



The Artist

On your travels about the Pall Mall clubhouse this summer, you may have noticed that artists are busy at work around the building. A group from the Federation of British Artists, based at London's Mall Galleries, have been capturing scenes of 89 Pall Mall in celebration of its centennial year, and these works will be shown in the Hanging Room in November. Painters such as Tom Coates, Ken Howard and Susan Ryder have been inspired by the plush Pall Mall interiors.

While these artists have been getting to grips with the interior, for one of their number, the outside of the building has been of interest. Peter Brown, or 'Pete the Street' as he is known, is one of Britain's foremost landscape and street artists. 'When I heard about it [the exhibition] and was asked if I'd like to take part I jumped at it. I did the two commissions for the Mall Room which I thoroughly enjoyed and to show alongside all these great painters is always good,' he says. 'I knew I did not want to do an interior. I love working outdoors particularly at this time of year and I wanted to portray the grand facade.'

Born in Reading in 1967, Brown studied first at Bath in 1986 and then at Manchester Polytechnic from 1987-1990. He returned to Bath in 1993 where he still lives with his wife and five children. He works across several media including pastel, oil and charcoal and can be found painting in all kinds of weather.

While Brown has painted many cities around the country, he has often painted London and loves it all. 'The West End has amazing architecture, I love the city and the river but I really enjoy going out to the suburbs.' Straight after the recent London riots, he travelled to Tottenham High Road to paint a burnt out building. 'I love London's spirit - there is a wonderful sense of community. I'll never forget 30 days after the 7/7 bombings, I was painting near Trafalgar Square when all the traffic stopped, engines off, and everyone stepped onto the roads for a two minute silence.' As well as scenes of devastation, Brown is currently painting Old Bond Street and Harrods. He has also just painted Primrose Hill; 'I love its fantastic views and bizarre behaviour from the fruitcakes who see it as a gym!'