



LONDON'S BEST SHOPS & MARKETS

David Hampshire

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The Author

David Hampshire's career has taken him around the world and he lived and worked in many countries before taking up writing full-time in the '80s. He's the author, co-author or editor of some 25 titles, including *London for Foodies, Gourmets & Gluttons, London's Cafés, Coffee Shops & Tearooms, London's Secret Places, London's Secrets: Museums & Galleries, London's Secrets: Parks & Gardens, London's Secrets: Peaceful Places* and *A Year in London*. David was born in Surrey but lived and worked in London for many years and still considers himself a Londoner. He now divides his time between London and Bath.

Readers' Guide

- ◆ **Contact details:** These include the address, telephone number and website (where applicable). You can enter the postcode to display a map of the location on Google and other map sites or enter the postcode into your satnav.
- ◆ **Opening hours:** These can change at short notice, therefore you should confirm times by telephone or check the website before travelling. Many stores are open seven days a week, although shopping hours on Sundays are restricted by law; many outlets also have late night shopping on one or two days a week. Note that some shops are only open 'by appointment'.
- ◆ **Public transport/parking:** Most shops featured are close to public transport (the nearest tube and/or railway station is listed), particularly in central London. Parking is often a problem in central London – although some stores have their own parking – and can be very expensive. Outside central London many stores provide free parking for customers.
- ◆ **Department stores:** You cannot beat London's department stores for one-stop shopping, which is why they have their own dedicated chapter (4) and also feature in the Fashion, Food & Drink, and Furniture & Homeware chapters.
- ◆ **Online shopping:** Almost all the shops featured have websites and offer online shopping, so it isn't necessary to travel to or live in London to enjoy the best of London shopping. Websites are also a good way to check and compare prices.
- ◆ **Prices:** As any shopper knows all too well, prices vary considerably depending on the retailer, the quality, and the manufacturer of goods. When comparing prices always ensure that you are comparing like with like, and beware of counterfeit goods, particularly when shopping in markets; if the price appears to be too good to be true, it probably is!
- ◆ **Fashion:** We have included a price guide for the fashion chapter (5), as the price range varies considerably, from cheap and cheerful to very expensive (for designer clothes).
- ◆ **Sales:** Many stores hold sales a few times a year, the traditional sales periods being January (New Year sales) and July (summer sales), although nowadays sales may be held throughout the year. It's the best time to restock your wardrobe and also to buy big ticket items, as prices are often slashed.

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Introduction

The UK is a nation of diehard shoppers. Retail therapy is the country's favourite leisure activity – an all-consuming passion – and London is its beating heart. It's one of the world's most exciting shopping cities, packed with grand department stores, trend-setting boutiques, timeless



traditional traders, edgy concept stores, absorbing antiques centres, eccentric novelty shops, exclusive purveyors of luxury goods, mouth-watering food emporiums, bustling markets and much more. You'll find them all featured in the pages of *London's Best Shops & Markets*, including many hidden gems.

In the 18th century Napoleon allegedly dismissed England as 'a nation of shopkeepers' – and he wasn't wrong. Today there's an army of would-be entrepreneurs eager to follow in their

ancestors' footsteps, despite the not inconsiderable financial risks, and make their fortune by ringing the tills. *London's Best Shops & Markets* is (with a few exceptions) a celebration of the city's independent shops, both traditional and avant-garde, many unique to the city and selling British (designed/manufactured) products; shops with lovely interiors, original goods, unique atmospheres and outstanding customer service. Independent retailers are the life and soul of any town – and London is no exception.

The city has its fair share of vast shopping centres, ubiquitous chain stores and supermarkets, yet small independent shops manage to survive (and even flourish) against the odds. Despite increasing competition, particularly from the internet, and the ever-present shadow of recession, London's independent shopping scene goes from strength to strength, and is constantly reinventing itself to meet the challenges of the 21st century.





Although it's possible to spend a king's ransom in London, particularly in Bond Street – one of the world's most expensive shopping streets – you don't need a bulging wallet to enjoy shopping. The city is one of the world's leading fashion centres, where great design is available to everyone whatever their budget – and browsing is free! Most stores hold at least two major sales a year (some seem to have permanent sales), traditionally in January and July, when you can snap up extraordinary bargains. For the shrewd shopper there's a wealth of discount stores, charity shops, markets, car-boot sales and auctions.

