

YAMINI NAYAR: THREE SPACES FOR TIME AT THOMAS ERBEN GALLERY

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Known throughout her career for her fusion of sculpture and photography, Yamini Nayar's explorative forays into the interdisciplinary potential of photography may call to mind the interplay of light and geometry in the work of László Moholy-Nagy, or the solarization techniques explored by Man Ray. However, in the exhibition *THREE SPACES for TIME*, Nayar takes her practice a step further through investigations into time as a medium. In a series of abstract photographs originating from black and white negatives yet culminating in both color and black and white imagery, time becomes a building material that is alchemized into forms and memorialized as an object—a photograph.



Yamini Nayar, *Permutations*, 2020

Nayar begins by constructing sculptures that she subsequently photographs. However, through shifts in her process, she has amplified the multidimensionality of her images by creating works made from multiple exposures of different stages in a sculpture's manifestation.



Yamini Nayar, *Passage*, 2020

Additionally, Nayar's relationship to color has moved away from her previous method of applying paint to her sculptures, an engagement with the materiality of several mediums—wood, plaster, paperboard and paint—that takes place prior to any image making. Instead, her application of color has moved into the ethereal, painting with light by building off of early 20th century tri-color separation processes. Through this approach, Nayar is able to weave the language of sculpture and painting into greater attunement with the practice of photography.



Yamini Nayar, *Of the Same Soil*, 2020

The immateriality of color coerced out of light and transformed into marks on the photographic paper references painting while simultaneously invoking the act of sculpting with light, all within the frame of an object that began as a black and white negative. Another technique used by Nayar involves the overlay of several negatives, in a sense using film as a material for sculpture that is organized in such a way as to create a conversation between color, shape and dimensionality.



Installation view east and south walls, Thomas Erben Gallery

There is a labyrinthian quality to much of the work on view. While faint echoes of an organic process exist, an overriding mood of scientific inquiry prevails. Nayar's attention to process results in an exquisitely recurring and harmonized asymmetry present throughout the entire body of work.

Yamini Nayar: THREE SPACES for TIME is on view at [Thomas Erben Gallery](#) through March 28, 2020.