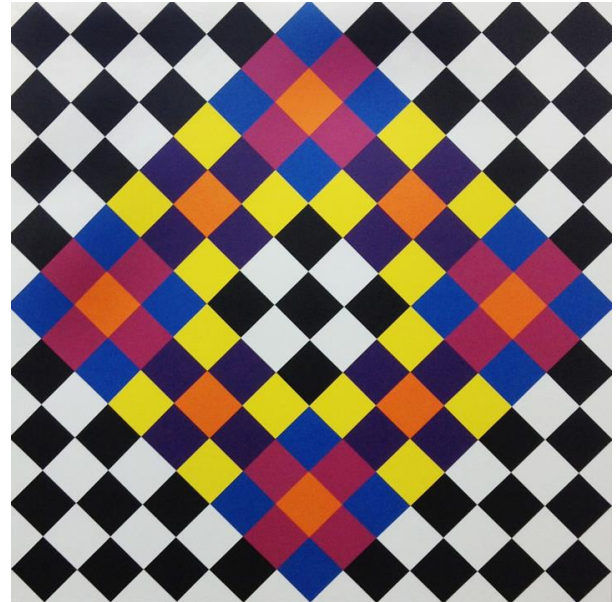


## Geometry and Symmetry

### New Works by Rasheed Araeen

Aicon Gallery Exhibition September 20<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Press Preview & Opening Reception: Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

**Aicon Gallery New York** is proud to announce ***Geometry and Symmetry / New Works by Rasheed Araeen***, a major new exhibition by the London-based, Pakistani-born artist. A pioneering artist and voice for alternative and Non-Western interpretations of Minimalist and Conceptual art in the 1960s and 70s, Araeen's work in this exhibition spans his oeuvre from his beginnings in Pakistan and London to the present day. The exhibition is framed by two important sets of works on canvas: the first, from the artist's early days in Karachi, comprised of his initial forays into densely-packed abstract scenes which foretell his later groundbreaking introduction of the kinetic into Minimalist art, and the second, a series of new canvases exploring color-field, movement, and depth through checkered grids derived from traditional Islamic architectural and textile patterning. Taken together, these paintings frame Araeen's nearly sixty-year long, constantly evolving journey into abstract painting, from frenetic, highly energetic works evocative of movement and dance, to formalist studies of the illusionistic and kinetic potential of geometric abstraction. Alongside the works on canvas, the exhibition will also include eight iconic wall and floor sculptures spanning Araeen's entire career from the 1960s to the current day. The exhibition sets the stage for Araeen's upcoming *Retrospective at the Van Abbemuseum*, Netherlands in February, 2017 and his participations in the 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale and *Documenta 14 – Universe in Universe*, staged in 2017 in Kassel and Athens.



Rasheed Araeen, *Opus FI*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.

Born in Karachi in 1935, Rasheed Araeen is an internationally recognized artist, writer and civil engineer. As an artist, he began his career in 1953, while studying civil engineering at Karachi's NED Engineering College. While still in Karachi in 1959, he pioneered the concept of making sculpture by burning and transforming an object from one material (or form) to another. After establishing himself in Karachi, he left for London in 1964 (where he presently resides). In 1965, he pioneered minimalist sculpture, representing what is arguably the only Minimalism in Britain. After being active in several groups for liberation struggles, democracy and human rights, he began to write in 1975, and published his own art journals: *Black Phoenix* (1978), *Third Text* (1987) and *Third Text Asia* (2008). During this time, he also curated two significant exhibitions: *The Essential Black Art* (1987), and *The Other Story* (Hayward Gallery, 1989). Of late, his work has garnered increasing and much overdue institutional attention and critical reconsideration. Amid a series of recent and forthcoming international exhibitions at fairs, biennials and galleries, Araeen's work has been collected by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Tate Modern, London, and the Art Institute of Chicago, amongst other museums and institutions.

Please contact Aicon Gallery ([NewYork@Aicongallery.com](mailto:NewYork@Aicongallery.com)) for more information.

