

Times Square PM
Hand finished boxed canvas
Edition of 95 UK
Image 36¼" x 46"
£750



Bright lights big city

Neon lights, bustling traffic and the swarm of humanity are the templates of city living, with New York and London providing rich inspiration for artistic interpretations of famous landmarks and familiar skylines

Big cities have always provided a wealth of iconic symbols for artists, and the striking cityscapes of London and

New York provide the dramatic backdrop to the work of two leading Washington Green artists, Paul Kenton and Neil Dawson. Both capture the vibrancy, speed and edgy buzz that emanates from modern city life. While Paul Kenton beautifully conveys the non-stop 24 hour life of New York, Neil

Dawson focuses on the colour and chaos of London's streets. Louis Sidoli, new to WG, is another artist who also takes his inspiration from the urban landscape (see page 20).

Paul Kenton's new six piece collection inspired by New York is a timely reminder of how urban life has captivated us all in the twenty first century. Although Kenton, a keen surfer, now lives with his young family on the North Devon coast, he takes his artistic inspiration from his own worldwide travels. Working in acrylic and oils, his signature style is a free flowing fusion of various media which captures the essence of urban life, rather than what he describes as 'the fiddly details of what something looks like.'

Kenton says that growing up as a teenager the work of Monet was always an inspiration. "I loved the way his paintings evoked a mood rather than being a physical representation of a scene." While Monet focused on bustling street life in →



nineteenth century Paris, Kenton translates that same expression of busy urbanity to contemporary New York. "My cityscapes reflect the many moods of manmade landscapes. I find it exhilarating to express the furious movement, artificial lights and the vibrancy of a busy city at night, as well as the subtler moods of a misty dawn at the same venue."

The new collection is an uplifting tribute to some of New York's famous landmarks. 'City Heights' reflects the enormity of the

soaring Empire State building, while 'Life in the Fast Lane' and 'Twenty Four Seven' draw us into the speed and high adrenaline rush of life on the New York sidewalk with its swirling traffic, and brash neon billboards. Although New York is a city everyone feels they know from TV and films, Kenton gives it a fresh sense of energy using a mixture of scarlet red, the canary yellow blur of a speeding New York taxi and the rich blue hue of a darkening city sky. He is the first to admit that his technique of painting

straight to canvas without sketches is what allows his paintings to convey such a great sense of vitality. "I simply dive in feet first, with huge brushes dipped into large pots of paints and drip on an outline before throwing the paint on," says Kenton. "I build up each layer with broad brush strokes and drip colour to create form until I can sense the atmosphere I want."

'I FIND IT EXHILARATING TO EXPRESS THE FURIOUS MOVEMENT, ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS AND THE VIBRANCY OF A BUSY CITY AT NIGHT, AS WELL AS THE SUBTLER MOODS OF A MISTY DAWN'



↑ **Life In The Fast Lane**
Hand finished boxed canvas
Edition of 95 UK
Image 18½" x 48"
£499

← **City Heights**
Hand finished boxed canvas
Edition of 95 UK
Image 36" x 36"
£599

→ **Street Lights**
Canvas edition of 150
Image 30" x 30"
Framed £550

Capturing the intoxicating heady essence of city life is what **Neil Dawson** also does to dramatic effect. Black taxis, London buses and bright lights all jostle for attention in his paintings. "I am a very visual person and my ideas tend to come from what I see around me. Just walking around town, images, compositions and colours can trigger a chain reaction." Dawson, a graduate of London's Central St Martin's School of Art says that it was only after a career in banking and an extended period travelling that he finally returned to art: "I dusted off the palette and paints in an attempt to recapture some





BLACK TAXIS, LONDON BUSES AND BRIGHT LIGHTS ALL JOSTLE FOR ATTENTION IN DAWSON'S PAINTINGS

← **Night Fever**
Canvas edition of 150
Image 30" x 30"
Framed £550

of the sights and feelings from my time abroad. I quickly realised how much I had missed creating art and have not looked back since."

Dawson expertly captures the trademark symbols of London life - 'Night Fever' with its shiny wet streets, glistening red buses and the headlights of a black taxi sweeping round a typical London corner is a painting with a real sense of place. In 'Scarlet Night' the combination of deep magenta red and bright pink circles creates a colourful scene of London at its most seductive and entrancing, while the more atmospheric 'Moody Blue' is an evocative view of a darker, 'after hours' London street.

Using photographic references Dawson likes to work fast and intuitively: "I always start quickly as I dislike staring at a blank canvas and find the early stages of a painting the most exciting and creative. I will block in large areas of colour and tone

to give the picture life and energy at an early stage." The vibrancy of Dawson's work leaps off the canvas and he regards his craft as an ongoing process. "I think if you are an artist, you are an artist 24/7. You never step out of the office as it were – it affects the way you see and react to the world about you."

To see these collections
in full please visit
www.washingtongreen.co.uk

→ **Moody Blues**
Canvas edition of 150
Image 26" x 20"
Framed £399

