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Fashion show

The haunting, surreal beauty that inspired Matthew Williamson

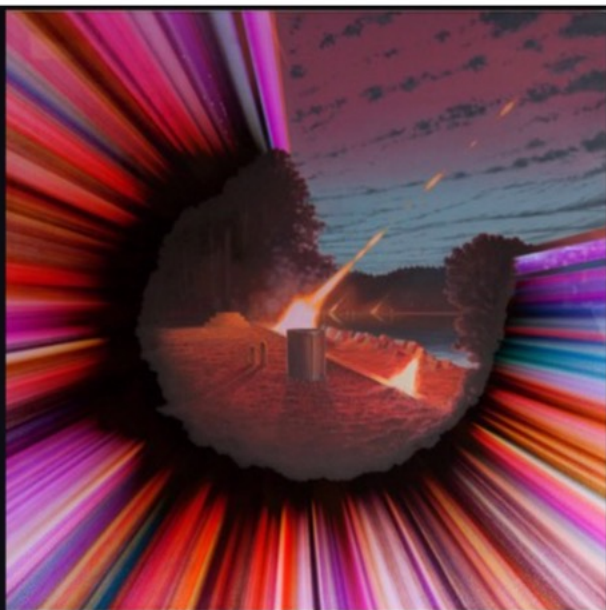
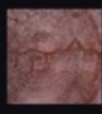


Image: Courtesy of Scream

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CHARLOTTE ABRAHAMS

September may be show time in the fashion world, but this year it also sees British designer Matthew Williamson, best loved for his exuberant colours and proudly pretty prints, reveal the results of a unique partnership with London gallery Scream.

Entitled *Hand to Earth*, this is an exhibition of work by a pair of artists who share a distinct aesthetic with Williamson's last two collections. New York-based painter Shane McAdams, master of kaleidoscopic otherworldly landscapes, collaborated with the designer on a print for the acclaimed spring/summer 2013 range, while British artist Caroline Jane Harris's intricate paper-cuts have been selected for display as they mirror the detail work and embellishments of Williamson's new pieces for autumn/winter.

The artists' relationship with fashion may have been the catalyst for this show, but the exhibition stands on its own merit. Taking nature and landscapes as their starting point, both experiment with unusual media. McAdams plays with ballpoint-pen ink and resin with aplomb in the *Synthetic Landscape* series on display here. The streaks of colour in the surreal, imagined landscapes of *Lac du Flambeau* (first picture) and *Hot Air* (£9,600 each), for example, were created by blowing wet ink across the canvas.

Harris, on the other hand, takes a more meditative approach. Her abstract representations of tree structures are made through the symmetrical rendering of digitally printed photographs, which are then hand-cut and layered. It's a labour-intensive process but the results, such as *Dendritic Balance* (second picture, £3,600), *Primordia* (£12,000) and *Open Network* (£5,400), are hauntingly beautiful.

As its name so teasingly suggests, *Hand to Earth* is an intriguing fusion of art, fashion and nature.

Hand to Earth, Friday September 6 to Saturday October 19 2013 at Scream, 27-28 Eastcastle Street, London W1 (020-7268 9857; www.screamlondon.com).

See also

Matthew Williamson, Exhibitions, London, Scream