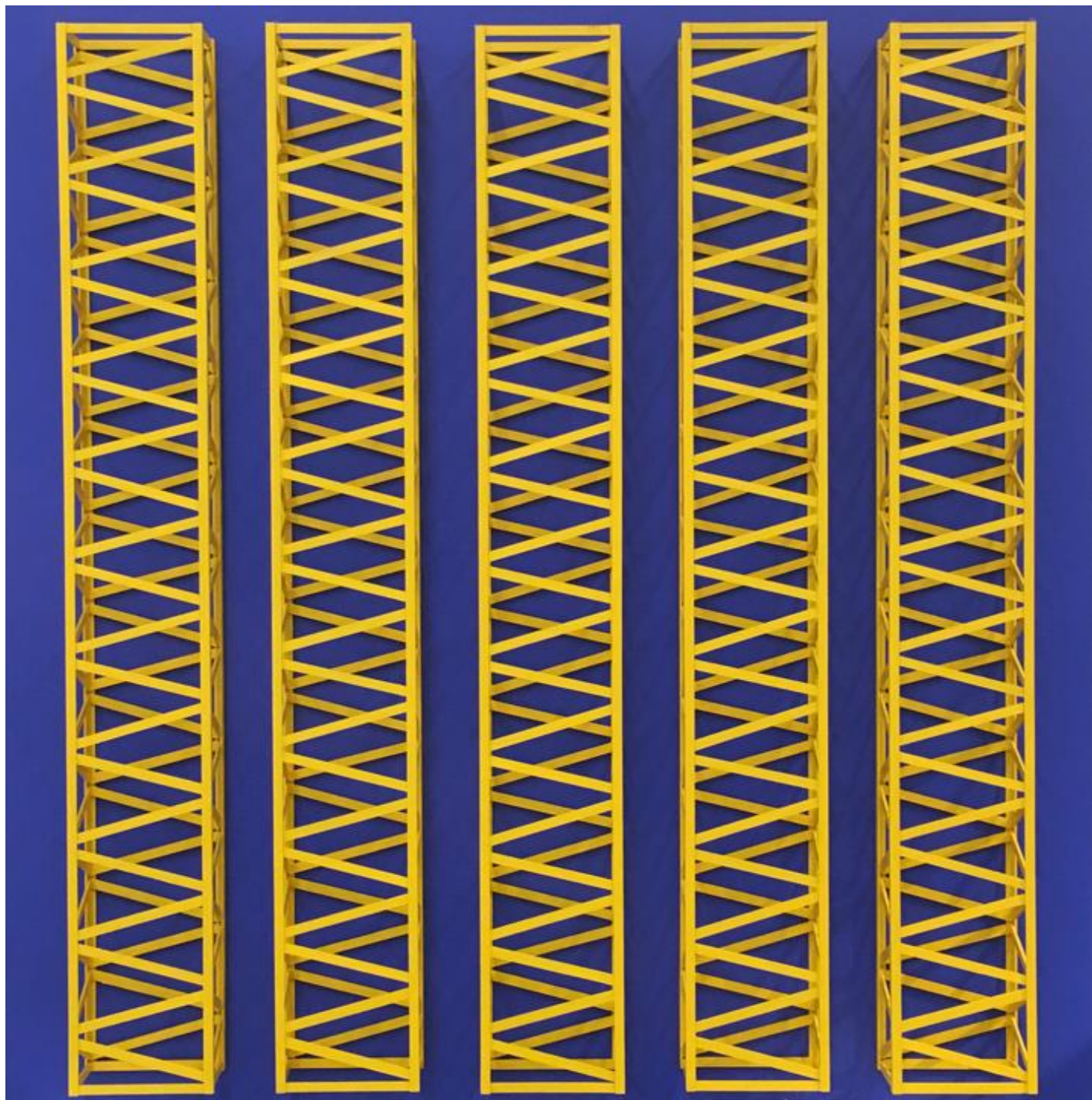
## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Untitled (Purple)*, 1971 (2016), Wood and paint, 72 x 48 x 6 in.

