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Newsletter

A SCOPE ON THE CONTEMPORARY ART WORLD



Art Dubai 2017

Edg and work by Rashid Rana

Edg's highlights of the fair

Rashid Rana, new works

As some of my loyal followers might remember, we showed *Rashid Rana* for the first time in Europe at the Musée Guimet seven years ago ('Rashid Rana – Paradoxes Perpétuels', Musée Guimet, Paris, July – November 2010. <http://www.new-artworld.co.uk/aandeprojects/rashid-rana/>).

This time in Dubai the MOMA (Museum of Modern art of Nyc), and his prestigious director Glenn Lowry organised a talk with *Rashid Rana* on his work and also

discussed the fact that he was named the Artistic Director of the inaugural edition of the Lahore Biennale, Pakistan's first art biennale. The biennale is set to become the country's largest contemporary art event ever.



Installation shot with the artist of the show 'Rashid Rana – Paradoxes Perpétuels'



Rashid Rana, I Love Miniatures

Needless to say I was very proud to see that *Rashid Rana* was the talk of the town with a splashing new exhibition in Alserkal Avenue at Leila Heller Gallery.

For the past 20 years, *Rashid Rana* has been at the vanguard of Pakistani art. When he left behind traditional painting for a photographic printmaking process involving the fragmentation and rearranging of mosaic-like images, his pixel-like works were something of a revolution on the Pakistani art scene at the time. I Love Miniatures (2002), in which he recreated a Mughal miniature with the use of photographic mosaic, played on ideas of identity and dislocation, an investigation of the states of flux that have come to define his oeuvre.

Edg's highlights of the fair

The images he selects, however, play on notions of subversion and conflicting realities of subverting stereotypes, asking the viewer to re-examine their spatial relationship with the work as they move between macro and micro understandings of what they are seeing. Images of luscious red carpets, for example, are actually comprised of myriad photographs of flesh and blood. This fascination with the grid has manifested itself in many ways, as *Rana* navigates a post-Colonial reality in which, in the words of artist Michael Hilsman, he seeks to “transcend Western media stigmas and patriotic narratives.”



Rashid Rana, Untitled XII, 2017 (as part of the show 'Scatter in Time')

A new solo show, ‘Scatter in Time’, along with work at the gallery’s booth at Art Dubai sees him turn his attention to paintings from Western art history. They are part of his ongoing Transliteration series, first glimpsed during ‘My East is Your West’ at the 2015 Venice Biennale.



Installation shot of Rashid Rana's exhibition 'Scatter in Time' at Lelila Heller gallery