

Take a tour of Hounslow's artists and makers through Virtual Studios this summer.



For immediate release

Artists can't invite you into their studios right now, so instead they're doing the next best thing—giving you an insight into their work, their process, and what motivates them on Instagram.

Between 27 June and 5 July 2020 artists will be using **#virtualstudioswest** to post video snapshots of painting, fashion, jewellery, photography, music, and dance! There will be how-to guides, time lapses, interviews, performances, and opportunities to meet the artist.

The arts sector has been hit hard by lockdown, but this has also been a source of inspiration for some artists, as in Gwen Shabka's Zoom portraits and John Potter's evocations of how social distancing has coloured our inner experiences. Discover how Jahangir Ahmed, who can often be seen dancing with Bollywood stars, finds balance in his whirling Sufi dance, or get away from it all with Jill Meager as she stakes out bird boxes and waterways for her finely detailed animal portraits.

Virtual Studios is produced by Creative People and Places Hounslow, a Watermans project, for the Creative Enterprise Zone's (CEZ) open studios programme. Virtual studios will be followed by opportunities to see artists at work in person once social distancing measures have been lifted. Hounslow's Zone exists to promote and develop the creative industries in the borough, from our eco-system of micro-businesses and start-ups through to multinationals in broadcasting and digital. The Zone is funded by the Mayor of London and managed by a consortium under the stewardship of Hounslow Council.

To take the Virtual Studios tour, follow [#virtualstudioswest](https://www.instagram.com/virtualstudioswest) or [@creativenetworkwest](https://www.instagram.com/creativenetworkwest) on Instagram from 27 June, or visit <https://hounslowvisualarts.org.uk/exhibitions/virtual-studios/> to find out more.

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