

Newsletter

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JEANNE BUCHER JAEGER

VOYAGE TO THE ASTRAL



Zarina Hashmi who liked to be simply called Zarina has left us on this evening of April 25th in her spiritual voyage towards this *Blinding Light* for which she was preparing herself in these past few years.

Born in Aligarh, in the Northern Indian region of Uttar Pradesh, Zarina has always made her personal life the subject of her Art. Her works, made mostly out of paper, woodcarved, woven, pierced, sculpted, are the music scores of a continuous memory, initiated in a cultivated intellectual family background, where history was taught by her father and literature and poetry contributed to the refinement of her spirit.

Her love of books as well as reading remained all her life, to such an extent that she was defining *paper as a second skin*, as well as her attachment to words, which preceded image, and to her mother-tongue Urdu which she integrates continuously in her work. Her studies of Mathematics and her fascination for the purity of Mughal architecture, with its perfect symmetry, purity and balance, are determining for the development of her work.

The Indian Partition, an artificial border imposed in 1947 as she is 10 years old, marks deeply Zarina and initiates a cycle of exile. This exile is pursued by her wedding to an Indian diplomat, in 1958, whom she will follow across cities, countries, continents where she travels for more than 20 years until New York, where she decides to reside in 1976. Her work is filled with atlas, maps, places where she lived, cities she saw destroyed, migrations she has known, letters she has exchanged with her inseparable sister Rani living in Karachi, all testimonies of exchanges making an open life book.

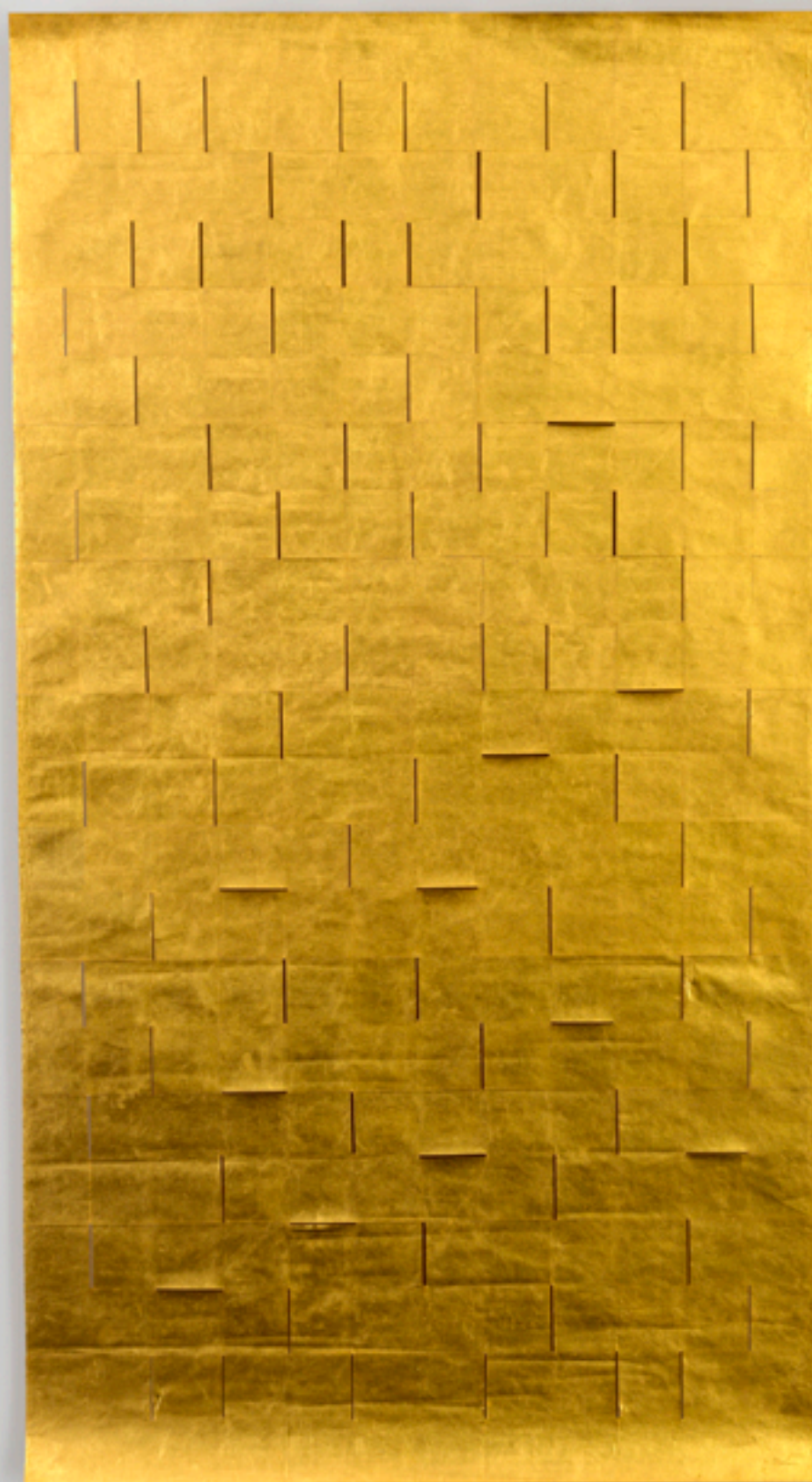
Throughout the years, while she was traveling extensively, Zarina became more and more convinced that a superior force guided her life. In the acceptance of this light, which she lately translated by using gold leaf in her work, her artistic voyage across continents and civilisations turned towards the universal, the planets, the stars and the astral, an ultimate destination she has reached on this evening of April 25th 2020.

