

THE ART NEWSPAPER

Ruairadh O'Connell: "Six Artists to Watch at Frieze"

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October 15, 2015



Focus is the section of Frieze London where galleries arguably take more risks. It is dedicated to emerging galleries and young artists, but rediscovered artists from earlier generations can also be found on the section's 36 stands. We take a look at this year's highlights.

Ruairadh O'Connell, various works (2015)

Jessica Silverman Gallery (H26)

The Scottish artist Ruairadh O'Connell's sculptures and paintings may look as though they were inspired by Modern art, but they are actually informed by Japanese firefighters from the Edo period (1603-1868). The paintings result from a complex layering and printing process using jesmonite, and evoke the elaborate stitching patterns used in the firemen's uniforms. The sculptures are inspired by matoi—white symbols that the firefighters carried as warnings—but O'Connell paints them in colours inspired by the finishes on electric guitars.