

An intimate look at the interiors, lifestyles and houses belonging to a wide range of artists and makers

Artists' Homes

Live/Work Spaces for Modern Makers

Tom Harford-Thompson

c. 500 illustrations

25.0 x 19.0cm

288pp

ISBN 978 0 500 021323

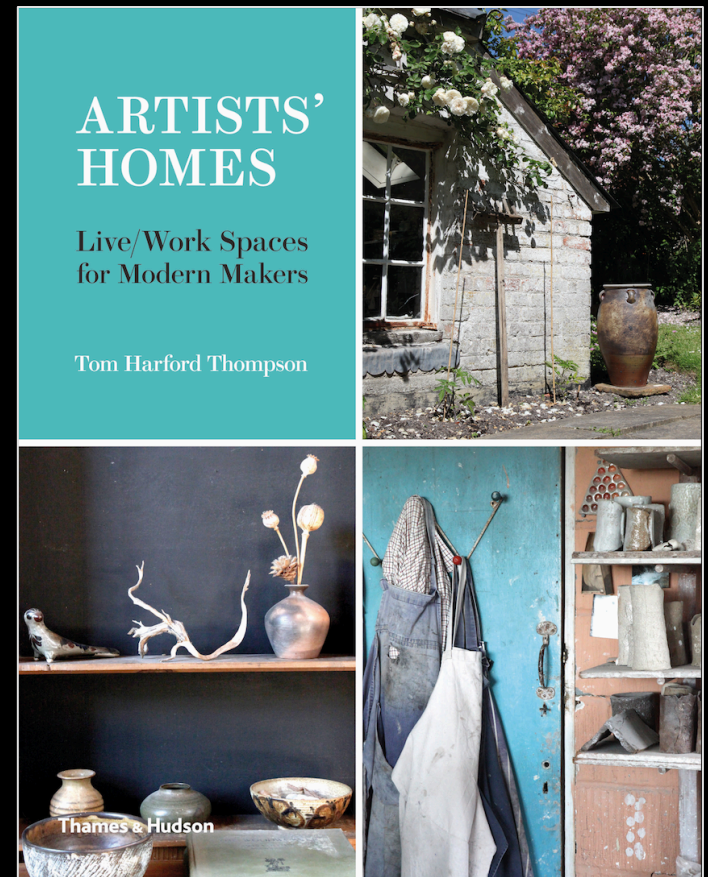
Hardback

£24.95

September 2018

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Book



Key Sales Points

- The interiors, most of which have been specially photographed and published here for the first time, eschew the 'glossy mag' aesthetic to provide often unexpected ideas for those seeking inspiration
- Homeowners include internationally recognized names, including artist Billy Childish; music producer Liam Watson of Toe Rag Studios; and artist and musician Penny Rimbaud, co-founder of the seminal anarchist punk band Crass
- Features properties in a mix of rural and urban settings

Billy Childish

Artist



Where do I start with Billy Childish – artist, musician and agent provocateur? His entry on Wikipedia displays a long list of artistic projects, all unknown to your average Joe, so maybe ‘outsider artist’ would fit the bill.

Billy has been working on the margins for a long time. He initially came to prominence in Thee Milkshakes, a band that was part of the Medway scene – a group of bands that were the British equivalent of the garage bands in America from the 1960s. Throughout the 1980s Billy ploughed a lonely furrow that included poetry and painting. Having been thrown out of St Martins School of Art in the late 1970s, Billy returned to painting as it had always ran in tandem with his other artistic pursuits.

Artistic recognition for his Edvard Munch-like paintings coincided finally with a show at the ICA. He is honest about his gradual rise, saying that many of his admirers have known him for years and only now have reached positions of power in the art world. He has stayed close to his roots and now works in The Ropery, part of Chatham Docks. He started here as a 16-year-old apprentice stonemason and returned a few years ago to set up a painting studio.

I spent the morning watching him work. Every part of the process is considered, even down to the overall he wears – an original Royal Flying Corps overall from the First World War. He tops the look with an original 1930s trilby hat and a carefully styled moustache. He has the air of a painter from the turn of the last century.

His home is an extension of this crafted artistic





Billy Childish



Caption heading here:
Billy's studio is in The Ropery at Chatham Docks. If I were an artist then this is the studio I would like. Ancient timbered floors with tongue-and-grooved walls and wonderful daylight.

Jonny Hannah

Artist



There are no exterior pictures of Jonny's house and there is a reason for this. Jonny would be the first to admit that his house is "boring". It is a 1980s terraced house with UPVC windows. But Jonny's choice of house is central to his artistic aesthetic. He consciously seeks out the mundane, the "boring" as this is the frisson that inspires his work. It is all part of his background and the way his artistic persona sits within it.

He comes from a working-class Scottish town. He says that to be an artist and have artistic pretensions when you come from this part of a world marks you as deeply suspect. As a result, he has deliberately chosen to live in an area that resembles his home town as this is where his inspiration comes from.

Jonny's parents were steeped in the world of 1950s America – everything from cowboy films, Levi jeans and Coca-Cola to the glamour of Hollywood. His parents' interest probably acted as a foil to their ordinary suburban town. Growing up, Jonny absorbed their passion and as a direct result has created his own fantasy place – "Darktown", where, as he puts it, "the freaks live".

'Darktown' is an American phrase to describe the end of town where the poor, the eccentric, people on the edge, live. This is the world of Jonny Hannah and helps to explain why he has consciously sought out his very own Darktown.



Jonny Hannah





Peter Hall



Caption heading here:
Peter's beautiful kitchen complete with dirty a well used cooker. Who doesn't enjoy looking at a kitchen that is actually used? Whether it is the burnt pans that tell a story or the half-used bottles of oil, it's the industry that I find fascinating.





Lisa Smallpelce

Opposite:
 More wonky pictures. A wall of Lisa's studio. Old copies of *World of Interiors*, a 1970s telephone and pictures found in old junk shops make an interesting composition.

Above:
 The studio is tacked on to the side of the house and has a glass roof, so that toplight is maximized.



Lisa Smallpelce



Above:

I have a thing about side tables and what people put on them. In my case, car keys, small change and receipts (which drives my wife mad). In Lisa's case, it's old photo albums and still life pictures.

Opposite:

The chair could almost be described as ugly, but it does about one thing -comfy!

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