CONDÉ NAST

DRAWING INSPIRATION

As art lovers arrive in London for Frieze, *Rosemary Rhode* looks at properties to captivate creatives, both in and around the capital

TWENTY GROSVENOR SQUARE, W1
This Grade II-listed, mid 18th-century mansion is both its coolest private home, the 37 apartments within which have been designed by Kelly Hoppen. Number includes a six-bath unit, a 23-metre swimming pool (from £17.5 million).
Knight Frank Mayfair 020 7629 8171

Every October, artists, galleries, dealers and collectors from around the world gather in London for the annual Frieze art fair. Region's Bank estimates that the event will attract many millions of pounds' worth of art, from contemporary marvels to Old Masters. Although the city's celebration of visual art reaches a peak during Frieze week, it has long been a popular base for those who move in creative circles. Different districts have particular associations: Chelsea was historically the old artists' quarter, while Bloomsbury was home to the Bohemian set in particular towards the flourishing art scene in the East End. Mayfair has long been the hub for the grand commercial galleries, many of which have been in the area for generations, and it is still a focal point for the city's international art scene.

Auction house Sotheby's, the famous auction house, which has sold everything from drawings by da Vinci to a self-destructing painting with a built-in shredder by Banksy, The Royal Academy is close by – the institution is home to both students and practising artists, while its famous Summer Exhibition preview party is one of the highlights of London's social calendar.

Mayfair is also home to a number of the most exclusive addresses in the capital, and a coveted spot for a pied-à-terre. This tradition has been continued with the recent completion of Treetop Grosvenor Square, one of the most ambitious new developments in the capital. Built on the site of the former European headquarters of the US navy, it comprises 25 apartments, designed by Kelly Hoppen, and a penthouse. The latter, which is inspired by the area's grand Georgian past, the building has classically inspired rooms with soaring ceilings and high sash windows that overlook the leafy garden square.

Moving into the future of the West End, between Covent Garden and the Royal Courts of Justice, a striking artwork has been commissioned to mark another new development. Created by the Argentinian-French artist and designer Pablo Reinoso, L'Arche is a sinuous archway, wrought from twisting strands of metal that will stand at the entrance to the spectacular food point in Lincoln Square, a residential project by Lodha. Standing proudly outside the building, the piece functions both as a public artwork and as a decorative flourish, designed to catch the eye of both residents and passersby.

Further east, Shoreditch, another of London's leading art spots, first emerged from the late 1980s as the epicentre of the Young British Artists movement. Many of the YBAs' leading lights lived and worked in this vibrant area, including Tracey Emin, Gavin Turk and Gillian Wearing, and there are still plenty of established artists based in the vicinity. This popular corner of the East End is also home to a number of top galleries, such as the Whitechapel Gallery, Kate MacGarry and Flowers.

At the heart of all this is The Stage, a striking mixed-use development set on a 2.5-acre site that was once the location of William Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre. The remains of the old building will be displayed in a heritage centre in the basement of the new one, which will have 15 storey towers will house 413 apartments. The developer, Guilford Homes, has also partnered with Initiate Markets, a Mayfair gallery that has opened a second space at The Stage. Built within the brick arches of a disused Victorian railway station, the gallery shows contemporary art – recent exhibitions included 'Firestarter', which featured the work of four up-and-coming British artists.

For keen art collectors, the type of home that they live in just as important as the area.

'A huge number of our clients collect art, and many are seeking museum standards within the properties they purchase,' says Will Watson, a partner at The Buying Solution. 'High ceilings, good light, generous wall space, and more neutral backgrounds are on the wish lists of the big collectors, as well as considerations for how pieces can be hung or displayed to enhance the effect. Also, security is paramount, as is accessibility with regards to getting the pieces inside.'

Steppingstone in Cheshire would make a good statement residence for a keen art collector, ticking many of the above boxes and criteria. Built by the current owners, it's got a top-notch security system and has climate-control technology to ensure the perfect conditions for priceless pieces.

Alternatively, Thorpe Hall in County Durham has enough space – 22,000 square feet, to be precise – to house even the largest of collections. There are also a number of outbuildings that could easily be adapted or converted into studios or a gallery. Recently renovated, the Grade II* listed house is in excellent condition, with glorious gardens landscaped by Arne Maynard – surely the perfect setting to display sculpture.

If you're reluctant to leave London, there's always the exquisite home set previous spread, in Chelsea's Glebe Place. The owner, who has a large contemporary art collection, has had the property extended and modernised. With a huge double-height living space, flooded with natural light, it's an excellent canvas to display contemporary works.

No matter where you choose to live, however, a new home is the perfect excuse to buy another piece of art. After all, there's only so long you can stare at a blank wall.

MONTEVIOTTED, SW11
Richard Rogers' iconic residential development Montevetro is an stylish today as when it was first completed in 2000.This one-bedroom penthouse has five to six bedrooms and spans the top three floors of the building with triple-aspect views across London.£6.5 million.
Knight Frank: 020 7861 5500

LINCOLN SQUARE, WC2
Set south of Lincoln's Inn Fields, this residential development is within walking distance of the City and Covent Garden. Talk and Kay Cottage Lincoln are located in the area of the Inns of Court, Holborn and Fleet Street. Age is the shared spaces, which include a concierge service, a gym and a screening room. Prices start at £1 million. An express coach will take residents to Paris in two hours.

OAKLEY STREET, SW3
This Grade II-listed townhouse in Chelsea has been fully refurbished by the current owners. Set over five floors, it has a 30-foot drawing room with excellent light and views. It has a garden and off-street parking, and the lower ground floor has been designed to be used as a self-contained flat with its own entrance. £5.7 million.
Knight Frank: 020 7719 8709

THORPE HALL, CO DURHAM
An 18th-century manor on approximately 10 acres, Thorpe Hall is surrounded by a 2.5-acre walled garden and has a number of outbuildings that could be adapted for use as a studio or art space. Set in the historic market town of Barnard Castle, home of the renowned Bowes Museum, it's within easy reach of the A1(M).
Knight Frank: 0191 594 1200

THE STABLES, SE3
Apartments in the Victorian Dunstalls' development will range from studios to three-bedroom penthouses, encircling a central public piazza that's home to a weekly market. In London it's conveniently close to Liverpool Street station, and in addition to the mid-to-out 2021 Fares £485,000. Galliard 020 7774 1774

STEPPINGSTONE, CHESHIRE
Set above Cheshire's Wirral Peninsula, with panoramic views towards the Welsh hills, this large family home combines a Victorian villa with state-of-the-art technology. All on a two-acre plot, the grounds include an indoor pool, a sauna and a gym. £3.95 million
Rook & Rees: 01744 734972

ST JOHN STREET, EC1
This period property, Nelson's Yard, is a contemporary addition to an old Victorian building that originally housed the offices of the Camino Brewery Company. The large, lateral space, with full-height windows and a mezzanine level, has a 'wow' factor, some of which it retains in its conversion. £1.3M million.
Mayfair Sales Cars: 020 7724 3412