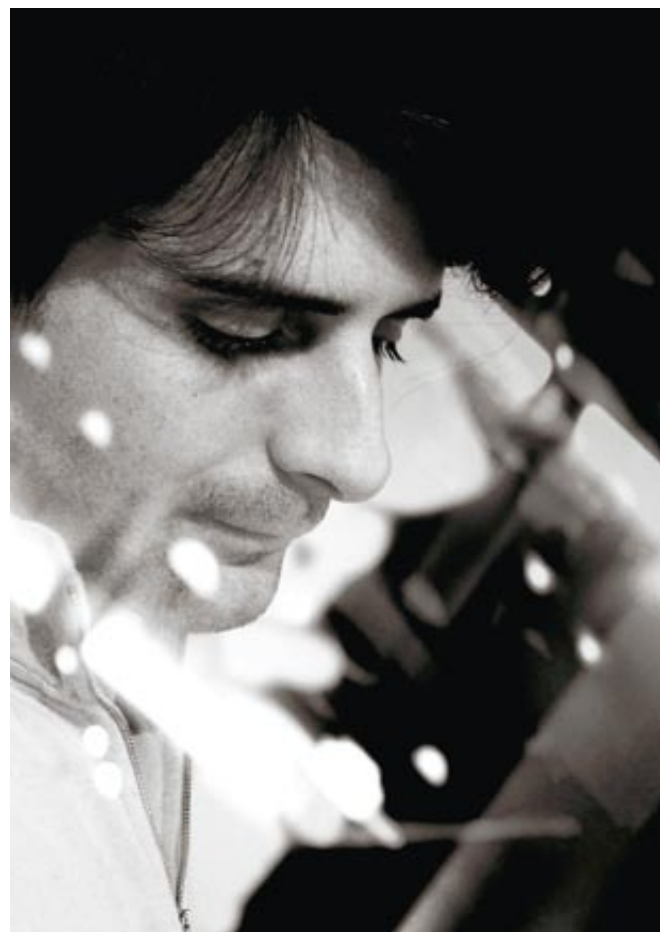




↑ I Love NY
Canvas edition of 150
Image 34" x 34"
Framed £635

A tale of **TWO CITIES**

Two of the world's most glamorous and vibrant cities, London and New York, provide the inspiration for *Neil Dawson's* new collection of intoxicating and seductive cityscapes



NY:LON IS A stunning collection of after dark images of London and New York at their most inspiring and evocative. A lover of dazzling neon lights and the glistening black sidewalks of the urban landscape, Dawson brings both cities alive with his skillfully constructed paintings of familiar and iconic locations. "It's my hope as an artist to capture the unique atmosphere of London and New York on canvas and to spark memories, associations and aspirations of these fantastic cities" says Dawson.

Capturing the energy and movement of city life is what Neil Dawson does best. Like many of his previous sell out pieces, NY:LON expands on his love affair with both cities. Yellow New York taxis, red London buses and the neon glare of city

lights all jostle for attention in his paintings. "I am a very visual person and my ideas tend to be inspired by what I see around me. Just walking around town, images, compositions, colours, even just a torn out reference from a magazine can all trigger a chain reaction and spark memories and associations with London and New York," he says.

A prolific photographer, Dawson captures images on film to create reference points for work in the studio. "Although the settings are familiar I like to think my interpretations are different. Part of the paintings' popular appeal lie in the fact that there is this connection for many people both emotionally and aesthetically with both cities. They have either lived, worked ➔

**NEIL
DAWSON
NY:LON**



↑ **Scarlet City**

Giclée edition of 250
Image 18" x 18"
Framed £365

or played in one of them!" Dawson has identified what he calls 'a vibe, a rhythm and a pace' that both London and New York share and although their cityscapes are so familiar he believes there is always space for fresh interpretations. He says: "I try to paint with a sense of ambiguity to allow for individual interpretations and, as cities are always in a state of flux, perceptions of those places will never be the same - that's the beauty of them."

As a graduate of London's Central St Martin's School of Art, Dawson says that it was only after an unlikely stint working for a bank and after a period of travelling that he returned to art and attempted to recapture some of the sights and feelings of his time abroad. "Being exposed to beautiful, enchanting, strange, evocative, provocative and bewildering environments with the time and the mindset to properly appreciate and reflect on

them was a defining experience" says Dawson, who on returning home immediately dusted off his palette and quickly realised how much he had missed creating art. He has not looked back since. "Capturing exciting places on canvas is what I like to do now, and NY:LON is my perfect modern day tale of two cities."

Using iconic imagery and notable landmarks Dawson sets his scene, immediately transporting the viewer to New York or London after dark. Like Dawson's previously successful pieces in the Bright Lights, Big City series, this new collection of seven paintings all feature cityscapes at either dusk or after dark. "I really like that time when the light is changing and the reflections are at their best. For me they take on a special atmosphere and excitement at night, and it is that signature mood that now really distinguishes my work," he explains.

In 'City Blues,' the blue and grey streets of London provide an expansive glassy pool of light as reflections dance off the road, while a more vibrant side of the city is seen in 'Scarlet City' with its red buses and shining lights. "This is a picture that draws people in with the colour, energy and brightness of the city" says Dawson who explores a similar theme in 'Metropolis' with its multi-coloured spotting, an effect which Dawson produces by using his fingers on the canvas. That sense of abundant urban energy is also apparent in 'The Avenue of the Americas' and 'New York, New York,' which both display great pace and movement as the garish yellow taxis surge down the wide expanse of a New York avenue. In 'I Love NY' Dawson renders Times Square not as a seedy or overbearingly commercial place but as a glamorous and expectantly heady mix of shining lights and neon signs. 'View from



↑ **View From Brooklyn**

Canvas edition of 150
Image 15¾" x 47¼"
Framed £525

"NY:LON IS A MODERN DAY TALE OF TWO CITIES THAT BEAT AS ONE IN VIBE, RHYTHM AND PACE"



↑↑ **New York, New York**

Canvas edition of 150
Image 18½" x 36"
Framed £485



↑ **Metropolis**

Canvas edition of 150
Image 18½" x 36"
Framed £485

Brooklyn Bridge' is probably his most dramatic work and is a brave attempt to reinterpret one of the most famous city views in the world: "It's an iconic image without doubt, but I like to think I have created a new interpretation" says Dawson whose luminous painting is both arresting and beautiful.

Like his work, Dawson is never ponderous, and he works 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 like the buildings and roads to give the picture life and energy at an early stage" he explains. "I like to work using my fingers a lot in the early stages - the versatility and speed with which the paint can be applied encourages me to work freely, energetically and instinctively."

Working on up to ten paintings at a time it can take four to five weeks to complete a canvas, gradually building up layers of oil paint before adding a colourful mixture

of finger spots to create light and colour. Dawson regards his craft as an ongoing process and is currently working on the idea of broadening his portfolio and painting other architectural cityscapes on his upcoming tour of galleries. "All cities have a wealth of interesting architecture and it will be a new challenge for me" he says.

Like many artists Dawson is always on the look out for the next inspirational building or scene to capture on canvas. "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."

NY:LON

Neil Dawson will be appearing at selected galleries from March to May.
www.washingtongreen.co.uk