

**CHRISTINE
PARK
GALLERY**

START
SAATCHI GALLERY 15-18 SEPTEMBER 2016

CARA NAHAUL

START Art Fair 2016

VIP Preview: Wednesday 14th September, 3 – 9 pm

Public Days: Thursday 16 September – Sunday 18 September

Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, London, SW3 4RY, UK
Booth 11.3

For immediate release

Christine Park Gallery is proud to participate in START Art Fair 2016, held at one of London's most prestigious venues, the Saatchi Gallery. For our second consecutive year participating in the fair we will present a solo booth project of new paintings by British artist Cara Nahaul.

In her most recent paintings, Cara Nahaul continues to challenge existing narratives and stereotypes about the tropics, this time using the landscapes of domestic interiors and gardens as a starting point to re-examine the idea of the exotic.

For this body of work, Nahaul has drawn from a diverse range of sources. Trawling through architectural and lifestyle magazines for images of holiday homes and luxurious garden designs the paintings allude to the projected fantasies from these glossy pages. Many of the paintings are composites of images found in these sources, as well as places visited on the artist's own travels. What is being viewed could be an Andalusian villa, a Moroccan public garden or even a visit to a local garden centre in London.

In her exploration of these spaces, Nahaul dissolves the boundaries between interior and exterior by painting spaces in bold colours, flattening large surfaces or increasing the number of vanishing points, all while embellishing and decorating them with tropical flora. At times it is unclear in the paintings whether we are viewing the same space from numerous angles or if we are zooming into a corner of a room.

The spaces are fabricated using abstracted planes and volume in order to create landscapes that remain for the most part empty. Inspired by Alfred Hitchcock's cinematic device the MacGuffin, the objects within the paintings point to a narrative yet its full function is never clearly explained. Like the places visited on Nahaul's travels or flicking through magazines, these are places that inspire but are not necessarily habitable or even physically accessible.

In her exploration of these spaces, Nahaul suggests that the tropics need not be discovered in

exotic distant lands but rather they can be located somewhere much closer to home, if not home itself. For the artist, the tropics are not merely a fantastical holiday destination but an interior psychological landscape as well. By creating fictional spaces, Nahaul comments on how we project desires onto the exotic and foreign, and enquires about the source of those desires.

About the artist

Born in London, Cara Nahaul received her MFA in Fine Arts at Parsons The New School For Design in 2014 and was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship. She won the Heart of England prize at the National Open Art Competition (2009) and was selected for the John Moores Painting Prize at the Walker Art Gallery for the Liverpool Biennial (2010). Nahaul was chosen for the inaugural Jerwood Painting Fellowships (2011), which culminated in an exhibition at the Jerwood Space, London and toured across the UK.

Nahaul completed a year-long residency at the Florence Trust, followed by a solo exhibition *Crossing the Tropic* at Christine Park Gallery, London (2015). Recently she was nominated for the Dentons Art Prize (2016). She continues to live and work in London.

About us

Christine Park Gallery is a young gallery dedicated to supporting both emerging and established UK and international artists. Located in the heart of Fitzrovia, London's burgeoning art hotspot, the gallery has an extensive programme of solo shows, conceptually curated group exhibitions, and special installations. With a constantly developing roster of innovative artists the gallery prides itself on exhibiting works in a range of media, seeking to provoke cross-disciplinary debate and extend the boundaries of the current contemporary art scene.

Our vision is to provide a platform to allow artists to develop and gain greater recognition. Therefore, as well as providing a commercial space that artists can use as a canvas to realize their projects and present their works to the public, we actively foster relations with art foundations, public museums and private clients.

For further information and press inquiries, please contact Christine Park at christine@christinepark.net.