London boasts a huge number of lively markets, from the behemoths of Borough and Portobello to the bustling weekend honeypots of Brick Lane and Camden and the more sedate charms of Greenwich and Spitalfields. Markets are a rewarding hunting ground for savvy shoppers, selling everything from fresh fruit and vegetables

to handicrafts and vintage clothes, artisan foods to household goods, secondhand books to collectibles. They're also great fun, particularly if you like haggling! Not much beats the thrill of finding a bargain and the city's flea markets are a great place to seek out hidden treasures.

Whether you want to revitalise your wardrobe or restock your larder, buy a new computer or an antique chair, track down a designer watch or a rare first edition – or find a gift for someone who's impossible to buy for – you're bound to find inspiration in *London's Best Shops & Markets*, which features some 300 of the capital's very best shopping destinations. We hope you will enjoy visiting them.

Happy Shopping!

David Hampshire
London, May 2016

Selfridges





Lots Road Auctions

1.

Antiques & Art

A city that fairly throbs with history and culture, London vies with New York to be the epicentre of the global antiques and art market. It offers a wealth of antiques shops, markets, auctions and fairs, and has a thriving art scene that encompasses a plethora of commercial art galleries, art fairs and some of the world's largest fine-art auctions

London's noble old auction houses, such as Christies and Sotheby's, are where national and international treasures change hands, be they old masters or modern art, jewellery or period furniture, rare porcelain or ethnic artefacts. But auctions can also throw up a bargain if you're a canny shopper, and nothing beats the thrill of a winning bid or a prize unearthed at one of the capital's art fairs or antiques markets.

London caters for all tastes and pockets, from billionaires seeking a Jackson Pollock for their Mayfair penthouse, to impoverished students looking for something to brighten up a drab bedsit. Whether you're a discerning collector or interior designer, an art buff or antiques enthusiast, or just seeking an interesting investment for your home – or maybe just a browser or people-watcher – you can indulge your every whim in London.

See also markets on page 199.

Alfies Antiques Market

The largest covered antiques market in the UK, Alfies occupies a huge Art Deco building on Church Street in Marylebone, formerly the home of Edwardian department store Jordan's, which closed in the '60s. After falling into disrepair, the store – which has a striking Egyptian-style Art Deco façade – was purchased in 1976 by property developer Bennie Gray (of Gray's Antiques Market – see page 24) and the market was named after his father. Since then it has expanded into a labyrinthine warren of adjoining buildings hosting around 100 specialist dealers in a chic bohemian atmosphere.

Most vendors specialise in 20th-century antiques and collectibles, including vintage fashion and accessories, modernist furniture, costume jewellery and 20th-



century decorative arts. Frequenting by serious collectors, interior designers, and theatre and television set designers, it's a great place to pick up Art Deco and '50s furniture, vintage clothes, and china from the likes of Clarice Cliff and Susie Cooper, along with trunks, lighting, paintings, silver, mirrors, glass, toys and much more. Shopping completed, relax in the rooftop café which boasts panoramic views over the city.

Alfies Antiques Market, 13-25 Church St, NW8 8DT (020-7723 6066; www.alfiesantiques.com; Marylebone tube/rail; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, closed Sun).



Antiques & Art Fairs

London is one of the world's premier antiques and arts centres and host to some of its best antiques fairs. Whether you're a discerning collector, interior designer, an art or antiques enthusiast or simply looking for an interesting addition for your home, there's a wide range of events offering something for everyone. Featured below are some of the city's leading fairs which are supplemented by a host of smaller fairs throughout the capital; some run for a week while others are one-day events.



Launched by Will Ramsay in 2001, **The Affordable Art Fair** is held annually in Battersea (March) and Hampstead (June) – and around the world (see website) – showcasing over 150 unknown artists offering works costing from £100 to £5,000 (<http://affordableartfair.com>; Battersea Pk rail/Hampstead tube; 4 days; Mar/Jun/Oct).

The **Alexandra Palace Antiques & Collectors Fair** is London's largest



antiques fair with over 200 stalls, held on several Sundays a year and organised by International Antiques & Collectors Fairs, organisers of the UK's largest antiques events. Better known as the Ally Pally Antiques Fair, it has been a firm favourite for decades and is a great place to pick up a bargain (www.iacf.co.uk/alexandra-palace; Wood Grn tube/bus; 1 day; Sun, see website for dates).

The BADA Antiques & Fine Art Fair – the showcase for members of the British Antique Dealers' Association – is held in Duke of York Square in Chelsea in March.



The week-long fair is one of the highlights of the London antiques scene and maintains an excellent reputation for quality and elegance (www.badafair.com; Sloane Sq tube; 7 days; March).

