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Shopping

2006

Guide

London's best shops & services

Great Western Studios

The Lost Goods Building, Great Western Road, W9 3NY (7221 0100/www.greatwesternstudios.com). Westbourne Park tube.

Open by appointment only. **No credit cards.**

A former British Rail building in the shadow of the Westway might seem an unlikely location for a hotbed of creativity, but the 140 artists and designers who work here don't seem to mind the sounds of buses, trains and automobiles.

On our last visit the whiff of turps in the corridors confirmed that painting is thriving at GWS. Established abstract painter Martyn Brewster has a studio here. Looking at home

in the location are Justin Hibbs's urban landscapes of stairwells and power stations; their slightly eery quality has echoes of De Chirico. Prices range from £200 for a print to £7,000 for a large oil. If you prefer a sunnier palette, look out for Penelope Anstice's luminous paintings of India. There are many other disciplines represented here too, including furniture designer Alex Henebury, milliner Pip Hackett, fashion designer Zakee Shariff, mosaicist Catherine Parkinson and stone carver Belinda Eade. Open studios are during the first weekends of June and December.

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