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18 Preserved Studios of Famous Female Artists That You Can Visit

BY **KAREN CHERNICK**

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Frida Kahlo Museum, Mexico City.

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For centuries in Western art, depictions of the artist's studio—by artists from Courbet to Matisse to Wolfgang Tillmans—have shown it largely as a masculine environment. But as epitomized in such paintings as *Night Studio* (2009) by Nicole Eisenman and *The Artist in Her Studio* (1994) by Paula Rego, it has long been both a testing ground and a sanctuary for women artists as well.

For the 18 female artists considered below, including painters, sculptors, photographers, designers, and architects, their studios were also their homes. And luckily for us, these imaginative spaces—from Maud Lewis’s cottage in Nova Scotia, covered inside and out with painted flowers, leaves, and birds, to Georgia O’Keeffe’s sparsely furnished house and studio in New Mexico—are open to the public.

10**Dora Maar House, Ménerbes, France**

Dora Maar studio before renovation.

Photo : Photo Courtesy of Dora Maar House.

None of the rooms in Dora Maar's Provençal house look like they did when the artist was living there, mainly because preserving the state of squalor she sustained would have made the 18th-century townhouse completely unusable by anyone else. When Aube Breton visited Maar there with her mother, surrealist painter Jacqueline Lamba, for example, she remembered scorpions dropping into Maar's bed. Today a collection of photographs meticulously documents what the home looked like after the 50 summers that Maar spent there, beginning in 1944 when Picasso bought it for her, but the house itself has been refurbished to be livable for an annual artist residency program now hosted there. The house contains 20 paintings, photographs, and drawings by Maar, and these can be seen either in the ground-floor gallery, La Moby, that opened in June 2021 or scattered throughout the house (which can be

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Alice Austen House Museum, Staten Island, New York



Parlor, Alice Austen House, Staten Island, New York.

Photo : Photo courtesy of Alice Austen House.

In a second-floor closet that Alice Austen converted into a darkroom, the Victorian-era photographer developed the nearly 8,000 images that she took of a changing New York at the turn of the 20th century. Nicknamed Clear Comfort and bought by Austen's family in the 1840s, the Staten Island house was built in 1690 as a Dutch farmhouse and is now a museum preserving the legacy of this early American photographer. It was Austen's photographs of the home she grew up in and occupied between 1917 and 1945 with her partner, Gertrude Tate, that made it possible to meticulously restore the exterior and interior, including the ground-floor parlor. Today the museum hosts changing exhibitions of Austen's work and that of other photographers.

<https://aliceausten.org/triennial/> [\(https://aliceausten.org/triennial/\)](https://aliceausten.org/triennial/)