

Tendersticks

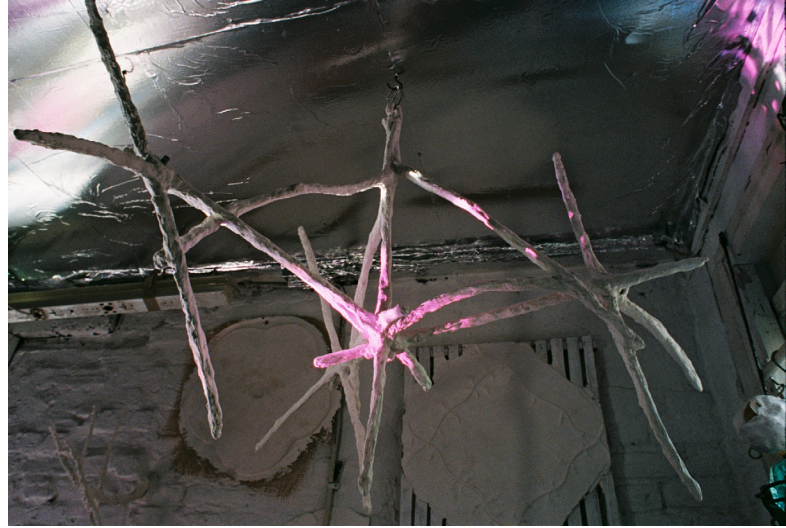
Works in plaster by Viola Lanari

Exhibition October 16–25

11 am–6 pm

The Ragged School

47 Union Street, London SE1 1SG



Jermaine Gallacher welcomes you to ‘Tendersticks’, an exhibition of works in plaster by Viola Lanari.

The title represents the absence of ego she has sought in making the works in the exhibition, intuitive expressions of form, which aren’t over-thought, over-designed or over-formal. ‘I wanted to let the shapes come together in an organic way. The pieces almost stand on their own before I plaster them together, so there is a dynamic between them before I intervene’, she says. ‘The plaster is not the only thing. It allows for other materials to grow on top of it, in a way that follows the gestural shapes. It welcomes collaboration with functionality, rather than being about a spiky aesthetic.’ Lanari has worked with beading as a method for anchoring electrical wire to the plaster forms, with beads acting as a connecting point, the two materials ‘belong to each other’: ‘The belonging is a tender thing’. Of the exhibition, Gallacher says: ‘It’s important to have a reason to make work that is beyond commissions, which are things that we all do, but they are different to making art. And on a spiritual and emotional level, it’s a nice thing to do. We love each other’s work, and we love working together, and it felt like a good time to do it again.’ ‘I loved the idea of doing a show’ Lanari says. ‘I have been longing to do something new. I wanted to make something instinctive, work that is more about the process than an idea—forms that come to me in a stream of consciousness.’ Lanari works with gypsum and lime plaster in her day-to-day practice, ‘making sensational, decorative arts: ‘At the end of the working day, I don’t necessarily want to do experiments. This gave me a reason to do it, the space and the structure to look at my work in a different way.’ ‘Tendersticks’ features pieces at a variety of scales, with wall lights, lamps, tables, and vases creating a play on light and shadow across the space. ‘A show is a full realisation of someone’s vision, and this is a way for people to be part of Viola’s world’, Gallacher says. ‘I love the hearts and the flowers, and all the forms Viola makes, but the ones I love the most are those that take the shape of the imagination. The work in ‘Tendersticks’ is dynamic, it’s beautiful. It’s sculpture.’

