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Patricia Frischer: London, May 1 to May 26, 2013

Fine Art Edition

May 4



Lunch with Lesley and Stephen at Zucca was simply delicious and the impetus that lured us to this area in Bermondsey. Stephen told us that there was a very small law market ouvert on the books for ions which said anything sold in Bermondsey Square before the sun rises would have undisputed ownership. We were always told to get the best bargain in antiques you had to go to the market before the sun rose, but I had no idea until today that this had a whole other foundation and gave the square its reputation for thieves and scoundrels. Just repealed in 1995, all the antique trading was abandoned. so no evidence of antiques anymore but we saw lots of interesting contemporary shops including the Textile Museum started by Zandra Rhodes and Glass house of Andrew Logan, both looking very smart. And everyone is talking about the Shard which is just that, a giant wedge of glass that soars above Guy Hospital.



We also made a visit to the gallery <u>Vitrine</u> so called as it is actually two spaces with windows but the first is street level and only windows and the other is on the 1st floor (i.e. What we American would call the 2nd floor) near by. In the upstairs gallery Ayls Williams was showing a mash up of styles and materials, and colors and compositions by <u>John Walter</u> -not John Walters the film maker but one of the instigators of <u>Two Peacocks: a department store</u> art project from 2011 supported by Mary Boone and Barbara Gladstone Galleries.

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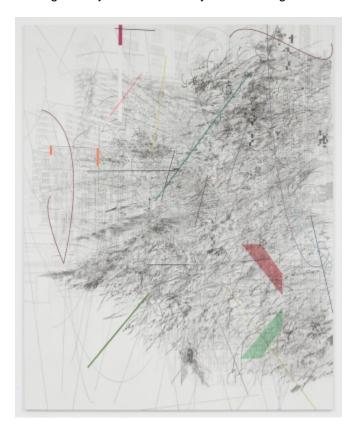
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At the new HUGE <u>White Cube</u>. I was taken by two photos by <u>Mathew Booth</u>. One was four white florescent tubes in a snow drift...no lights on, or tricks, just the tubes and snow, but it was a compelling image. The other was a strange shot of a floor, but the items sitting on the floor (beer cans and candy wrappers) had no shadows and so this had the effect of making the objects look like they were floating in air. Quite subtle but also very powerful.



The space is absolutely massive but <u>Julie Mehretu</u> managed to fill it with line drawing of architecture details and then hand smudge, stroked and colored overlays. In this instance it was the sheer size of the compositions that was convincing.

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May 7





Edward Atkinson Horne, Autumn 1904

Wolfgang Tillmans Lutz and Alex sitting in the trees 1992

Pam and I meet at the <u>Tate Britain Looking at the View</u>, and we thoroughly enjoyed this specially curated show of landscape images all owned by the Tate. They were all shown in pairs and although you can click the link above and see everything in the show (except the Tillmans that I found online) they are not in the order they were hung and so you miss the whole point of the show. You had to work a bit to see why they were hung together so it was like a puzzle but the result was that you saw both paired images in an new perspective. They were not all chosen old with contemporary, but you get an idea of how effective this was from the Horne and Tillmans sample I choose above.

May 11



Richard Stone: The Dark

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10/16/2013

We took a walk west of our temporary home and found some delights in the Old York Road of Wandsworth. First a really quite wonderful ArtEco Gallery showing the work of Richard Stone and Raad Qureshi. You can see the whole show Ruins online. This new trend of presenting a complete catalog is one I very much approve. I know you do not have the best view seeing the work this way, but how many of you will actually make it to Wandsworth in May of 2013! Kristin Hjellegjerde lived in New York but moved to London and it is her eye that chooses the work which speaks for itself. But if you want, she does deliver a ton of art speak to convince the cognoscenti of the worth of her stable. The figure above is ceramic covered in wax. I actually did not know that until I read the press release and think I prefer to think of these artifacts as irretrievably lost.

May 12





Albert Houthuesen, Undertones of War 1945 - 46

Albert HouthuesenDear Sir, We Regret' c.1947

We were given complimentary tickets to the <u>2013 Art Fair at the Royal Collage of Art</u> by <u>Richard Nathanson</u> and we were immensely impressed with the works in his booth. Richard has been a champion of <u>Albert Houthuesen</u> ever since I met him 40 years ago. The prices are still extremely low for the quality of the work and there were too many red dots to count.





Steven Lindsay

Rebecca Jewell

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I was also taken with two other spaces. <u>Lime Tree Gallery</u> in Bristol was showing the work of **Steven Lindsay**. This portrait of his fiancé shows a certain concern with the future of the relationship or maybe the safety of his bride to be. **Rebecca Jewell's** printed feathers from <u>Rebecca Hossack</u> will individually framed and also strung together on a wall of netting.

