



NATALYA HUGHES: LOOKING FULL

Initially, you don't associate Natalya Hughes' latest suite of paintings (above) with notions of beauty. But on considering the origins of these works, this seems to be precisely the point. Taking traditional Japanese woodblock prints as her source material – specifically those picturing women in kimono striking demure poses – Hughes recasts, repeats and reinterprets the original images to create writhing, mutated forms that reference geometric abstraction as closely as gestural figuration. It's a bizarre, somewhat jarring mix that alludes to a particular gender-based position. By morphing the archetypes of beauty and femininity into distorted, almost grotesque forms, Hughes works to undermine their very credence.

**Thurs-Sat, noon-6pm, until April 27,
Beam Contemporary, level 1, 30
Guildford Lane, city, 9670 4443,
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