

# SLOANE SQUARE

ART \ CULTURE \ FASHION \ FOOD

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025

## TURN IT UP

NEW ART, EXHIBITIONS,  
FESTIVALS AND MORE

*Dog  
days*

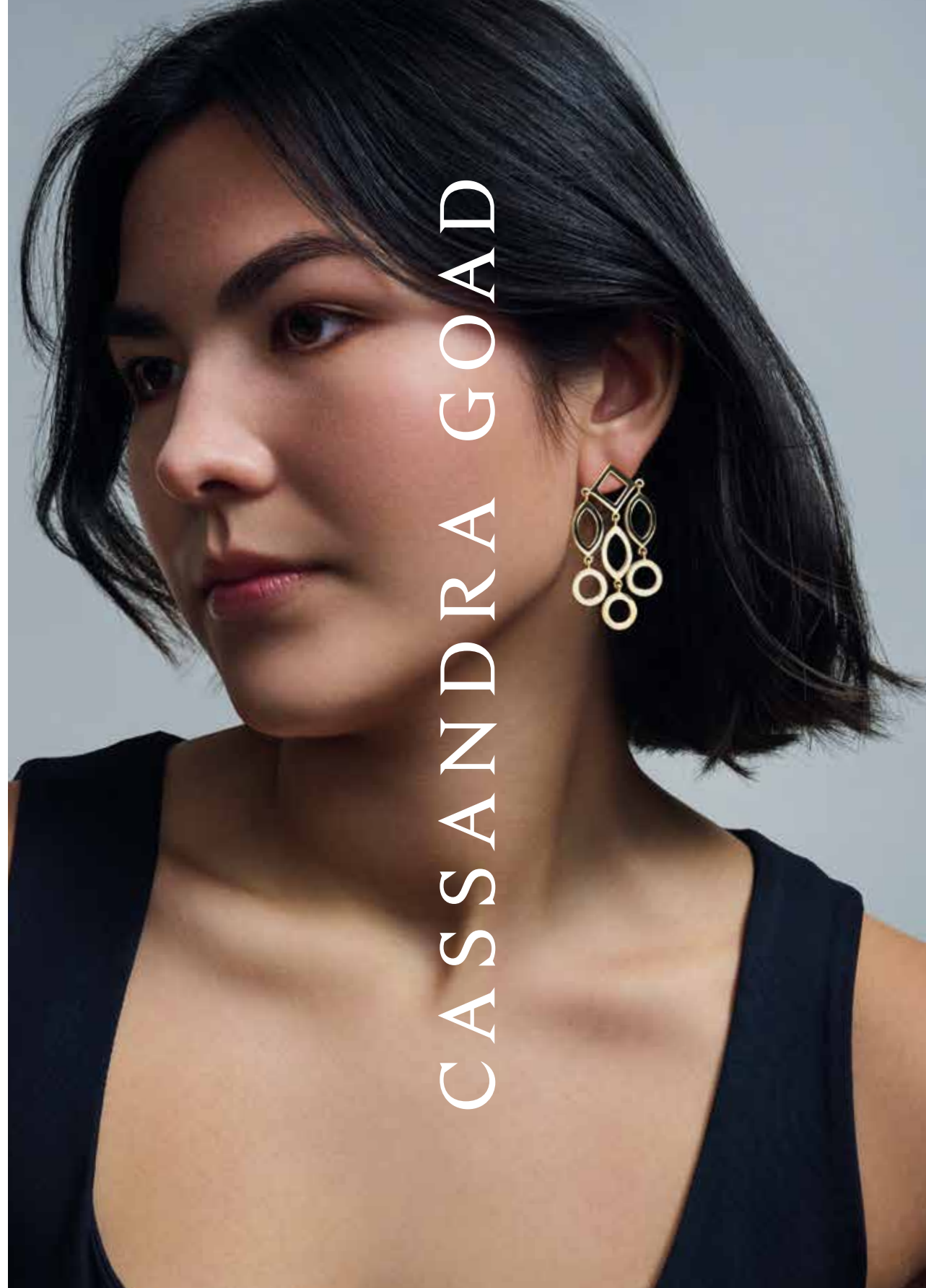
CELEBRATING  
CHELSEA'S CANINE  
CULTURE

*Autumn  
awakening*

FRESH STYLE  
FOR THE  
NEW SEASON

*Culture  
shock*

THE INAUGURAL  
CHELSEA ARTS  
FESTIVAL ARRIVES



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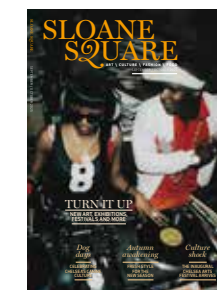
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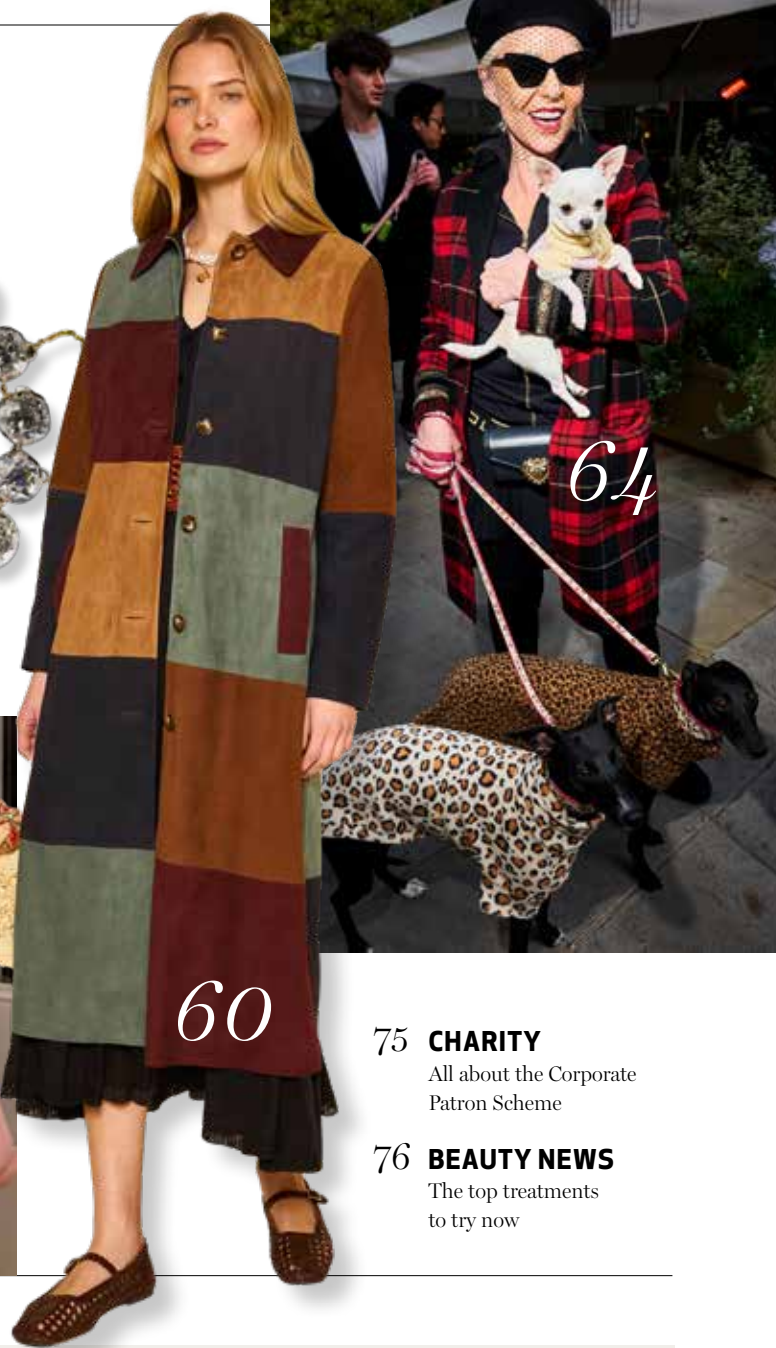


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*Annoushka*

Knuckle Collection, Whoopsie Daisy Diamond Necklace and Sun Charm Pendant.

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# Calendar

**SEPTEMBER 19-21**

**CHELSEA ARTS FESTIVAL**

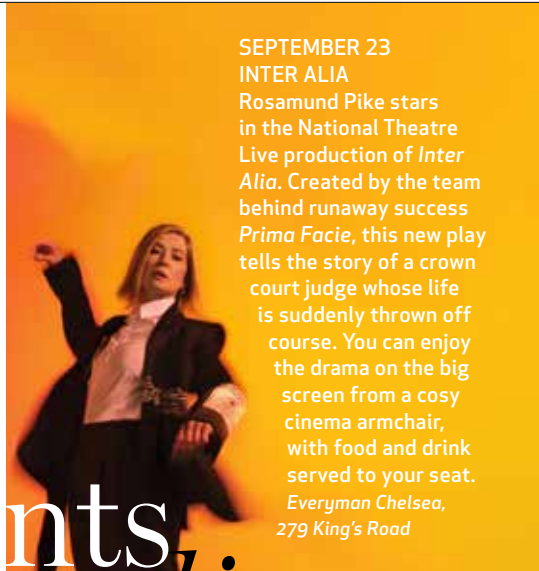
A new festival of arts and culture arrives in Chelsea, with high-profile speakers including William Boyd, Ian McEwan, Zandra Rhodes and Rupert Everett. As well as the star-studded line-up, you can expect street performers, secret supper clubs, live podcast recordings, debates, music and so much more...

[chelseaartsfestival.com](http://chelseaartsfestival.com)



## Events diary

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER



**SEPTEMBER 23**  
**INTER ALIA**

Rosamund Pike stars in the National Theatre Live production of *Inter Alia*. Created by the team behind runaway success *Prima Facie*, this new play tells the story of a crown court judge whose life is suddenly thrown off course. You can enjoy the drama on the big screen from a cosy cinema armchair, with food and drink served to your seat. *Everyman Chelsea, 279 King's Road*



**OCTOBER 29-31**  
**AUTUMN BALLET**

Aspiring dancers aged between 14 and 17 of all abilities can attend this autumn course at the English National Ballet School. It's a great way to get a taste of what life at the school can be like, with classes on character dance, performing in costume and pointe. On the final day, students will receive invaluable coaching on how to prepare for auditions.

**Carlisle Building, Hortensia Road**

**SEPTEMBER 4 - OCTOBER 11**  
**COW | DEER**

In this experimental play, a quartet of actors will use sounds and movement (but no words!) to evoke a day in the life of a cow and a deer. Prepare for an avant garde piece of theatre that encourages us to look at the natural world in a new way. **Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square**



**FROM SEPTEMBER 16**  
**BEYOND BURMA**

Discover the forgotten armies that fought in Burma (now Myanmar) during the Second World War. A mix of British, Indian, Burmese and African troops fought in this crucial battleground, contending with extreme conditions such as jungle terrain, monsoon rains, deadly creatures and tropical diseases. Learn their story at this free exhibition.

**National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road**



**SEPTEMBER 18**  
**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Get ready for an outdoor production of *Much Ado About Nothing* with a difference - it's performed on bicycles. The HandleBards are an environmentally conscious troupe of actors who transport their props, sets and costumes from venue to venue on the backs of their bikes, before incorporating them into the show. This vibrant take on Shakespeare's beloved comedy promises to have you laughing - bring along a picnic and enjoy!

**Royal Hospital, Royal Hospital Road**



**SEPTEMBER 24-28**

**CHELSEA HISTORY FESTIVAL**

Chelsea History Festival is back for a seventh year. Expect more than 80 events that delve into our history and heritage, from a talk on Second World War memoirs by journalist Emily Maitlis to an audience with Dermot Turing, nephew of Alan Turing, as he discusses overlooked female codebreakers. There will also be plenty of walking tours, interactive events and free entry to the Chelsea Physic Garden for the duration of the festival weekend.

[chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk](http://chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk)



IMAGE: NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM



**OCTOBER 4**

**CHELSEA DOG DAY**

Don't miss this year's Chelsea Dog Day, a celebration of Chelsea's canine culture complete with all kinds of exciting events, photo ops and pop-ups for you and your furry friend. Browse market stalls selling dog-friendly snacks and enjoy training demonstrations led by experts. Dog lovers should also keep their eyes peeled for further information about a spooky Halloween pup parade

[kingsroad.co.uk](http://kingsroad.co.uk)

**OCTOBER 19**

**BOTANICAL CLAY PRINTING WORKSHOP**

Potter Emily Chilvers will lead this autumnal workshop at Chelsea Physic Garden, capturing the beauty of the season through clay. Print your clay with delicate leaves, seed heads and petals, then experiment with surface patterns and natural colours. Your masterpiece will be fired and will be available to collect two weeks later, when you'll also receive free access to the garden.

66 Royal Hospital Road



# AWAY HOLIDAYS



## Chase The Winter Sun For Less

Swap grey skies for golden beaches and create unforgettable family memories in the sun. From thrilling waterparks and desert adventures in Dubai to the calm crystal-clear shores of the Maldives and Mauritius, we've handpicked destinations the whole family will love. Discover the rich culture of Turkey, wildlife encounters in Thailand or soak up the laid-back luxury of Abu Dhabi — all part of our promise to bring you winter sun for less.

