



John Currin pictures on lightboxes, Mash, London



Timna Woollard mural, Cantina del Ponte, London

Restaurateurs may make unlikely art patrons, but they very influential ones nonetheless. From apocryphal tales of Picasso paying for meals by 'doodling' on the tablecloth, restaurateurs have realised the value that art can have in giving a restaurant character and life, whether it's the rainbow-coloured Pop Art of early Pizza Expresses or the YBAs whose work, until recently, adorned the DNA bar at Quo Vadis in Soho. Perhaps the most impressive acts of patronage are the commissions for in situ paintings that really do create (and dictate) the mood of the restaurant.