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## Reviews

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### Thomas Schütte

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★★★★★

**Faggionato** West End

The mood at Faggionato Fine Art is positively benign. The walls are lined with small, wooden rings tastefully coloured ochre, rust, brown and greeny-grey; hung in carefully considered patterns, they are regular enough to be soothing but not predictable enough to be boring. Initially installed in 1977, Thomas Schütte's 'Rings' were a response to the 8.7cm-wide stripes with which French conceptualist Daniel Buren had been covering every conceivable surface to demonstrate the social, cultural and economic dependence of art on its environment. You would never mistake Buren's stripes for wallpaper,

since the colours – often strident red or green – emphatically hammer home his didactic message. By comparison, Schütte's installation seems determinedly decorative – as laidback as an LA sun-worshipper. Two oversized, plywood loungers and curvilinear stools/tables add to the relaxed, poolside ambience – except that they are too large and too eccentric to be viewed, unequivocally, as furniture and too much like cranky furniture to be seen as sculptures. Far from making an emphatic statement about the role of the artist as social critic, Schütte's installation explores areas in which art and decor overlap, while humorously refusing to adopt the tenets of either. *Sarah Kent*

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