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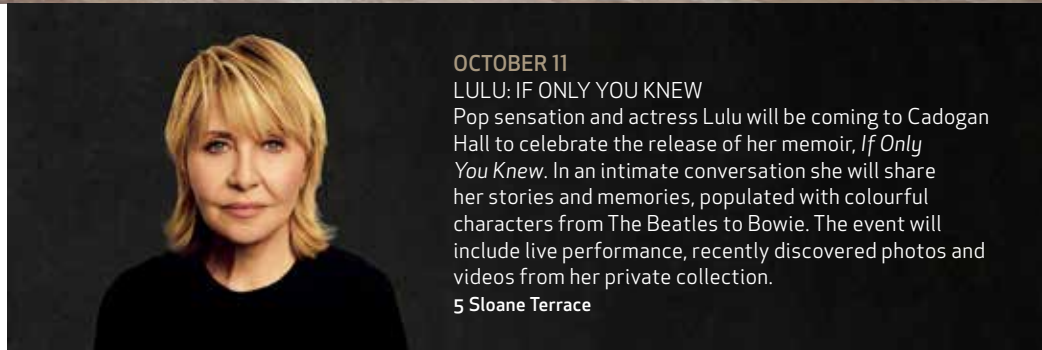
[Awayholidays.co.uk](http://Awayholidays.co.uk) Or Call us 24/7 on 0203 468 8722





**OCTOBER 4**  
**DINOSNORES**  
Enjoy an out of this world sleepover in the Natural History Museum – this time, with a space theme. Kids aged between seven and 17 will be able to explore the galleries out of hours, take part in interstellar activities and learn more about the solar system before finally dozing off at midnight. VIP packages including an exclusive camping area, a cooked breakfast and a free gift on arrival are available.  
**Cromwell Road**

IMAGE: THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



**OCTOBER 11**  
**LULU: IF ONLY YOU KNEW**  
Pop sensation and actress Lulu will be coming to Cadogan Hall to celebrate the release of her memoir, *If Only You Knew*. In an intimate conversation she will share her stories and memories, populated with colourful characters from The Beatles to Bowie. The event will include live performance, recently discovered photos and videos from her private collection.  
**5 Sloane Terrace**

**OCTOBER 4**  
**VINTAGE FURNITURE AND FLEA MARKET**  
Fifty of the UK's finest vintage dealers will be showcasing beautiful mid-century pieces, including furniture, art, ceramics, lighting and soft furnishings. Find the perfect statement piece for your home.  
**Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road**



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SIX CHELSEA FOOTBALLERS were part of the victorious Lionesses squad that beat Spain to achieve a second consecutive victory at the Euros.

Aggie Beever-Jones, Lucy Bronze, Niamh Charles, Hannah Hampton, Lauren James and Keira Walsh all travelled to Switzerland in July to defend their Euros title, coming away as the winners after a nail-biting final. Chelsea players also gave us two of the most viral moments from the tournament: Bronze casually strapping up her own leg after an injury, and Hampton's penalty-saving antics while bleeding from her nose.



MORE THAN FIVE million people have visited the Natural History Museum's new gardens in the 12 months since it opened, making it one of the most exciting new green spaces in London. The gardens span five acres around the museum and are full of immersive experiences for visitors who want to learn more about evolution and urban wildlife. To celebrate the first anniversary of the gardens, the museum invited visitors to use microscopes, pond-dipping kits and hand lenses to help catalogue biodiversity.

*Cromwell Road*



IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE to see Saatchi Gallery's exciting exhibition, Hip Hop - Living a Dream, which closes on September 10. The photography on display chronicles hip hop's rise from an American subculture to a global phenomenon, which has influenced fashion, art, graffiti, dance and more.

*Duke of York Square*



THE V&A HAS announced that it will be hosting the first UK exhibition dedicated to the groundbreaking designs of Elsa Schiaparelli. Opening in March next year, Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art will explore some of the designer's most radical creations, from a surrealist skeleton dress to an evening coat embroidered with an optical illusion of two kissing figures - or a vase on a column, depending on your perspective.

*Cromwell Road*



IMAGES: VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON; FREDRICH BAKERY; COLE NAST; WGET IMAGES

AN IMMERSIVE VIDEO GAME experience is coming to Serpentine North, created by artist and game designer Danielle Braithwaite-Shirley. The Delusion is part video game, part live theatre, and part social experiment.

Visitors will move through a space created by set designer Lydia Chan, using custom video controllers to play classic arcade games with a twist. As they progress through the game, they'll be pulled into conversations and interactive moments themed around polarisation, censorship and social connection.

*Serpentine North, Kensington Gardens*



IMAGE: DANIELLE BRAITHWAITE-SHIRLEY

THE CHELSEA PENSIONERS were joined by Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, to celebrate Founder's Day, which commemorates the vision of King Charles II who established the Royal Hospital in 1682 as a refuge for retired soldiers. Every Pensioner wore an oak leaf, which symbolises how the king evaded capture after the Battle of Worcester by hiding in an oak tree in Boscobel Woods. Despite heavy and unrelenting rain, the Pensioners pressed on with the celebrations and gave their traditional three cheers for King Charles II, the current king and the Duke of Edinburgh, who was this year's "reviewing officer".







THE SEVENTH ANNUAL World Chelsea Bun Awards will be taking place this September. This year, competitors will be creating “a traditional Chelsea bun with a modern twist”, to be judged at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square on September 27 by Jane Asher and Lady Frederick Windsor. This year, the competition is being run in collaboration with the Hankyu Department Store in Osaka, Japan, and the results will be announced during its renowned British Fair in October. Money raised will go to the Children’s Surgery Foundation.

SUMMER IN SLOANE SQUARE must end on September 28, so don't forget to visit this al fresco destination! You'll find live music from 5pm to 7pm every Friday brought to you by The Pheasantry (152 King's Road), and a bar provided by the Royal Court Theatre offering small plates, fresh salads, cocktails and soft drinks. Relax beneath the bunting and soak up the last of the summer in style.



STUCK IN A READING RUT? BookBar, Chelsea's newest independent bookshop, offers a special “shelf medicate” service that could be perfect for you. You'll meet with one of the store's literary experts to discuss your reading taste, then have a hand-selected book delivered to your door every month. If you're part of a book club, BookBar also offers a shelf medicate service for your group, hand-picking monthly selections that are designed to delight and stretch you as book club readers.  
11 Chelsea Manor Street

# BRITISH ART FAIR

Modern and Contemporary British Art  
[BRITISHARTFAIR.CO.UK](http://BRITISHARTFAIR.CO.UK)

25 – 28 September 2025  
**Saatchi Gallery**  
London SW3 4RY

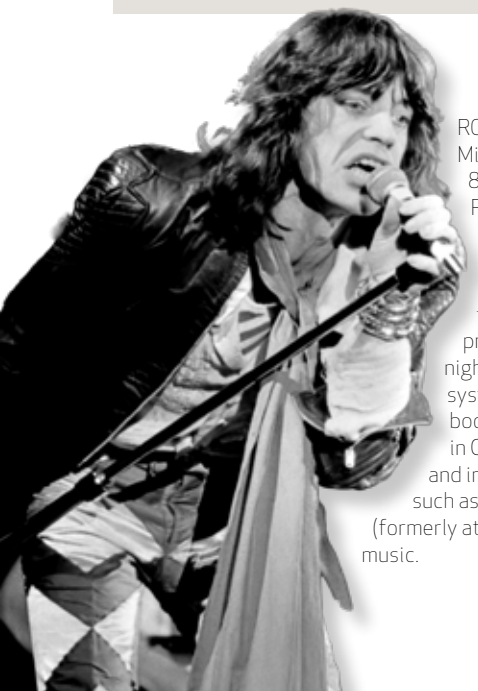
Artwork: Ivon Hitchens, *Four Depths*, 1970  
signed and dated; signed and dated verso, oil on canvas, 46.4 x 143.5 cm  
Artwork courtesy of Jenna Burlingham Gallery



MORE THAN 70 BRAVE LOCAL PEOPLE recently raised more than £35,000 for CW+ by abseiling down the side of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. The 73 participants ranged in age from 11 to 87, and included hospital staff, local school children and even a Chelsea Pensioner. The money raised will go directly to projects that support the wellbeing of patients and staff at the hospital.



LEGENDARY CLUB the Gateways has received a blue plaque. The famous venue was open for 54 years between 1931 and 1985, making it the longest running lesbian club of all time. Visited by the likes of Patricia Highsmith, Maggi Hambling, Radelyffe Hall and even Mick Jagger (who tried to gain admittance while wearing a dress), Gateways was a haven for queer women from every social background. Patrons could pass through the discreet green door and enjoy conversation and good company, or even dance "the Gateways grind". The club also played a starring role in the 1968 film *The Killing of Sister George*, in which 80 of the club's regulars acted as extras.  
239 King's Road



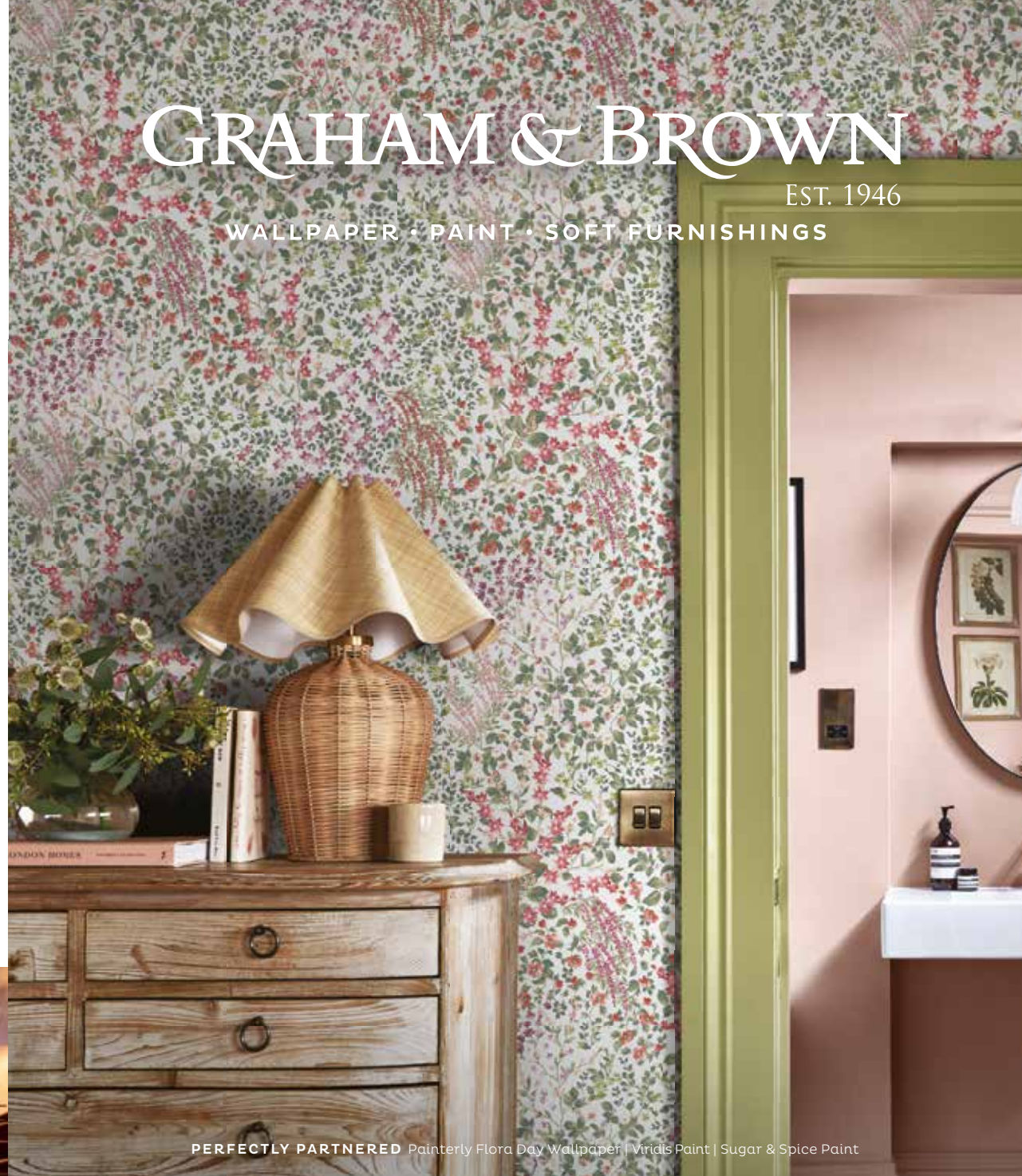
ROLLING STONES ROCKER Mick Jagger celebrated his 82nd birthday at The Rex Rooms, the newest nightlife destination on the King's Road. Jagger and his guests spent the night in the King's 1942 room - a private space inside the nightclub with its own sound system and intimate velvet booth seating. Jagger has lived in Chelsea for much of his life, and immortalised destinations such as the Chelsea Drugstore (formerly at 49 King's Road) in his music.



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VIRIDIS paint



HELP GLASS DOOR TO END HOMELESSNESS AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

## An open door



IT'S TIME FOR THE GLASS DOOR sleepout, an annual event that raises money to end homelessness.

This year is a particularly special one for the Chelsea-based charity, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Founded in 1999 as West London Churches Homeless Concern, Glass Door has since grown into the UK's largest provider of emergency winter night shelters in the UK.

The sleepout is your chance to help Glass Door with its vital fundraising efforts by voluntarily giving up your bed for the night and sleeping in Duke of York Square. While it's not intended to represent what it's truly like to be homeless, the experience draws attention to some of the challenges faced by rough sleepers: cold temperatures, noisy surroundings, a lack of shelter and hard pavements.

Glass Door will provide snacks and hot drinks throughout the evening, and the charity's caseworkers will be on site to talk about their work and the

people they support. The money you raise will help provide food, shelter and advice to those experiencing homelessness in the cold winter months.

Just bring along a sleeping bag and your warmest clothes and get ready to make a real difference to the lives of local people. *The sleepout will take place on October 4. To sign up, visit [glassdoor.org.uk](http://glassdoor.org.uk)*



## Future forward. Championing changemakers.

At Cripps, we care about how our advice supports what really matters to you. Taking it personally from the outset, we're one dedicated, integrated team – by your side and backing your cause. We inform better decisions, manage risk and uncover new opportunities.

Solving your problems and championing your ambitions, we work together to make a positive and lasting difference.

Proud sponsors of the **Future Forward** award at the Chelsea Awards 2025 – recognising those shaping tomorrow, today.

SLOANE STREET COLLABORATED with Saatchi this summer for a series of floral installations along the newly transformed Sloane Street. Bespoke botanical artworks were created by British artists Sophie Mess and Faye Bridgwater, both of whom are also featured in Saatchi's blockbuster Flowers exhibition. The works could be spotted running riot across window displays and street furniture, taking inspiration from Sloane Street's elegant new planting scheme.

