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Alice Irwin: Chinwag & Sinta Tantra: The Lightclub of Batavia, Pitzhanger Manor, January 2024



Pitzhanger Manor in Ealing.



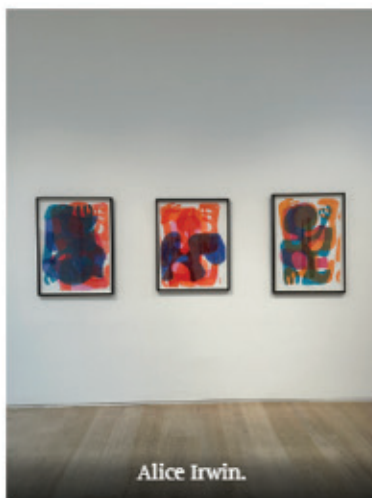
The gallery space was once Ealing public library.

I never tire of a visit to Sir John Soane's home in Ealing, I have visited [Pitzhanger Manor](#) so many times it is like returning to an old friend. I wonder how Soane felt when he left the busy streets of London behind to seek sanctuary in his suburban home.



Alice Irwin: Chinwag

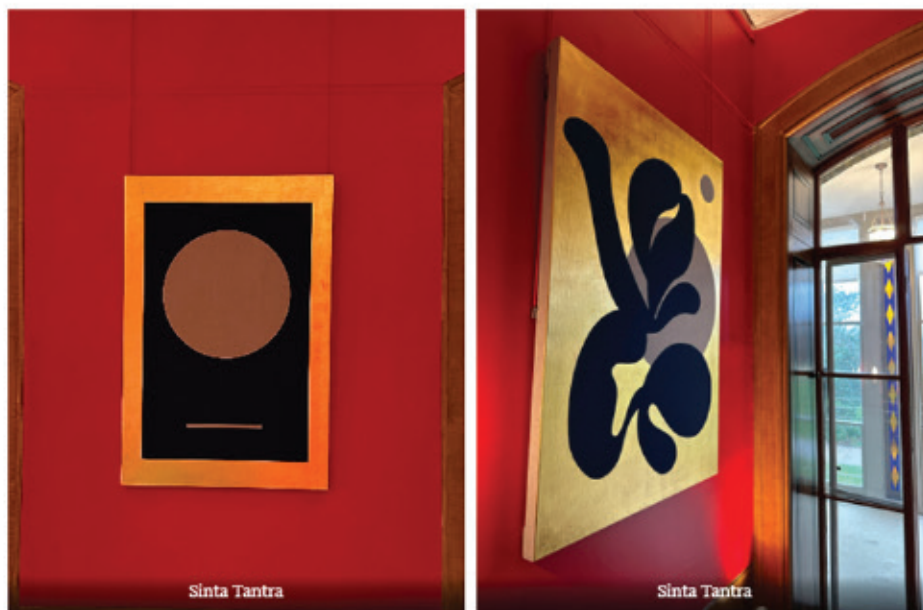
The gorgeous Art Deco gallery space, which used to be Ealing public library, is playing host to the bright colourful prints, sculptures and drawings of [Alice Irwin](#). On a dull wet day between two storms, Isha and Jocelyn, Irwin's work lights up the space with oranges, pinks and blues. The striking sculptures feel like families who have just wandered in from the park, caught between movements, frozen in contemplation of action.





Sintia Tantra with her work.

Along from the gallery in Soane's home, Sintia Tantra's gorgeous golds somehow light up the rooms even on a dull grey day.



'The Lightclub of Batavia' treats us to her colourful geometric paintings, their rich opulence and golden glints feel like the hidden jewels of a treasure chest. I love wandering around the rooms of Soane's beautiful home to see how the light bounces and reflects off Tantra's canvases.

I find I am mesmerised wondering where a moving light is coming from as it glints off the gold, it has a water light quality like the sun hitting the ripples of a distant seascape. Then I realised it is the moving light sculpture by Julian Opie in the courtyard that creates the rhythmical movement and play of light from outside to inside.



The rich golds of Sinta Tantra's work.

Tantra's work feels very much at home in a space that was always built to enjoy and celebrate light. My visit feels like a little bit of magic on a drab January and makes me wish for a warm sun that would transform these canvases even more into golden dreams.

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Alice Irwin: Chinwag & Sinta Tantra: The Lightclub of Batavia are on at Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery from Wed 24th January for opening times and ticket prices, please see the website – <https://www.pitzhanger.org.uk/>