

HAROUN HAYWARD

Mimi Chu, *What to see in South London during Gallery Weekend*, Frieze, 4 June 2021



Detail from Haroun Hayward, *Cosmic Egg, Nightdrive through Babylon (Blue)*, 2020

Haroun Hayward's oil on panel works depict cultural fragments in latticed frameworks. Geometric shapes with textures worked into the paint combine and repeat like a montage of landscapes viewed through windows. For 'Too Nice, Play it Twice', Hayward draws from memories of 1990s pirate radio stations, which he listened to growing up in London, cultivating a nostalgia for the electronic and psychedelic rave scene of the 1980s. Musician and producer A Guy Called Gerald is name-checked in the title of one of these works (all 2020), along with artists Edward Burra, Paul Nash and Anwar Shemza.

Hayward begins with a precise carving and preparation process before working into the drawn elements on varying scales in a less inhibited manner. A collector-like fascination pervades these paintings, with the artist drawing on recollections of his childhood home – which was filled with textiles from around the world – and his art-historical knowledge, which spans Indian miniatures to Shemza's syncretic, postwar abstractions. With their distinctive material sensibility, Hayward's paintings have a resplendent patina that toys with time.