Faye Bridgwater said: "I wanted to capture and share a sense of happiness and freedom. It's so exciting to see my artwork, bursting with bold florals, lining Sloane Street like a joyful celebration. While painting them, I kept thinking about that magical feeling when you're out with your friends, completely in full bloom on the dance floor, arms in the air, utterly happy and alive."

[sloanestreet.co.uk](http://sloanestreet.co.uk)



**CADOGAN COMMUNITY GRANTS** have been awarded to three deserving local organisations: The Children's Book Project, West London



Action for Children and Family Friends.

- **THE CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT** collects surplus books from families and gifts them to children growing up in poverty. This year, it has distributed 25,000 books to children in Kensington and Chelsea.
- **WEST LONDON ACTION for Children** provides a range of life-changing mental health services to vulnerable children, young people and families.
- **FAMILY FRIENDS** provides families and young people with volunteer buddies, helping them to become more resilient, independent and less isolated.

The Cadogan Community Grant programme is delivered in partnership with the Kensington + Chelsea Foundation. Each organisation receives a grant of between £5,000 and £10,000 to embark on a project. Cadogan CEO Hugh Seaborn says: "We have been part of the Chelsea community for centuries, and this new initiative further builds on our commitment to creating a thriving neighbourhood for generations to come."

*If you're interested in applying for the next round of funding, to be awarded in January 2026, please email grants@thekandefoundation.com*



## REIMAGINING THE MACALLAN'S TIMELESS COLLECTION

There is no shortage of storytelling in today's ever-more competitive premium spirits market. Indeed, in the rarefied world of single malts, the imagery and branding can often overshadow the liquid itself.

Not so at storied distillery The Macallan, where evolution arrives with a whisper rather than a fanfare. Synonymous with playing the long game, the brand has just made what might appear a bold visual statement – but in typically quiet, considered fashion.

Without altering a drop of its classic single malt, The Macallan has reimagined the presentation of its signature Timeless Collections. The result is a new aesthetic that speaks of heritage and modernity in the same breath, via a significant visual shift, but one that is resolutely grounded in substance.

The quiet, symbol-rich reimagining has been led by graphic designer David Carson. Best known for his subversive, intuitive approach, Carson brings an experimental sensibility that, somewhat counter-intuitively, sits well against The Macallan's 200-year-old narrative.



So the bottle forms now echo the contours of The Macallan's Speyside distillery, while a triangular shoulder label nods to the Sherry Triangle of southern Spain, where the distillery's oak casks are seasoned.

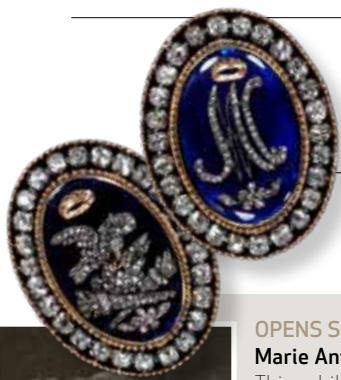
Inside the bottle, nothing has changed. And it is the Sherry Oak Collection, matured solely in this signature wood, that is the archetypal expression of The Macallan: assertive and rich with dried fruits, spice and a long, contemplative finish. The Double Cask Collection, meanwhile, is a masterclass in duality, drawing from both American and European oak to create a warm, harmonious dram. And the Colour Collection, introduced in 2023, offers a brighter, more citrus-led profile, with American oak providing a natural palette of golden hues and vanilla notes.

Those identities are reflected in Carson's designs, which he describes as being 'like whisky – all about balance'. And therein lies the key to this new chapter. It honours the past without being beholden to it. Instead, the new look works in quiet service to the liquid, offering visual context without diluting the focus. Elegant,

tactile and steeped in meaning, it is smart, sharp and unmistakably of its time.

[www.themacallan.com](http://www.themacallan.com)  
Stockists - The Whisky Shop & Harrods for The Macallan Sherry Oak 18 Years Old, 2025 Release





OPENS SEPTEMBER 20

**Marie Antoinette Style**

This exhibition at the V&A will explore the origins and revivals of Marie Antoinette's style. It will feature 250 objects related to the French queen, including exceptional loans from the Château de Versailles never before seen outside France. Through audio-visual installations and immersive curation, it will consider the legacy of the ill-fated monarch whose style, youth and notoriety have shaped her timeless appeal.

V&A,  
Cromwell  
Road



IMAGES: GÖRAN SCHMIDT/  
LIVRUSTKAMMAREN, SHM/  
CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES,  
DÉPT GRAND PALAIS RMN,  
CHRISTOPHE FOUIN/VICTORIA  
AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON



OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 11  
**The Wapping Group of Artists**

This annual exhibition from the Wapping Group of Artists will celebrate the "en plein air" cityscapes created by its members. Established in 1946, the group meets every Wednesday between April and September (whatever the weather) to record London and the Thames. At this exhibition you can admire their work and take part in free painting demonstrations as members bring their easels into the streets of Chelsea.

340 King's Road



SEPTEMBER 12-19  
**AR Turner: Energy**

"What makes something precious is how little time we have with it," says the American artist AR Turner. Turner's efforts to document the fleeting beauty of moments spent outdoors is a unifying theme of his first solo show at Saatchi Gallery. Tracing his trips across diverse landscapes (the Rocky Mountains, the Acropolis) and ending in London as another focal point where energies converge and transform, the exhibition unfolds as a narrative of growth and passion that is deeply personal but steeped in universal experience. Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York Square

OPENS SEPTEMBER 20  
**Blitz: The Club that Shaped the 80s**

In London in 1979, at the tail end of punk and the start of Margaret Thatcher's 11 years in power, a small but influential group of young creatives came together every Tuesday at the Blitz wine bar in Covent Garden. Drawing a rebellious, youthful crowd, the tiny 50-person club was more than just a place for hedonistic revelry. It united a diverse bunch of creatives who would go on to shape



Britain for the next decade and beyond including Spandau Ballet, who were its house band, and Boy George, who was cloakroom attendant. The influence of that pop culture impact is explored at an exhibition at the Design Museum, which has assembled 250 objects – including personal items not publicly seen since the club's heyday – and photographs, audio and film to showcase the reach and enduring spirit of the Blitz Kids. Design Museum, 224-238 Kensington High Street

SEPTEMBER 8-20  
OCTOBER 20-31

The Gallery at Green & Stone will host two exhibitions featuring photography, painting and sculpture. Borrowing its title from a lyric in Grant Lee Buffalo's *The Shining Hour*, *Mad Beliefs* by Tui Caro-Lister is informed by the artist's experience of living with bipolar disorder. Shot in black and white, Caro-Lister's images capture friends, strangers and collaborators in moments of theatricality and vulnerability. In October, *Familiar* will present work by four artists: Sebastian Tanti Burlò, Katie Rockley, Lydia Cecil and Adam Round. Although differing in medium and temperament, the quartet are united in their belief in art as a space for dialogue, complexity and play. Green & Stone, 251-253 Fulham Road



**American Photographs**

Assembling an eclectic collection of photographs from the early 20th century to contemporary times, a display at the V&A reveals the breadth of American photographic traditions and the central role of image-making. From Alvin Langdon Coburn's gum platinum prints of the Grand Canyon to An-Mý Lê's photograph of the General Robert E Lee monument, the images evoke the country's sprawling natural beauty and the historical undercurrents that define its vibrant cities. The display also paints an affectionate picture of American citizens through works like Walker Evans' gelatin-silver print of a man in Havana. Richly textured and tightly framed, these are images of a nation in flux. V&A, Cromwell Road



WORKS FROM THE WORLD'S LONGEST-RUNNING PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE, THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION, BRING COLOUR, HUMANITY AND INSIGHT TO SAATCHI GALLERY



*Striking snaps*

RENOWNED FOR CHAMPIONING contemporary photography around the globe, the Royal Photographic Society's international photography exhibition (IPE) is the world's longest-running photography showcase.

Tightly contested – work by successful photographers must stand out among more

than 4,000 submissions by amateurs and professionals – and visually compelling but socially and culturally significant, 113 prints from 51 photographers will be exhibited this September at Saatchi Gallery.

The two award recipients for the 166th edition of the IPE are Lydia Goldblatt and Keerthana Kunnath. Goldblatt receives the IPE award for her series Fugue, which explores motherhood as a central theme, considering love and grief, mothering and losing a mother, as well as intimacy and distance.

The Under-30s award is presented to Kunnath for her series Not What You Saw, which centres on south Indian female bodybuilders who challenge entrenched gender and beauty norms by embracing physical strength.



A testament to the power of photography to engage, emote and illuminate the complexities and nuances of the human condition – but also the shared experiences – this thought-provoking exhibition is a must-see.

Until September 18



# CHELSEA ARTS FESTIVAL



IN ASSOCIATION WITH CADOGAN

18–21 Sept 2025

A Celebration of Wonder, Culture & Joy

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## FEATURING

Ekow Eshun  
Elizabeth Day  
Twiggy  
Dame Zandra Rhodes  
Rupert Everett  
Sir Lenny Henry  
Jack Edwards  
Ambika Mod  
Jordan Stephens  
William Boyd

PLUS... DANIEL LISMORE • DAME SHEILA HANCOCK • KATE BRYAN • LONDON THEATRE REVIEW

MARIAN KEYES • SAMIRA AHMED • DAVID SHRIGLEY IAN MCEWAN • SADIE FROST

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL • JUNE SARPONG • WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION

SHEILA ATIM • LLOYD GRIFFITH • MATT HAIG • ANNIE MACMANUS • AND MANY MANY MORE...

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# NEW MOON

BRITISH ARTIST SHEZAD DAWOOD HAS CREATED A PIECE OF PUBLIC ART FOR THE GAUMONT, A MAJOR NEW DESTINATION ON THE KING'S ROAD. CASCADE FEATURES TWO CERAMIC PANELS MADE FROM 144 HAND-GLAZED TILES, AND WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO THE AREA'S RICH AND COLOURFUL CREATIVE HISTORY. SHEZAD TELLS US MORE...

AS TOLD TO: ALICE CAIRNS



I FIRST VISITED THE GAUMONT when I was about 9 years old. At that time it was The Gaumont Palace Theatre, one of very few arthouse cinemas in London back in the '80s. I went with my dad to see *Seven Samurai*. My cinematic education began not just in Chelsea, but in that very building...

I continued to knock around Chelsea in the years of punk and postpunk - I remember Vivienne Westwood coming to Central Saint Martin's to give us a lecture.

The history of Chelsea fascinates me. It's not just the painters like Turner and Whistler, but also the filmmakers, the musicians, the fashion designers. I was so excited when I heard that the redevelopment of The Gaumont was intended to showcase the arts in Chelsea.

When it came to creating *Cascade*, I felt that there was such a rich tapestry of references to dig into. From the start I knew I wanted to bring together different ideas and reference points from across Chelsea's history - in that sense, I saw this as an exercise in time travel!

I started with the history of The Gaumont Palace, which was originally a distributor of the films of Georges Méliès' - the French cinematographer behind works like *A Trip to the Moon*. I also knew that the central roundel on the building is dedicated to William Friese-Greene, one of the pioneers of British cinema who did some extraordinary early experiments with colour on film.

The concept of the moon, of circles and roundels, jumped out at me. There was an obvious link to the geometry in the work of Mary Quant, and some of the glazes and patterns of the Chelsea pottery. Before I knew it, I'd somehow gone from cinema to ceramics!

The idea of the moon continued to resonate with me. I thought of Vivienne Westwood, whose orb logo is taken from King Charles II (after whom the King's Road is named). He was a huge champion of early astronomy and helped to endow and found the Greenwich observatory. There was also the fact that both Mary Shelley and Bram Stoker lived in the area - both creating dark creatures and Gothic motifs that were mainstays of early silent cinema.

Next I thought about all the paintings of the river at night, particularly Whistler's *Nocturne in Black and Gold*, which is a view over the Thames to Cremorne Gardens and shows fireworks falling at night. The idea of cascading fireworks in a night sky led me to the name of the piece, *Cascade*.

I began to look at astronomical diagrams of the phases of the moon. My hope was that with my two moon panels on either side of the building, the existing roundels - showing Comedy, Tragedy and William Friese-Greene - would appear to be part of the pathway of the moon as it passed through the cosmic sphere.

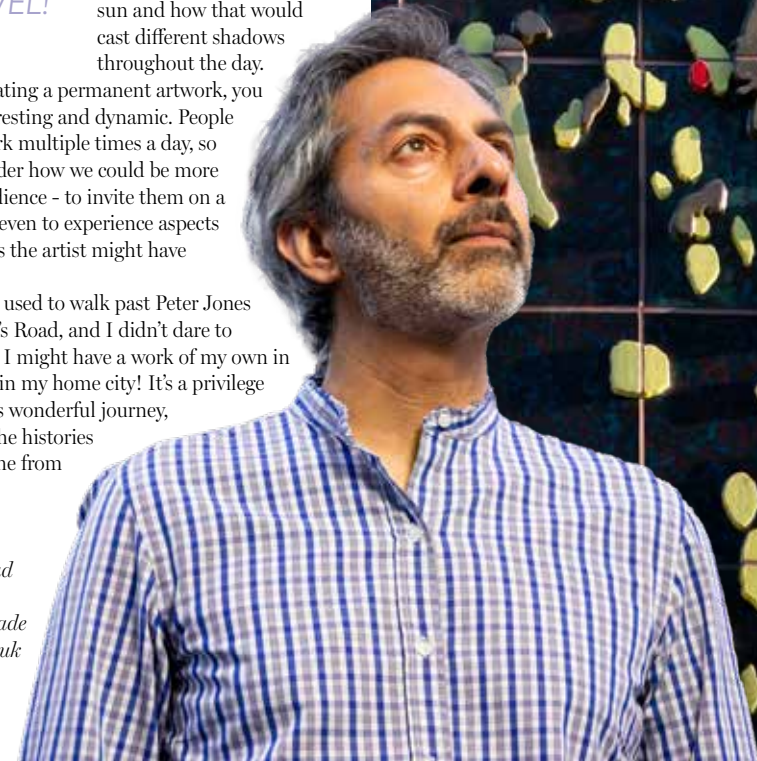
"I KNEW I WANTED TO BRING TOGETHER DIFFERENT IDEAS AND REFERENCE POINTS FROM ACROSS CHELSEA'S HISTORY - IN THAT SENSE, I SAW THIS AS AN EXERCISE IN TIME TRAVEL!"

