



Meridian

Life forms

'Evidence of Life' is a series of paintings by British artist Chelsea Davine. As Tasneem Gallery specialises in African and Asian art, it is the artist's experiences in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tanzania that are particularly prominent in this show, which bridges art and design, and has both superficial beauty and conceptual profundity.

Trained as a sculptor in the get-rich-quick ambience of Young British Art (think cows in formaldehyde), Davine draws on the work of an older generation of sculptors and land artists, including Richard Wentworth and Antony Gormley, combining the disciplines in her techniques and materials. Steel and concrete act as canvas, and she adopts a hands-on approach to 'painting,' which includes scorching with acid, drizzling and cracking paint, and applying and scraping away layers. The result is textured and gritty and, particularly with its predominance of reds, browns and golds, has something of medieval art about it, but as we see it today: ravaged by time, scorched by centuries of candle smoke, and eaten away by damp. With names like *Secrete* and *Slick*, there's little romanticism to Davine's work. Instead a strained, resilient beauty offers a bittersweet vision of life in constant transition: the ravages of time, the repellent seduction of oil and a pervading sense of the inevitable.

-- Alex Phillips

Evidence of Life

Tasneem Gallery

Until March 31st

www.tasneemgallery.com