

# In the studio *Sinta Tantra*



Sinta Tantra uses paint and vinyl to create colourful and graphic wall works, installations and interventions for both public venues and gallery spaces. For her show 'Real Phoney' at Monika Bobinska Gallery, she has created bright geometric designs inside and outside.

## **It looks like the street has become your studio for this project...**

'Yes, I wanted it to be accessible in the widest sense. The architecture of the gallery building is like a white cube on the outside, as well as the inside, so the idea was to literally turn the space inside out and paint on the exterior walls as well as make work for the interior.'

## **Have you been engaging with the public during the installation?**

'The gallery is on a busy Hackney street, so I have had a lot of interest, particularly from local kids. One teenage boy came up and said, "That's abstract art, innit."

Maybe because there's so much art in the area now, he knew that it wasn't graffiti or a shop design.'

## **Why call your show 'Real Phoney'?**

'It's a term used to describe the character of Holly Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's". I love that film. I wanted the work to relate to the seduction of those places, like Tiffany, where artifice doesn't matter because it still lures you into feeling that you are a somebody rather than a nobody.'

## **So where would your 'Tiffany' be?**

'I partly grew up in New York but I prefer London. So it would probably be somewhere like the British Library or Fortnum & Mason. Although I don't go to Fortnum & Mason for tea, I actually go to look at the stationery.'

*Interview: Helen Sumpter. 'Real Phoney' is showing at Monika Bobinska until June 21 (see Bethnal Green to Hackney).*