I wanted the piece to be a bit of an impromptu sundial. Obviously it's outside and catching the sun, so we played with the relief elements and used architectural software to model the path of the sun and how that would cast different shadows throughout the day.

I think if you're creating a permanent artwork, you have to keep it interesting and dynamic. People are passing this work multiple times a day, so we wanted to consider how we could be more generous to our audience - to invite them on a journey with us, or even to experience aspects of the work that I as the artist might have missed.

As a young boy I used to walk past Peter Jones and down the King's Road, and I didn't dare to dream that one day I might have a work of my own in this iconic location in my home city! It's a privilege to have been on this wonderful journey, and to dig into all the histories and stories that come from Chelsea.

*The Gaumont, 196-222 King's Road*  
Watch a film about the creation of *Cascade* at [www.cadogan.co.uk](http://www.cadogan.co.uk)



# Chelsea Arts Festival / Calendar

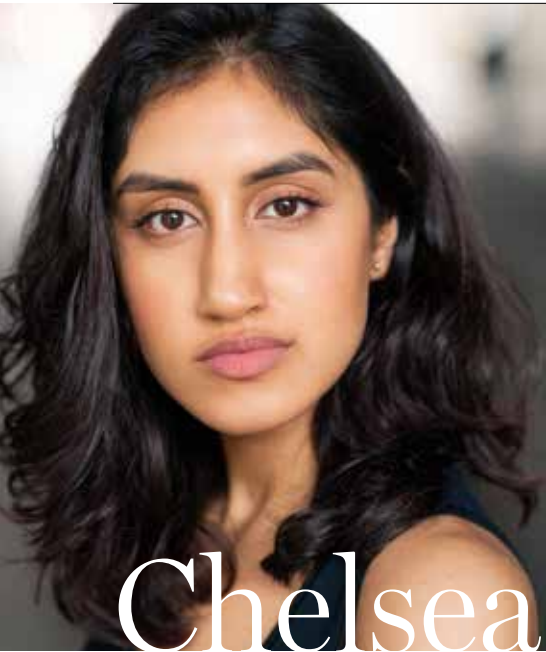


IMAGE: ALISHA LOVE

Chelsea

## Arts festival

### THE LONDON THEATRE REVIEW LIVE

Attend a live recording of the award-nominated London Theatre Review podcast. For this episode, hosts Nancy Durrant, Nick Curtis and Nick Clark will be joined by actor Ambika Mod (One Day), who will soon be appearing at the Royal Court Theatre in the hotly anticipated Porn Play. They'll also speak to the theatre's artistic director, David Byrne, about championing emerging writers and the future of British theatre.

**September 20**, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square

**THE INAUGURAL CHELSEA ARTS FESTIVAL IS THREE JAM-PACKED DAYS OF ART, THEATRE, STORYTELLING, DEBATES, SPOKEN WORD, MUSIC AND MORE. WE'VE PICKED OUT SOME HIGHLIGHTS - FOR THE FULL PROGRAMME VISIT [CHELSEAARTSFESTIVAL.COM](http://CHELSEAARTSFESTIVAL.COM)**



### WRITING MASTERCLASS

Silk Road Slippers run critically acclaimed masterclasses for aspiring writers of all levels. You'll be given a short exercise from a prompt, then have the opportunity to share your work - you'll receive immediate, constructive feedback from publishing legend Alexandra Pringle, bestselling author Alex von Tunzelmann and editorial consultant Faiza Khan.

**September 21**, Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace



### TWIGGY SCREENING

Join iconic Chelsea supermodel Twiggy for this intimate screening of a new documentary about her life, with contributions from Paul McCartney, Charlotte Tilbury, Joanna Lumley and more. After you've seen the film, you can take part in a Q&A with Twiggy and the film's director, Sadie Frost

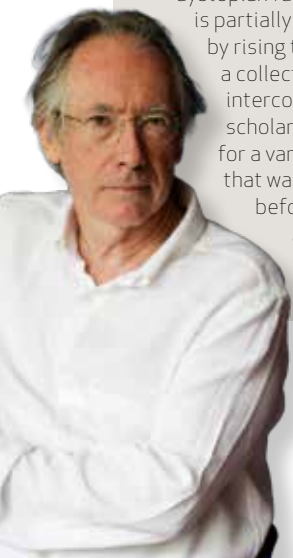
**September 20**, Everyman Chelsea, 279 King's Road

### IAN MCEWAN

The award-winning author will be in conversation with journalist George Monbiot on the release day of his new novel, What We Can Know. The book is set in a dystopian future where Britain is partially submerged by rising tides, leaving a collection of small interconnected islands. Our hero is scholar Tom Metcalfe, who searches for a vanished piece of poetry that was performed just once before being lost...

**September 18**

Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace



### JORDAN STEPHENS AND MATT HAIG

Acclaimed author Matt Haig and multi-talented artist Jordan Stephens of Rizzle Kicks will be joined in conversation by DJ and broadcaster Annie Mamanus to discuss their mental health struggles, the vulnerability of creating art, the meaning of masculinity and more. Expect a frank and revealing discussion about struggle and resilience.

**September 21**, Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace

IMAGES: CHARLIE DOHERTY / KAN LALEY



IMAGE: ZENAB BACHCHELOR

### EKOW ESHUN

Writer, curator and broadcaster Ekow Eshun will discuss his groundbreaking new publication, Black Earth Rising. It's an anthology of work by 100 leading artists of African diasporic, Latin American and Native American identity, exploring the complex connections between colonialism and the climate crisis.

**September 20**, Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York Square





ALLIE ESIRI IS THE BESTSELLING WRITER WHOSE ANTHOLOGIES OF POEMS FOR EVERY DAY HAVE TAKEN THE LITERARY WORLD BY STORM. SHE DISCUSSES THE ENDURING POWER OF POETRY AND HER LIVE READING EVENT AT THE INAUGURAL CHELSEA ARTS FESTIVAL.

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS



WHEN AUTHOR AND CURATOR Allie Esiri published her first poetry anthology, *A Poem for Every Night of the Year*, no one expected it to sell.

“I was told that a really successful poetry book might sell at most 2,000 copies” she tells me. “So you can imagine my surprise when my first book went on to sell over 150,000!”

Now Allie’s distinctive and beautiful poetry anthologies can be spotted wherever there are readers - in bookshops and on bedside tables across the country, exchanged as gifts and read aloud at bedtime. The Guardian named *A Poem for Every Day of the Year* one of the ten best poetry books of all time, and an audiobook read by Helena Bonham Carter and Simon Russel Beale received rave reviews.

“The way that these books have taken off is a mystery - a happy mystery!” Allie says. “I don’t know how to account for it - I just think, ‘hooray for poetry!’”

The success of Allie’s anthologies certainly suggests a deep rooted craving for poetry, in spite of our



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RHYME OR REASON



shortened attention spans and skyrocketing screentime.

“I think the great poets have managed to put into words the things that many of us struggle to express,” Allie explains. “Whether we’re falling madly in love or we want something to say at a wedding, whether we want to heal a broken heart or to express the beauty of a new season, we can turn to the great poets, and they’ll have put it better than we ever could.”

Poetry had always been important to Allie, who studied Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge before embarking on a career as an actress.

“When I was a child, I had this anthology of poems that I really loved, and I’d keep it next to my bed and reread it. Then at school, I had a very inspirational teacher who encouraged us to learn poems by heart. Our little group would spill off to the library to recite poetry aloud.”

Allie is instinctively nervous about prescriptive curriculums or mandatory poetry reading, believing that poetry is best enjoyed without pressure.

“My friends and I weren’t forced to analyse the poems, or to write any sort of

comprehension. In fact, many of the poems we read were barely understood at all! But it was a way into poetry that was very unpressured, that wasn’t academic. Young people are great at learning verse by heart - just look at how they can memorise every lyric by Taylor Swift!”

Even adults sometimes need to find their own way to enjoy poetry, free from a dusty sense of academic duty:

“I think to many people, reading poetry has become daunting, and they wouldn’t know where to start or where to begin again. What I try to do with my books is to create

something that you can engage with in many different ways. Perhaps you just pick it up to see what the poem of the day is on your birthday. Perhaps you flick through it or open it on a random page. My hope is that people will fall in love with some of the poems they find there, then go off and discover more.”

It’s important to Allie that her books reflect more than just the “dead white male poets”, highlighting diverse voices, including women and international writers. So how does she discover fresh poetry for her anthologies?

“I read a lot, of course, and I love going down little warrens of research. Also people recommend poems to me!


It was my friend’s mother who introduced me to Mary Oliver, for example, who is now one of my very favourite poets. If you’re recommended a poem, it almost feels like a way of holding hands - with the poet, who holds your hand through time, and also with the person who recommended this poem to you as a way to experience the world, life, love or sorrow. It’s such a nice way to knit people together, I think.”

If you’re inspired to inject more poetry into your life, don’t miss Allie’s live poetry event at the Royal Court on September 20, part of the inaugural Chelsea Arts Festival. Celebrity readers will include David Morrissey, Lesley Sharp, Susan Wokoma and Asa Butterfield.

“Poetry was historically always an oral tradition, so we wanted to bring these works to life on the stage and to show that there are many ways to engage with and enjoy poetry.” Allie explains. “I can’t wait!”  
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IMAGE: SARAH HODGKINSON/FESTIVAL





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### ALEXANDRA ZARINS

“What really interests me is people and relationships and intimacy, and in some way or another, all of my work is an exploration of that,” says Alexandra Zarins.

After studying fine art at the University of Edinburgh, Zarins’ passion for portraiture drew her to Charles H Cecil Studios, the private Florentine atelier renowned for its rigorous commitment to the practice and tradition of drawing and painting from life. Further artistic training came via her master’s in fine art painting at the New York Academy of Art.

Zarins works from a studio in Chelsea at 49 Roland Gardens, which she shares with her brother. She paints predominantly in oils, conjuring moments of connection and intimacy on to the canvas. Visceral and surrealist in style, her works spring from the well of her imagination, informed by personal memories, dreams and fantasies.

“They’re loosely inspired by real life,” Zarins says. “But because I’m not working from photographs, there’s always room for endless development and change. It’s like writing fiction. You have a little idea, and then you can take it any way you want. I love not being reliant on anybody else. I don’t need a model at the studio. I’m not waiting for someone to pose for me.”

# Ones to watch



## Art / Up and coming

### VENETIA HIGGINS

“What I love most is that my work gives me an excuse to follow my curiosity every day,” Venetia Higgins says. A former student of the Royal Drawing School, Higgins is fascinated by all things medieval.

Her inspiration for new work is sparked by burrowing through archives in museums, libraries and churches, hunting for unexpected treasures that might catalyse a creative breakthrough.

She uses a smorgasbord of medieval techniques and materials: from egg tempera and manuscript gesso for raised gilding, to incorporating 14th-century manuscript fragments (sourced from an antique book restorer) into her pieces. Even her framer is an assemblage artist who works with old and ancient timber salvaged from shipwrecks and buildings dating from the 12th to the 17th century.

Formerly head of events at Chelsea’s Green & Stone gallery, Higgins has curated two large group shows in its space – Curios and Medieval Relics – both of which showcased contemporary artists working with medieval and folk-inspired themes.

“Meeting artists, writers and musicians of all ages and from all walks of life at Green & Stone gave me a vivid insight into the unique balance of tradition and innovation that characterises Chelsea’s creative scene,” Higgins says.

“Since going freelance, I’ve continued to work closely with Green & Stone and my dear friend

Hester Baldwin [the gallery manager], who has been incredibly supportive of emerging artists and curators.”

*Higgins is currently preparing her third group show, Anima Mundi, which will run at Green & Stone from November 10-22.*



IMAGE: ISABEL MILLIGAN

### SIAN BLISS

A versatile artist who has undertaken a number of eye-catching public commissions – not least a 30-metre mural at the fire station on King’s Road – Sian Bliss’s work is rooted in exploring the shared connections between people and place.

Born in London but raised in the remote beauty of rural Wales, Bliss credits that secluded upbringing as foundational to her creative development. Her time spent studying experimental animation at CalArts was also formative and inspiring, enabling her to learn and experiment across various creative mediums, from puppetry to ceramics.

In 2024 Bliss was commissioned by Sloane Stanley to paint a vast mural for the Chelsea fire station. Bold and colourful, it was a paean to the simple pleasure of food informed by her interactions with passing locals.

“The best part of that project was involving the general public, asking children on their way to school about their favourite foods and then painting those into sections of the 30-metre canvas,” she recalls. “It felt like such an honour to contribute to the vibrant, creative and cultural fabric of Chelsea.”

Bliss’s love of visualising culinary delight is set to continue through her Late Night Pudding Club, a weekly online creative community at the intersection of art and food. It centres around three Ps: a pudding, a poem and a picture.

“The picture sits in my wheelhouse of visual art and animation, the pudding represents pure joy for me, and the poem – well, that’s deliberately way out of my comfort zone, which keeps things interesting,” she explains.



IMAGE: JOSH ATTWOOD

CHELSEA HAS A RICH ARTISTIC HERITAGE AND IT REMAINS A CONDUIT FOR CREATIVE EXPRESSION. WE MEET THREE UP-AND-COMING ARTISTS WITH LOCAL CONNECTIONS

WORDS: WILL MOFFITT

# Art / Nick Bashall

## FROM ZIMBABWE TO THE KING'S ROAD

Nick Bashall, born in England and raised in Zimbabwe, is one of Britain's leading portrait artists – and he lives and works in Chelsea. Mostly working in oil, he has painted people from all walks of life – from members of White's club to revellers at Glastonbury. He has worked in war zones and has had several royal commissions – most recently Princess Anne. "One might easily be intimidated by her royal status and inspiring reputation," he said. "Yet her natural warmth and humour instantly put me at my ease."

