

ECE CLARKE

Turkish, born 1959



The triangle of Politics, Culture and Religion are central to Clarke's development as an artist. Born in Istanbul and educated in Turkey and Germany, later living in the Far East, the Middle East and now resident in London, she has been involved in and affected by different cultures at each stage of her life.

Her oeuvre concerns itself with the reality of existence and links to Clarke's other interests in science and the elements of nature. Her early work was mainly figurative, later developing to incorporate Arabic script and letters, whose presence is felt in her recent use of abstract cylindrical forms.

When grouped together in vertical combinations her cylindrical rolls assume a gravitas, similar to that of an archive. As Tony Carter observed in his recent essay, they are "composed not of verbal text

but of material effects; the natural world expressing its own condition." Acting like book spines, they invite the viewer to look beyond them, but conceal their inner depth through a veiled language. The lines and details upon the densely and richly textured surface of the Somerset handmade paper bears witness to the stress and struggle which has gone into its making.

The scrolls' flexible shapes are created by magnets. The artist views the magnets as working beyond purely practical means as they give an active charge and a dynamic energy. A further level of alchemy is at play in Clarke's use of jewellery as she occasionally inserts Indian beads into small tears in the paper, leaving the viewer to discover them.

Brief Biography

Clarke began her studies at Istanbul University in Turkey and went on to complete her MA in Fine Arts at the City & Guilds of London Art School when she returned to live in the UK. Last year Clarke had a major solo exhibition at the Ankara Foreign Ministry and Exhibition Hall in Turkey. Earlier solo shows include the Al Bida Gallery in Doha (2003) and the Al-Dana Club also in Doha, Qatar (2001). Her work has previously been exhibited in London at the Italian Cultural Institute in *Mediterrano - A Sea That Unites*, a group exhibition curated by Dr Gabriele Magnani & Dr. Rossana Pittelli last year. Clarke is available for commissions for specific installations of her cylindrical rolls and she is currently undertaking a large-scale commission for a private client in France.