

# FREE METRO

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My London **Weekend**

## MY LONDON ARTWORK

The DJ and Rinse FM regular is passionate about Peckham and feels London nightlife is being unfairly restricted

### Is there a area of London that's special to you?

Peckham. I live there and absolutely love it – it's a place that keeps on giving. It's like a little island because historically, it's an area that was difficult to get to – it has no Tube and cabs wouldn't go south of the river – so it's built up a good nightlife and arts scene. People in Peckham are used to doing their own thing; it has a really good, strong sense of community – if something's happening everyone gets involved and places like the Bussey Building and Frank's are at the heart of it. I've seen the community pull together to campaign against certain coffee chains opening in Peckham and when one of the artist studios was going to be developed into flats, there was a successful campaign against that, too.

### What are your early memories of raving in London?

I remember going to Lost, the techno night at Vox in Brixton, in 1990 or 1991 – that was the first time anyone brought techno DJs Jeff Mills and Richie Hawtin to England. I'd never heard any music like that before; it was music from another planet. Lost was Steve Bicknell's night and it moved about the place, but it always had the same vibe and set up – a huge soundsystem, a

pitch-black room, two lights, came netting hanging from the ceiling and the best DJs in the world.

### What are your thoughts on London nightlife in 2017?

It's had a tough time; people don't realise how important it is for a city to have a nightlife – it brings visitors to the city and if a city doesn't have good nightlife, lots of people will instead go to a city that does. We have this amazing nightlife that's being squeezed, whether that's people buying or renting flats in cool areas and then complaining about the noise, or shortsighted councils and government who don't realise its value. The campaign around Fabric meant everything was put on the table, so in a way that was a good thing, but I get the feeling it's going to take a lot to turn around London's nightlife. Maybe it'll go underground again.

### Tell us about your Art's House Summer Takeover

Having said that about nightlife, the club I'm doing, Art's House, is thriving. Every Saturday in July we're doing day and night parties. They start at Last Days Of Shoreditch and then we do a conga line down to XOYO. On July 8 we've got Nicky Siano from Studio 54 and he's bringing a gospel choir to sing his ten favourite disco records.

Then the week after we're doing a boat party.

### Where do you like to eat out?

Oi Spaghettie + Tiramisi, it's the most amazing place in Peckham, just inside the Bussey Building. I'm not sure you can call it a restaurant, it's in a garden shed and has two tables and a guy cooks the pasta in front of you – it's best pasta I've ever had. You bring your own drink and it's so small that everyone chats and it turns into one big party.

### Favourite building?

The NLA Tower in Croydon. As kids we called it 'the 50p building' because it looks like a stack of 50ps. That's a design classic.

### What would you do if you were Mayor for the day?

I'd start at 9am and first of all, cars have got to go. I'd delete all cars from London instantly and work out a better transport system. At 9.20am I'd have a coffee and at 9.30am get on with sorting out social housing – any house that is empty and is owned by someone abroad has it taken off them and is turned into social housing. It would be 10am by then so I'd have a cup of tea. After that I'd sort out nightlife and then it would be lunch at Oi Spaghettie + Tiramisu. I reckon I'd be a good mayor.

Artwork's Art's House Summer Takeover starts tomorrow and takes place every Saturday in July. [xoyo.co.uk](http://xoyo.co.uk)

INTERVIEW BY RAHUL VERMA

## EXHIBITIONS

### True To Life: British Realist Painting In The 1920s And 1930s

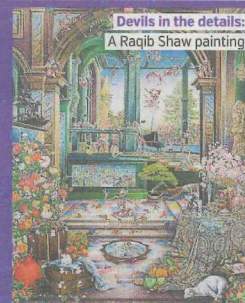
While trendy artists between the First and Second World Wars were playing around with abstracts, there was a school of British art quietly getting on with paintings that were so lifelike as to be almost photographic. This forgotten tribe is celebrated in this exhibition at the National Gallery of Scotland, where the likes of Meredith Frampton, Gerald Leslie Brockhurst and Laura Knight dazzle with paintings so realistic you feel you could reach into them. *Tomorrow until Oct 29, National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, [nationalgalleries.org](http://nationalgalleries.org)*

### Dinosaurs Of China: Ground Shakers To Feathered Flyers

This new batch of dinosaur fossils, eggs and specimens from China – a world-exclusive exhibition – is likely to fuel general dino-mania in the Nottingham area. Tracking the evolution of dinosaurs into birds, it consists of a main exhibition at Wollaton Hall with a side-kick show at Lakeside Arts. *Tomorrow until Oct 29, Wollaton Hall, Nottingham, [dinosaursofchina.co.uk](http://dinosaursofchina.co.uk)*

### Raqib Shaw

Glance at a painting by Raqib Shaw, and you might at first think you're looking at some fine historical fabric, but look closer and you'll see that, while the overall effect of his work is something sedate and old-school,



Devils in the details:  
A Raqib Shaw painting

the little tied-up devils and such like hint and something else going on. *Until November, The Whitworth, Manchester, [whitworth.manchester.ac.uk](http://whitworth.manchester.ac.uk)*

### Boxing Match For Direct Democracy

German artist/performer/philosopher/art theorist is always a tricky one to pin down. In this installation based on a real boxing match Joseph Beuys took part in back in the '70s to prove a political point, you have a sculpture featuring the actual boxing gloves and material surrounding the event with copious supporting material to help you get your head around it. *Until Aug 11, Waddington Custot, London, [waddingtoncustot.com](http://waddingtoncustot.com)*

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