## A SEWING MACHINE ON WHEELS

Before becoming an artist, Bashall worked as a lawyer after studying at

Cambridge. He is a great admirer of the law, which he recognises as important to protect ourselves from the extremes of human nature. "Having worked in over 30 jurisdictions I'm proud of how the law is practised in England – everyone gets their shout."

Despite his assertion that "the journey to painting was not obvious", art seemed ever present throughout his life, even as a lawyer. "[I'd] be in bank syndicate meetings taking notes, and I'd start drawing under the table – the heads of the people. I've always found heads fascinating." While Bashall's boss, initially displeased, was starting to look forward to seeing his impromptu sketches, it wasn't until a near-death motorcycle accident that his path in painting was forged.

At 26, he flipped into oncoming traffic on the A3 from a motorbike he likened to "a sewing machine on wheels". This led to 10 months in and out of hospital, a paralysed right arm and, at one point, the prospect of having his leg amputated. He no longer travels by motorbike.

"When I came round, I knew immediately my arm would never work again. The first thing I asked for was a pencil and paper."

With his other hand he sketched the man sleeping in the bed opposite to see if he could still draw.

Immediately before his accident he had been planning to travel and have adventures abroad. He had his visa ready to work in the mines in Australia.

However, with his plans for travel



abandoned, he had a realisation. "I couldn't have an adventure physically, but I could still draw. That's where the adventure would be."

The experience gave him a new direction. "I was ecstatic to have another chance. That wasn't unusual in hospital. People were upbeat. There's a classic understated British black humour in hospital. There's nothing like it. It's the same in the army."

## PAINTING FROM LIFE

Seeking traditional training, Bashall studied under Joaquim Torrents Llado in Majorca for five years before becoming a full-time artist in London.

His timeless style combined with close attention to the gaze and expression of his subjects results in portraits that give the observer the feeling that the subject is looking through the canvas back at them.

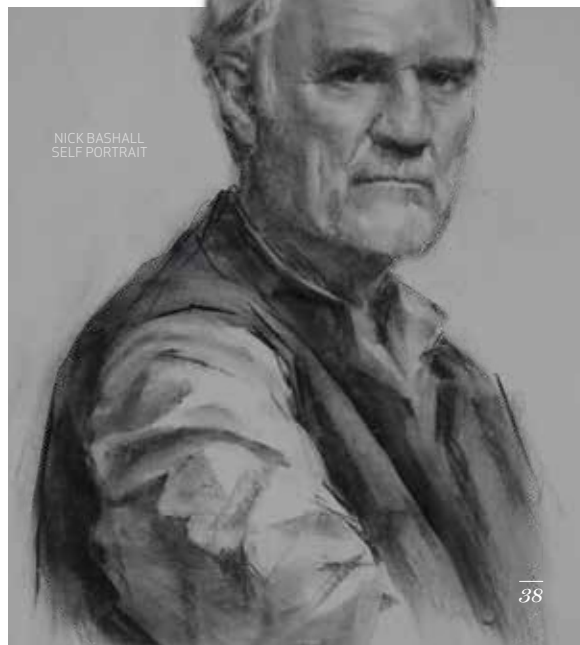
Today, he continues to paint from life and rarely uses photographs. "Photos are too precise. There's no dither. When you paint from life you naturally dither – make marks quickly. They're not premeditated. I think you can always tell when a painting's been done from photographs."

Having partly funded art school by sketching live portraits in a pub in Majorca (The Rose Mallow), sometimes up to 10 in a night, Bashall became skilled in capturing live, moving subjects.

Often, the sitter only falls into a natural position after an hour of posing. "You've got to be prepared to start again."

What does a face reveal? "Your face wears your life as you get older. I remember being sat in a bathroom in the Middle East. I caught my frown in the mirror. It was a short step of logic to realise that if I was often in internal conflict, those frown lines would become permanent. But people with glasses often get the same

# Portrait of an artist



NICK BASHALL  
SELF PORTRAIT

THE DAY BEFORE HIS LATEST PORTRAIT OF PRINCESS ANNE WAS UNVEILED, RACHEL MILLAR MET WITH ARTIST NICK BASHALL TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE PERSON BEHIND THE PAINTINGS

ABOVE:  
NICK'S PAINTING OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL, WHICH WAS UNVEILED AT THE IN-AND-OUT CLUB IN ST JAMES'S SQUARE

BELOW:  
NICK PAINTING ON THE FRONT LINE: KABUL 2002



## Art / Nick Bashall

frown lines, so it's not necessarily straightforward."

He adds: "As animals, we had to evolve the ability to know friend from foe – and we don't look at their feet. We look at their face. It's in the tiniest of movements. The mouth is most sensitive of all."

### A HIDDEN NUDE

Having heard a story that each of Bashall's paintings contains a hidden silhouette of a nude woman, I asked the story behind this.

Painting a large-scale commission to commemorate the presentation of new colours by Prince Charles (now King Charles III) to the Parachute Regiment in 1998, he followed in the footsteps of military artist Terence Cuneo, who famously hid a mouse in every piece.

"One of the soldiers said, 'Where's the mouse?' I told him that was Cuneo. But then I thought, I'll give them a hidden icon. A nude woman."

He began small, transforming the white speck of a polished boot into the silhouette of a reclining nude. "One day I walked past and all the paras were crowded round the painting. They said, 'We're just looking for the nude, we can't find it.' So I had an idea – I'd give them a nude they couldn't miss."

He then painted a full-scale nude model toasting someone off-stage, a parachute beret beside her and the red, white and blue of the Union Jack behind her – this part painted by his 10- and 12-year-old niece and nephew.

"I didn't tell anyone. Before the unveiling, I hung the nude over the Colours Parade painting, then veiled it. Four generals were there – including Mike Jackson [soon to be head of the army] – none of whom I anticipated being there, I thought it'd just be the boys. I gave a speech: 'My logo is not a mouse, it's a nude – but



*"I TEACH [PEOPLE] TO PAINT WHAT THEY SEE, NOT AS INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS OR FEATURES BUT AS ABSTRACT SHAPES OF DARK AND LIGHT"*

people have complained they couldn't find it, so I made it slightly bigger. But it's still very discreet, I'll be interested to see if you can find it."

"Then I took the veil off. There was absolute stunned silence. Then the laughter began."

That painting has sold more prints than any other he's done for the army.

### INSIDE THE LONDON SKETCH CLUB

At the Sketch Club on Dilke Street in Chelsea, Bashall teaches people to draw and paint from life – and all abilities are welcome. "I encourage people to measure the proportions by eye. I then teach them to paint what they see, not as individual objects or features but as abstract shapes of dark and light. Anyone can learn this. But what you can't teach is flair.

Imagination. Courage. Their line, their mark is their own."

Bashall says learning to paint ultimately comes down to a single Latin phrase: *repetitio est mater studiorum* (repetition is the mother of learning).

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Regardless of who the subject is, Bashall brings an attention to expression and sense of humour to his work. His portraits are not just likenesses but quiet character studies – capturing not only how his subjects look, but also a sense of their presence. As he continues to teach and paint, Bashall's unique eye for detail ensures his work, like his sense of humour, remains unmistakably his own.



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## A new chapter

THE CHELSEA BOOK FESTIVAL IS A CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE, COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

WORDS: ADRIAN DAY

IT STARTED, AS MANY GOOD IDEAS DO IN CHELSEA, with a chat in Burton Court and a flash of inspiration. Lois Pelham-Lane, a longstanding member of Chelsea Old Church's Parochial Church Council, typed "Chelsea Book Festival" into Google one day last year and found nothing. "So I bought the domain," she says with a shrug, as if founding a new cultural fixture was the obvious next step. A chat with the vicar, Max Bayliss, and a few phone calls later, and the Chelsea Book Festival was born.

But don't let Lois's modest tone fool you. What she and a small team of volunteers have pulled

together is no slapdash event. It is a modest but thought-through celebration of literature, community and connection, with a strong charitable focus.

"It's about opening up the church to the wider community," Lois explains. "We're not waving anyone in with hymn books – it's about making the space feel welcoming and relevant." That ethos shines through in the programming, which includes events for local schoolchildren, accessible ticket pricing and a commitment to donating proceeds to charities such as Glass Door and the NSPCC.



festival. Each author will be discussing their latest work in an intimate setting, with Waterstones on hand for book sales. "We didn't want this to feel elitist," Lois notes. "It's about bringing people together."

Indeed, the festival seems to have struck a chord. Lois has already fielded interest from authors hoping to be involved next year. "We're not trying to become the next Chiswick festival," she adds with a smile, "but we'd love to build something sustainable."

For those of us who have long watched Chelsea's rich cultural history celebrated in blue plaques and magazine features, the Chelsea Book Festival is a welcome sign that our creative story is still being written. It's also a gentle nudge that institutions such as Chelsea Old Church remain central – not just for spiritual life, but as a hub of community.

As Lois puts it: "This is about connection. And books are a lovely way to make that happen."

The first page has turned. Here's to the chapters still to come.

*The Chelsea Book Festival runs from September 24-27*

At its heart is Petyt Hall, part of the Chelsea Old Church fabric, which will host the festival's main events. There's no commercial glitz here – just a genuine desire to connect people through ideas. The committee has worked hard to get it off the ground. "We've got a great team," Lois says, quick to share credit. "It's been a real joint effort, and everyone's brought something different to the table."

Among the contributors are local residents such as John Simpson, who will be speaking at the



**SEPTEMBER 24**  
**DR MARK OAKLEY: THE SPLASH OF WORDS**

Dean of Southwark and a leading voice on poetry and spirituality, Dr Mark Oakley explores how poetry can awaken the soul and stir new ways of seeing. His award-winning anthology brings together verses that speak to the sacred and the everyday.



**SEPTEMBER 25**  
**PETER YORK: A DEAD CAT ON YOUR TABLE**

Cultural commentator and co-author of *The Official Sloane Ranger Handbook*, Peter York dissects Britain's modern culture wars in his latest satirical work, with biting insight and bold illustrations by the editorial cartoonist Martin Rowson.



**SEPTEMBER 26**  
**PROFESSOR JONATHAN BOFF: HAIG'S ENEMY**

First World War expert Jonathan Boff turns the lens on Germany's Rupprecht, crown prince of Bavaria, a man caught under the wheels of modern industrial warfare. A gripping view of the Great War from the other side of the trenches, this is a fresh and revealing history.



**SEPTEMBER 27**  
**JOHN SIMPSON: WE CHOSE TO SPEAK OF WAR AND STRIFE**

Legendary BBC foreign correspondent John Simpson shares his vivid experiences of frontline reporting and the stories of war reporters through the ages. A masterclass in journalism, courage and truth-telling.



**FREE EVENT FOR CHILDREN AGED FOUR TO SEVEN**

On September 27 at 10.30am, Jennie Cashman reads from *Becoming Brave*, her beautifully illustrated picture book about love, grief and finding courage. It includes a 20-minute interactive session plus signings and family-friendly refreshments.

[ticketsource.co.uk/chelseabookfestival](https://ticketsource.co.uk/chelseabookfestival)



LA MAISON ANI is serving up a breakfast menu with a chic Parisian twist. Available daily from 7am to 11.30am, options include freshly baked pastries, rich and herby shakshuka and decadent eggs florentine. The house special is Le Petit Dejeuner: a grilled sausage paired with halloumi and asparagus and served with eggs prepared to your preference.  
*Jumeirah Carlton Tower, 1 Cadogan Place*



THIS NEW AFTERNOON TEA comes with a twist: it's inspired by the flavours of Japan. Instead of the usual sandwiches you'll find temaki - delicate hand rolls filled with flavours such as black cod, spicy tuna, avocado and aubergine. For the sweet element of the tea, expect delicacies such as a silky chocolate mousse infused with miso caramel and a Japanese-inspired blueberry macaroon. Your food will be accompanied by your choice from a selection of loose-leaf Japanese teas.  
*The Fuji Grill at Beaverbrook Town House, 115-116 Sloane Street*



OTTOLENGHI HAS RELEASED a new range of ice creams exclusively in Waitrose. There's a Madagascan vanilla paired with miso caramel for added depth; a roasted pistachio swirled with sour cherry and crunchy chopped nuts; and an aromatic coffee flavour spiced with warming cardamom.  
*Ottolenghi, 261 Pavilion Road; Waitrose, 196 King's Road*

WANT TO CULTIVATE your own edible mushrooms? A mushroom masterclass on October 17 will give you all the skills you need. You'll learn how to grow fungi from used coffee grounds, on logs or in containers. You'll also be able to take part in a Q&A with the award-winning Caley Brothers, a Sussex-based organisation dedicated to growing gourmet mushrooms.  
*Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road*



DID YOU KNOW that Italian seafood restaurant Azzurra offers a bottomless brunch? With its "boat to table" ethos, the menu includes tasty options such as burrata with heritage tomato carpaccio, handmade spaghetti with lobster and a dessert platter with indulgent treats like a fresh pistachio tiramisu. For the bottomless experience, you can add unlimited wine to your brunch for £30 a person, prosecco for £36 or even push the boat out with unlimited champagne at £85 a person.  
*127-128 Sloane Street*



VENCHI HAS LAUNCHED a new flavour perfect for adventurous foodies: parmesan ice cream. A delicate fior di latte base is infused with parmigiano reggiano to create a sweet-savoury flavour explosion, then topped with flakes of cheese. Are you brave enough to give it a try?  
*71 King's Road*





PIZZA PILGRIMS IS serving up a special guest pizza throughout September. Created by Neapolitan chef *Ciro Cascella*, the pizza (£14.50) is inspired by Italian soul food and topped with San Marzano tomatoes, smoked provola cheese, basil and *ciccio*li (pressed pork belly).  
*219 King's Road*



# HAN'S'

BAR & GRILL

164 Pavilion Road, Chelsea



### THREE UNMISSABLE DISHES

THERE'S SO MUCH TO TRY IN CHELSEA, WHICH IS WHY WE'VE SIMPLIFIED THINGS FOR YOU BY PICKING OUT THREE DISHES FOR YOUR WISHLIST...

