

A Living Landscape of Primordial Splendor

Amy Stober and Anna Topuriya

Curated with Colin Alexander

June 27, 2015, 7-10 PM

Open Saturdays, 1-4 PM, until July 18



But what exactly are garden illusions? The dictionary definition of illusion is: “the act of deceiving; that which deceives; a false show; a delusion; a deceptive sensuous impression” (Cassell’s). Certainly in creating garden illusions we are endeavoring to deceive the eye.

Examples include making the garden appear larger than it really is by skillful design of such features as lawns; creating elements of surprise; the use of focal points, colours and sizes of plants; and even the use of carefully placed mirrors and murals.

-Alan Toogood, Garden Illusions

It’s easy to get caught up in the old conversations of mimesis when talking about representation, but, reading this passage from Toogood’s book on garden design, one finds the same lexicon of representation contextualized with the maintenance of a (usually) artificially supported ecosystem.

I wonder who enjoys the garden the most—Is it the one who maintains it or the guest who visits? Maybe the interest in a suspended disbelief, in a garden illusion, is in a self-deception of sorts. I visit the rectangular painting in the same way that I visit the rectangular garden; I immerse myself in it to be unburdened.

-C.A.

Anna Topuriya (b. 1987 Tbilisi, Rep. of Georgia) grew up in Los Angeles, California and graduated from Art Center College of Design with a BA in 2010. She lives and works in New York.

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