

storefront and you may ask to look at it. If they think you're seriously interested and likely to buy, the gallery staff will be happy to show you anything you please - a room is usually set aside for viewing - but if they suspect you're merely idling, they will be extremely reluctant. It also helps if you have some idea of what you're looking for and how much you can spend.

Instead of working with a fixed stable, some galleries offer shows to different artists each month, which means there are no repeats and they don't keep work in store. You either have to take pot luck, hoping you will see something you like from the current exhibition, or keep an eye on the various shows as they come up. Prices are rarely up on the wall, but don't hesitate to ask for the price list. If it seems a bit steep, remember that galleries will often allow you to pay in instalments. And prices are frequently negotiable - in other words it's always worth bargaining.

We list below galleries that will give you a good choice up to a price ceiling of £1,500.

COMMERCIAL GALLERIES

The most interesting of the commercial galleries' exhibitions, which change every three to four weeks, are listed in *Time Out's* 'Art' columns each week. They're free and are essential viewing if you want to keep in touch with what's going on in contemporary art.

CENTRAL: BELGRAVIA

Raab Gallery 29 Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, SW1X 7DD (245 9521). Hyde Park Corner underground. Open 10.30am-7pm Mon-Fri; 11am-5pm Sat. No credit cards.

All on its own in Belgravia, this gallery specializes in figurative contemporary German and British - often Scottish - painters, most of whom tend to be too pricey for our budget. But Scotsman Ken Currie uses a strong realism to make political drawings costing £1,000; and Keith McIntyre, another young Scot, specializes in mythical subjects, such as mermaids. His coloured drawings cost from £500 to £900, and his paintings from £1,500. David Howsley's curiously static figures are like marionettes manipulated by unseen hands. You can buy his drawings for £400 and his paintings from £700. Peter Chevalier, who might also be described as a metaphysical realist, paints gouaches (£1,000). Richard Gilbert's in-credibly lush pastel drawings of female nudes range from £300 to £700. Mourad, one of this gallery's few women artists, paints rich landscapes on paper for £500, and on canvas from £800 to £3,000. A new Raab branch opens soon near the Tate Gallery, where many of the gallery's exciting new Scottish artists and some Berlin artists can be seen.

Delivery service. Export scheme.

Branch: 6 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1 (8823) 1383.

CENTRAL: BLOOMSBURY

Horizon Gallery 70 Marchmont Street, WC1N 1AB (837 1431). Russell Square underground/68 bus. Open 11am-6pm Mon-Fri; 10am-5pm Sat. No credit cards.

This gallery specializes in showing work by Indian artists. There's no permanent stable, but work is always for sale. Most of it is extremely interesting, and prices are very reasonable. For example, a recent collection of delightful, traditional paintings in rice paint on paper by the Warli tribe were only £100. Sutapa Biswas trained and lives in the UK; her allegorical scenes from family life are in a strong graphic style and cost £1,000 to £1,200. Balraj Khanna's decorative abstract paintings are priced from £300 to £1,200. Jagjit Chohan's exotic flower paintings and jungle vegetation cost £570 to £1,200, but her drawings are only £350.

Catalogues. Mailing list.

CENTRAL: CITY

Anthony Reynolds Gallery 37 Cowper Street, EC2A 4AP (608 1516). Old Street underground/BR. Open 11am-6pm Tue-Sun. No credit cards.

A four-year-old gallery in a marvellous warehouse space. Works by many of the artists are highly priced, but Tim Head's drawings cost from £750. David Austen's wickedly-funny drawings are still £200, and his paintings start at £850. Andrew Mansfield's still-lives cost £800 to £4,000. Sue Arrowsmith works with photographic imagery, priced from £1250. Alain Miller, a recent graduate of Goldsmiths College's MA course, produces ironic figurative canvases, priced from £2,500. Ian Breakwell's quirky self-portrait drawings start at £900 and Amikam Toren's drawings cost from £800. Anthony Wilson's photo pieces start at £800.

Flaxman Gallery 3 Lever Street, EC1V 3QU (253 9515). Angel or Barbican underground. Open 11am-6pm Tue-Fri; 2-6pm Sat, Sun. Credit TC, V.

The work of good young British artists is the speciality of this gallery, tucked away in a courtyard near Old Street. Prices are sensible. Star artists in the stable include Robin Mason, whose rather surreal landscapes, where fleshy plants grow in a strange light, are £150 for small gouaches and £400 for strong charcoal drawings. He also makes screens with the drawings behind glass (good value at £650). Louise Vercoe works in pencil to make highly-detailed drawings of gardens and landscapes, given a slightly ominous mood by the presence of bones and other signs of death or decay (£190-£300). Wendy Hodge makes expressionist landscapes, often featuring dead trees. Her oils on paper are £300 and on canvas £700 to £1,100. Tim Maguire is an Australian artist, whose haunting, desolate scenes of the outback in oil on paper are £700. Delivery service. Disabled access to gallery. Export scheme. Mailing list.