The strawberry tiramisu from Birley Bakery. Available until the beginning of October, it comprises fresh British strawberries layered with lemon-infused meringue cream.  
**28-30 Cale Street**



The signature hot dog from Three Darlings. A customer favourite, featuring bacon crumbs, caramelised onions and mustard.  
**241b Pavilion Road**

The basque cheesecake from Cafe Linea. Made with brie, served with Gariguette strawberries... what's not to love?  
**90 Duke of York Square**



BOOK NOW

A NEW GASTROPUB HAS ARRIVED IN CHELSEA. WE CAUGHT UP WITH HEAD CHEF TOM DE KEYSER

WORDS: CORRIE BOND-FRENCH



## Fine fare

AS ANY MUDLARK WORTH THEIR WEIGHT will tell you, Chelsea was once Cealc-hyð (“landing place for chalk”). It’s a name scraped from the Saxon tongue like flint from the riverbed, but it stuck, and with a nod to this history and a wink at reinvention, The Chalk Freehouse has thrown open its bold white doors.

The Chalk is the latest culinary offering from the Tom Kerridge Group, revamped and rejigged after a short stint as The Butcher and Tap. It’s in the exceptionally capable hands of Tom De Keyser, whose route downriver from Marlow has been suitably starlit; he’s the former head chef of the two-Michelin-starred Hand and Flowers, and gained further Michelin recognition leading the kitchen at The Coach.

The Chalk offers an à la carte menu in which hale and hearty marries elegant refinement, resulting in elevated gastropub fare. There’s an equally exciting fixed-price menu set at £18.50 and £25 for two or three courses, with roasts on Sundays.

De Keyser is passionate about menu creation. “The satisfaction comes from putting your personality into dishes and seeing people enjoy them,” he says. “The set menu format is something I find really exciting. It forces you to be smart about balancing quality produce with value – you have to be creative.”

Another priority is creating an enjoyable environment where the

team loves coming to work. “That energy naturally translates to our guests,” he says. “We want to be busy, cook our hearts out and change the menu frequently. I’m really proud of our current offering but love the process of evolving and improving it.”



It’s clear the analytical skills from his chemistry and forensic science degree serve De Keyser well in the kitchen, but he’s grateful to have learned from Tom Kerridge, inset. “His work ethic is inspiring – everything is done to the absolute highest standard. Whether it’s knife skills or opening a new business, he pushes for perfection.” Clearly, it’s a good place for

Toms: “The name did cause a funny moment – on my first day there were four Toms in the kitchen, and when Tom’s wife came in and said ‘Morning darling Tom’, we all turned round and answered!”

Why does he think The Chalk is a good fit for Chelsea? “It’s got that buzzy pub atmosphere with solid seasonal cooking from the team behind the world’s most famous pub. The open kitchen creates great energy – we’ve brought a slice of Marlow to London, but with our own spin.

“After 13 years of just a five-minute walk to work, the commute took some adjusting to. But I’ve grown to appreciate that time to get my head in the game. What’s been really special is getting to know all the new faces – both the team and our guests. In Marlow I knew everyone, and we’re already building that same kind of community here.”

Essentially, then, it’s a labour of love? “Absolutely! Some days are harder than others, but I still love every second. It’s not just about

cooking – it’s the camaraderie on the floor and in the kitchen and building lasting relationships. No two days are the same. There’s incredible freedom to work with ingredients at their absolute seasonal peak.”

Kerridge is thrilled that his former protégé has taken the reins at The Chalk. “Tom De Keyser has brought a real depth of experience and a confident, flavour-driven style of cooking,” he says. “We’d love The Chalk to become a proper go-to in Chelsea, with front of house led by the Hand and Flowers team and a warm, welcoming atmosphere at its heart.

“Tom is a rare chef, precise and detail-focused but with a real knack for creating food that’s comforting, familiar and full of character.”

De Keyser is brimming with cheffy enthusiasm. “We had 30 on the book [the other day] but did 86 covers with just three of us in the kitchen,” he says. “The team absolutely smashed it – that kind of smooth, buzzing service is what makes it all worthwhile.”  
*25-27 Tryon Street*



**THE PIG'S EAR**

This countryside-style pub is perfect for a lazy Sunday roast. Beef sirloin, pork chop, lamb shoulder and chicken are served with roast spuds, farm veg, plenty of gravy and Yorkshire pudding. Portions are generous and the potatoes are the perfect side of crispy.

35 Old Church Street

**THE CADOGAN ARMS**

The Cadogan Arms Sunday roast is generous, so be hungry. For those who can't decide what to order, get the Sunday sharer board, with a selection of roast meat – lamb, pork, beef – all the trimmings and sauces including decadent bone marrow gravy.

298 King's Road

**TOP 5 BEST...  
SUNDAY ROASTS**

**NO FIFTY CHEYNE**

Known for its award-winning roasts, No Fifty Cheyne's rib of belted Galloway beef is a must-try – but it's strictly limited quantity, so get there early. Other options include Cumbrian chicken and Herdwick lamb with all the trimmings.

50 Cheyne Walk

**COLBERT**

Head to this perfect people-watching spot on a Sunday for the much-loved boeuf

wellington à l'anglaise

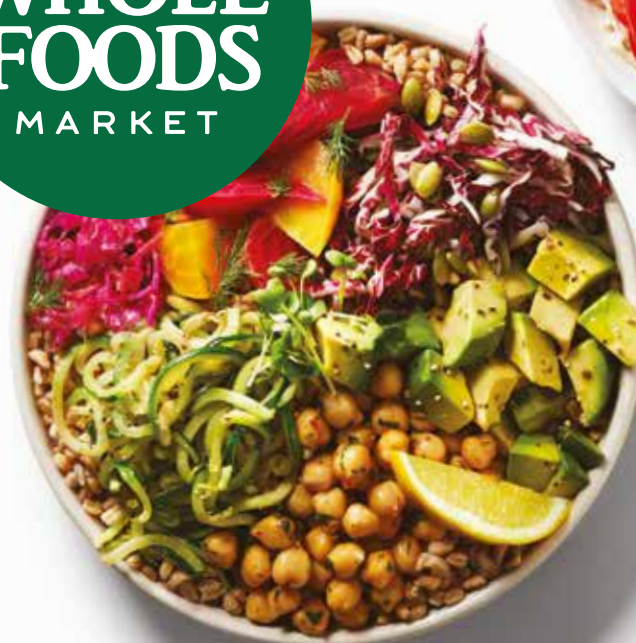
– an intricately made beef wellington roast with the creamiest mash potato, green beans and an addictive gravy to pour over. It's the ideal marriage of

French and British.  
50-52 Sloane Square

**RABBIT**

This farm-to-fork British bistro offers "Sunday from the farm" – a roast made with meat from a biodynamic farm in West Sussex and a neighbouring Red Tractor-approved farm. We're talking Lyons Hill beef sirloin, Dorset lamb leg and celeriac and mushroom wellington, all served with staple trimmings.

172 King's Road



**Better ingredients matter.**

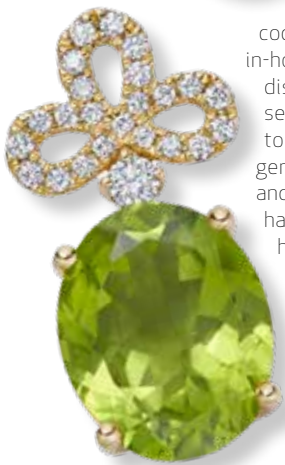
**There's something for everyone, whether it's plant-based-friendly or dinner-for-five-friendly.**

**Come visit us at 120 King's Road, Chelsea**

# Fashion / News



KIKI MCDONOUGH IS offering a gemstone masterclass on September 20 to celebrate Chelsea Arts Festival. While you sip on a signature cocktail, the brand's in-house gemmologist will discuss colour theory, seasonal palettes and how to select the best colourful gemstone for your skin tone and aesthetic. You'll also have the opportunity to have a bespoke consultation to design your very own Kiki piece using the stones you've discussed.  
12 Symons Street



VIOLANTE NESSI HAS OPENED The Townhouse. Set across two floors, the atelier feels more like a home than a store. Open Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm, and weekends by appointment only, the interior includes aspects of eastern art, sculptural sofa chairs and Italian handmade oak hangers.  
70 Cadogan Place



ARKET IS OPENING on King's Road as part of its continued expansion in the UK. The store, the brand's fourth, will feature extensive ranges of kidswear, body care, homeware, menswear and womenswear as well as a Nordic-style cafe.  
196-222 King's Road

A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP between Brunello Cucinelli and Harrods has resulted in The Perfect Match, a capsule collection blending sport and classic Italian tailoring. Featuring menswear and womenswear, the pieces are lightweight, relaxed and versatile, with elevated knitwear and tracksuits that can be layered through seasons.  
87-135 Brompton Road



THE FIRST EVER monogram collection from Smythson was inspired by the letter forms used for the luxury leather brand's vintage gold stamping. The stamp canvas is made of lightweight jacquard woven on traditional looms in Italy. The monogram motif spells out the brand name vertically and horizontally.  
141-142 Sloane Street



THE 20TH CENTURY cohort of artists and intellectuals known as the Bloomsbury Group inspired Penelope Chilvers' new collection. Androgynous footwear in five styles, drawn from archives of the brand's artisan bootmakers in southern Spain, have been adapted for women by Penelope. Made from sustainable leather with punching, broguing, fringing and buckling, these are designed to last a lifetime.  
328 King's Road





REBELLIOUS TRADITIONS is the theme of the first collection from Russell & Bromley's new creative director, Daniel Beardsworth-Shaw. It is an ode to three key subcultures from British history: mods, punks and club kids.

From boots to kitten heels and everything in between, we're talking animal prints, pony hair, checked satin and mock-croc on a number of key styles.  
*64 King's Road*



BAMFORD'S AUTUMN/WINTER 25 campaign is titled Woven from Untamed Landscapes. Wootton, its Staffordshire estate, provides the backdrop and the inspiration for the collection, which has been made using 100 per cent natural fibres. Expect timeless pieces in nature's natural colours.  
*104 Draycott Avenue*



TO CELEBRATE ITS 20TH BIRTHDAY, American Vintage has immortalised this moment in time with the 20 Years collection. Everyone is included – women, men and kids – with unisex pieces such as dungarees, T-shirts, tracksuits and jackets, all adorned with a distinctive 20 Years logo.  
*105 King's Road*

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Cassandra Goad,  
147 Sloane Street

## Fashion / Cassandra Goad



"I'm very, very fond of this design. I've sat in a lot of ski lifts in my life, and I've spent a lot of time marvelling at fir cones. I've tried to make designs inspired by them over the years, but they've always ended up looking very unattractive and heavy. I finally had a breakthrough when I went to a museum in Copenhagen and saw a lamp called the artichoke lamp. That design was built in layers, so I took the idea home and created a fir cone in layers, keeping a gap between each layer so they don't sit right on top of each other. That's the real secret – keeping that space. There are tiny little diamonds on each section, and it moves slightly. It's one of those designs where, now that I've cracked it, it seems simple. It seems so obvious, but it wasn't easy to get there."



"This is a piece from our French collection. I wanted to create something that was really explosive and different, reminiscent of the incredible fireworks that Louis XIV had when he opened the Palace of Versailles. We also need to remember that the French created the baguette cut, which was a really inventive and experimental cut – and an extravagant one, as there's a lot of wastage. If you look at how I've built this piece, there is a little airspace between each of the tapered baguettes, containing a single little diamond. One of my heroes is a man called Renzo Piano, who said that luxury is space. As designers, I think we do tend to forget that – we feel we need to fill every area, to add more gold or jewels. Sometimes, leaving space actually gives the piece more presence and generosity."



"This design was inspired by the Temple of Heaven in China, which is a really beautiful, perfectly circular building. I noticed this little detail on the roof, these geometric shapes, and that's what inspired these earrings. The real magic here is that they're incredibly light. Some of the enormous earrings you see are absolutely fabulous, but you're not going to wear them for more than five minutes. As a female designer, it's really important for me to design something that's comfortable and that other women will love to wear."



"I love things that move, that are a little kinetic! This is a gyroscope. It's a really fun pendant with a swivel down the centre and rings that move and turn. It started as part of our Scandinavian collection, inspired by Swedish onion designs that feature lots of concentric circles. While fiddling with it in the workshop, I realised that if I made the pin less rigid I could create this movement, and create something that people could play with and fiddle with, and it could become almost amuletic. For our 40th anniversary this year we've made it into a ring, which still has this up and down movement."



# A local gem

TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS IN BUSINESS, CASSANDRA GOAD TALKS US THROUGH SOME OF HER FAVOURITE DESIGNS

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS



"When I'm out walking I often pick up feathers and marvel at how light and beautiful they are. Nature really is the greatest designer, and its beauty never ends – there's always a new shade of green to discover, another type of leaf. We decided to challenge ourselves to create our own feather. If you look closely you can see we built it in sections, allowing each of the little furls of the feather to twist around, one on top of the other. The brooch pin allows the feather to tremble on you when you're wearing it, as though it's come to life. You can also add a small drop on to the end of the feather, perhaps a pearl, or if the client has a stone they want to wear, it can be added here."