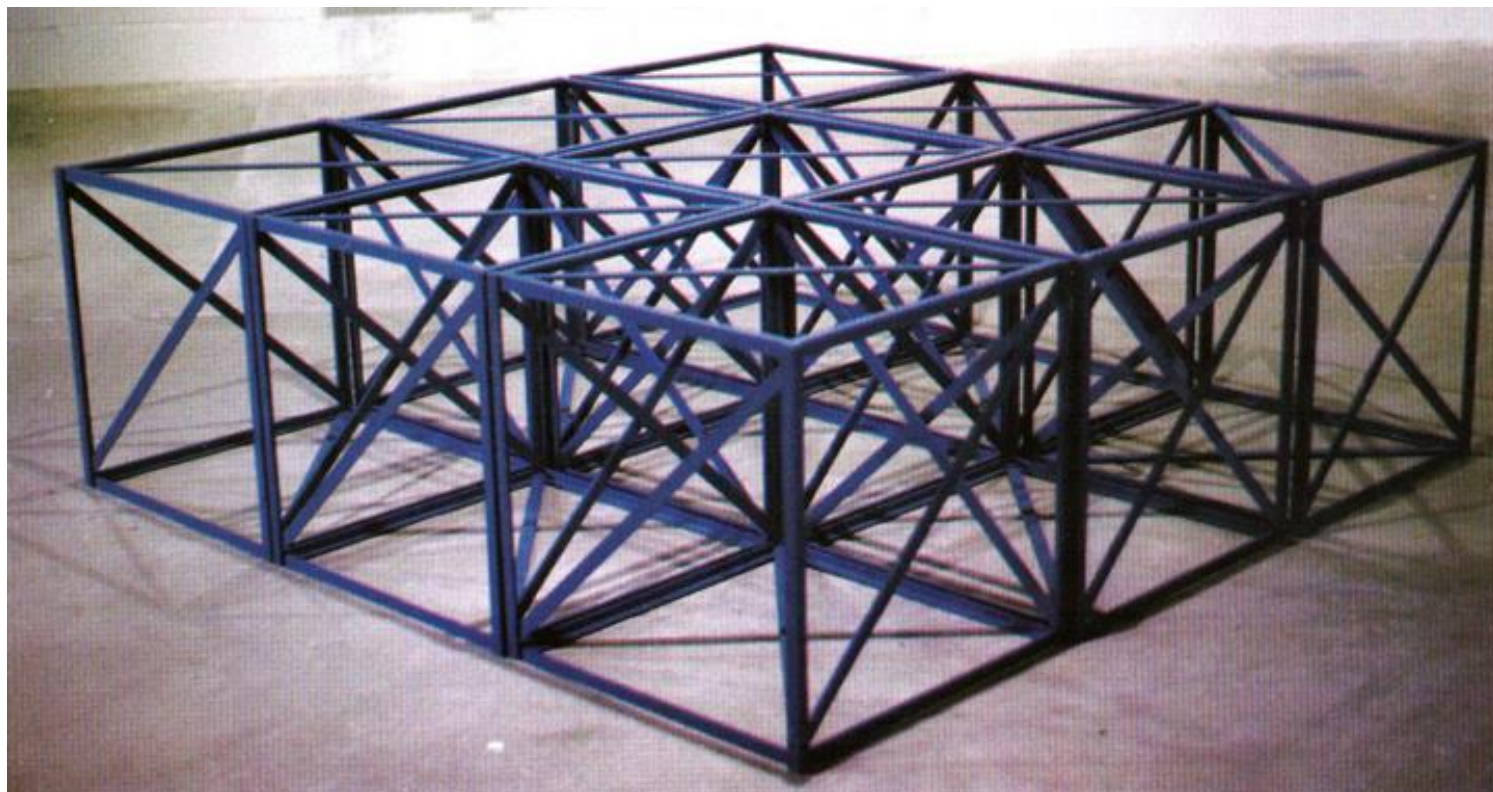


## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Neela Peela (Blue Yellow)*, 1970 (2016), Wood and paint, 72 x 72 x 6 in.

## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Nine*, 1968-75 (2016), Wood and paint, 24 x 24 x 24 in. (x9)



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Red Square Breaking Into Primary Colors*, 2015, Acrylic on wood, 63 x 63 x 7 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Red Square Breaking Into Rainbow Colors*, 2015, Acrylic on wood, 63 x 63 x 7 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Red Square (After Malevich)*, 2015, Acrylic on wood, 63 x 63 x 7 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Opus AA 1*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Opus AA 2*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.

## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Opus AA 3*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.

