

Blank Canvas

Following a decade behind closed doors, Fulham Town Hall reopens as an art gallery ahead of its transformation into a boutique hotel.

The lines between hotel and gallery are often blurred in today's world, with art playing a central role in a variety of projects. London alone has its fair share of gallery-esque hotels, where graffiti, sculpture or one-of-a-kind masterpieces dress the public spaces or suites. And soon, the city will add another exhibit to its collection in the form of a boutique hotel and creative community hub at Fulham Town Hall. Having stood derelict for a decade, the Grade II-listed building is set to get a new lick of paint later this year, but before it undergoes its transformation, operator Lamington Group has set about celebrating the area's emerging artists, designers and cultural characters by way of an immersive exhibition. "We wanted to give people a final chance to see the building before it is redeveloped, whilst also providing an opportunity for London's creative

community after what has been a particularly challenging time," says Managing Director Robert Godwin, who appointed Ben Moore of Art Below as the exhibition's curator. Entitled Art in the Age of Now, the temporary installation runs from the grand ballroom to the basement, with works selected to both juxtapose and harmonise with the building's Victorian architecture – think green marble columns, stained-glass windows and Art Deco lighting. Highlights include The Pink Bear by Luap, which sees a former vault painted hot pink and occupied by the artist's travelling muse riding a bicycle. The Pink Bear won't be stationary for long however, with construction to convert the building into 90 guestrooms, a variety of restaurants and bars and a co-working space soon to begin. Here's hoping the resulting hotel is a work of art in itself.