**BEST DRESSED**  
Keep warm with this vintage-inspired coat in buttery suede, with a boxy fit that's perfect for layering. £895, *Rixo*, 114-116 King's Road

**CAFFEINATION STATION**  
Stay alert and caffeinated with a freshly made coffee from one of Chelsea's best independent coffee shops. *The Roasting Party*, 253 Pavilion Road

# 10

## Festival finds

Chelsea's festival season is upon us – here are 10 must-haves  
BY ALICE CAIRNS

**STEP UP**  
Birkenstock Bostons are sell-outs for a reason. They're the perfect practical but stylish shoe for walking between festival events. £150, *Birkenstock*, 68 King's Road

**READ ALL ABOUT IT**  
After attending talks by famous authors, you're bound to have some new books on your wish list. A voucher for Chelsea's newest independent book store is a must. £10-£200, *BookBar*, 11 Chelsea Manor Street

**DRESS THE PART**  
The perfect comfy T-shirt for an arts festival, made with organic cotton. Pair it with slouchy jeans for effortless style. £25, *V&A Shop*, Cromwell Road

**IN THE BAG**  
You'll need a bag to carry your essentials from one event to the next – this one is spacious but stylish. £950, *Lalage Beaumont*, 58 Beauchamp Place

**TAKE NOTE**  
Keep a record of your favourite quotes or new ideas with this leather-bound notebook in eye-catching leopard. £85, *Smythson*, 141-142 Sloane Street

**CROISSANT CULTURE**  
Want a quick breakfast on the go or a snack for later? The pastries from Cafe Linea are everything you'd want – flaky, buttery and served from an antique viennoiserie cabinet. £3.75, 90 Duke of York Square

**WHATEVER THE WEATHER**  
Be prepared for anything...  
Sun cream: £25, *The Organic Pharmacy*, 43 Cadogan Gardens  
Umbrella: £20, *Peter Jones*, Sloane Square

**TOTE TIME**  
Proclaim your love for Saatchi with this neon pink tote bag – you can accessorise it with these smiley badges from the Flowers exhibition. Bag £4, badges £6, *Saatchi Gallery*, Duke of York Square

# ERMANNNO



# SCERVINO





CHELSEA DOG DAY ARRIVES ON OCTOBER 4, ORGANISED BY CADOGAN AND IN SUPPORT OF PETS AS THERAPY. TO CELEBRATE, WE DISCOVER SOME DOG-FRIENDLY DESTINATIONS  
WORDS: CORRIE BOND-FRENCH



ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN CHELSEA, there's a patter of paws on pavements from dawn till dusk. As the morning sun creeps across rooftops, chefs will be prepping sausages for four-legged regulars, shop owners replenishing hand-thrown ceramic water bowls and jars of treats, and in cafes and parks, you're as likely to overhear someone discussing their dog's acupuncturist as their firstborn's A-levels.

With its verdant streets, this is where dogs don't so much walk as promenade, the wire-haired dachshund on jaunty nodding terms with the brindle Irish wolfhound when paths cross on their daily constitutional. Chelsea is the only borough with a football team that, if tradition is to be believed, was set up when the founders bonded in the aftermath of a dog bite. Somehow, dogs are in Chelsea's DNA.

We can expect a celebration of all things canine and local when Chelsea Dog Day returns to the neighbourhood on October 4, in support of Pets as Therapy. Expect expert talks and demonstrations, pet portraits and photography and a full array of accessories and tasty treats, with a few surprises in store. Dog pals can catch up over puppuccinos, check out the season's accessories as we head into autumn and even have their doggy tarot cards read.

You can tell a lot about a place by how it accommodates paws: Chelsea is proud to be considered one of the most dog-friendly London boroughs, so much so that you can find a curated map of the area's dog friendly businesses at [kingsroad.co.uk](http://kingsroad.co.uk). In Chelsea, dogs are not simply permitted – they are catered to, adored, cuddled and coddled with organic treats and seasonal specials.

If you are out and about with your



dog in these parts, they will be truly welcomed in a broad church of local establishments. Restaurants are happy to accommodate furry guests and some, including The Cadogan, A Belmond Hotel, have created tempting dog menus including beef tartare and salmon with eggs. There are dog-friendly cafes aplenty, from Bluebird Chelsea to No 50 Cheyne.

If your pooch is a little hot under the collar, special ice creams are available from the Ice Cream Union. There are bones and meaty dog-friendly recipes available from Provenance Village Butcher, or you can subscribe online for regular orders of premium bones from The Parson's Nose.

We have boutiques selling canine couture – check out Prada, Gucci and Moncler, or indulge in some new toys and collar inspiration at Soroka. And if your canine companion's birthday is coming up, why not throw him a party at the Love My Human Townhouse on the King's Road, where the team will also assist with doggy daycare and any grooming requirements. Plus, neighbouring Pet Pavilion is a go-to for anything your dog may need.

Visitors bringing dogs to stay are assured of warm welcomes at hotels including 11 Cadogan Gardens and the Chelsea Townhouse, where furry friends can expect a comfy

bed, complimentary squeaky toys and a walking and dog-sitting service. Peter Jones has long led the way in encouraging hounds in-store, but there are cuddles and treats on offer in a plethora of local shops and boutiques.

What is it about Chelsea that has made it the epicentre of dog culture in a city already barking with affection for its four-legged residents? Let's not forget Pongo and Perdita marrying at St Luke's Church in the 1996 *101 Dalmatians* film, or the fact that the nation's dog-lover in chief, Monty Don, created a paean to the pooch with his dog-friendly garden at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

The answer, perhaps, lies in history and hedges.

Chelsea has always been a little apart, and it has always been green and pleasant; a borough replete with parks and private gardens for romping pups. And it is a thriving community – a saunter past any dog-accommodating pub, such as The Phene, The Cross Keys or The Builders Arms, to name just a few, will tell you that dogs are a social lubricant.

There is a sense, walking through Chelsea with a dog, that the borough was designed for this. Sometimes it feels as though waiters will remember your lurcher's name long after they've forgotten yours, but from chi-chi to shaggy chic, Chelsea has it nailed.

# Doggy delights





Cadogan CEO, Hugh Seaborn



LEFT: Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, Lord Cadogan, Shezad Dawood



Shezad Dawood



## ART IS EVERYWHERE

### ART UNVEILING AT THE GAUMONT

A new public artwork by acclaimed British artist Shezad Dawood was unveiled on the facade of The Gaumont. *Cascade*, a ceramic diptych depicting a night sky, was unveiled by Lord Cadogan from an open-top vintage bus. Guests enjoyed cocktails, vinyl DJ sets and panoramic views of London from The Gaumont's rooftop bar, followed by a screening of a film by Wallpaper\* about the creation of *Cascade*.  
196-222 King's Road



## GAME, SET, MATCH!

### TENNIS IN DUKE OF YORK SQUARE

Chelsea came together to celebrate Wimbledon at another sun-soaked Strawberries and Screen event. Pop-up bars were provided by The Chelsea Grocer and Polpo, younger tennis fans could enjoy free coaching sessions and there was comfy VIP seating sponsored by Phlur and Space NK.



# Community / Awards



## THE CHELSEA AWARDS

THE LATEST SET OF CHELSEA AWARDS will be presented at the Royal Hospital in October.

The initiative, created by Cadogan, has grown into a valued way of recognising contributions from local businesses and individuals to their own community.

It is heartening that so many of our readers are not just passive beneficiaries of the good works done by admirable locals – the many people and businesses that make Chelsea such a great place to live, work and visit.

IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE A LOCAL HERO FOR A COMMUNITY AWARD

London isn't a static place – it's a dynamic city that keeps changing, and there are constantly new characters and businesses that inject even more heart and vibrancy into

the Chelsea area.

This is your chance to have us honour those positive role models with an award – and it is also heartening for nominees to know that they have been recognised by the local community. Nominations continue until September 17, so please do take this opportunity to spread the love.

Amaia, the children's fashionwear store on Cale Street, has already been nominated in our Future Forward category and Chelsea Beach hair salon at the farmers market on Sydney Street is receiving

"CHELSEA'S VIBRANT CULTURAL SCENE IS WHAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY SO SPECIAL. WE'RE THEREFORE THRILLED TO BE SPONSORING THIS AWARD, RECOGNISING THOSE WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE CHELSEA'S UNIQUE CULTURAL IDENTITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE"

Russell Platt, general manager,  
The Cadogan – A Belmond Hotel



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## Community / Awards

### ONLY IN CHELSEA

Businesses that bring something unique to the area

### COMMUNITY HERO

An organisation or person that has benefited the community through their actions

### CULTURAL CHAMPION

An organisation that has enriched Chelsea's culture and raised the area's profile

### IN GOOD TASTE

Someone who has made Chelsea more delicious

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Businesses that have joined forces for the greater good

### MASTER OF CRAFT

An artisan who elevates the everyday to the extraordinary

### FUTURE FORWARD

A company that is innovating to meet tomorrow's challenges. That could be sustainability, experiential retail or something quite different

To make your nominations for worthy winners in the categories shown, visit [chelseaawards.com](http://chelseaawards.com) or scan the QR code



some strong support in the Masters of Craft category.

Unsurprisingly, with so many great places to eat and drink locally, the In Good Taste category has had a flurry of nominations including Hagen, Ice Cream Union, Provenance Village Butcher, Venchi and The Chelsea Grocer, which has picked up plenty of new admirers since it took root in Duke of York Square.

The Cultural Champion award is always a hotly contested category, with the Chelsea Flower Show and Royal Court Theatre having previously won – and local favourites the 606 Club and Green & Stone proving that you don't have to be big to be beautiful in the judges' eyes.

The Chelsea Physic Garden, the National Army Museum and the Chelsea History Festival have all received lots of support in the past but haven't yet triumphed with an award – and the eagerly anticipated Chelsea Arts Festival is yet to be experienced for the first time, which shows just how strong Chelsea is on the cultural front.

Russell Platt, general manager at The Cadogan – A Belmond Hotel, said: "We are proud to support the



Cultural Champion category at this year's Chelsea Awards.

"Chelsea's vibrant cultural scene is what makes our community so special. We're therefore thrilled to be sponsoring this award, recognising those who go above and beyond to promote and preserve Chelsea's unique cultural identity for the benefit of residents and visitors alike."

As ever, nominees depend on the support of the community around them, so if you love them, nominate them and our judges will be sure to consider them.



The Chelsea Awards are created and supported by Cadogan and *Sloane Square* magazine.

Thank you to our sponsors



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### WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR SPRUCE COME FROM?

Three weeks before my wedding, my husband became very ill. He was hospitalised and they ultimately needed to remove a third of his intestines. Then, after we got married, I struggled with infertility for almost 10 years, going through IVF. I began to do my own research and embarked on my “low tox” journey, switching to organic foods and looking into the ingredients in everyday products I used. One of the most shocking things I discovered is that indoor air is actually four times more polluted than outdoor air – even here, in London – because of poor ventilation, and that regularly using cleaning products can have the same effect as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. When I looked for cleaning products that I’d feel happy using in my own home, with ingredients that I’d feel comfortable using around my children, I couldn’t find any. So I decided to create my own.

### WHY DID YOU FEEL THIS WAS A PROBLEM YOU HAD TO SOLVE?

The problem I’d identified affects everyone, but

particularly women. Before leaving the house in the morning, women are exposed to more than 300 toxic chemicals from shampoo to skincare, air fresheners and synthetic fragrances. Women and children in the UK spend 90 per cent of their time indoors, constantly breathing in these chemicals and micro-plastics in the air. Many of the female founders I’ve met have a similar story – they’ve developed ethical brands because of a need that isn’t being met, which is perhaps overlooked by male-dominated industries.

### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SPRUCE?

I wanted Spruce to be different. From the outset we have said there will be no greenwashing, no false statements. If there is something we could do better, we’ll admit that – we’ll say, “We’re using this right now, but we’re actively searching for a better, cleaner or greener alternative”. That’s a better way to gain a customer’s trust. We don’t want to have 40 or 50 different products, either – we want a minimalist collection of products that we’re proud of, with ingredients that customers can feel comfortable using. We actually have a lot of customers who are cancer survivors, who say that these are the only products that don’t make their symptoms worse. That’s something that’s really important to us.

### HOW IS THE WIDER ATTITUDE CHANGING?

The facts and stats are scary, but a lot of people are waking up to this every day. This is no longer a niche sector. People are starting to look at what they eat,

looking for better products for their skincare and beauty routines, drinking less alcohol... it’s a holistic journey that more and more people are taking.

### WHAT ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT?

Our products are refillable and our refills come in paper packaging – no plastic. Our refills come in powder format – just add water at home – which means they weigh 140 times less than a full bottle that you buy in store. Just from a carbon footprint perspective, you can see how much more efficient it is to transport those lightweight kits without the water added. We make everything in the UK, using ethically sourced ingredients that are not toxic to the environment. That costs us more, but it’s worth it to us. Ultimately, we stand against mass consumerism. We want people to buy less, not more. Something I strongly believe is that you cannot just pick and choose activism – you have to have high moral standards across the board.

### WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES?

It’s been difficult to change the way people think about cleaning – people are so

used to it as a routine and tend to just pick up the same products they’ve been using for years. We also have to change people’s expectations around products. One example is that we don’t use synthetic scents, so we’d receive a lot of feedback at first saying that our laundry products cleaned clothes well but didn’t leave them with that “fresh laundry” smell. We needed to show people that those “linen fresh” or “ocean breeze” scents that you might get from other products don’t actually mean your clothes are cleaner – they’re manufactured, synthetic scents that aren’t found in nature. To do that, you have to unpack 30 years of advertising and marketing by big companies.

### WHY IS CHELSEA THE RIGHT PLACE FOR SPRUCE?

There are so many knowledgeable small business owners here and customers who are willing to experiment with category-changing products like ours. I can’t think of a better place for Spruce!

*You can find Spruce in Whole Foods (120 King’s Road), The Co-op (471-487 King’s Road) and online at [wearespruce.co](http://wearespruce.co)*

# Clean and green

CHELSEA RESIDENT MAHIRA KALIM HAS CREATED AN ECO-FRIENDLY, NON-TOXIC CLEANING BRAND. SHE TELLS US MORE

AS TOLD TO: ALICE CAIRNS





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MOLTENI&C FLAGSHIP STORES  
LONDON SW3 2EP, 245-249 BROMPTON ROAD / LONDON WC2H 8JR, 199 SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

## Charity / K+C Foundation



The Kensington and Chelsea Foundation's Corporate Patron Scheme offers local businesses a unique opportunity to support the borough, by providing essential funding for grassroots projects and accessing meaningful volunteering opportunities that make a real difference.

There is something for everyone in terms of tasks available: from helping a resident to practice interview skills to serving lunch, befriending an older person or using practical skills to improve a community space.

At a recent volunteering day, a team of employees from five local businesses helped to prepare an adventure playground for a summer of fun. In total, the businesses contributed more than 100 hours of labour and transformed the space to the delight of the centre manager and the families it serves.

Catherine Watling, corporate partnerships manager at the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation, said: "Many volunteers find themselves visiting parts of the borough they've never seen before. Kensington and Chelsea is a place of contrasts, and volunteering offers a broader perspective on the lives and challenges of its diverse

communities. We enable volunteers to engage with our charity partners in ways that are both helpful and meaningful."

