

## Art

### Search for exhibition



### Search by area



## Philip Taaffe

★★★★☆ **Evening Standard rating**  
Not Rated **Reader rating**

**Your rating**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆  
 Click on a star to rate

### Gagosian Gallery WC1

Ben Luke 8 Apr 2011

1

#### In the Eighties, the art world developed a tremendous thirst for painting.

All manner of styles emerged, veering from the wild extremes of neo-expressionists such as [Anselm Kiefer](#) and [Sandro Chia](#) to cool, detached "appropriations" or borrowings of other art, of which Philip Taaffe was a notable exponent.

Many of those Eighties painters burned brightly and faded quickly, Chia being the prime example.

But in this country, at least, Taaffe's star has never really had the opportunity to rise. This first solo exhibition in London, which featured 16 large paintings, is a stunning start.

Taaffe still uses imagery that he finds elsewhere but his pilferings are so myriad and weaved together with such energy and chutzpah that his language has become entirely his own.

Immediately facing in the largest of Gagosian's rooms is a trilogy of triangular works which initially look like psychedelic starbursts. But their trippiness recedes as you close in, and the insistent geometry of medieval Islamic decorations become dominant. From the great designs of Islam, I was soon transported to their equivalents in Christian Europe, as the vibrant hues and the interlacing patterns evoked medieval stained glass.

And the layers go on: Taaffe's tie-dye effects are actually achieved through the traditional Japanese orizomegami paper techniques; their triangular shape evokes the great painting *Jericho* (1968/69) by abstract expressionist Barnett Newman.

Taaffe's paintings zing around in space as well as time - the eye can



PHILIP TAAFFE Buddha field, 2011 Mixed media on linen  
 Photos: Rob McKeever/Courtesy of Gagosian Gallery



#### Sponsored links

##### Message for Philip Satre

Please reinstate your retirees' healthcare - do the right thing.

[www.shameonnenergy.com](http://www.shameonnenergy.com)

##### Vote in the UK Referendum

Info for British voters living outside the UK. Find out more.

[www.AboutMyVote.co.uk/Overseas](http://www.AboutMyVote.co.uk/Overseas)

##### New York Coupons

never rest, the paintings shift back and forth spatially as your focus drifts around them. But this is not to say that his work is an assault on the senses. Crescent Totem (2011) might feature characteristically broad imagery, with white crescents set against brightly hued forms evoking flowers, seeds and the ancient totems of title, but it possesses a calm beauty belying its visual complexity.

1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. It's like doing NYC at 90% off!  
[www.Groupon.com/New-York](http://www.Groupon.com/New-York)

**70% Off Best of New York**  
Save 50-70% on New York's Best! Free Sign-Up. Best Deals in Town.  
[NewYork.BloomSpot.com](http://NewYork.BloomSpot.com)

Until May 14 (020 7841 9960, [gagosian.com](http://gagosian.com)).

Recommend
One recommendation. Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.
0
SHARE

*Details are correct at the time of publication - please check with venue before booking.*

**Sponsored links**

**Giclée Canvas Photos**  
Gallery-Quality Prints Created From Digital Photos  
[www.YPOC.com](http://www.YPOC.com)

**Bold Hype Gallery**  
Fresh contemporary art + Ron English Tees  
[www.boldhype.net](http://www.boldhype.net)

**3 Bureau Credit Report**  
View your latest Credit Scores from All 3 bureaus in 60 seconds for \$0!  
[FreeScoreOnline.com](http://FreeScoreOnline.com)

**Find Any Painting's Value**  
Find Any Information About Any Painting. Join Largest Art Archive!  
[www.MutualArt.com/Painting](http://www.MutualArt.com/Painting)

**Reader views (0)**

No comments have so far been submitted.

**Add your comment**

**Name:**

**Town and country:**

**Your comment:** [Terms and conditions](#)

You have 1500 characters left. [Make text area bigger](#)

We welcome your opinions. This is a public forum. Libellous and abusive comments are not allowed. Please read our [House Rules](#).

- I agree to the House Rules.
- Remember me - this will save your name and location for when you leave your next comment.

For information about privacy and cookies please read our [Privacy Policy](#).