

My space: Kalliopi Lemos, artist

Artist Kalliopi Lemos shows us round the studio at the end of her garden in Hampstead.



Artist Kalliopi Lemos in her Hampstead studio. Photo: MARTIN POPE

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When I was young, I lived in Japan, and the strange surroundings, the buildings and the gardens made a big impression on me. I studied Japanese flower arranging for years, and collected all sorts of books about the architecture.

My studio, where I draw, sculpt and paint, is at the end of my garden in Hampstead. It was designed by the architect William Hodson in the style of a Japanese pavilion. With the help of a Japanese landscape gardener, we created a retreat with large areas of water, lots of green, textured, sculptural plants and stone. The water reflects the sky; it's a calm, meditative place that looks particularly fantastic in the rain. It's a wonderful view while I'm cosy inside. I have everything I need here. I can wander in the garden to clear my head. It's a special place, because it has helped me become the artist I was meant to be.

Garden It has taken 25 years for the garden to evolve; the plants look more beautiful and dramatic each year. The wisteria has been trained to stand upright like an umbrella. Azaleas create a carpet of red in the spring, while at this time of year it's a purple carpet of cyclamen

Library I have a large collection of reference books and art books on everyone from Rembrandt to Matisse. Storing them up high was a good solution for this space. I have a little ladder that I move

around the room to reach what I need

Drawing area This area, overlooking the garden, is surrounded by glass, so when I draw here it's almost like a projection over the water below. It's very quiet in this corner; it encloses you and makes you forget about the fact that you are in such a big city

Table I can't remember where this old table came from, but I don't know what I'd do without it. It's where I know I'll find my sketch books and small objects that inspire the project I'm working on. I like the feel of the table; it's rickety and it folds in half so I can get it out of the way

Stove This is from Sweden. It's very efficient. The wood lasts for a long time. The fact that it's slow-burning makes it quite ecological

Kalliopi's exhibition 'Navigating in the Dark Part III' is at The Crypt Gallery, St Pancras, London NW1 (cryptgallery.org.uk) until Nov 27

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