

PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

RANA BEGUM

Dappled Light

25 March - September 2022



Photo: Angus Mill

Pitzhanger's new exhibition by Rana Begum RA explores the perception of light, colour and form within sculpture, painting and installation. Visitors will immediately encounter a newly-created, ethereal cloud installation of diffused light and veils of colour dramatically suspended within the Gallery. *Dappled Light* blurs the boundaries between sculpture, architecture, design and painting. It is the first solo show in a London public gallery by Academician Rana Begum: Co-Curator of the architecture room at this year's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

Dappled Light sets up a dynamic dialogue with the architecture of Sir John Soane at Pitzhanger. The works respond to the Manor's architecture, sightlines, and intricate interior decorative schemes, including his play of light through tinted glass. Several works will be displayed beyond the Gallery around the Manor including a bright neon installation of fluid form that zig-zags across the Georgian stairwell. Begum's architectural cityscape of reflector towers interplays with Soane's own use of columns of brightly coloured stained glass in the Conservatory.

On display will be a monumental canvas of colourful dots that appear random with no underlying structural pattern. This faces a tile grid of vividly coloured undulating surfaces of shifting hue. Throughout the exhibition, paintings, sculpture and installation are juxtaposed playing with how light touches the material: filtering, glancing, reflecting and blending.

A new piece, Begum's first video work, captures the fugitive and dappled light as it cascades through a tree canopy in a woodland cemetery outside the artist's city home. The time-lapse video cycles through the seasons during a year of lockdown. This piece will be displayed in Pitzhanger's atmospheric Monk's Dining Room designed by Soane, evoking the Gothic environs of the cemetery.

Rana Begum is working in collaboration with a group of local young artists to create a monochromatic wall drawing, composed with thumb prints, that will welcome the visitor as they arrive in the Gallery.

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, says: "*We are thrilled to be showing Rana Begum's striking works which will create an exciting sensorial experience for our visitors. Begum's exploration of shifting light, colour and form will connect magnificently to the use of light as an architectural tool by Pitzhanger's architect Sir John Soane.*"

Rana Begum said: "*I'm excited to see how these works change and develop in relation to the new spaces they inhabit. At Pitzhanger, the works will be shown in the house and the gallery - spaces that will force the work to adapt and change their forms. Both the new and existing works respond directly to the way Soane designed the house, bringing light into the architecture.*"

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Rana Begum is a Bangladeshi-born artist who lives and works in London. Her work draws on a range of influences, from the visual language of Minimalism and Constructivism to urban landscapes and Islamic design.

This exhibition is in partnership with Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, where *Dappled Light* is on display until 13 March 2022. *Catching Colour* by Rana Begum is a new site-specific outdoor public sculpture for London City Island that will be unveiled on 9 April 2022. Rana Begum is co-curating the architecture space at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, opening on 22 June.

Rana Begum: Dappled Light is curated by Dr Cliff Lauson, Director of Exhibitions at Somerset House (from March 2022).

- *Members' Private View* (30 March, 6.30pm) – Preview with tour from curator Dr Cliff Lauson
- *Dappled Light: Introduction* (19 May, 6.30pm) – Introduction by curator Dr Cliff Lauson
- *The interplay between art and architecture: Rana Begum in Conversation with Peter Culley* (23 June, 6.30pm) Discussion between artist Rana Begum and architect Peter Culley from Spatial Affairs Bureau, who created her spectacular studio and home (part of London Festival of Architecture)
- *Creative Workshop for Schools with Alice Wilson* – Unique creative workshops for pupils and teachers with artist Alice Wilson
- *Assemble Play* (8,9,10 April) Taking inspiration from Rana Begum's works children are invited to build exciting playscapes together
- *Open Sundays* (3 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 7 August, 4 September) Family activities inspired by *Dappled Light* on the first Sunday of every month

The next in Pitzhanger's series of exhibitions responding to Soane's architecture will be *Caro and Architecture*, an exhibition of works by leading British abstract sculptor Sir Anthony Caro, opening on what would have been his 99th birthday in March 2023.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

For all media enquiries related to *Rana Begum: Dappled Light* at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, please contact Caro Communications: pitzhanger@carocommunications.com | +44 (0)20 7713 9388 | 07502453066

For all other enquiries, please contact pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk

To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign-up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at pitzhanger.org.uk

Instagram | Twitter | Facebook: @pitzhanger

Listings Information

- Address: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Walpole Park, Ealing, London, W5 5EQ



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Charity Registration No.: 1152434 Company Registration No.: 08278049



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- Nearest Station: Ealing Broadway (Central & District lines, plus Great Western Main Line from Paddington. Elizabeth line tba.)
- Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am-5pm (late opening Thursday: 10am-7pm)
- Advance booking recommended at pitzhanger.org.uk. Tickets allow access to Pitzhanger Manor and the exhibition. Full price £7, concessions (including visitors with access needs and students) £4.50; National Art Pass £3.50; free entry for under 18s; Pitzhanger Members; Ealing residents (Wed + Sun mornings); and students after 5pm on Thursdays
- Some Covid-19 precautions will apply to visits. Full details are set out on the website [here](#)
- Also on display to visit with entry ticket is *Soane Restored*, which reveals the fascinating story of how Pitzhanger was restored to Soane's original vision, brought to life with photos and objects

ABOUT RANA BEGUM

Rana Begum was born in 1977 in Bangladesh. She lives and works in London. Begum's work focuses on the interplay between light and colour, blurring the boundaries between sculpture, painting and architecture. Her use of repetitive geometric patterns – found both within Islamic art and the industrial cityscape – takes its inspiration from childhood memories of the rhythmic repetition of daily recitals of the Qur'an. Influenced by the geometric abstraction of minimalism and constructivism and the work of artists such as Agnes Martin, Donald Judd, Jesús Rafael de Soto and Tess Jaray, Begum's work ranges from drawings, paintings and wall-based sculptures to large-scale public art projects.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Infinite Geometry*, Wanås Konst, Sweden, (2021); *A Conversation with Light and Form*, Tate St Ives, Cornwall, UK (2018) following the Tate St Ives Artists Programme residency at Porthmeor Studios; *Space, Light, Colour*, Djanogly Gallery, Nottingham, UK (2018); *Space, Light, Colour*, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, UK (2017); *The Space Between*, Parasol Unit, London, UK (2016). In 2017, Begum curated a group exhibition, *Occasional Geometries*, at Yorkshire Sculpture Park featuring works from the Arts Council Collection. Begum is working on a forthcoming site-responsive commission for the new Arts of Islamic Cultures Gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), opening 2021. A new publication, *Rana Begum: Space Light Colour* was published by Lund Humphries in 2021. She was also elected a Royal Academician in 2020.

ABOUT PITZHANGER MANOR & GALLERY

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery's objective is to promote Sir John Soane's legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture and design and nurturing creativity for all within an extensive outreach and events programme. It celebrates Sir John Soane's genius and influence as a designer, juxtaposing his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return the Manor to his original design, with support from HLF, ACE, Ealing Council and other generous donors.

ABOUT SIR JOHN SOANE

Sir John Soane (1753-1837) is one of Britain's most visionary architects, celebrated for his idiosyncratic take on the neoclassical style and mastery of natural light. Soane bought Pitzhanger in 1800. He demolished most of the existing manor house apart from the Dance Wing and from 1800-1804, designed and built a new house as his country estate sitting in 28 acres of parkland. The legacy of Soane's distinctive buildings, teachings and collections has influenced generations of artists, architects and designers.