Established in 1950, **The Chelsea Antiques Fair** is London's longest-running antiques event, held over four days in March at Chelsea Old Town Hall. Now an annual event, the fair features around 40 dealers offering a huge variety of traditional art and antiques (www.penman-fairs.co.uk; Sloane Sq tube; 4 days; March).

Penman Fairs (above) also organises the Chelsea Art Fair in April at Chelsea Old Town Hall, featuring many of the world's best and emerging artists.

Launched in 1985, **The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair** in Battersea was one of the first to combine antiques and interior design. It attracts over 100 exhibitors showcasing a range of fine and decorative antiques, 20th-century design, textiles and art. The fair is held three times a year – in spring, autumn and winter (see website for

dates) – in beautiful Battersea Park (www.decorativefair.com; Battersea Pk rail; 6 days; see website for dates).

Held over five days in October in Regent's Park, **Frieze Masters** was established in 2003 and is one of the world's major art fairs. It brings together several thousand years of art in a unique, contemporary context, where visitors can view and buy art from over 130 of the world's best modern and historical dealers. Artworks include antiquities, Asian art, ethnographic art, illuminated manuscripts, medieval, modern and post-war art, old masters and 19th-century, photography, sculpture and *Wunderkammer* or cabinets of curiosities (<http://friezemasters.com>; Mornington Cres tube; 4 days; October).



Since its inception in 2009, the **LAPADA Art & Antiques Fair** in Berkeley Square has grown to become one of London's foremost international showcases for art and antiques, as well as one of the most prestigious events on the London social



LAPADA is the acronym for the Association of Art & Antiques Dealers, the largest organisation of professional art and antiques dealers in the UK.

calendar. It attracts around 100 exhibitors from across the art, antiques, design and decorative arts spectrum, including dealers in jewellery, furniture, carpets, tapestries, antiquities, clocks, ceramics, silver and fine art (www.lapadalondon.com; Bond St/Green Pk tube; 6 days; September).



Established in 2010, **Masterpiece** is London's newest international antiques and art fair and one of the capital's most glamorous. Held at the iconic Royal Hospital Chelsea, the fair showcases museum-quality works with impeccable provenance from over 150 leading dealers and galleries worldwide. Exhibits span 4,000 years of art history, from antiquity to the present day (www.masterpiecefair.com; Sloane Sq tube; 7 days; June/July).



The week-long **Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair** is the UK's largest art and antiques fair, taking place twice a year in summer (June) and winter (November) at the Kensington Olympia Exhibition Centre. It's one of the most prestigious antiques fairs in the UK, hosting 100-150 of the world's finest specialist dealers offering a wide choice of high quality, vetted art and antiques (www.olympia-art-antiques.com and www.olympia-antiques.com; Kensington Olympia tube/rail; 7 days; June & November).

The Other Art Fair is the UK's leading showcase for the best emerging artistic talent. Whether you're a first-time buyer or a seasoned collector, the fair offers something for everyone, featuring some 130 contemporary artists working in a range of styles and mediums with artworks starting from as little as £50 (www.theotherartfair.com; Holborn tube; 4 days; April).



Bayswater Road Artists

On Sundays throughout the year, come rain or shine, Bayswater Road is transformed into the world's largest regular open-air art show. For more than 50 years artists have been displaying their original works (no prints) along the railings of Kensington Gardens; these include some who have exhibited at the Royal Academy, a smattering of international names and unknowns who could be the Picasso, Pollock or Hockney of tomorrow.

Some 150 artists turn up each Sunday to display thousands of paintings, sculptures, enamels and collages, with subjects ranging from contemporary abstracts and traditional landscapes to the tiniest miniature flower paintings. All exhibits are for sale at studio prices – you may even snap up a bargain!

Bayswater Road Artists, Bayswater Rd, W2 2UD
(www.bayswater-road-artists.co.uk; Lancaster Gate/Queensway tube; Sun 10am-6pm).



Bermondsey Market

Until relatively recently, Bermondsey Market was notorious as a venue where thieves could legally sell their swag with impunity; a royal licence (*marché ouvert*) which meant that goods sold there from sunset to sunrise didn't require provenance was repealed only in 1995.



It's now home to Bermondsey Square Antiques Market: part car boot sale, part chic Parisian flea market, good for bric-a-brac, collectibles and antiques, and all manner of bizarre ephemera, although you need to arrive early to get the best pickings (many dealers shop here). An added bonus is the excellent range of local cafés and restaurants, offering some of the best breakfasts in town.

Bermondsey Antiques Market, Bermondsey Sq, SE1 3UN (<http://bermondseysquare.net/bermondsey-antiques-market>; Borough tube; Fri 6am-2pm).

