

Mayfair's Most Wanted

HOW TO DISCOVER ARTISTIC INSPIRATION IN THE HEART OF LONDON, BY MAÏA MORGENSZTERN



From top:
Albert Oehlen
Untitled, 2024
at Gagosian;
Ewan Venters' Farm
Shop; The Cocochine

FARM SHOP

Following the success of its Mount Street restaurant and Fife Arms hotel in the Scottish Highlands, Artfarm has opened a high-end delicatessen and affordable subterranean wine bar in the heart of Mayfair. Owned by the team behind Hauser & Wirth, it features work by Royal Drawing School alumni, American artist Scott Conary and photography from Sir Don McCullin. dursldefarmshop.co.uk

DAVID ZWIRNER

The German art dealer has been shedding light on forward-thinking artists since opening his first gallery in New York 25 years ago. His London space currently shows new works by Michaël Borremans. The Belgian artist draws on 18th-century masters to depict uncanny characters who seem lost in their own thoughts. davidzwirner.com

GAGOSIAN

One of the major players in the field, Gagosian features international artists and group exhibitions that are often timed to complement museum exhibitions. The gallery on Grosvenor Hill is currently staging the fragmented and radical work of Albert Oehlen, which explores the future of painting. gagosian.com

THE COCOCHINE

This four-storey restaurant is the brainchild of adventurous tastemakers: chef Larry Jayasekara and Tim Jefferies, founder of the photography gallery Hamiltons, which represents Richard Avedon. Look out for work by Irving Penn on the walls, plus a Guido Mocafico mosaic underfoot. thecocochine.com



SPRÜTH MAGERS

This gallery emerged in Cologne in the early 1980s to support groundbreaking modern and contemporary art. It now represents more than 70 artists and estates, including Donald Judd, Cyprien Gaillard and Jenny Holzer. Head to Grafton Street to enjoy works by pioneering artist Barbara Kruger and colourful abstract paintings by Marilyn Lerner. spruethmagers.com

PILAR CORRIAS

Always keen to push the boundaries of art, Pilar Corrias champions ambitious projects. The gallery supported Philippe Parreno's groundbreaking installation at Tate Modern in 2016 and Ian Cheng's participation at the Venice Biennale in 2019. A strong advocate for female artists, the gallery also shows works by Ulla von Brandenburg, Sofia Mitsola and Shahzia Sikander. pilarcorrias.com

SAATCHI YATES

Power couple Phoebe Saatchi and Arthur Yates set up shop in the chicest part of town to showcase a roster of young and emerging talents. This summer, the multi-floor space welcomes a solo show of highly charged works by Tesfaye Urgessa, whose pieces will also appear at the Venice Biennale. saatchiyates.com

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CRISTEA ROBERTS GALLERY

Located on Pall Mall, Cristea Roberts focuses on original prints and works on paper. See 'Tracing Absence', a group show highlighting reflection in empty spaces, followed by an exhibition of Miriam de Búrca's works exploring the legacies of colonial systems in Europe and the US. cristearoberts.com

MICHAEL WERNER

If you're in the mood for avant-garde and modern masters, look no further. This gallery regularly offers works by Sigmar Polke, Georg Baselitz, Marcel Broodthaers and Piero Manzoni. Head over to *Women: Works on Paper 1902-1950*: an exhibition spanning 50 years of Francis Picabia's exhilarating career. michaelwerner.com



Above: Claridge's ArtSpace; Francis Picabia's portrait of Greta Garbo

SADIE COLES HQ

An early supporter of the Young British Artists movement of the 1990s, Sadie Coles championed visionaries like Sarah Lucas and served on the selection committee for the first edition of Frieze Art Fair. Kati Heck now takes centre stage, with enigmatic paintings that twist the boundaries of realism. sadiccoles.com

Staying at Claridge's this summer? Look out for artwork from Damien Hirst, Idris Khan, Annie Morris, David Downton and many more. Follow @claridgeshotel and @claridgesartspace on Instagram to see the hotel's artwork collection

Q&A

Daria Blum

The winner of the inaugural Claridge's Royal Academy Schools Art Prize on meeting Marina Abramović, the RA Schools and her plans for Claridge's ArtSpace

How did it feel to win the first Claridge's Royal Academy Schools Art Prize?

Winning was a complete surprise as I didn't even consider the possibility. I am truly grateful that my work has been recognised in this way.

What do you particularly like about Claridge's?

I am fascinated by the hotel's recent renovation and extension, and the process of excavation beneath the building, creating additional floors and areas – including the ArtSpace. I like the fact that the gallery is underground, and the architecture is something I'm excited to work within. The way that Claridge's embraces its history and tradition, moving with the times, while looking to the future, is impressive.

What makes The Royal Academy so special for artists?

The RA Schools' cohort is very small in comparison to other postgraduate art courses, with only 10 to 15 students admitted annually. Students can form close relationships in the course of three years: connections that can last a lifetime. The course is subsidised and tuition fee-free, and the RA provides an environment for young artists to expand and challenge their practice. Also, I loved having a studio in central London.

How did it feel to meet Marina Abramović?

Marina Abramović is an icon. But she is approachable and makes one feel at ease. She has a great sense of humour. I admire how her work has opened doors for performance artists, and how it has evolved over time.

From top: Daria Blum; Blum with Richard Cork, Yinka Shonibare and Eva Rothschild; Marina Abramović



What do you admire about the work of the judges Yinka Shonibare and Eva Rothschild?

I love Eva Rothschild's brilliant video work in which she set up a camera to film a group of young boys interacting with her exhibitions. Yinka Shonibare's work on authenticity and culture as a social construct resonates very much with me and I love his self-portrait series *Diary of a Victorian Dandy*.

What can we expect from your Claridge's ArtSpace show?

I'm considering creating a new construction that will be a container for my live performance and for the exhibition itself. Text, video and music will populate it, ideas from my research on architecture, embodiment, choreography and memory flowing in and out during the creative process. *Daria Blum at Claridge's ArtSpace runs 23 September - 4 November* claridges.co.uk

