

Moving Patterns

A drawing installation at the Royal Geographical Society presenting visual work from the AHRC research project Fashioning Diaspora Space: Textiles, Pattern and Cultural Exchange between Britain and South Asia.

Open: 7 - 21 May 2009

Monday - Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm

South Asian textiles, 'British' contexts: this exhibition bears witness to the ways in which pattern and ornament are laden with meaning and memory in both colonial and post-colonial times. With a focus on ornament, artist Helen Scalway explores the processes of material cultural exchange between Britain and South Asia in a visual re-imagining of the relations between place, identity and national cultures, in company with guest artists Nilesh Mistry, Samar Abbas, Sumi Perera, Anjana Patel, Nagat El-Mahl, Jagmohan Bangani and Punam Sharma.

For more information go to: www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/1750_scalway/blog

Private view

May 7th 6.30pm - 8.30pm

The RGS is on the corner of Exhibition Road and Kensington Gore SW7
For further information about the society visit: www.rgs.org.uk



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Diasporas,
migration
& identities



Royal Holloway
University of London



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Helen Scalway is an artist primarily concerned with research into the visual representation of the experience of the contemporary cosmopolitan city. Her focus is on urban pattern and ornament which codes places and things, fills them with meaning, suffuses them with memory, and badges identities.

Between Britain and South Asia in particular, textile patterns have shuttled back and forth; this exhibition explores this entanglement of cultures and the way it is shaping our urban environment. The installation seeks to enact the re-framings and recontextualisations of identities in the cosmopolitan city, in evoking such sites as the street, the shop, the museum, and the way mobile, mutable pattern flows between them in a process of endless becoming, like cities themselves.

Helen Scalway currently writes an artist's blog on this project on the V&A website . See : http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/1750_scalway/blog/