Bonhams

Founded in 1793, Bonhams is one of the world's oldest and largest auctioneers of fine art and antiques. In 2000, the family-owned company merged with specialist auctioneer Brooks; this (with further acquisitions) helped forge the dynamic



21st-century auction house we see today, with offices in prime locations around the globe. Its flagship London saleroom – on prestigious New Bond Street in Mayfair – was redesigned in 2011-13 to create striking new salerooms and offices.

Holding some 400 sales annually across its 60 departments, Bonhams offers a wealth of art and furniture sales and also stages frequent specialist sales in areas such as

scientific instruments, classic and vintage motor cars, ceramics, coins, rock 'n' roll and sporting memorabilia. Pre-sale viewings are open to the public, so you can browse even if you can't afford to buy.



With specialists in every major area of art and collectibles, the depth of collective knowledge of Bonhams' auctioneers has enabled the company to become world leaders in many key areas of the UK art market, often achieving record prices. You can book a free valuation with one of these experts, and the auction house also hosts valuation events (see website).

Bonhams, 101 New Bond St, W1S 1SR (020-7447 7447; www.bonhams.com; Bond St tube; Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, closed Sat-Sun).

Bonhams, 101 New Bond St, W1S 1SR (020-7447 7447; www.bonhams.com; Bond St tube; Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, closed Sat-Sun).



Camden Passage Antiques Market

Visiting Camden Passage – an 18th-century cobbledstone alley running along the backs of houses on Islington's Upper Street – is like stepping back in time. It's home to a row of elegant Georgian antiques shops, pubs, cafés and

restaurants, and on Wednesdays and Saturdays hosts a multitude of stalls selling an eclectic mix of antiques and collectibles: vintage clothes, handbags, jewellery, silver, porcelain and assorted bric-a-brac.

Whether you're a dealer, designer, collector or just a curious browser, you'll find Camden

Passage Antiques Market (not to be confused with Camden Market in Camden Town – see page 205) intriguing. Most of the traders are specialists who know their onions, so just chatting with them can be an education as well as a lot of fun, but you need to arrive early and haggle hard to get a bargain.



The camaraderie of the traders has enabled the Passage to survive where other antiques markets have failed. Standards have remained consistently high and the wide range of quality goods has ensured its enduring success as a centre of excellence. The main antiques market is held twice weekly, although there are smaller markets on some other days and the larger shops are also open daily or by appointment.

Camden Passage Antiques Market, Camden Passage, N1 8EA (www.camdenpassageislington.co.uk; Angel tube; Wed & Sat 9am-6pm).



Christie's

The world's oldest and foremost fine art auctioneer, Christie's was founded in 1766 by James Christie, since when it has grown into a worldwide powerhouse with over 50 offices in some 32 countries and salerooms in cities including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Mumbai. Now owned by Groupe Artémis, the holding company of French billionaire François-Henri Pinault, its global headquarters are in St James's (King Street) in London, where the auction house has been sited since 1823.



Today, Christie's conducts some 450 auctions worldwide annually covering all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photography, collectibles, wine and more. It has two London salerooms, at its HQ in St James's and in South Kensington. Open seven days a week, Christie's South



Kensington is the busiest saleroom in the UK, holding over 100 sales annually with a total of over 30,000 lots. Sales dedicated to home furnishings (interiors) are held monthly alongside those of single-owner collections and specialist collectors' sales throughout the year.

Christie's offers a no-obligation valuation service by appointment (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) at its South Kensington offices.

Christie's, 8 King St, SW1Y 6QT (020-7839 9060; www.christies.com; Green Pk tube; Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm) and 85 Old Brompton Rd, SW7 3LD (020-7930 6074; S Kensington tube; Mon 9am-7.30pm, Tue-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat-Sun 11am-5pm).



Commercial Art Galleries

As one of the world's major art centres, London has a wealth of commercial galleries – a selection of which are featured below – that hold frequent exhibitions of old masters, 19th- and 20th-century British and continental art, and leading British and international contemporary artists. For a comprehensive list of London's commercial galleries, see www.london-galleries.co.uk.



Catto Gallery: Established in 1986, the Catto Gallery in Hampstead has grown to become one of the most prestigious fine-art galleries in London, specialising in the best of contemporary art across all mediums. It was founded by Gillian Catto and taken over in 2009 by two employees, Iain Barratt and Imogen Green, who between them have over 20 years' experience in the business. New exhibitions are held around every three weeks, showing unique works by pre-eminent artists from around the globe.

Catto Gallery, 100 Heath St, NW3 1DP (020-7435 6660; www.cattogallery.co.uk; Hampstead tube; Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12.30-6pm).