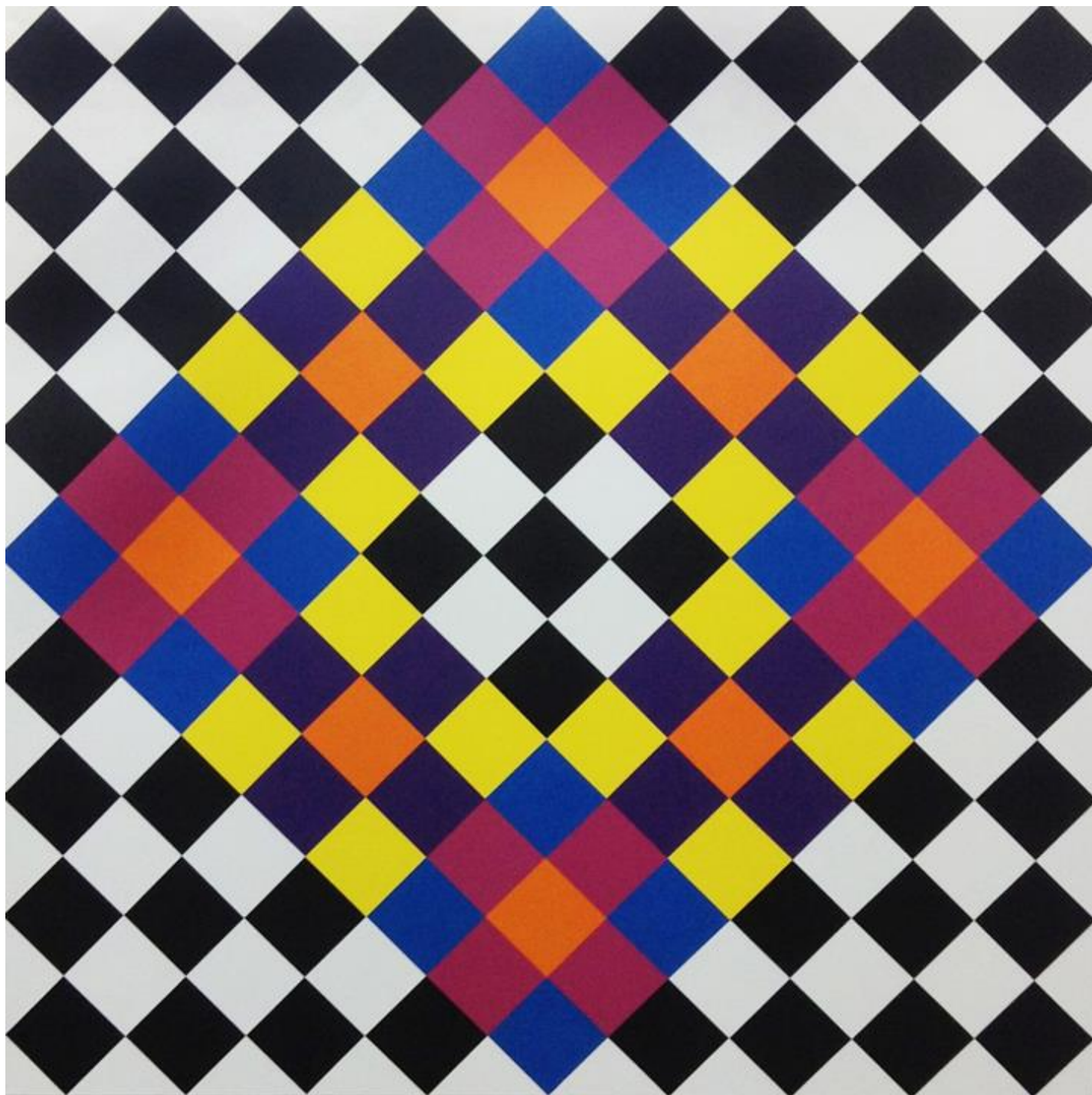


## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Opus AA 4*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.

