

Rana Begum: The Space Between

Jackie Wullschlager, *Financial Times*, 25/26 June 2016

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Visual Arts Jackie Wullschlager

Stanley Spencer: Of Angels and Dirt

The Hepworth, Wakefield
Spencer was always, he wrote, "on the side of angels and dirt". This exhibition, the largest devoted to the artist for 15 years, considers how his hallowed vision of everyday life allowed him to fuse themes of religion and sex, nature and industry, in a unique figurative language. The show features rarely seen self-portraits, diary extracts, and some of the artist's earliest sketches, recently discovered and displayed for the first time.
hepworthwakefield.org
01924 247360, to October 5

Defining British Art

Christie's, King Street, London
Marking its 250th anniversary, Christie's hosts a celebration of British art spanning four centuries and drawn from iconic pieces handled by the auction house throughout its history. Works on display include a portrait of Henry VIII from the circle of Hans Holbein II, sold in 1788, Rossetti's "Proserpine",

Landseer's "Monarch of the Glen" and paintings by Stubbs, Turner, Lowry and Freud. The show is the companion display to next week's British art auction (June 30).
christies.com
020 7839 9060, to July 15

Stubbs and the Wild

Holburne Museum, Bath
Stubbs' signature work, widely reproduced in prints during his lifetime, was a depiction of a horse attacked and devoured by a lion. This show focuses on animal portraits including those of the exotic mammals — moose, zebras, yaks — which began to arrive in Britain from the colonies in the 18th century, and on Stubbs' fantasy compositions of untamed nature embodying the romantic sublime.
holburne.org
01225 388569, to October 2

Rana Begum: The Space Between

Parasol Unit, London
A walk-in steel mesh maze, painted aluminium bars whose colours and forms

seem to shift as we pass, bright abstract folded metal sculptures as ethereal as paper: Begum's work turns on the dichotomy between robust industrial material and fragility, and between references to everyday urban life, constructivist/minimalist traditions, and the geometric patterns of Islamic art encountered in her native Bangladesh.
parasol-unit.org, 020 7490 7373, June 30-September 18

Fox Talbot: Dawn of the Photograph

Science Museum, London
A comprehensive exploration of the British pioneer of photography, setting his vision for the medium — from the delicate representation of natural specimens to ideas for mass production — within the context of Victorian scientific and cultural advances, as telegraphy and mechanisation urged a new sense of time and space compressed and fragmented.
sciencemuseum.org.uk, 0207 942 4000, to September 11