

INTELLIGENCE

I Think Therefore I #:



Wed 26 August
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Yesterday I visited the '[I Think Therefore I #](#)' exhibition by British artist Celina Teague at the Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London. The show takes on the hash tag generation, looking at the polarizing effect of image sharing to ultimately position social media as a cult. As French philosopher René Descartes proposed in 1641, 'Cognito, ergo sum' ('I think, therefore I am'), Celina uses this sentiment to encapsulate how prevalent our online aliases have become.

Our lives today now revolve around the physical and the virtual; we happily post about our lives but has this constant sharing mentality suppressed our right to privacy and contemplation? Celina's works were inspired by the violent news stories of 2015, such as the Charlie Hebdo massacre and the

kidnapping of the Nigerian school girls, that challenged our right to freedom of speech and education. She juxtaposes these events against the banal tweets and self-indulgent selfies that flood our news feeds on a daily basis.

The result is a portfolio of graphic, manic paintings that represent this maelstrom of information and voyeurism: emojis, pouts and holiday snaps sit alongside Je Suis Charlie signs and pencils signifying the power of the written (or typed) word.

This is a very thought-provoking exhibition. As a regular poster on social feeds, it really hit home as to how we often do - or should - share with the online community.









