



FEATURES



My London: Makiko Harris

The Japanese-American artist resets her creative batteries in time-warped paint shops; sprawling green spaces; listening bars and artists' clubrooms...

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Makiko Harris is a Japanese-American artist living in London whose work spans sculpture, painting, film and performance. She's the sort of person who would make your dinner party instantly five times cooler.

She grew up in the Californian countryside, but her Japanese heritage has always remained an important cultural touchstone. In fact, it was her grandmother's sewing kit that inspired her now-signature needle sculptures: a recurring, monumental motif that plays around with scale, fear and femininity.

Earlier this year Harris was selected for New Contemporaries and the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2026, and this autumn she'll present her biggest solo exhibition to date in West Palm Beach, Florida. Until then, though, you might just bump into her sipping cocktails in a beautifully-scented listening bar, strolling the towpath or picking flowers in East London...

Makiko Harris' London Top 5

1. [Space Talk](#)

The atmosphere is just right and the menu is perfect. Every touch is artful and thoughtful. Space Talk owners if you read this can you please tell me where you get your incense?

2. [The Mandrake](#)

You never know what you'll see or what will happen.

3. [L. Cornelissen & Son](#)

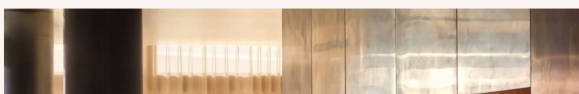
An art supply store that makes you feel like you've gone back in time. Helps you remember that artmaking has been a core human activity for centuries; we are part of a lineage of makers. Through making we express culture, making makes us human.

4. [Aro Archive](#)

One of the best places to shop in London. Well curated, and a quirky interior.

5. [Rochelle Canteen](#)

Relaxed garden with the most delicious farm to table food in an old schoolhouse. Oh, and there's an excellent gallery upstairs ([Maureen Paley](#)).



Makiko Harris' Highlights



Space Talk A retro-futuristic listening bar with top-grade cocktails, where everything...



Rochelle Canteen A subtly secret restaurant located inside a repurposed bike she...



Regent's Canal A guide to each section of London's picturesque canal, plus wher...



Ducksoup Soho A casually rustic, minimalist eatery specialising in natural wines,...



Hampstead Heath How to get to Hampstead Heath, plus the low-down on pubs, ponds,...



Space Talk – Ollie Tomlinson

Describe your perfect Sunday morning in London.

I might start with brunch at [Ozone](#) or [Rochelle Canteen](#), then go for a long walk through the backstreets of [Shoreditch](#), popping in and out of some of my favourite galleries like [Emalin](#) then up towards [Broadway Market](#). I'll pop in and out of the bookshops like [Donlon Books](#), grab a matcha at [a Japanese cafe](#) along the way, and then keep walking through to [Columbia Road Flower Market](#). I am not much of a green thumb but I love fresh cut flowers, and I'll take a gamble on a plant if I can get it for a cut rate right when the market closes in the afternoon. On the walk back home, there is a place I love called [A Portuguese Love Affair](#) that has jazz outside in summer. Nothing better than a plate of fresh grilled sardines and a glass of orange wine, listening to jazz outside.

What's your favourite London neighbourhood, and which are your favourite spots within it?

It's hard to pick a favourite, so I'll stick close to home. I live on the edge of [Shoreditch](#), more towards the Barbican / Clerkenwell area. From where I live, one of my favourite things to do is walk a bit north towards [Regent's Canal](#), pop into the gallery [Victoria Miro](#) on the way and then go for a little dusky evening walk along the water at the end of the day. Pop in at [Towpath Cafe](#) for a glass of wine and a snack.

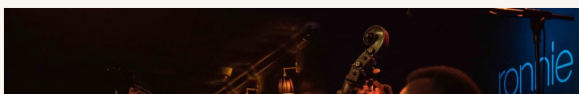


What's your perfect London date night to impress?

[Space Talk](#). The most stunning [listening bar](#) in Farringdon with a Japanese menu and beautiful cocktails. The space is layered in beautiful textures of wood, metal, and glowy light all draped with hazy incense smoke. Equally great for a night out dancing or a more relaxed evening of conversation.

What's your perfect full day in London?

