

# Art in Lewisham

## Celebrate one of the edgiest, hippest and original art scenes in London

Creativity thrives in Lewisham, with a constant stream of new galleries, exhibitions and workshops. The artistic community is reinforced through local networks such as Deptford Arts Network, RSVP Deptford and Havelock Walk in Forest Hill.

The Deptford X festival has put Lewisham firmly on the map when it comes to contemporary visual art in London. Other opportunities to see art include the Brockley Max

festival, Brockley Open Studios ([www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.brockleyopenstudios.co.uk)) and Lee Green Open studios.

The Council funds events such as Deptford X, and also runs small grant schemes such as the Take Part fund. Recent recipients include Tea Leaf Arts, a community run arts space in Brockley; Lookout Post, an exhibition at Sydenham Hill Woods Nature Reserve; and Arts Adventures, a children's art project at Lewisham Hospital.



Gravity will not hold us down by Graeme Wilcox at the Blackheath Gallery



### Goldsmiths

With ex-students like Damien Hirst, Lucian Freud and Steve McQueen, as well as six Turner Prize winners, it's no wonder aspiring artists from across the world flock to Goldsmiths. Part of the University of London since 1904, it has long been celebrated as a hub of creativity and inspiration. It was Goldsmiths students who gave birth to the exciting era of Young British Artists (YBA) in 1988, while the college itself has made the annual list of 'cool' UK brands five times, alongside names like Apple, Nintendo and Aston Martin.

This influence, unsurprisingly, has spread into everyday New Cross life. Goldsmiths' art students have long shared their creativity with the local community through shops, stalls and exhibitions, many staying on after graduation to sink their creative roots into places like New Cross, Deptford and Brockley.

### Public art

You don't have to go to a gallery to see art in Lewisham. If you know where to look, you can find sculptures, murals and other public art all over the borough. Many pieces you're probably already familiar with, such as the poem on the wall in Shardeloes Road, Brockley, Will Alsop's 'scribble' sculpture on top of Goldsmiths' Ben Pimlott Building, the Horniman mosaic, and the pink 'His n Hers' mural in Deptford by local public artists Artmongers. For more information and a map of public art, visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk) and search for public art.

### Art courses

Whether art is your hobby or vocation, Lewisham has classes for all abilities, ages and interests. Lewisham Arthouse offers courses and workshops in life drawing, batiks, botanical illustration, ceramics, mosaic, and photography. Horniman Museum's art programme is equally varied with everything from Japanese calligraphy and nature photography to an after-school art club.

Community Education Lewisham has art courses for adults at its centres in Brockley, Granville Park, Grove Park and Kirkdale. Lewisham College, meanwhile, offers Art and Design BTEC courses as well as a visual/creative arts programme for adults with learning difficulties.

### Artist Oliver MacDonald, 34, lives and works in New Cross

'I've got a bit of a history of doing inflatable art work,' says Oliver MacDonald. Or maybe that should be a reputation – at Oliver's first presentation as a Goldsmiths student he 'vacuum packed' over 40 visitors in the room with an inflatable installation and ended up collapsing the suspended ceiling! His latest creation is a 16-foot inflatable gallery made of white tarpaulin, produced for the recent SHOWFLAT project, in which a group of artists whose homes are also their studios opened their doors to the public.

Born in Suffolk, Oliver started his artistic career as a bespoke willow weaver, making furniture, fencing and sculptures for high-profile clients such as the Chelsea Flower Show. Then, in February 2000, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Deciding to give up willow basketry, he moved to London to do a Fine Art degree at Goldsmiths – and stayed.

Oliver's artwork has been exhibited at many venues, including the Portland Gallery, Selfridges and St Pancras Church. He's currently involved with a project called Open Gallery, which encourages ex-offenders, recovering addicts and people with mental health issues to pursue further education.

[www.olivermacdonald.co.uk](http://www.olivermacdonald.co.uk)



Local artist Oliver MacDonald

### GALLERIES

#### APT Studios

6 Creekside, Deptford SE8  
☎ 020 8694 8344  
[www.apstudios.org](http://www.apstudios.org)

#### Arch Gallery

15 Resolution Way, Deptford SE8  
☎ 020 8469 0260  
[www.archgallery.net](http://www.archgallery.net)

#### Bearspace

152 Deptford High Street, Deptford SE8  
☎ 020 8694 8097  
[www.bearspace.co.uk](http://www.bearspace.co.uk)

#### Blackheath Gallery

34a Tranquil Vale, Blackheath SE3  
☎ 020 8852 1802  
[www.blackheath-gallery.co.uk](http://www.blackheath-gallery.co.uk)

#### Honor Oak Gallery

52 Honor Oak Park, Honor Oak SE23  
☎ 020 8291 6094

#### Limelight Gallery at Lewisham Library

99 Lewisham High Street SE13  
☎ 020 8314 7728

#### Stark Gallery

384-386 Lee High Road SE12  
☎ 020 8318 4040  
[www.starkgallery.com](http://www.starkgallery.com)

#### Sunrise Ceramics

218 Algernon Road, Ladywell SE13  
☎ 020 8690 8020  
[www.sunriseceramics.com](http://www.sunriseceramics.com)

#### Tea Leaf Arts

The Tea Factory, 106 Endwell Road SE4  
[www.tea-leaf-arts.com](http://www.tea-leaf-arts.com)

#### Temporary Contemporary

The Old Police Station, 114-116 Amersham Vale, New Cross SE14  
[www.tempcontemp.co.uk](http://www.tempcontemp.co.uk)

#### You don't bring me flowers

15 Staplehurst Road SE13  
☎ 020 8297 2333  
[www.youdontbringmeflowers.co.uk](http://www.youdontbringmeflowers.co.uk)

For more galleries, visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/leisureandculture/museumsandgalleries](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/leisureandculture/museumsandgalleries)