

Parasol unit

foundation for contemporary art

14 Wharf Road | London | N1 7RW

MODERN PAINTERS

ART / ARCHITECTURE / DESIGN / PERFORMANCE / FILM

Top Curators to Watch

Modern Painters – Louise Blouin, 28 December 2018,

<https://uk.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/3443828/top-curators-to-watch>

ZIBA ARDALAN, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, PARASOL UNIT FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Ziba Ardalan is the founder and director of Parasol Unit for Contemporary Art, a nonprofit exhibition venue in north London. In its 14 years of existence, Parasol has bolstered the careers of many artists who have gone on to get major museum shows years later. Parasol showed Mona Hatoum in 2008, nearly a decade before her retrospectives at the Pompidou Center and Tate Modern; and Adel Abdessemed in 2010 (also ahead of his Pompidou show). The Iranian-born Ardalan single-handedly runs the artistic side of the operation and brings her taste and sharp curatorial eye to exhibitions there. Her latest coup: showing the African-American artist Martin Puryear, not a household name in Britain, months before he was chosen to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale. Ardalan will have her own show at Venice: an exhibition of Contemporary Iranian art that will be staged across two venues, the other being Parasol in London. Visitors to Parasol's elegant galleries in London get an extra bonus: the excellent Sardine restaurant.

— Franca Toscano