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Portal



A series of works by H el ene Uffren inspired by PM Gallery & House and the Sir John Soane Museum go on show at the West London museum (until 1 May)

Uffren originally came across the Sir John Soane Museum in 2008. At the time she was studying glass and ceramics at the RCA and was asked to take part in a group show inspired by the famous architect's house. 'I found it a fantastic place. I like old houses, and grew up in a farmhouse. My parents were into art and antiques and so I felt very at home there.' Uffren was particularly intrigued by the confusing layout of the house – as it was originally three houses joined together it's full of passageways, staircases and doorways – and all the mirrors. 'My work is all about vision and illusion and displacement so the house really fitted perfectly with it', she says.

For the 2008 show, Uffren created *Portal*, a piece in the form of a traditional regency mirror, but intriguingly framing a photograph of a staircase in the museum. This has been joined by other newer pieces in the current show, but all include the same type of surreal optical devices designed to transport the viewer to a different space. 'The pieces form a conversation between the two houses [both were designed by Soane], so you look at one piece in one house and are sent back to the other', Uffren explains.

www.ealing.gov.uk/pmgalleryandhouse

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