

ELLE DECORATION

EXHIBITION: FRANK STELLA'S ILLUSTRATIONS

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Massachusetts-born Frank Stella is known for his geometric paintings and his bold use of colour. A new exhibition at Waddington Custot Galleries, London, shows how the artist applied his playful technique to a set of prints after El Lissitzky.

The series is made up of reimaginings of the Russian avant-garde artist's gouaches representing the traditional Jewish Passover song Had Gadya. Stella has used a complex collection of printing methods – including lithography, linoleum block, silkscreen and rubber relief, as well as collaging and hand-colouring – to create the 12 prints, each illustrating a single line of the song.

Stella continued to tinker with the series after its completion and eventually created between two and nine variants of each original print. The results illustrate his ongoing experimentation with colour and form.

November 13–December 13; Waddington Custot Galleries, 11–12 Cork Street, London W1S (waddingtoncustot.com)

Words: Clare Sartin

Image: 'Had Gadya: Front Cover' by Frank Stella (1985) after El Lissitzky

#art, #colour, #exhibitions, #london