

## My space: Karen Ruimy, musician and writer

Musician and writer Karen Ruimy shows us round her studio at home in Belgravia.



Karen Ruimy at home Photo: Andrew Crowley

5:42PM BST 02 Aug 2013

I am French, and I came to live in London seven years ago. At first I found it very strange. In Paris you can go and write in a café for three hours, but in London it wouldn't feel right to do that. Everybody is so much more efficient with their time. But I have grown to love it here.

I live in a five-storey house in Belgravia. It is very tall and thin, and you have to spend your days on the stairs. But the architecture is very classy and classical.

This room is my studio at home. It is my sanctuary, the place I go when I want to be away from everything. I try to surround myself with things that fuel my creativity, and many of them are images of powerful women. In 2011, Mariella Frostrup and I set up a charity to empower women called The GREAT Initiative, so this subject is very close to my heart.

The painting of the female face on the wall was too large to get through the door, so we had to remove the window and lift it in with a crane. Now it is there, it will stay for life; it is too difficult to get it out. That's what you call passion, right?

### **Bullfighting chair**

I am a patron of the Tate, and have a passion for modern art. This piece was created by a furniture maker called Serge Olivares, who is inspired by the Toreadors. I am a flamenco dancer, so I really love it – though I have to keep reminding people that they can't sit on it

### **Large painting**

This was created by the Spanish painter Manolo Valdés. I love it because it shows a woman who is fierce and powerful on one side of her face, and fragile and feminine on the other side. I think this expresses what it means to be a strong woman, and this inspires much of the work that I do

### **Black and white photograph**

One of my friends, the photographer Hervé Louis, took this picture of me, and I used it for the cover of my 2010 album, Essence de Femme. It was a nice time in my life and I like to be reminded of it

### **Tibetan singing bowl**

I spend a lot of my time meditating and writing, as well as making music. When you activate the sound of this singing bowl it is meant to realign you. I do it when I am feeling distracted, so that I become more centred and inspired

karenruimy.com

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2013