Starting the day with getting nails done at [Creative Nails](#) on Kingsland Road (these ladies do great nail design and they last forever), with a coffee in hand from [gram'n degrees](#) across the street. Then a bit of shopping at designer consignment shops, some of my favourites are [Storm in a Teacup](#) or [Aro Archive](#). Then, stroll south towards the Thames, and walk along the river towards central London. End up at [Somerset House](#) or [180 Studios](#) for some sort of exhibition or talk, or a gallery stroll in [Soho](#). Or, pop over to Bermondsey for [White Cube](#) and [Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery](#), and tasty bakery treats at [Comptoir Bakery](#). Later, off to dinner, I have always loved [Ducksoup](#) in Soho, a tiny, bustling, non-fussy spot with wooden tables, an extensive wine list, and always spinning vinyl. In the evening, music! [Ronnie Scott's](#), [Koko Camden](#), [Jazz Cafe](#), the list could go on. Or! A beautiful meal in the garden on a warm summer's evening at the [Chelsea Arts Club](#).





Ronnie Scott's

Where in London would you head if you had a couple of hours to yourself to wander?

I would spend a few hours at one of the many incredible arts institutions we have – the Tate Modern or Britain, the Royal Academy, Hayward Gallery, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the British Museum – and then after a few hours of seeing art I would take myself to tea at the cafe. I love a good museum cafe. I especially like the member's cafe in the stunning atrium at the Tate Britain or the Academician's Room at the Royal Academy.

Where are you happiest on a sunny day in London?

At one of the many day festivals that happen in the summer! Pick a style of music, pick a park, dance outside – what more could you want from our one wild and precious life?



Academicians' Room at the RA

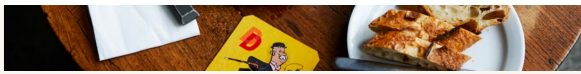
Do you have a London wildcard?

I love Through the Noise, a platform that puts on global classical music concerts at nightlife club spaces on their off nights. It's great. Also, if you want a staycation – check out the suites at Chateau Denmark or The Mandrake. You'll never want to leave. The Mandrake has stunning parties, too. Check out their event listings for the main hotel as well as their artsy member's club, CooC. Oh! I also love Stella's, an old school butcher shop that turns into a club and bar on weekends.

You're leaving London forever. Where are you eating and drinking on your final three nights in town?

I would have to do a roast pub meal for sure. The chicken and bread at Knave of Clubs is to die for, which is a bit confusing, as it's literally just chicken, but it's so good. London also does Japanese well, the fish at Chisou is fantastic and the wagyu beef at Umu is insane. Sometimes it's more about the atmosphere... I love walking along Exmouth Market, the newly opened Vesper is excellent and great people watching if you grab a table outside (also they have these drool worthy metal bars). Bars... I love the negronis at Bar Termini, the cocktails at A Bar with Shapes for a Name, the English sparkling wines at the Coral Room, tiny tucked away candlelit Umbrella Workshop... the list is endless.





Knave of Clubs

Where in London do you feel most at peace?

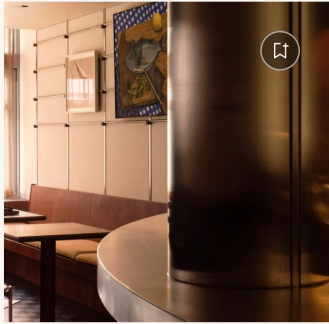
Hampstead Heath. I'm a city girl now, but I grew up in the countryside of California. I need to touch grass.

NOTE: You can keep up with Makiko Harris' work [on her website here](#). If you happen to be in Florida later this year, her next solo show 'I Hold You in Devotion' runs at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery in West Palm Beach from 29th October – 28th November 2026.

My London: Makiko Harris

LIST

MAP



FARRINGTON

9.1

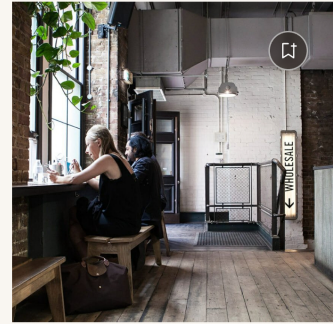
Space Talk A retro-futuristic listening bar with top-grade cocktails, where everything has been crafted from scratch...



RESTAURANTS | SHOREDITCH

9.3

Rochelle Canteen A subtly secret restaurant located inside a repurposed bike shed in an old Victorian schoolyard.....



RESTAURANTS | SHOREDITCH

7.8

Ozone Coffee Roasters Cafe This café-restaurant marked a new breed of coffee shop when it arrived from New Zealand back in 20...



