

Memory Places

Hari Kunzru's *Memory Places* was an intriguing and profound piece of a written fable that borders on the lines of philosophy; with a imaginative, celebrative and lucrative visual backing track. Even though the visual display at the V&A gallery was well refined, I believe that the contents of the gallery was better suited to be explored in the limitless mind; through the written font rather an a tangible exhibit. I also proffered the V&A's published book on the exhibit, rather than the exhibition itself. Don't get me wrong the show was well displayed each item told its own part of the story, but through the individual designer/ illustrators prospection of the narrative relative to there selected portion of text. The problem with this and what I believed become apparent at the gallery. Is that if you brining different threads together, each with a different pattern and strength; some threads will stand out more than others while others will stretch and snap under the tension. I expect this kind of string to be attached to an award show or a festival, where individuals show of their talent in an arms race of skill, tenacity and predatory instincts to push themselves ahead of the competition. In this setting and atmosphere for a storyline that is meant to be a steady stream, it felt more like an uneven surface where the narrative become hidden at times under the convoluted and pedantic imagery.

But for the book I felt that the storyline was soundly paced, the imagery flowed next to the text in a preciseness manner and both came together to inspire.

I personally found the most intriguing illustration found within the book Hari Kunzru, (2013) *Memory Palace*, P46-47, V&A.

The illustrator was Sam Winston

The illustration denotes the iconic imagery of the table of elements being warped and compressed in the center of the page. However it connotes the main protagonists slow decent into madness as he slowly reminiscences his studies, it gives notion to the idea that being confined has given way to emotions that could not have been unearthed otherwise. These sensations and delusions of insanity were driven by a bland and explored surrounding, leaving the mind unused and craving for calisthenics. This can cause neurological damage and leaving one with a taboo mindset.

I have fully enjoyed this book and I have half a mind to gift it to someone else in the near future.