



PRIVATE VIEWS

For London's gallerists, home is where the art is. As they gear up for the PAD and Frieze art fairs, *Town* gets a guided tour of the homes and private collections of three leading design and art-world tastemakers.

By Oliver Bennett. Photographed by Antony Crolla

Sam Pratt and Valerio Capo, Gallery FUMI

You can almost see the ropes and pommel horse in this 120-year-old former gym in Hoxton Square, now the live/work space of Sam Pratt and Valerio Capo, owners of design gallery Fumi. The gallery was born in 2008 after Pratt finished a 20-year stint trading in the City and Capo left a job in marketing. They have built up a stable of artists and designers who will be, they hope and trust, "the next generation of Ron Arads", and with an openness to experimentation and new materials, this listed building is its showcase.

The robust floorboards are original, as are the exceptional hardwood doors – including a great concertina door: an original feature which they often use. "It really helps to divide the space up when you need to," says Pratt, who had to stop the vendor from painting the old doors, and restrip them.

In the middle of the space is a carbon-fibre table by Studio Silverlining: British designers in FUMI's stable. Another big statement is a screen by Zoé Ouyrier: as if a forest has intervened in the apartment. There's a big Campana Brothers sofa, and objects by other designers handled by FUMI, including a bent metal chair by Thomas Lemut, "a French designer who works a lot with classic materials". Three circular mirrors fly up the wall, and two Paul Cockledge pendant lights hang in the huge space. Extraordinarily, they're made out of polystyrene: "The same stuff that coffee cups are made from, baked as hard as ceramic." Also exalting the art of material transformation are a few pieces by Studio Markunpoika: "Tuomas [Markunpoika] encases wooden furniture in metal, then burns the wood." The result is an elegant, weightless filigree.

The bedroom is on a mezzanine floor, their bed covered by a very shaggy rug, brought back from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Above it is a painting by Carolyn Becker, and to the side a cabinet by Peter Marigold and a chair by Tina Roeder. On surfaces are all kinds of goodies: a colourful Murano glass vase, a blue glass object by Ettore Sottsass and on a plinth, a ceramic woman by artist Stephen Johnson atop a tray made of quartz crystals, bought in Brazil. "It's a bit of a celebration," says Pratt.

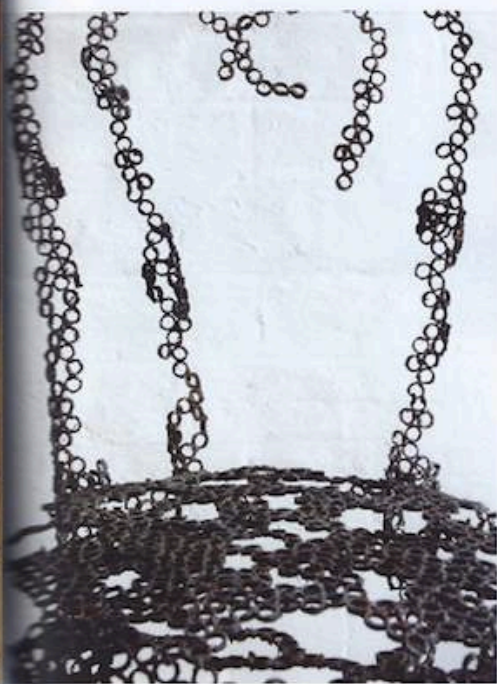
Gallery FUMI, 16 Hoxton Square N1; galleryfumi.com



The home of Valerio Capo, seated, and Sam Pratt, the owners of design gallery FUMI, is a former gym in Hoxton Square. Opposite: a textured artwork by Tawon Moran



Goodbye from this
architect: a Free Tinsmith
head and Peter
Bergman's glasswork
at beneath a mirror by
Sam Orlowski. Mirrors
the pair's office, also
on the mezzanine,
with a ceramic piece
by Khris Sotomayor in
the background; chair by
Studio Markopoulos.





The main living space features a screen by French artist Zoé Duvrier, and black and white pendant lights by Paul Cockedge, made from baked polystyrene. To the left is a carbon-fibre table by Studio Silverlining