Zarina was in UK, in Wimbledon, amongst her loved niece, nephew and their families.

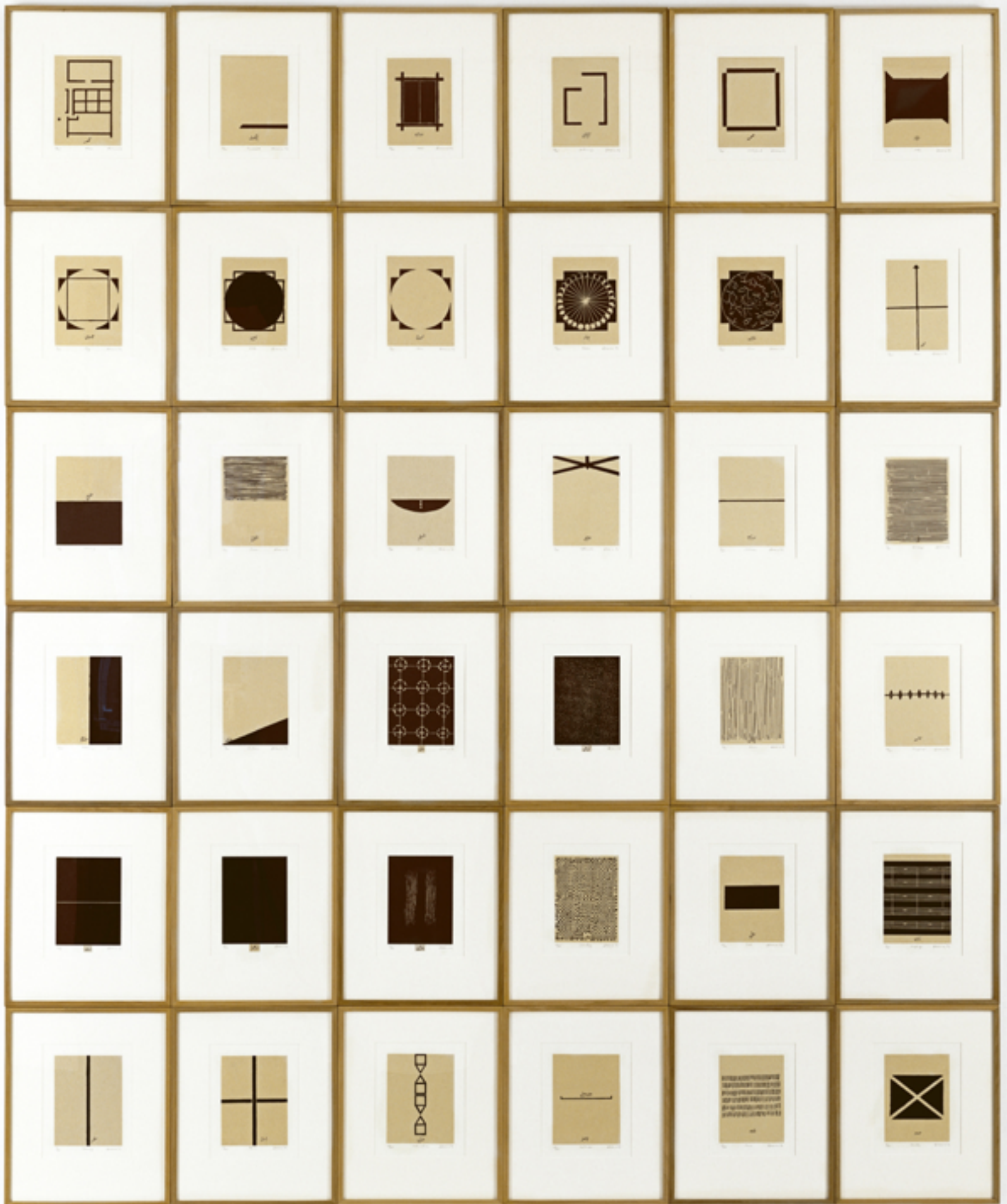
She is leaving her work as a legacy, a sensitive, immanent and transcendent testimony, in perfect symbiosis with her thought as she felt memory was "*the only possession which lasts throughout time.*"