THINGS TO DO | LONDON FIELDS

Broadway Market A top Saturday market with everything from street food to homeware



RESTAURANTS | BRICK LANE

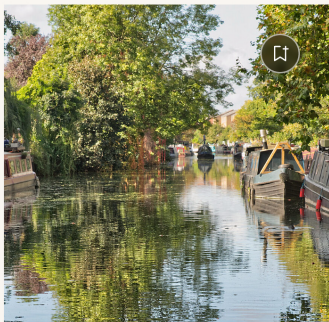
7.8

Katsute100 Brick Lane Matcha mille-feuille, loose leaf tea and a surprise in the basement...



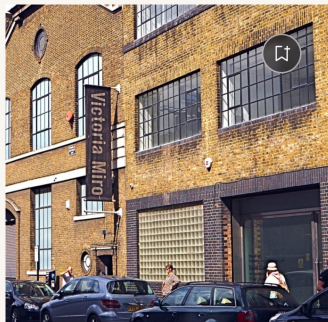
THINGS TO DO | SHOREDITCH

Columbia Road Flower Market Grab blooms by the bucketload on a picturesque Victorian street.....



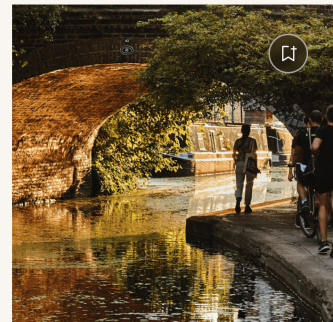
THINGS TO DO | LONDON

Regent's Canal A guide to each section of London's picturesque canal, plus where to eat & drink along the way....



THINGS TO DO | ISLINGTON

Victoria Miro Gallery An esteemed independent art gallery housed in an old furniture factory....



RESTAURANTS | HAGGERSTON

7.8

Towpath Café A cult canalside pitstop for brunch, lunch, dinner and wine.

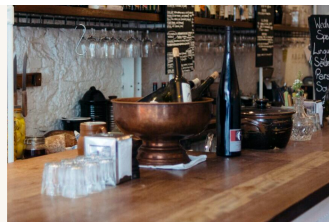




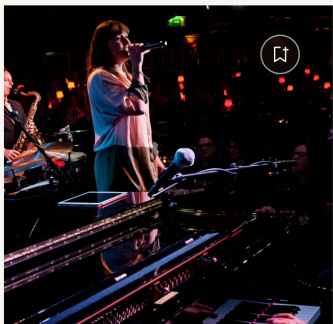
THINGS TO DO | COVENT GARDEN
Somerset House An 18th century mansion turned cutting-edge art & events space.



THINGS TO DO | BERMONDSEY
White Cube Gallery Welcome to one of the biggest, most groundbreaking art galleries in Europe.....



RESTAURANTS | SOHO **8.2**
Ducksoup Soho A casually rustic, minimalist eatery specialising in natural wines, small plates and a vinyl soundtrack chosen by you...



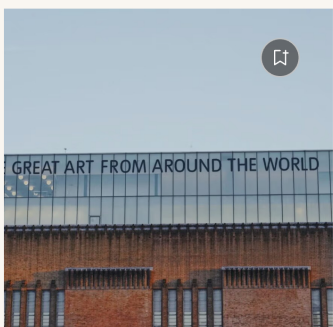
BARS | SOHO **9.2**
Ronnie Scott's A world-renowned jazz club, with intimate cabaret seating downstairs, and a dancefloor upstairs....



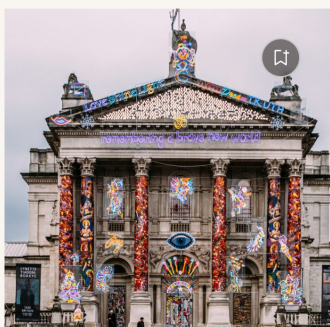
MUSIC | CAMDEN **7.9**
KOKO A legendary music venue with hidden jazz clubs & cocktail bars in glass domes...



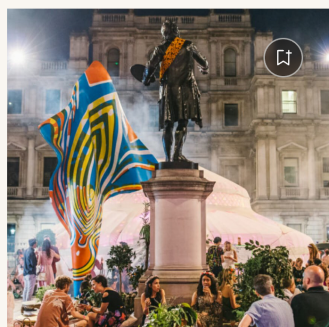
THINGS TO DO | CAMDEN **8.0**
Jazz Cafe Camden Live music seven days a week in Camden.



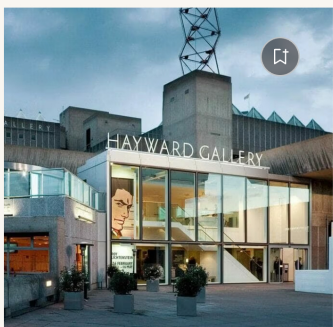
THINGS TO DO | BANKSIDE
Tate Modern A sprawling collection of modern art in an old electricity substation.



