

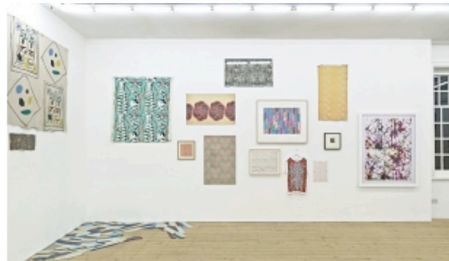
## Dogtooth and Tessellate

Until Sun Feb 1

★ Recommended

[The Approach E2](#), 47 Approach Rd, London, E2 9LY

Rating: ★★★★★



Installation view including work by Bridget Riley, Carter Mull and Maria Loboda

By **Helen Sumpter**

Posted: Fri Jan 16

It can be a good thing to see spots before the eyes – along with multi-coloured lines, swirls, stripes, zig-zags and repeated imagery that might feature barbed wire, bones, faces, musical instruments or stylised depictions of Charlie Chaplin. It certainly makes for a striking display in these samples and examples by 27 artists, from the 1920s to the present day, who have incorporated or investigated forms of patterning.

While the show is not focused entirely on textiles, some of the most unexpected pieces are postwar fabric designs by artists including Salvador Dalí (backbones) and Henry Moore (the barbed wire motif), who were commissioned alongside the likes of Lucian Freud and Henri Matisse.

Other interesting fabrics from that era come from the Festival Pattern Group – a collaboration between scientists and manufacturers, who produced carpets, clothes and wallpaper for The Festival of Britain in 1951, from designs based on the chemical structures of natural and man-made substances such as crystals, haemoglobin and nylon.

The more contemporary artists sit surprisingly seamlessly alongside the historical works, among them Sebastian Hammwöhner, whose clever trompe l'oeil chalk on black paper drawing mimics frayed carpet fabric, and Matthew Harrison, whose replacement wooden floorboard at the entrance uses inlaid woods from around the world, with reference to 'dazzle' pattern camouflage. As a selected snapshot of artistic approaches to pattern, it's all a pleasing mix.

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