



Alternative guide to the universe exhibition

Posted on August 21, 2013 by Rebecca There have been 0 comments

I went to see the **Alternative guide to the universe** exhibition at the Hayward Gallery last month but I haven't had the chance to write about it. Since it is closing on Sunday, I want to write about it before it ends.

The art shown at this vast exhibition is usually considered as 'outsider art', and like the "Souzou: outsider art from Japan" at the Wellcome Collection a few months ago (see my earlier post), the work here is original, captivating but more 'technical'.

I have seen American artist/ architect, **Paul Laffoley's** work several times before at exhibitions in Paris, and his work never ceases to amaze me. His mystical/ scientific/ psychedelic paintings might look very New Agey but they are complex and quite mind-blowing esp. the ones on consciousness. His work needs to be studied very carefully, but unfortunately, I never get enough time to do so at these exhibitions.

It would be hard to forget French artist (a deaf and illiterate orphan), **Marcel Storr's** room full of architectural pencil/ coloured pen drawings of a post-nuclear holocaust Paris. The work is simply jaw-dropping.

One slightly bizarre but fascinating work is the robot created by Chinese farmer/ inventor, **Wu Yulu** (a video link) who has been making robots from scraps for years.

Another personal favourite at the show is the work created by sculptor **Bodys Isek Kingelez** or Jean Baptiste from Congo. His colourful, futuristic and surreal architectural models look like a combination of Gaudi and Stalinist architecture (with a hint of Dubai and Las Vegas feel to it), but with more soul, imagination and passion.

If you have not seen this exhibition yet, go and allow yourself plenty of time to be 'blown away' by the art work shown at this exhibition...



Within the same building is a new exhibition by the traveling museum, **Museum of everything** (I loved the one curated by **Sir Peter Blake** in 2010, it was one of the best exhibitions that I have visited in recent years). This time, the focus is on Indian artist/ sculptor, **Sri Nek Chand Saini** and sculptures from his rock garden (Kingdom of unknown Gods and Goddesses) in **Chandigarh** made of scraps and recycled materials.

The photographs of the garden from the website look astonishing... I will have to add this to one of my 'must-see' destinations in the future.