There are two further branches of the Gagosian Gallery in London, at 17-19 Davies St, W1K 3DE and 20 Grosvenor Hill, W1K 3QD.

Gagosian Gallery: Owned and directed by Larry Gagosian, one of the world's best international art dealers, the cavernous Gagosian Gallery is part of an international chain which includes three galleries in London and others in New York, Paris, Rome, Athens, Geneva and Hong Kong. Located in King's Cross, the gallery attracts collectors, art buffs and students alike, and hosts regular shows by important contemporary artists such as Richard Prince, Hiroshi Sugimoto and Rachel Whiteread.

Gagosian Gallery, 6-24 Britannia St, WC1X 9JD (020-7841 9960; www.gagosian.com; Kings Cross/St Pancras tube; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, closed Sun-Mon).



Hauser & Wirth: Founded in Zürich in 1992 by Iwan Wirth, his wife Manuela and mother-in-law Ursula Hauser, H&W is a European super-gallery devoted to contemporary and modern art. It launched in London in 2003 (on Piccadilly) and since 2010 has been in Savile Row where it has two vast galleries with separate entrances. The gallery has a reputation for supporting radical installation artists, in addition to a regular exhibition programme featuring a glittering roster of critically-acclaimed artists such as Paul McCarthy, Diana Thater and Martin Creed. It also looks after the estates of Eva Hesse, Lee Lozano and Jason Rhoades.

Hauser & Wirth, 23 Savile Row, W1S 2ET (020-7287 2300; www.hauserwirth.com; Oxford Circus tube; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, closed Sun-Mon).



Lazarides Gallery: A constant force in championing the careers of influential artists, Lazarides has grown into an internationally-acclaimed gallery. Set in the heart of Fitzrovia, the gallery exhibits many of the most significant artists who thrive outside



the conventional contemporary art market, and is considered to be the international market leader in what is dubbed urban art, although many of its artists defy categorisation.

Lazarides Gallery, 11 Rathbone Pl, W1T 1HR (020-7636 5443; www.lazinc.com; Tottenham Court Rd tube; Wed-Sat 11am-7pm, closed Sun-Mon, open by appointment Tue).



Lisson Gallery: Founded in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail and Fiona Hildyard, Lisson is one of a handful of pioneering international galleries to champion the careers of a generation of artists associated

with Minimalism and Conceptual art. For nearly half a century, the gallery has supported generations of artists – including important names such as Anish Kapoor, Sol LeWitt, Richard Deacon and Ai Weiwei – each with a radical and distinctive approach to art.

Lisson Gallery, 27 Bell St, NW1 5BY and 52 Bell St, NW1 5BU (020-7724 2739; www.lissongallery.com; Edgware Rd tube; Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm, closed Sun).

Matt's gallery has an unusual inspiration. It was named after director Robin Klassnik's dog, Matt E Mulsion.

Matt's Gallery: A contemporary art space established in Hackney by Robin Klassnik in 1979, Matt's moved to its current premises in 1993. It's a not-for-profit gallery, funded by the Arts Council and other major trusts and foundations, which exists to support artists with the time and space to take risks, test their limits, and develop their ideas and techniques. Artists are generally at the young or emerging end of their career spectrum and exhibitions vary widely in scope, but are invariably interesting.

Matt's Gallery, 42-44 Copperfield Rd, E3 4RR (020-8983 1771; www.mattsgallery.org; Mile End tube; Wed-Sun noon-6pm, closed Mon-Tue).

Parasol Unit:

The Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art (to give it its full name) was founded in 2004 and is a registered educational charity. Housed in a classic old warehouse



building, the gallery's impressive minimalist design is by Italian architect Claudio Silvestrin and has 5,000ft² of exhibition space. Internationally recognised for its forward-thinking and challenging exhibition programme, Parasol has introduced a host of international artists to London's public and been instrumental in launching the careers of artists such as Michaël Borremans, Yang Fudong and Charles Avery.

Parasol Unit, 14 Wharf Rd, N1 7RW (020-7490 7373; www.parasol-unit.org; Angel/Old St tube; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-5pm, closed Mon).

Philip Mould & Co: Unlike many of the other galleries featured here, which deal mostly or exclusively in contemporary works of art, Philip Mould & Co (director Philip



Philip Mould



Mould OBE is better known as the co-host of the BBC TV show *Fake or Fortune*, which attempts to authenticate unattributed works of art) is a leading specialist dealer in British art and old masters. Recently relocated to splendid new premises on Pall Mall, the gallery offers a large selection of fine paintings for sale, from Tudor and Jacobean panel pictures to 18th-century landscapes, as well as works by old masters such as Titian and Van Dyck and antique portrait miniatures.

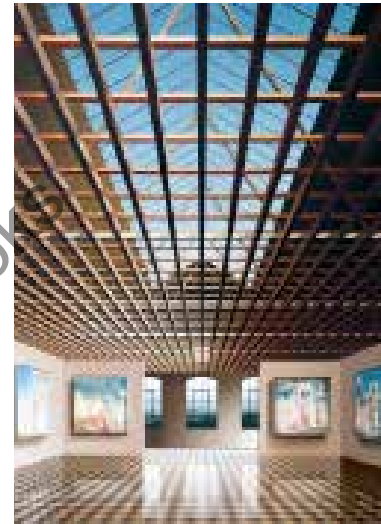
Philip Mould & Co, 18-19 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5LU (020-7499 6818; www.philipmould.com; Piccadilly Circus tube; Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm, closed Sat-Sun).



Victoria Miro Gallery:

One of the grandes dames of the Britart scene, Victoria Miro opened her first gallery on Cork Street in Mayfair in 1985, earning widespread acclaim for showcasing the work of established and emerging international artists and nurturing the careers of young British artists. In 2000, the gallery relocated to an 8,000ft² converted furniture factory on Wharf Road, in the shabby no-man's land between Islington and Hoxton. Expanded in 2006 with the opening of Victoria Miro 14 – a 9,000ft² exhibition and viewing space – it's one of the largest and most dramatic commercial art spaces in London.

Victoria Miro Gallery, 16 Wharf Rd, N1 7RW (020-7336 8109; www.victoria-miro.com; Angel/Old St tube; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, closed Sun-Mon).



The Victoria Miro Gallery is almost unique in London for having its own garden, a beautiful landscaped area overlooking a restored stretch of Regent's Canal. It has been used to great effect for installations by artists such as Japan's Yayoi Kusama (below).



White Cube: Opened in 2011, White Cube in Bermondsey was art dealer Jay Jopling's third London gallery. At a massive 58,000ft², it is not only the largest art gallery within the White Cube empire but also the largest commercial gallery in Europe – and is achingly cool. The former '70s warehouse contains three major exhibition spaces, private viewing rooms, office space, a



warehouse, an auditorium and a bookshop. It has been a strong influence on the British contemporary art scene over the last decade or so, with its list of artists comprising a who's who of British and international cutting-edge art: from Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst and Jake & Dinos Chapman to sculptor Antony Gormley and photographers Gregory Crewdson and (Jopling's ex-wife) Sam Taylor-Wood.

White Cube Gallery, 144-152 Bermondsey St, SE1 3TQ (020-7930 5373; <http://whitecube.com>; London Br tube/rail; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm, closed Mon).



The Fine Art Society

The Fine Art Society is one of the world's oldest art dealerships. They've been doing business on New Bond Street since 1876, so bring a wealth of experience and history to their trade. Specialising in British art and design from the 19th to the 21st centuries – particularly the Victorian period – they offer a huge choice of paintings, prints and antique furnishings and decorative items, including textiles.



As you might expect, prices tend to be high, but so is the quality. They also have a branch on Dundas Street in Edinburgh.

The Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond St, W1S 2JT (020-7629 5116; <http://faslondon.com>; Bond St tube; Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, closed Sat-Sun).



Furniture Cave

Spread over three floors, the Furniture Cave – recently renamed the Furniture and Arts Building (FAB), but the old name sticks – is a group of over 20 individual dealers trading under the same roof. The building extends to 30,000ft² and is crammed with antique and vintage furniture, reproduction furniture and contemporary designer pieces, plus assorted silver, jewellery, paintings, ceramics and glass. It's a treasure trove for discerning private buyers, dealers and interior designers, although you need to know your stuff and bargain hard to ensure you don't pay over the odds. There's also a restoration department and a café.

The Furniture Cave, 533 King's Rd, SW10 0TZ (020-7352 6116; www.furnitureandartsbuilding.co.uk and www.furniturecave.co.uk; Fulham Broadway tube; Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm).



Grays Antiques Market

Based in an attractive (Grade II listed) Victorian terracotta building, Grays is an antiques centre opened in 1977 by antiques dealer and entrepreneur Bennie Gray (also owner of Alfies Antiques Market – see page 10). It's home to around 100 dealers and even has its own uniformed doorman. The dealers specialise in most periods and styles from Georgian to Edwardian, Art Nouveau to Art Deco; the front of the market tends to house the more expensive pieces, including high-end antique gems with four-figure price tags.

An interesting historical feature is the water channel in the basement (stocked with goldfish), which is part of the famous 'lost' River Tyburn.

Grays Antiques Market, 58 Davies St & 1-7 Davies Mews, W1K 5AB (020-7629 7034; www.graysantiques.com; Bond St tube; Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm, closed Sun).



Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium



A popular destination for collectors and enthusiasts since 1967, Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium – tucked just behind Heath Street – is a hidden gem with over 25 independent dealers. It's packed with everything from antique and vintage furniture and collectibles to contemporary design and craft items.

Dealers specialise in jewellery, Art Deco, mid-century, ethnic and modern styles, including period and contemporary silverware, watches, clocks, oriental art, ceramics, textiles, glassware, furniture, paintings, kitchenalia, vintage fashion and accessories, and much more. There's also a Lebanese café (Tania's).

Hampstead Antique & Craft Emporium, 12 Heath St, NW3 6TE (020-7794 3297; www.hampsteadantiqueemporium.com; Hampstead tube; Tue-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-5.30pm, closed Mon).

Kensington Church Street

Kensington Church Street, running from Notting Hill Gate to Kensington High Street, is one of London's most interesting shopping streets, particularly for antiques. The street (and its surrounds) is home to over 60 of the city's top antiques dealers – many of whom exhibit at the world's most prestigious antiques fairs – offering fine art and antiques from the Tang dynasty to the Art Deco movement. Visiting KCS is like visiting an antiques fair that's open all year round, with exhibits including Japanese and Chinese ceramics and other oriental works of art; European porcelain and pottery; English and continental furniture; silver and 20th-century decorative arts; Indian and Islamic antiquities; and much more.

Kensington Church St, W8 (www.antiques-london.com; High St Kensington/Notting Hill Gate tube).



London Silver Vaults

Situated on Chancery Lane in the City, the London Silver Vaults were established in 1953 and house the world's largest collection of fine antique silver. Originally built as a safe deposit in 1876, it's an underground maze of around 30 silver dealers, each with an individual shop or vault. Their wares range from small items – cufflinks, spoons, card holders and rings – to much grander pieces such as bowls, pots and urns.



They include contemporary silver as well as antique gems from master silversmiths such as Paul de Lamerie (1688-1751) and Paul Storr (1771-1844), along with pieces from famous designers like Christopher Dresser (1834-1904) and Archibald Knox (1864-1933).

London Silver Vaults, Chancery Ln, WC2A 1QS (020-7242 3844; <http://silvertvaultslondon.com>; Chancery Ln tube; Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, Sat 9am-1pm, closed Sun).

Lots Road Auctions

Recently made more famous by Channel 4's fly-on-the-wall documentary *The Auction House*, Lots Road Auctions in Chelsea was established in 1979 by Roger Ross (a joint founder of The Furniture Cave – see page 23). It provides an ever-changing eclectic assortment of both contemporary and antique items, ranging from Persian rugs to Matisse etchings, Titchmarsh & Goodwin hand-crafted furniture to Art Deco gems. In addition to the weekly Sunday auctions – held at noon (modern items) and 3pm (antiques and decorative) – there are regular specialist sales in fields including fine antiques, continental furniture, lighting and mirrors, silver, carpets, tribal and Asian art and artefacts, and Russian art.

Lots Road Auctions, 71-73 Lots Rd, SW10 0RN (020-7376 6800; www.lotsroad.com; Fulham Broadway tube/Imperial Wharf rail; Mon-Tue, Thu, Sun 9am-6pm, Wed 9am-8pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, check website for viewing and valuation times).



Northcote Road Antiques Market

Founded in 1986, Northcote Road Antiques Market in Battersea is one of London's best-value antiques centres, home to some 30 freelance dealers. The huge variety of stock includes everything from classic 19th and early 20th-century pieces to Art Deco and '50s classics, French painted, country pine, vintage and retro.



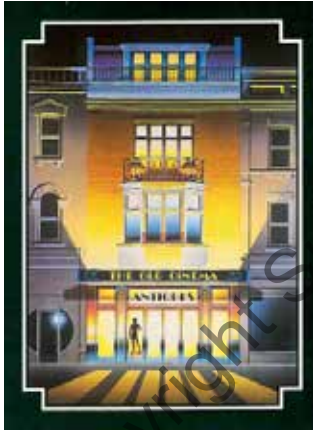
There are specialist dealers in many fields including ceramics and glass objets d'art; vintage costumes and jewellery; original prints and watercolours; antique silver and clocks; Georgian furniture and chandeliers;

retro kitchen utensils and art pottery. You'd be hard pressed to find a more diverse collection anywhere else in the country.

