Begum's pieces we see personal beauty and craftsmanship that dissolves the past and loses us in the present.

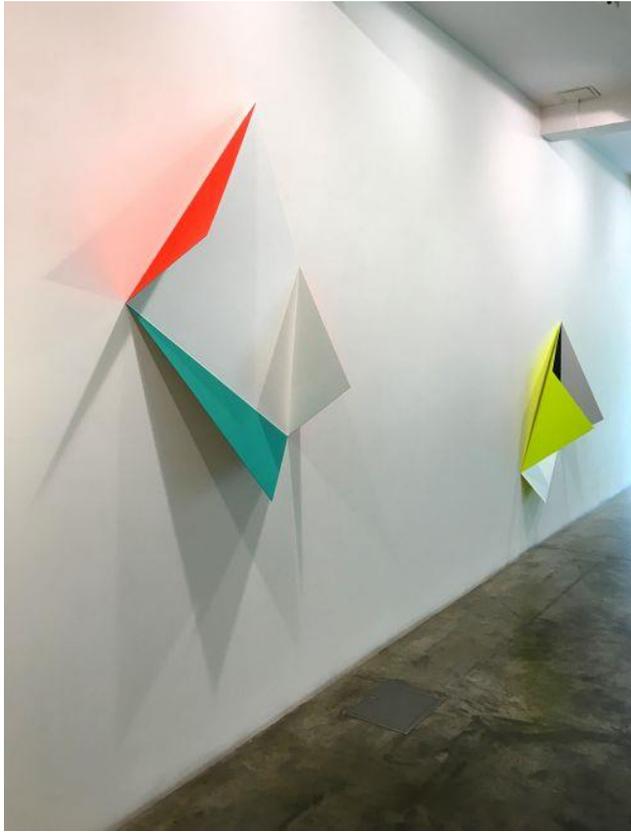


Begum's solo exhibition of 25 sculptural works at Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is not to be missed. Her piece *No. 653, W Fold* is a masterpiece of sculpture, painting, light and installation. The simple complexity of the work is enough to carry the whole show, but there's a lot more. *No. 274, L Triangles* is another highlight of the show utilizing wall and floor to reflect the work back into itself and create new space that feels like spooky alternate realities of transcendence. Yeah, that's what it does --- it makes you feel almost uncomfortable in how purely and simply it functions. The other works that I enjoyed most were the wall pieces called *L Folds*. Here she melds geometry, color, reflection and shadow together. Again, one of these works on their own could carry the room.

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There is a fun installation of angular glowing drinking straws and a room filled with powder-coated steel mesh squares stacked and zipped together that you must walk through. It brings to mind what stored digital information might look like if brought into the solid world, imposing yet transparent and therefore ok. We don't panic because it is not solid, yet it's not an illusion. It's a smart and fun idea. Mind you these are my impressions. Go and see for yourself.

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is an important not-for-profit arts institution and it's thanks to contemporary arts spaces such as this one that artists are able to fully express the possibilities of their creative

endeavors. Since being founded in 2004 it has helped launch many careers. Producing four shows a year and publishing its own supporting materials, Parasol unit works very hard for the artists it presents and for the contemporary art culture locally; working with the public, local art schools and educators to progress dialog within the community. This is an international jewel of an arts organization that is important right now, and you should go, right now.

30 June - 18 Sept

PARASOL UNIT FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

<http://parasol-unit.org/>

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