We are thinking of you and keep healthy and safe,

Véronique Jaeger



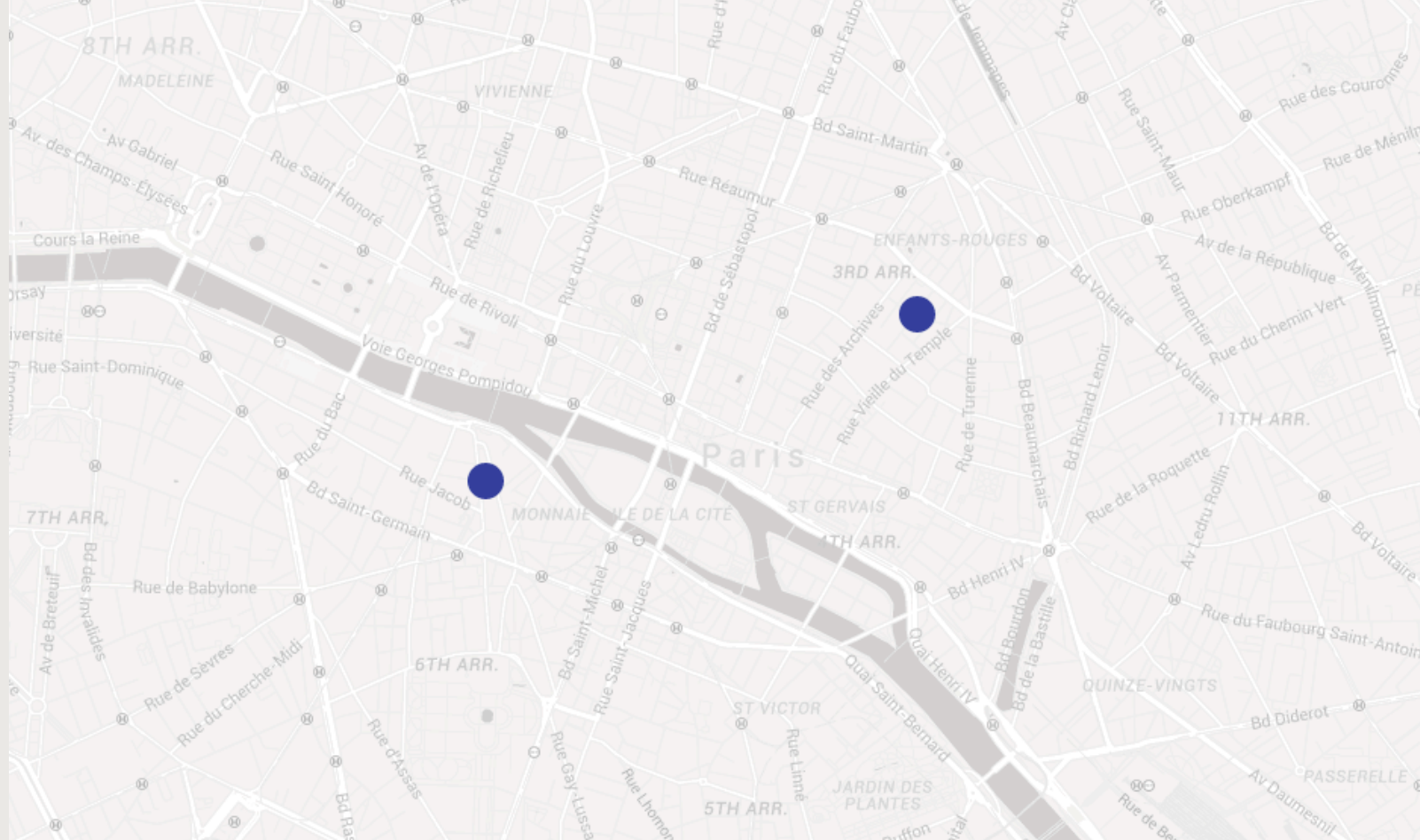
Zarina, *Bliding Light*, 2010. © Georges Poncet



Zarina, *Home is a Foreign Place*, 1997. © Jean-Louis Losi



Zarina, *Untitled*, 2016



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