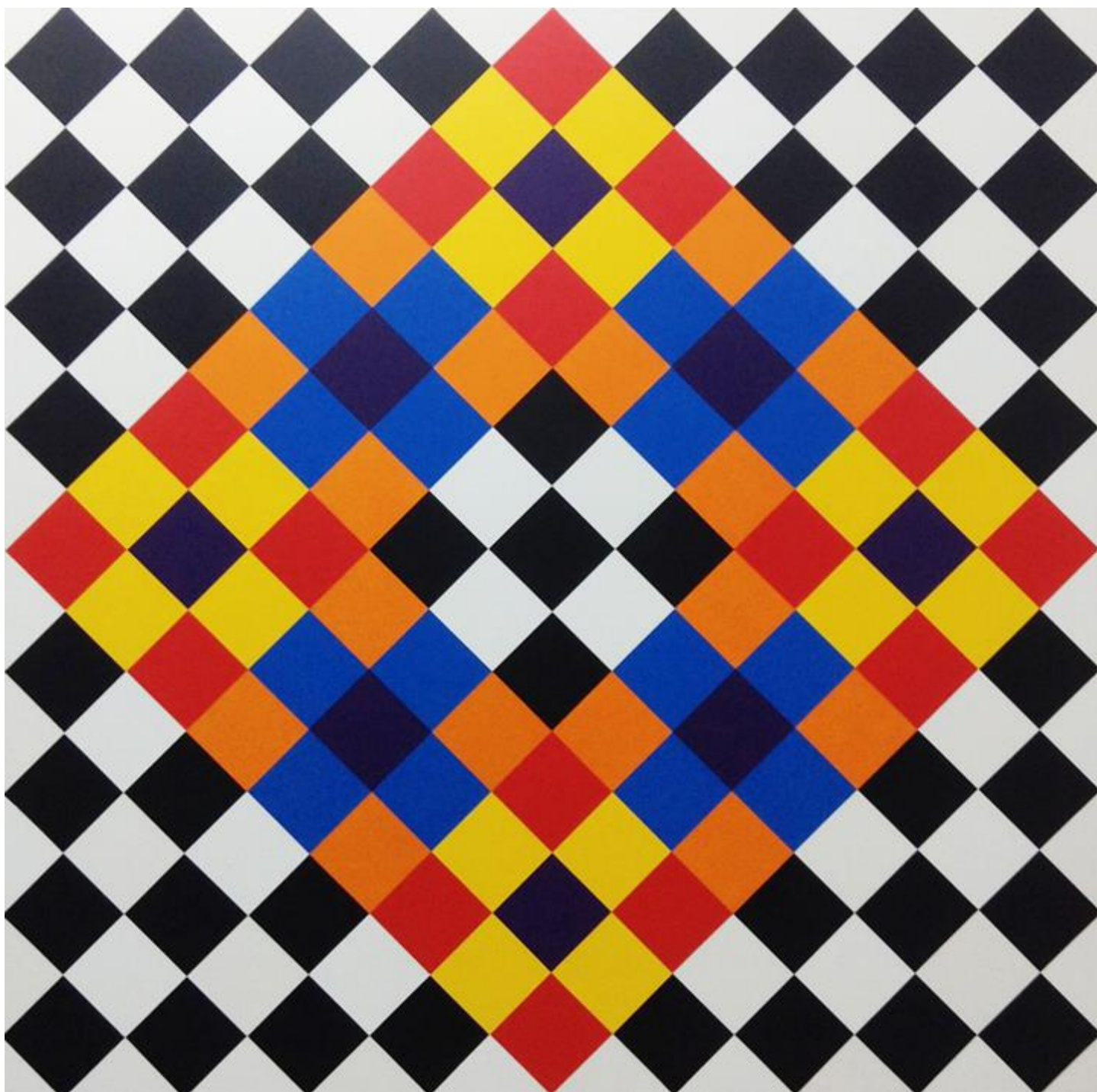
## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Opus F 1*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen, *Opus F 2*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.**

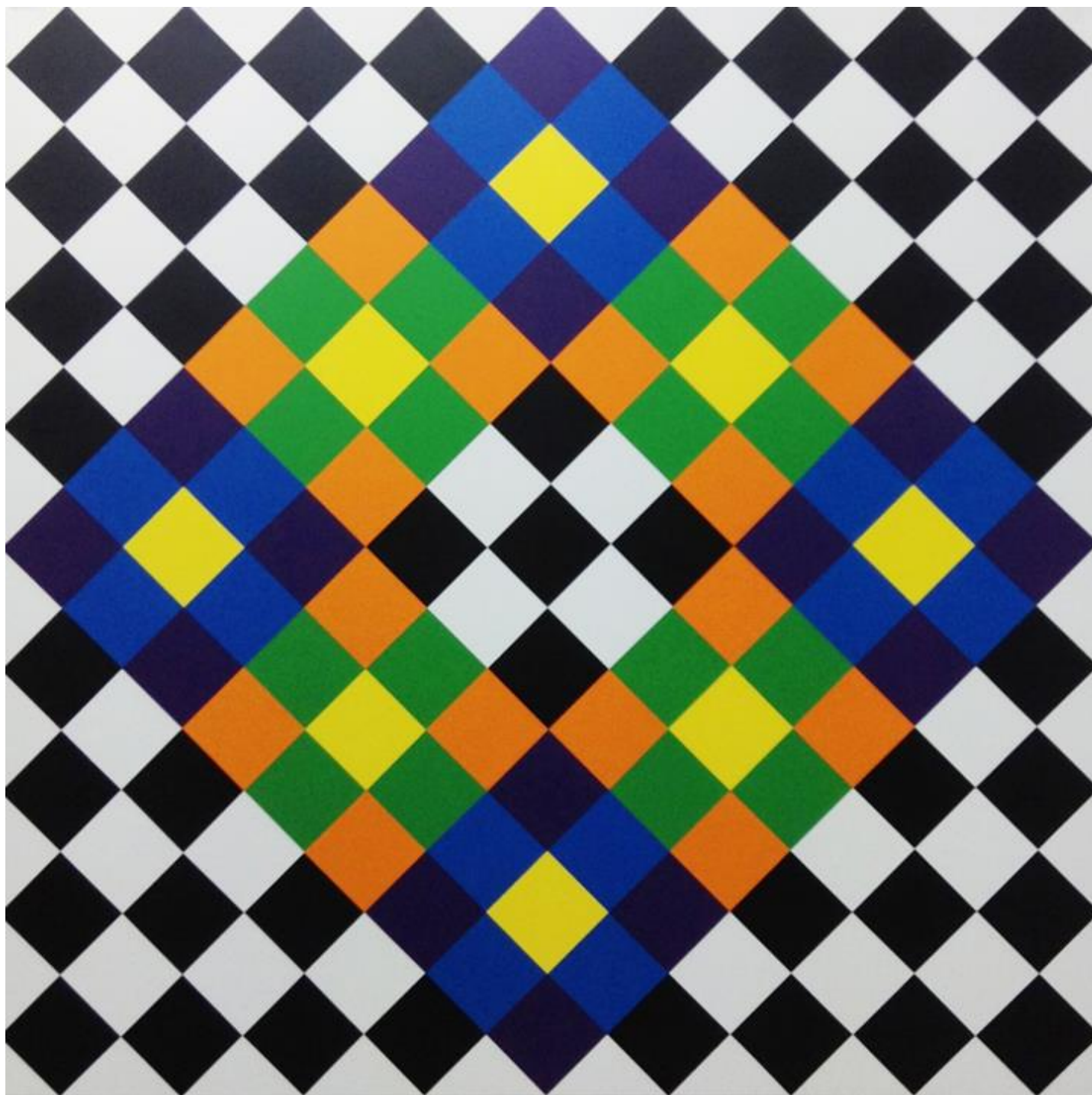
## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Opus F 3*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Opus F 4*, 2016, Acrylic on canvas, 63 x 63 in.

## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *HYD Abstraction*, 1963, Watercolor and ink on paper, 17.5 x 19.5 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Windcatchers in Pink*, 1963, Watercolor and ink on paper, 12 x 16 in.

## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Houses*, 1963, Watercolor, pastel and black ink on paper 14 x 18 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *HYD V*, 1963, Watercolor, pastel and black ink on paper 17.5 x 19.5 in.

## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *Black painting*, 1963, Black ink on paper, 10 x 12 in.



## Rasheed Araeen



**Rasheed Araeen**, *HYD VI*, 1963, Black ink on paper, 10 x 12 in.

## **RASHEED ARAEEN**

Born 1935 in Karachi, Pakistan  
Lives and works in London

Rasheed Araeen is a civil engineer, artist and writer. In 2009, he was granted a US patent for an invention, which is both a floating sculpture and water sport, followed in 2001 by a full international Patent. Trained as a civil engineer, Araeen eventually turned to art as a profession. As an artist, he began his career in 1953, continuing his pursuit art while studying civil engineering at Karachi's NED Engineering College. While still in Karachi in 1959, he pioneered the concept of making sculpture by burning and transforming an object from one material (or form) to another. After establishing himself in Karachi, he left for London in 1964 (where he presently resides).