CENTRAL: COVENT GARDEN

Paton Gallery 2 Langley Street, off Long Acre, WC2E 9JY (379 7854). Covent Garden underground. Open 11am-6pm Tue-Sat. Credit STC.

See picture and caption.

Delivery service (free within London). Mailing list for potential buyers.

Smith's Galleries 54-56 Earham Street, WC2 (836 9701). Covent Garden underground. Open 11am-7pm Mon-Sat; occasional Bank Holidays. Credit STC.

There are three galleries in this complex, all of which are for hire. Fees are high, so Smith's tend to attract serious artists, who may show anything from paintings and sculpture to illustrations, ceramics or furniture. The quality of exhibitions is generally good.

Café (8.30am-10.30pm Mon-Sat; noon-5pm Sun). Catalogues published periodically.

CENTRAL: GOODGE STREET

Angela Flowers 11 Tottenham Meuse, off Tottenham Street, W1P 9PJ (637 3089). Goodge Street underground. Open 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; 10.30am-1pm Sat. Credit A, STC, V.

A friendly upstairs space run by Angela Flowers and her son. They concentrate on figurative work, mainly by young artists, and have prints from £50 and drawings and paintings from £100. Their most interesting artists are: Amanda Faulkner, whose fiercely exotic females appear in prints (£195) and gorgeously-coloured drawings (£200-£1,500). Sculptress Nicola Hicks, whose animal drawings go on sale for £300 to £1,800, and John Keane, whose vicious political witticisms appear in gouaches (£800-£1,500). Patrick Hughes's witty watercolours cost only £400, and for £500 you can buy a Lucy Jones drawing or one of her small, intensely-colourful Fauvist city and landscapes. Peter Howson specializes in hulking working-class heroes (etchings, £150; pastels from £1,000). The new, larger space in the East End (see below Branches) has a separate graphics gallery, as well as a gallery for painting and sculpture.

Bookshop. Catalogues. Export scheme. Postal delivery.

Branches: Flowers East, 199-205 Richmond Road, E8 (985 3333).

Rebecca Hossack 35 Windmill Street, W1 (609 3599). Goodge Street underground. Open 11am-7pm Mon-Sat. Credit A, AmEx, V.

See picture and caption p133. Catalogues. Delivery service. Wheelchair access.

CENTRAL: MAYFAIR

Anne Berthoud Gallery First Floor, 10 Clifford Street, W1X 1RB (437 1645). Oxford Circus underground. Open 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri; 10am-1pm Sat. Credit TC.

Anne Berthoud's small, friendly upstairs gallery is nine years old. Recently she has taken on some exciting new artists: abstract painters, such as Alison Turnbull, whose works sell from £500; Noel Forster, who paints lively abstracts (£650-£8,000), and Californian abstract painter Albert Smith, whose work rises in price from £600 to £2,000. Photo pieces by French artist Denis Brihat in both colour and black and white start at £500. Michael Blogett's grandiose classical landscapes will be on show for the first time this year. Michael Upton's work costs from £1,500, as does Simon Lewy's. The gallery also carries prints by British and Swiss artists, ceramics by Kenyan Magdalen Odundo in colourful orange shapes, and interior paintings by Charlotte Verity (from £500). Work by Robert Mason, Tom Phillips and Frank Auerbach is available.

Catalogues published periodically. Delivery service (delivery abroad can be arranged). Export scheme. Mailing list for customers.

Benjamin Rhodes Gallery 4 New Burlington Place, W1X 1SB (434 1768/9). Oxford Circus underground. Open 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; 10.30am-1.30pm Sat. No credit cards.

An airy, spacious gallery on two floors, showing mainly strongly-coloured work situated on the abstract/figurative divide. The most interesting artist is the Israeli sculptor, Zadok Ben-David,

whose drawings cost £500. Tricia Gillman's richly-handled paintings start at £450 and rise to £3,000. A watercolour by Sylvia Guirey costs £150 to £300; Bruce Russell's paintings start at £700. Richard Webb's prints are priced at £65 and his paintings from £250. Christopher Cook's dreamy, narrative landscapes were influenced by a stay in Italy. Drawings start at £300 and paintings at £1,800. Eileen Cooper makes affirmative images of motherhood. Her drawings cost £600 and her paintings from £1,000 to £5,000, but prints are £200. An artist with a future is Glenn Sujo, whose beautiful, large paintings start at £1,000. Catalogue. Export scheme. Mailing list.

Edward Totah Gallery 1st floor, 13 Old Burlington Street, W1 (734 0343). Green Park or Piccadilly Circus underground. Open 2-6pm Mon; 11am-6pm Tue-Fri; 11am-1pm Sat.

A gallery occupying the first and second floors of a building above a tailor's, Edward Totah is the exceptionally friendly owner; his gallery shows mainly figurative painting. The Gallery represents eight English artists, and shows important foreign artists with international acclaim. Exhibitions change monthly. The Gallery closes for August.

