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ART & DESIGN | What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

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## ‘Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal Futures’

BY HOLLAND COTTER

The recent Met Breuer survey of work by the Indian artist Nasreen Mohamedi (1937-1990) was a first exposure for many New Yorkers to a Minimalist-style strain in contemporary South Asian art. In reality, the presence of that aesthetic has long been, and continues to be, substantial, as this tender show at the Aicon Gallery, “Between Structure and Matter: Other Minimal Futures,” demonstrates.



The senior figure here is Somnath Hore (1921-2006), one of India’s leading abstract artists, best known for his early-1970s “Wound Series,” handmade cast-paper pieces with surfaces suggesting scarred skin. The implied humanist content of his art finds a counterpart in the scorch-mark drawings of the Mumbai-based Jitish Kallat and the subtle thread-on-paper reliefs of Shilpa Gupta, who represented India in the 2015 Venice Biennale.

In this category of organic Minimalism, the show also includes work from outside of India: draped-fabric sculptures by Joël Andrianomearisoa of Madagascar and, with a sensibility close to Mr. Hore’s, sheets of paper covered with pin pricks and scratch marks by the Dubai artist Mohammed Kazem.

Mr. Kazem is one of two artists featured in the gallery show who are also in the group exhibition “But a Storm Is Blowing From Paradise: Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa,” at the Guggenheim Museum. The other is Nadia Kaabi-Linke, born in Tunisia in 1978. Both her spectacular steel sculpture at the Guggenheim and her small painted-wood panel at Aicon are examples of geometric abstraction, as are the work of the Aicon artists Minam Apang, Hemali Bhuta, Waqas Khan and Abdullah M.I. Syed.

And for this genre, too, there is an exemplary senior figure in the Pakistani-British artist Rasheed Araeen, who is going strong in his 80s, and whose painted-wood sculptures here introduce a rainbow of color into this otherwise somber, information-rich exhibition at Aicon, organized by Prajit Dutta and Murtaza Vali.