In 1965, he pioneered minimalist sculpture, representing what is arguably the only Minimalism in Britain. After being active in several groups for liberation struggles, democracy and human rights, he began to write in 1975, and published his own art journals: Black Phoenix (1978), Third Text (1987) and Third Text Asia (2008). He also established online versions of Third Text in Cape Town, South Africa, entitled Third Text Africa, and the Spanish language Tercer Texto in Lima, Peru – both available free of cost to readers. He curated two significant exhibitions: The Essential Black Art (1987), The Other Story (Hayward Gallery, 1989); and, he is a recipient of three honorary doctorates (PhDs) from the universities of Southampton, East London and Wolverhampton (UK). In 2011, he developed a project that generated a comprehensive and inclusive history of art in postwar Britain, which was inclusive of all artists from all cultures who have contributed within the historical framework of modern developments. Rasheed Araeen published an autobiographical book, Making Myself Visible (1984), along with a second book, Art Beyond Art / Ecoaesthetics: A Manifesto for the 21st Century (2010).

### **Select Solo Exhibitions**

- 1963 The Arts Council Gallery, Karachi
- 1974 Indus Gallery, Karachi
- 1975 Artists for Democracy, London
- 1977 The Walker Gallery, Liverpool
- 1984 Pentonville Gallery, London
- 1986 Pentonville Gallery, London
- 1987 *From Modernism to Postmodernism: Rasheed Araeen, A Retrospective*: Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; Cornerhouse, Manchester; John Hansard, Southampton; Chapter, Cardiff
- 1988 The Showroom, London
- 1991 The Central Space, London
- 1993 *Strife and/or Strugure* Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka-Shi, Japan
- 1994 SKUC Gallery, Ljubijana, Slovenia
- V Habana Bienal, Havana, Cuba



- South London Gallery, London
- 1995 John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
- 1996 The Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania  
Serpentine Gallery (external project), London
- 1997 The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
Middlesbrough Art Gallery, Middlesbrough, UK
- 2007 *Minimalism and Beyond*, Tate Britain, London
- 2010 *Before and After Minimalism, 1959 - 1974*, Aicon Gallery, London
- 2013 *Zero to Infinity*, Tate Modern, London  
*Zero to Infinity*, MALI, Lima, Peru
- 2014 *Before and After Minimalism*, Sharjah Art Foundation Art Spaces, Sharjah  
*Rasheed Araeen*, Grosvenor Gallery, Dubai  
*Homecoming*, VM Art Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2015 *Rasheed Araeen – Minimalism Then and Now: 1960 – Present*, Aicon Gallery, New York  
*New works by Rasheed Araeen*, Grosvenor Gallery, Dubai  
*Going East: Rasheed Araeen*, Rossi & Rossi, Hong Kong
- 2016 *Playground*, Museu de Art de Sao Paulo (MASP)  
*Geometry and Symmetry / New Works by Rasheed Araeen*, Aicon Gallery, New York

### Select Group Exhibitions

- 1970 *Manufactured Art*, Camden Arts Centre, London
- 1971 *SPACE*, Midland Art Gallery, Nottingham, UK
- 1973 *Artists from Five Continents*, Swiss Cottage Library, London
- 1975 *Artists for Democracy*, Vietnam Festival, Artists for Democracy
- 1978 *Art for Society*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 1979 *Art from the British Left*, Artists' Place, New York  
*Art/Politics*, Keen College of New Jersey, USA  
*Tape/Slide Show*, Audio Arts, Riverside Studios, London
- 1980 *Accrochage*, Gimpel Fils, London.  
*Forum Kunst*, Rettweil; Kunstverein, Freiburg, Germany  
*Kontakt: From Contemplation to Agitation*, Galleria MDM, Warsaw
- 1982 *New Art Platform*, Midland Group Gallery, Nottingham, UK
- 1983 *New Beginning*, Pentonville Gallery, London.
- 1984 *Creation for Liberation*, Brixton Art Gallery, Brixton, London
- 1985 *Roadworks*, Brixton Art Gallery, London
- 1986 *Conceptual Clothing*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK  
*From Two Words*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 1987 *Heroes*, Air Gallery, London  
*State of the Nation*, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, UK
- 1988 *The Essential Black Art*, Chisenhale Gallery, London; Laing Art Gallery (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); Huddersfield Art Gallery (Huddersfield); Herbert Art Gallery (Coventry); Gardner Art Centre (Sussex University); Cooper Gallery (Barnsley)
- 1989 *Magiciens de la terre*, Centre George Pompidou/La Villette, Paris  
*The Other Story*, Hayward Gallery, London
- 1990 *A New Necessity*, First Tyne International, Gatehead, UK
- 1991 *Lost Illusions*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
*4<sup>th</sup> Habana Bienal*, Havana, Cuba
- 1995 *Dialogue for Piece*, Palais de Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