Volunteering also strengthens teams. Getting involved in community projects outside the workplace fosters stronger relationships, boosts morale and can spark collaboration – not only between departments but between employees from different companies volunteering together.

Perhaps most importantly, volunteering through the Corporate Patron Scheme turns corporate social responsibility into genuine human connection. It's a chance for businesses and individuals to be part of the solution, while giving back to a borough rich in opportunity but also deeply in need.

Angela Montebello, sustainability manager at The Hari hotel, said: "Partnering with the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation to support Hornimans Adventure Playground was an incredibly rewarding experience. Six of our colleagues came together to help enhance this vital community space, which gives local children a safe and inspiring place to play and grow.

"At The Hari, social impact isn't a one-off, it's something we live and breathe, and this initiative was a meaningful way to give back to our neighbourhood."

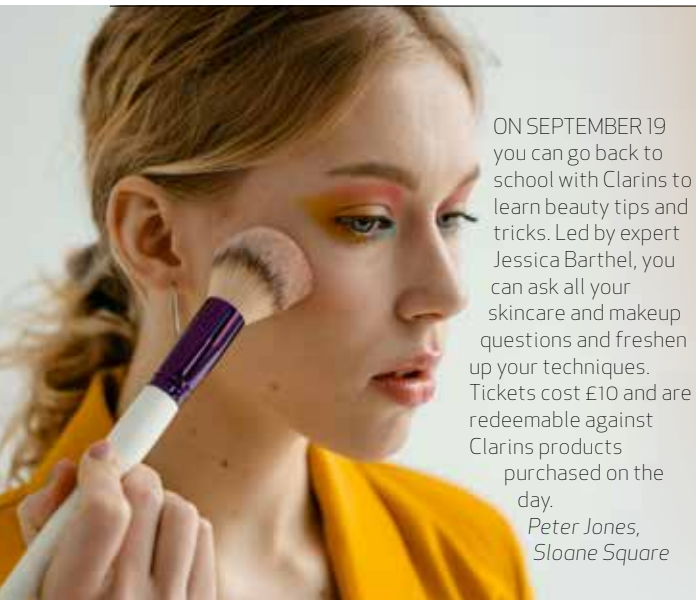
For more information on how to become a corporate patron contact [cwatling@thekandcfoundation.com](mailto:cwatling@thekandcfoundation.com)

Kensington  
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To find out more or to make a donation, please visit [thekandcfoundation.com](http://thekandcfoundation.com)

## Beauty / News



ON SEPTEMBER 19 you can go back to school with Clarins to learn beauty tips and tricks. Led by expert Jessica Barthel, you can ask all your skincare and makeup questions and freshen up your techniques. Tickets cost £10 and are redeemable against Clarins products purchased on the day.  
*Peter Jones,  
Sloane Square*

THE LATEST INNOVATIVE product from Cosmetics à la Carte is an SPF 50 sun cream that isn't heavy or greasy - it's designed to be invisible on the skin. The cream, £45, doubles up as a hydrating primer that helps your foundation to last longer, and is infused with a whole host of nourishing skincare ingredients including vitamin B3. Soak up the last of the summer sun, guilt free!



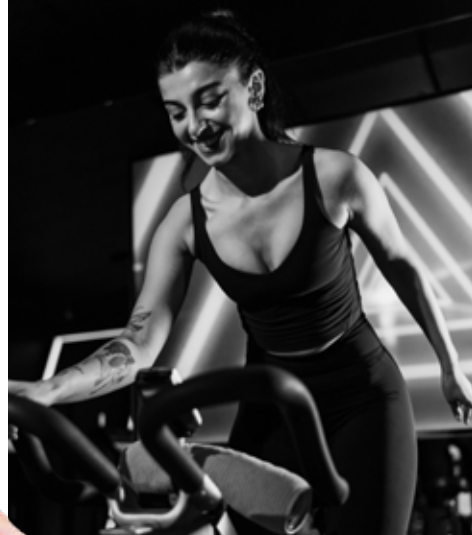
*192 Pavilion Road*

L'OBJET'S BESTSELLING Kérylos fragrance is now available as a soap and lotion. It's a zingy Mediterranean citrus scent with fresh notes of yuzu, mandarin and grapefruit and a spicy base of sandalwood, white musk and wild herbs. Layering it with your perfume is a great way to keep the scent lasting all day.  
*162a Sloane Street*

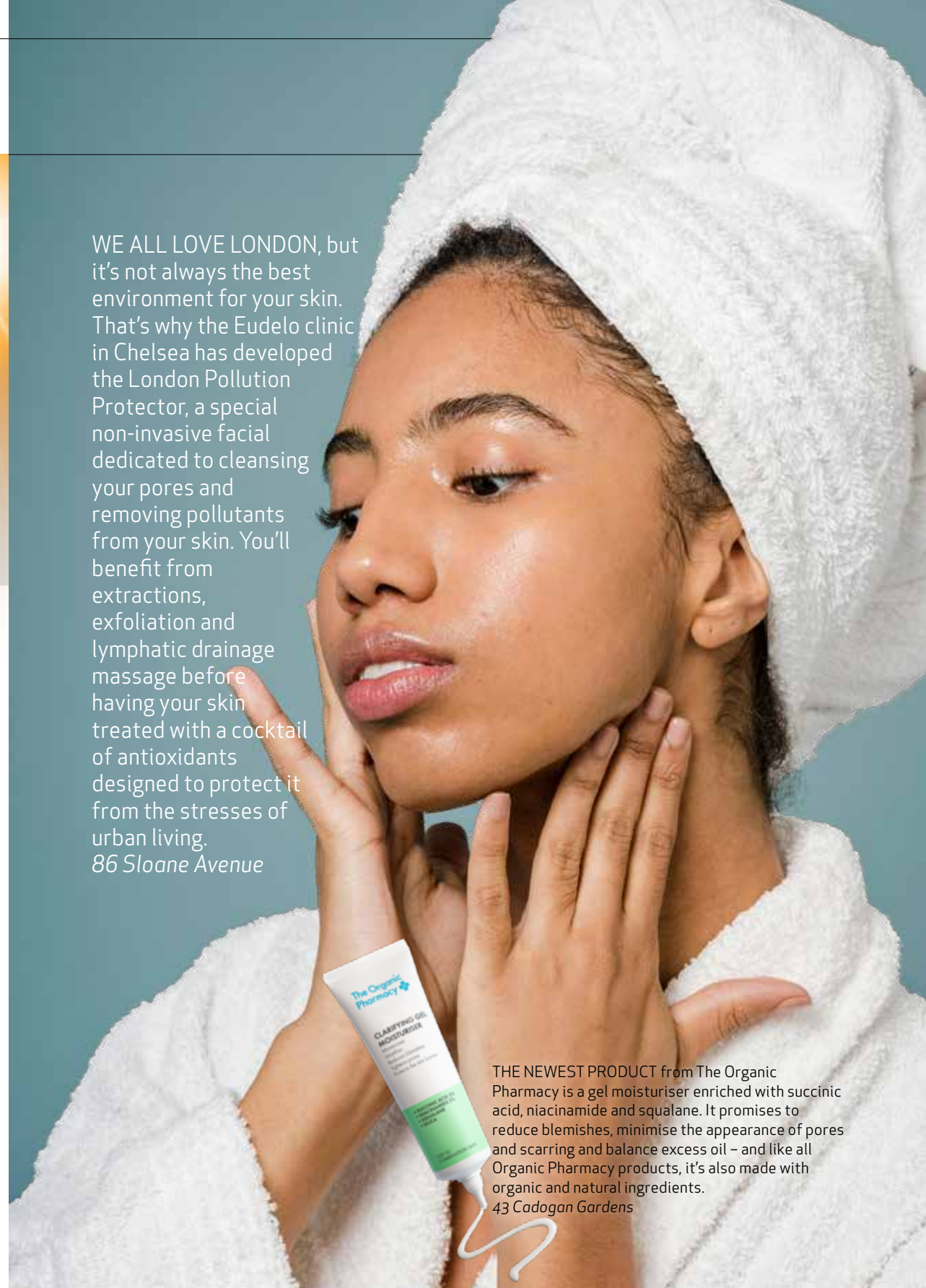


SHORT ON TIME but in need of a workout? The U-cycle Xpress class at KXU takes just 35 minutes, but is so high energy that it'll still give you great results. It's an indoor cycling class with a disco feel created by the energetic tunes, colourful strobe lighting and, of course, a dangling disco ball. Squeeze a session in between meetings or at the end of a long day to boost your energy and get your blood pumping.

*241 Pavilion Road*



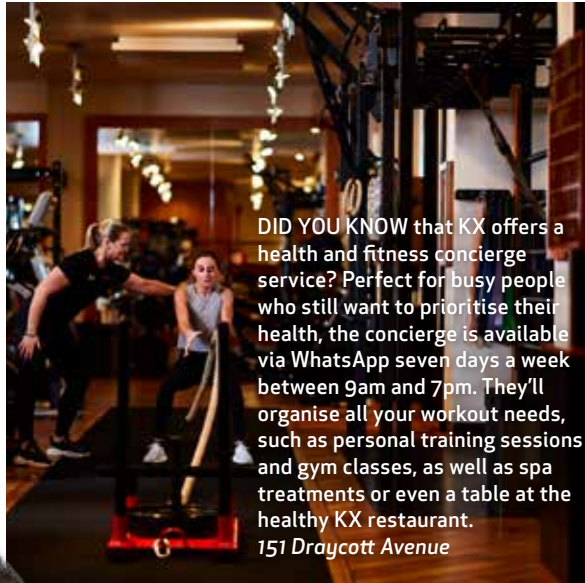
WE ALL LOVE LONDON, but it's not always the best environment for your skin. That's why the Eudelo clinic in Chelsea has developed the London Pollution Protector, a special non-invasive facial dedicated to cleansing your pores and removing pollutants from your skin. You'll benefit from extractions, exfoliation and lymphatic drainage massage before having your skin treated with a cocktail of antioxidants designed to protect it from the stresses of urban living.  
*86 Sloane Avenue*



THE NEWEST PRODUCT from The Organic Pharmacy is a gel moisturiser enriched with succinic acid, niacinamide and squalane. It promises to reduce blemishes, minimise the appearance of pores and scarring and balance excess oil - and like all Organic Pharmacy products, it's also made with organic and natural ingredients.  
*43 Cadogan Gardens*

DIPTYQUE IS ADDING a new scent to its Les Essences de Diptyque fragrance collection. Lazulio is inspired by the beauty of lapis lazuli as well as the rippling colours of a peacock feather. Notes of rhubarb, rose, benzoin and vetiver combine to create a rich, woody scent with a citrus twist. The fragrance comes in an engraved glass bottle with a delicate peacock feather design by artist Nigel Peake.

161 Sloane Street



**DID YOU KNOW** that KX offers a health and fitness concierge service? Perfect for busy people who still want to prioritise their health, the concierge is available via WhatsApp seven days a week between 9am and 7pm. They'll organise all your workout needs, such as personal training sessions and gym classes, as well as spa treatments or even a table at the healthy KX restaurant. 151 Draycott Avenue

Skincare supremo Sarah Chapman's Power 1 serum was a sell-out success. Now she's launched Power 2, a brightening antioxidant formula that is designed to even your skin tone, reduce dark spots, refine texture and give you a glow.

Sarah Chapman  
Skinesis Clinic,  
259 Pavilion Road



THE NEW MUST-have from Nars is the afterglow lip shine, a lip gloss that gives your lips a mirror-like sheen. The formula is hydrating, lasts up to eight hours and is blended with jojoba oil and pomegranate extract to nourish your lips and protect them from environmental stressors.

Peter Jones, Sloane Square



DIPTYQUE  
PARIS



# KEEP IN THE KNOW



We know that these days you might not be in the area every day – or you may just visit us occasionally – but you still want to keep up-to-date with what's happening locally

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# My Chelsea / Sol Golden Sato

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT CHELSEA?

Chelsea made me an artist. I originally came here for a job interview – I didn't like the job, but I did like the area. So I stayed, renting rooms all over Chelsea, and I discovered how strong the creative community is here. You can go into any local pub and bump into a writer or a rock star. There have always been artists here, and I find that



SOL GOLDEN SATO IS A CHELSEA-BASED ARTIST WHO WORKS FROM STUDIOS ON THE KING'S ROAD. HE SHARES HIS FAVOURITE LOCAL SPOTS AS TOLD TO: ALICE CAIRNS



CHELSEA ARTS CLUB



GREEN & STONE BY CHARLIE MACKESY

places don't change their character that much. You breathe all that history in without even being aware of it. I began to spend more time on my art, and before I knew it, I was a Chelsea artist.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK?

My art is political and philosophical, and at the moment I'm inspired to make work that highlights the rights of children. I enjoy working in my community, for example with local young people, to make art more accessible. I want

them to feel confident walking into places like Saatchi and the V&A.

## WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR ART SUPPLIES?

Green & Stone [251-253 Fulham Road] is a go-to – if I have a question they can always answer it. My local Ryman [345 King's Road] is also a great resource. The guy who runs it used to have an art supply store on the Fulham

Road, and I've been taking advice from him for more than 20 years.

## WHERE DO YOU GO FOR INSPIRATION?

The one place that has been most crucial for my development is the Chelsea Library [Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road]. Not everyone knows that many London libraries specialise in certain areas, and the Chelsea Library specialises in fashion and art. If you go into the reference section, you'll find every resource you could need on photography, painting, fashion and sculpture.

## WHICH CHELSEA ARTISTS INSPIRE YOU?

I recently went to see Whistler's paintings at the Chelsea Arts Club [143

Old Church Street] and at the V&A. I'm thinking of doing something inspired by the American painters who lived and worked here, including John Singer Sargent on Tite Street.

## WHERE DO YOU SPEND YOUR FREE TIME?


I'm a big fan of Chelsea FC, so I love going to Stamford Bridge. I also love browsing the Worlds End Bookshop – my studio is full of books! When I first came to Chelsea I was suffering from anxiety and burnout, and I spent a lot of time at mindfulness groups. The people I met reminded me that art helps you get in touch with yourself and express what you're going through.



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WATCH FEATURED SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY