

Meet the YLAs — the new young London artists

If there's one thing that keeps the capital buzzing, it's young artists — and the current crop of creatives, curators, photographers and gallerists are the most exciting in years. Joe Bromley meets them.

BY JOE BROMLEY – July 18, 2023

In May, a report by A-N The Artists Information Company, titled Structurally F—cked, found artists in the public sector were paid a median of £2.60 an hour. Uncapped rents are driving creatives home to their parents, cuts to art education deepen and galleries grapple with spiralling costs.

And yet, the kids - while not alright, per se - are hungry as ever to be involved. A new wave of disruptors are rising; found in Peckham studios and the bars of the Serpentine and National Gallery's no-holds-barred summer parties alike.

Here are the curators, painters, journalists and gallerists refreshing London as a cultural epicentre.

GEORGE ROUY: artist



The It-boy of the rising artists, George Rouy has fast built a fanbase for his large scale, figurative body paintings. “I’m in Kent at the moment - I moved out two years ago because I got sick of being moved around studios,” he says. The Camberwell graduate, who has a cheeky smile and two silver caps on his canines, currently has a show at Peckham’s Hannah Barry Gallery until September 9. “Artists are becoming younger, and what’s great about London is there’s an appetite for art,” he says, “But it needs a rent cap now. It’s not sustainable.”

Top tip: “Take your time, and fire everything into the studio. When the work’s ready, it will be seen.”