- 1996 *Inklusions: Exklusions*, steirischer herbst, Graz, Austria
- 1997 *2<sup>nd</sup> Johannesburg Biennale*, South Africa
- 1998 *Every Day*, Sydney Biennale, Australia
- 1999 *Art-Worlds in Dialogue: From Gauguin to the Global Present*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany
- 2000 *Live in Your Head*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 2001 *Live in Your Head*, Museu do Chiado, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2009 *The Death of the Audience*, Wiener Secession, Vienna
- 2011 *Raising Dust – Encounters in Relational Geography*, Calvert22, London
- A Rock and a Hard Place*, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Greece
- A Missing History: The Other Story Re-visited*, Aicon Gallery, London
- Situation Z art-cade*, Galerie des grands bains douches de la Plaine, Marseille
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thessaloniki Biennial of Contemporary Art*, Greek State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki
- Biennale of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki
- Medientechnologie Karlsruhe*, Karlsruhe
- Super Farmer's Market*, Handel Street Projects, London
- 2012 *9th Gwangju Biennale*, Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju
- Migrations, Journeys into British Art*, Tate Britain, London
- Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China
- 2014 *Dark Waters Group Exhibition*, Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris
- Other Primary Structure's*, The Jewish Museum, New York, USA
- As Exciting As We Can Make It: Ikon in the 1980's*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK
- The Language of Human Consciousness*, Athr Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 2015 *Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society, 1915-2015*, Whitechapel Gallery, London
- 2016 *Picking up the Pieces: Collage in Post-War Britain*, Grosvenor Gallery, London
- Jameel Prize 4*, Pera Museum, Istanbul
- Level 0, The Tanks*, Tate Modern, London
- Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal futures*, Aicon Gallery, New York

## Public Collections

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, USA  
 Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA  
 Arts Council of England, UK  
 Buffalo Art Centre, Buffalo, USA  
 Burger Collection, Hong Kong  
 CANAL PLUS, Paris, France  
 Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
 Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania  
 Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka-Shi, Japan  
 Guggenheim, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
 Gwangju Art Foundation, Gwangju, South Korea  
 Imperial War Museum, London, UK  
 Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India  
 Metropolitan Museum, New York, USA  
 Museu de Arte Moderna Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
 Samdani Foundation, Bangladesh  
 Tate Gallery, London, UK



Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK  
Wifredo Lam Centre, Havana, Cuba  
ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany

### **Prizes And Awards**

- 1955 Burmah-Shell Greeting Cards Competition, Karchi
- 1969 John Moores Painting Prize. This was the first time the prize was awarded to a sculptor
- 1978 Award, Arts Council of Great Britain
- 1984 GLC's Antiracist Painting Prize, London

### **Other Information**

- 1962 Graduated in civil engineering, N.E.D, University of Karachi
- 1964 Moved to London
- 1964 Architectural draughtsman with Wimpey Construction Co.
- 1965 Assistant architect/civil engineer, BHC/BP, London
- 1978 Founded/edited an art magazine, Black Phoenix (3 issues).
- 1982 Initiated and developed multiracial art/art education programme, as a result of which the Arts Council in 1994 established INIVA in London.
- 1984 Published a collection of writings, Making Myself Visible, Kala Press.
- 1987 Founding Editor of art journal Third Text (107 issues so far).
- 1989 Initiated and curated 'The Other Story' exhibition, Hayward Gallery, London
- 1995 Honorary Doctorate of Letters (PhD), University of Southampton.
- 1997 Honorary Doctorate of Arts (PhD), University of East London.
- 1998- Member, Advisory Board for the School of Communication, Design & Media, University of Westminster.
- 2001 Received an International Patent for an invention.
- 2003 Honorary Doctorate of Arts (PhD), University of Wolverhampton.

### **Selected Bibliography and Catalogues**

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- 1986 Araeen, Rasheed, Serota, Nicholas, Kirby, Rachel and Whitechapel Art Gallery. From Two Worlds. Trustees of the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, 1986. (exh. cat.)
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