Northcote Road Antiques Market, 155A Northcote Rd, SW11 6QB (020-7228 6850; www.northcoteroadantiques.co.uk; Clapham Junction rail/Clapham S tube; Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun noon-5pm).

The Old Cinema

A former Edwardian picture palace relaunched for retail in 1979, the Old Cinema antiques centre on Chiswick High Road styles itself as an 'antique, vintage, and retro department store'. Boasting 10,000ft² of showrooms, this family business is home to a collective of antiques dealers, decorators, designers, artisans and jewellers, offering a vast eclectic range of stock. A favourite with collectors, dealers and designers, the ever-changing inventory makes the Old Cinema a great shopping destination, offering everything from kitsch Americana to period antiques, Arts & Crafts to Art Deco, *Mad Men*-style rosewood to hardcore industrial. It also specialises in painted furniture and upcycled items.



The Old Cinema, 160 Chiswick High Rd, W4 1PR (020-8995 4166; www.theoldcinema.co.uk; Turnham Grn tube; Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-5pm).

Old Spitalfields Market

One of London's finest surviving Victorian market halls, located in East London just outside the City, Old Spitalfields Market is a popular daily market trading in fashion, footwear, bric-a-brac, vintage, antiques, art, produce (selected Fridays) and general goods. Mondays to Wednesdays and Sundays are general market days, while on Saturdays there are themed markets (see website). The best days for antiques and art are Thursdays and Fridays; on Thursdays traders offer an eclectic range of vintage collectibles and antiques, while Fridays are a mecca for vintage fashion fans and art lovers. There's also a record fair on the first and third Fridays and second Saturday of the month. Affordable and great fun.

Old Spitalfields Market, 109 Commercial St, E1 6BG (020-7247 8556; www.oldspitalfieldsmarket.com; Liverpool St tube/rail; Thu-Fri 10am-5pm).



Phillips

Founded in London in 1796 by Harry Phillips – early clients included Marie Antoinette, Beau Brummel and Napoleon Bonaparte – Phillips has grown to be one of the world's principal auction houses, specialising in 20th- and 21st-century contemporary art. It was acquired in 2008 by luxury retail company the Mercury Group, and in 2014 moved to a state-of-the-art European headquarters and salesrooms – with 31,000ft² of space – in exclusive Berkeley Square.



Based in New York and London, with offices throughout the world, Phillips conducts sales in a select number of categories: contemporary art, photography, editions, design, jewellery and watches. Its core art services also includes special exhibitions, private sales, advising private estates and corporate clients, museum services and consulting.



Phillips is synonymous with contemporary art and culture and claims to be 'the most dynamic and forward-looking of the international auction houses' through its focus on the defining aesthetic movements of the last 50 years. There's always something interesting on show at the pre-auction viewings – it recently held an auction of David Beckham photographs – and is well worth a visit, even if most prices are in the lottery-winners' league.

Phillips, 30 Berkeley Sq, W1J 6EX (020-7318 4010; www.phillips.com; Bond St/Green Pk tube; Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm).



Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery in Soho – the largest public gallery in London dedicated solely to photography – offers inspiration for everyone, from phone snappers to professionals. There's a packed



schedule of exhibitions, talks, events, workshops and courses, as well as a working camera *obscura*, study room and print sales gallery, where

you can learn about, discover and buy photography, whatever your level of interest or budget. The gallery holds a wide range of works, including exclusive limited edition prints, and offers expert advice to help buyers invest wisely and enjoyably in photography. At street level there's a bookshop and a café/bar.

Photographers' Gallery, 16-18 Ramillies St, W1F 7LW (020-7087 9300; www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk; Oxford Circus tube; Mon-Sat 10am-6pm and till 8pm Thu during exhibitions, Sun 11am-6pm).

Piccadilly Market

Held in the courtyard of St James's Church – one of Christopher Wren's finest churches and reputed to be his favourite – Piccadilly Market is a charming and vibrant market on one of London's busiest streets. Established in 1984, it runs from Monday to Saturday each week, selling a diverse range of food, gifts, arts, crafts, antiques and collectibles. On Monday there's a food market, followed on Tuesday by an antiques and collectibles market, while from Wednesday to Saturdays it's the turn of the arts and crafts market. While you're here, take some time to visit the church and its garden; there's also an excellent café.

Piccadilly Market, St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, W1J 9LL (020-7734 4511; <http://piccadilly-market.co.uk>; Piccadilly Circus tube; Tue-Sat 10am-6pm).

