



Retinal Stain
Cosmic Galerie

This collective of three British artists explore ways to find new ways to make us think about our sight, and how it works, with their exhibition "Retinal stain". The title of this show (until 20 December) is a reference to the reverse-coloured imprint left on the retina after looking at bright light or colour. Richard Woods has interpreted the idea literally by painting every inch of his section of the gallery in colours so eye-poppingly bright and sharp that they hurt the eyes. No detail is spared: wallpaper, parquet floor, carpet, Regency detailing, curtains and light sockets are all given a coat of garish paint. In a more sober, but just as humorous, group of works James Hopkins forces us to think about our position in relation to what we see. He uses mirrors and doors to confuse our senses and lines of sight. What looks at first like a bucket filled with water contains, if we get close enough, a tiny paradise island. "Spun out Simpsons", 2003 (above), is made of sheets of coloured plastic set at just the right angle to resemble members of the US cartoon family the Simpsons, when viewed from a low vantage point. Matt Collishaw engages us in a similar game of visual hide-and-seek with his video that shows recognisable images, such as Big Ben or a peacock, that appear and disappear slowly as the viewer struggles to identify them.