THINGS TO DO | PIMLICO
Tate Britain A shrine to home-grown art...



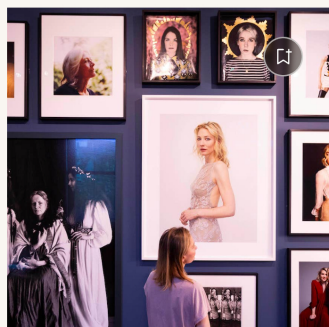
THINGS TO DO | MAYFAIR
Royal Academy of Arts Big-ticket art exhibitions in a grand 17th century mansion.



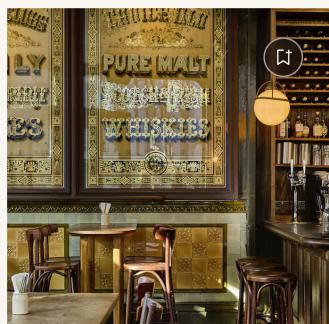
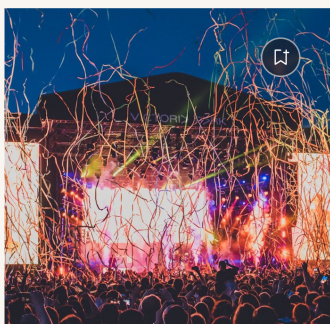
ART GALLERIES | WATERLOO
Hayward Gallery Catch an exhibition at a brutalist icon on the South Bank...



MUSEUMS | KNIGHTSBRIDGE
The V&A Museum An iconic free museum dedicated to art and design, housing over 2.3 million beautiful artefacts....



THINGS TO DO | CHARING CROSS
National Portrait Gallery A landmark London art gallery that's filled with familiar faces...



THINGS TO DO | BLOOMSBURY
British Museum Over 8 million priceless artefacts to see free of charge...



RESTAURANTS | MAYFAIR
Chisou Presenting a new Japanese restaurant in Mayfair. That's been around for 16 years.

FEATURES | ACROSS THE UK
The Best UK Festivals To Book Now Get your sequins on – here's who's headlining the top festivals in London & across the UK this...



RESTAURANTS | MAYFAIR
Umu A Michelin starred Japanese restaurant in Mayfair...

PUBS | SHOREDITCH
The Knave of Clubs A historic East End boozer has had a reboot, with one of London's hottest chefs overseeing the kitchen....



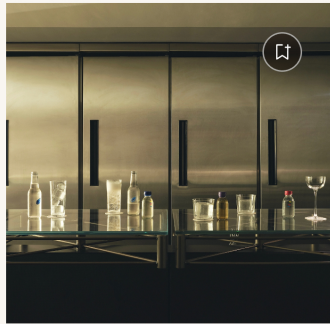
THINGS TO DO | CLERKENWELL
Exmouth Market Explore a semi-pedestrianised miniature village, lined with restaurants, bars and independent shops.....



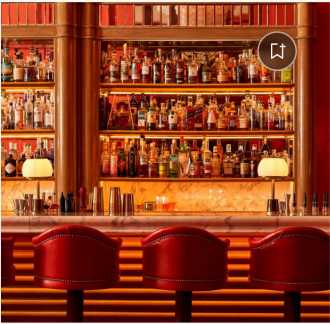
RESTAURANTS | CLERKENWELL
Vesper A stylish haunt for bistro fare with a sense of pure, grown-up abandon.



BAR | SOHO
Bar Termini A tiny little 1950's Italianate coffee and cocktail bar in Soho, where negronis are poured right up the brim...



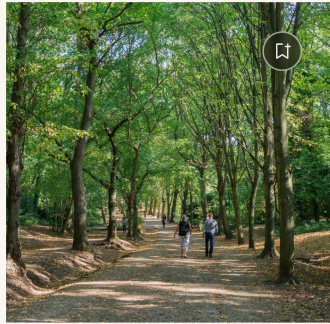
BAR | HOXTON
A Bar with Shapes for a Name An award-winning drinkable manifestation of the Bauhaus movement.....



BLOOMSBURY
The Coral Room A gorgeous coral-painted cocktail bar in the Grade II listed Bloomsbury Hotel.....



BAR | SHOREDITCH
Umbrella Workshop An experimental, hidden cocktail bar from the people behind one of the city's best speakeasies.....



THINGS TO DO | HAMPSTEAD
Hampstead Heath How to get to Hampstead Heath, plus the low-down on pubs, ponds, and things to do.....

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