The Fair as a whole reminded me how small and intimate Great Britain is compared to the USA. Galleries from all over the island were represented and there was a small sprinkling of international modern master works, a large quantity of works by British modern masters and then many second string but still very competent works suitable for home enjoyment. Fair are usually overwhelming so I decided to see what drew my attention and I soon started noticing images of dogs. Then did not overshadow the other works but I have chosen a small selection to show you here.







Un -labeled charmers to follow





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Plus one cat chasing a mouse forever!

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May 22





Wellcome collection <u>Souzou: Outside Art of Japan</u> is an exhibition of Outsider Art from public welfare residents in Japan. I loved the 100 or more little metallic twisty tie figures above that were tiny and out set out individually in a large Plexiglas box by **Shota Katsube**. The subject seems to be mainly war with a spattering of science fiction monsters

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Hiroyuki Komatsu is obsessed by the morning TV news programs and illustrated all of them on these story boards identifying all the players



Toshiko Yamanishi color pencil marks are actually her own private language about her family

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Marie Suzuki was the most sophisticated of these artists and make detailed and graphically compelling images of birth and the sexual act.



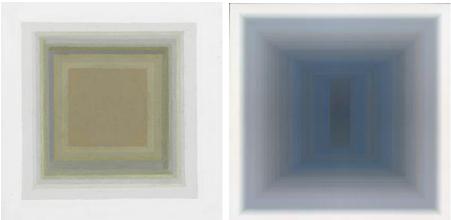
Magumi Matsui made my favorite work in the show. The ceramic piece was small and easily missed but once you read the title "Candles" it was instantly recognizable as little irregular tubular candle shapes with pinched solid flames.

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London Sales Galleries:



The Redfern - Paul Feiler - I have included these works as I once showed Paul Feiler in my London gallery back in the 1970's. Works like those above I sold for between 300 and 1200 pounds are now going for up to 80,000 pounds. I remember fondly a delightful visit to Paul's home in St. Ives in Cornwall. It is nice to see this artist reaping the benefits of a long life in the arts.



Alan Cristea Gallery- Richard Woods. You could not help but be impressed by this dramatic installation with two walls and the floor covered with faux wood by R. Woods. The sculpture you see on the right is a mock palette...Palette 2 Palate, how could I not include this!

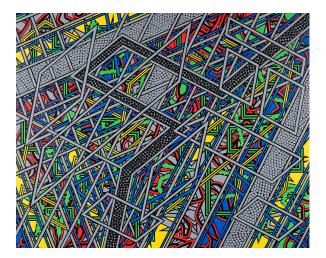
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Bernard Jacobson Tony Berlant, RB Kitag. Two small works took my fancy in the collage show and although I do not have an image the RB Kitag bookmark made form the spine of a book with drawn embellishment, I did find this similar work by Tony of a two dimensional nailed tin flower. These were the two works that I would be happy to add to my own collection if I could afford them. I like to see the hand of the artist and am particularly found of drawing and other small works. That is why I loved the silent auction at the P2P event. However, I was too overwhelmed with organizational details to even have a good look, much less buy at the sale.



<u>Flowers Gallery - Bernard Cohen</u> Always fun to see what is showing at Flowers and these works were especially competent. Like the Lichtenstein show we say the next day, I am put off a bit by work that is too slickly finished but that is just my preference.

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May 23

















Valery Koshlyakov

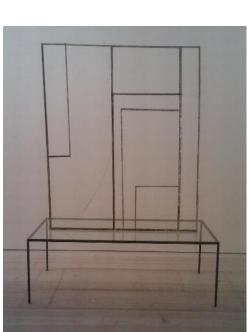
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<u>Saatchi Gallery</u> I don't think we have too much to fear as far as competition from contemporary art coming out of Russia. They appear to be quite angst ridden and rebellious if not to say morbid and depressed. Remember this is Saatchi's choice and may not reflect the contemporary market. One wonders where his head is right now to choose these particular artists. The only one I enjoy seeing was Valery Koshlyakov when he worked on cardboard. But as soon as he translated these onto canvas they were dismal.





Sara Barker

Richard Wilson

My favorite works were from this emerging British section of the Saatchi exhibitions were **Sara Barker**'s sculptures. They were charming, roughly constructed but delicate and very mindful of the negative spaces. I was thrilled again to smell and see the oil slick from **Richard Wilson** in this new setting. I have seen this piece before and it never stops pleasing me. What you are seeing is the reflection of everything above the oil line and there is a barricade walkway jetting out into the center of the pool. This is my own photo and I am quite pleased with the way it came out.

