

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



Why you need to see Howard Hodgkin at the Gagosian Gallery

James Buxton



Another Rainbow
29 1/4 x 36 7/8 inches / 74.3 x 93.7 cm (unframed)
Howard Hodgkin

Indian Waves is a new exhibition open now at the Gagosian Gallery, London, and comprises 30 hand-painted gouaches on intaglio-impressed Khadi paper, a rough, fibrous material made from cotton rags, or as Hodgkin puts it, “old ladies bringing in the underwear of all their friends and relations.”

Hodgkin first encountered the medium when he was a guest of the Sarabhai family in Ahmedabad, India who insisted on keeping half the work he made there (a series entitled Indian Leaves, 1982). The prints were made in Wiltshire between 1990 and 1991 at 107 Workshop with printer Jack Shirreff and Andrew Smith. It was only recently, when Shirreff retired and the workshop was emptied, that they came to light.

If you look closely you’ll see repeated patterns of emerald green brush strokes and ultramarine waves in the top and bottom of each composition. This is a result of the carborundum printing technique Hodgkin employed, a method allowing him to print the same shapes and strokes on to each sheet. Over these green hills and blue waves he would paint with gouache.