Fabian Carlsson Gallery 160 New Bond Street, W1Y 0HR (409 0619). Bond Street or Green Park underground. Open 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; 10am-1pm Sat. No credit cards.

Most of Carlsson's artists are too expensive for our budget, but it's still possible to buy a lushly-dark Hughie O'Donoghue drawing or a Lance Smith drawing for £1,500. Both artists are strong British painters and a good investment. Andy Goldsworthy's glorious colour photographs of short-lived outdoor sculptures made from ice, snow, leaves and other perishable materials, cost from £1,200. Michael Portet's studies for paintings start at £500, his paintings at £1,000. Catalogues. Delivery service. Disabled access to gallery. Export scheme. Mailing list.

Gimpel Fils 30 Davies Street, W1Y 1LG (493 2488). Bond Street underground. Open 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri; 10am-1pm Sat. Credit STC.

Gimpel Fils, near Cork Street, shows large, colourful abstracts by Albert Irvin, William Scott and Alan Davie. These are too expensive for our budget, but works by younger artists are within reach. Terry Atkinson produces brilliantly-acerbic political pastels on paper (£350-£1,500). Art in Ruins are a duo who make ironic installations. Their photo-pieces, drawings and witty combines of found objects and painted images cost £300. Catalogues eight times a year (charges vary).

Delivery can be arranged. Disabled access to ground floor. Export scheme. Mailing list to customers.

Mercury Gallery 26 Cork Street, W1 1HB (734 7900). Green Park or Piccadilly Circus underground. Open 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri; 10am-12.30pm Sat. Credit TC.

The Mercury specializes in Scottish artists and mainly shows good decorative work. Our favourite artist in their stable is Elizabeth Blackadder, whose large, sumptuous watercolours of flowers and exotic objects cost £750. Her husband, John Houston, is an expressionist painter whose canvases of people are the same price. Mick Rooney's narrative gouaches cost £500; Carol Ann Sutherland's watercolours of boats and landscapes are £4,550, and David Remfry's watercolours cost £950. At the annual student shows held here in September and October, prices start at £50.

Advice on framing. Catalogues. Delivery service for large paintings. Disabled access to ground-floor gallery. Export scheme. Mailing list.

Nicola Jacobs Gallery 9 Cork Street, W1X 1PD (437 3868). Green Park or Piccadilly Circus underground. Open 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri; 10am-1pm Sat. Credit STC.

Nicola Jacobs runs one of the few Cork Street galleries offering works within our price range. Her lovely two-tiered space has been open for eight years and her artists are becoming established here and abroad. Exquisite figurative drawings by Louise Blair cost from £1,000; acrylics on paper by the figurative painter Simon Edmondson cost £800. Other young artists include Cecile Johnson (£500), Simon Perry (from £1,500) and Colin Smith (from £1,000). Delivery service within London.

Salama-Caro Gallery 5-6 Cork Street, W1X 1PB (734 9179/551 1078). Green Park or Piccadilly Circus underground. Open 10am-6pm Mon-Fri; 11am-2pm Sat. No credit cards.

This gallery specializes in young British artists, so prices are attractive. One of the most interesting in the stable is Calum Colvin, a Scotsman who paints images across elaborate sets, then makes large cibachrome photographs that contrast the real and the imagined. These cost £650. Another interesting artist is Anne Lydiat, who makes apparently abstract sculptures and paintings with a strong feminist subtext. Her canvases cost from £600 to £1,600. Adrian Everitt's Rouault-like monographs of heads cost £800, and his reliefs on wood panel are £1,200. Itamar's highly-contrived abstract drawings and pastels are priced from £800, and David Begbie's elegant etchings of male and female nudes cost £1,500. Recent exhibitions have also included young photographers and also drawings priced well within our budget.

Catalogues for some exhibitions. Delivery can be arranged. Disabled access to gallery. Export scheme. Mailing list.



Rebecca Hossack, a lively Australian, opened her eponymous gallery in Windmill Street (see page 133 under Central: Goodge Street) two years ago. The shows have varied from Papunya Tula - an exhibition of colourful aboriginal paintings, to the French artist Bernard Faucom - and young British artists, whose works all fall beneath our price ceiling of £1,500. Plant mythology paintings by Scottish artist Colin Johnstones cost £150 to £3,000; Myra Stimson's plaster reliefs rise from £150 to £1,950; Ann Carrington's sculpture; start at £50 and go up to £2,000. Simon Packard's animal and bird woodcuts start at £200, Michael Monk's abstracts at £800, Peter Lewis's figurative work at £800 and Lydia Bauman's mixed media still-lives at £350. Sabrina Crew, who used to run the Artist's Register but now assists Rebecca Hossack, is encouraging to potential buyers, so don't hesitate to ask for help.