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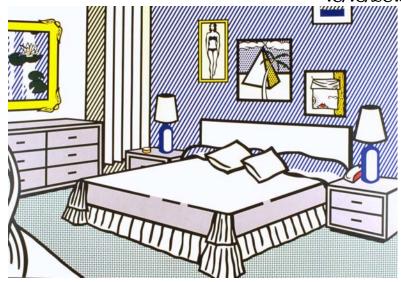
Ellen Gallagher at the Tate Modern and I am ashamed to say I did not know the work of this artist. It was varied and human and at it's best funny and relevant. These are pictures from a black magazine about wigs with overlays of plasticine and rubber. It was a huge retrospective from the Afro-American artist and just filling these huge spaces is impressive. Googlie eyes and hot dogs were another lexicon in the language of this artist born in 1965 in Providence, Rhode Island. She studied at Oberlin College, Ohio (1982–84); School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts (1992) and several others. She is now in the Gagosian stable of artists.

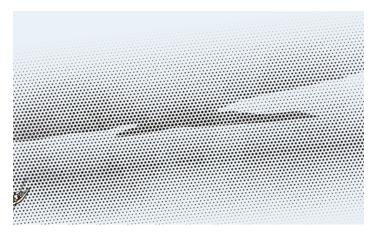
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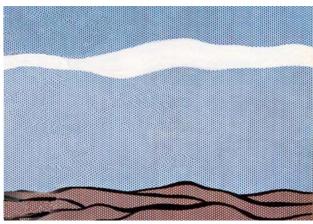
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<u>Lichtenstein: A Retrospective</u> at Tate Modern. I loved the work of Roy Lichtenstein but I had high expectations of seeing something new or something that would enrich my view of his work. Although there were a number of sculptures on the show that I had not seen, they all seemed quite commercial to me. I know, the works are all about being commercial but this was commercial in technique not concept. No one does what Lichtenstein does any better than he, but I came away wanting more. Some friends pointed out a great feeling of quietness about the work and I have included three that appealed most to me that do have that quality.

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I wrote about ArtEco Gallery previously but they changed their show and I was very impressed with Global STYLE Battles by Daniele Tamagni, a freelance photographer from Italy who is exploring street style trends in Havana, Dakar, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. His book Gentlemen of Bacongo influenced men's fashion designer Paul Smith, who wrote the preface. The Gallery is run by a Norwegian lady and her German husband who is also the architect who designed the space. He works for Norman Foster and is working right now on a re-think of the Norton Museum in West Palm Beach. There are no other galleries yet in this area, but this dynamic couple is on the road to changing that as they break into new territory not only with this space but with the quality of work they are showing.

May 25



We are privileged again to visit **Boyd and Evans** in Wolverton. I am including an image of a reticulated cloud formation which has been printed on a transparent plastic. We will be displaying this in the window of our home in Cardiff so come by and take a look.

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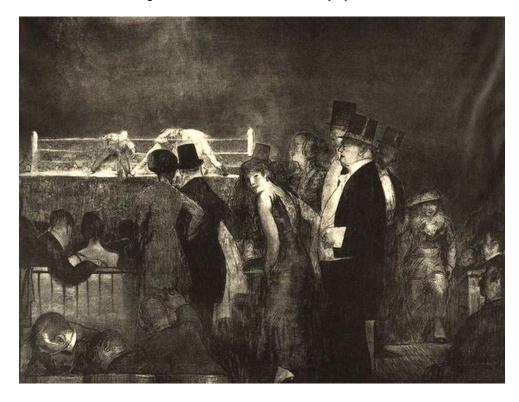
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May 26



George Bellows the urban realist known as an Ashcan school artist showing at the **Royal Academy of Art** was a full show that did reveal to me a greater depth of an artist that I had always admired. He is well known for this famous image "Stags at Starkey's and you can see even in this small image the power of his composition and virtuosity of his line and contrast of dark and light. But also notice how he stays just the fine art side of cartoon.



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He painted not only the poor and down trodden but also the rich and elite and the show included landscapes, sea scapes and a fascination with snow.





But it was these dogs drawn in early morning that captured me. There was so much atmosphere in this work and again such a strong sense of the human hand. I am sorry it does not come across better in the image. Next to this is a scene from the demolition of land in preparation for the Philadelphia rail way station. It predicts all the angst of the world war one and the twin tower destruction.



Bellows died at only 42 but married and had two children in his last ten years. We learned that he painted many more images of women and girls than of pugilists. Did he die too soon to reveal his full worth or was he one of those good who die young and live to greatest in our own imagination?

On the way home we took the bus and we sat on the top deck so we could see another view of the London streets that you ever see in a car and certainly not in a tube. I was so intrigued to see over the top of a high brick way, a tiny Jewish cemetery with all the stones in Hebrew. It was so unexpected and made me realize the old adage was true. When you are tired of London you are tired of life. The city continues to reveal itself and fascinate me as we explore it area by area over 40 years.