

Main Image/ Sammy Dent's studio.  
Below: *Wasteland Flowers*

BEHIND THE SCENES:

# *The artists*

In the shadows of skeletal cooling towers, The Old Gas Works is home to more than 300 individuals and businesses, including a large community of artists. *Lauren Romano* navigates her way around the labyrinth to see them at work

## SAMMY DENT

When I imagine an artist's studio, I imagine something not too dissimilar to Sammy Dent's. Tubs and tubes of acrylic, gloss varnish and chubby oil bars strewn across every surface, vibrant plant splatters that cover the walls to the floor in rainbow-hued polka dots: the room itself is like a giant painting palette. Above, at ceiling level, huge rolls of canvas are suspended and reached via a set of gymnastic hoops, operated by a pulley system.

In the midst of it all, dressed as brightly as her studio, sits Sammy Dent, an authority on the art of chromatography. Her bold, energetic paintings, which, at 6ft x 5ft, dominate the space, have a sense of spontaneity and impulsiveness

about them. 'My work hovers somewhere between the abstract and the figurative,' Sammy tells me, as I gaze at one of her latest creations: a blurry bouquet whose petals leak puffy plumes of pigment. 'Much of my art is inspired by organic matter and plant life and, of course, the excuse to use colour,' she laughs. Sammy is not afraid to explore different materials and uses a plethora to create her paintings; from oil bars and acrylics to mussel shells and the odd pair of old leather trousers. She shows me a huge blank canvas, stretched with velvet, which will form the base of her next piece. 'It's such a beautiful colour; I can't wait to get started!'

([sammydent.co.uk](http://sammydent.co.uk))

