

New studios foster arts collaboration

ART

Lana Lam

IT'S a tale of rags to artistic riches with creative characters such as the Pink-footed Nymphs taking a starring role.

A former textile factory in St Peters has been transformed into a hub of 30 studios and is now home to dozens of established and emerging artists.

Glebe's Enrique del Val and Aaron Matheson from Forest Lodge occupy one of the larger studios, collaborating on canvas paintings.

The duo works as the Pink-footed Nymphs and teach open-air drawing classes throughout the inner city.

"The quality of light here is really lovely and it's well set up," Mr Matheson said.

The May St Studios are managed by former gallery owners Jessica Bokey and Tom Boycott and their passion for art is obvious.

"Basically, we're just the facilitators and we let the artists shine," Ms Bokey said. "We're trying to be sustainable and just have fun here."

Bathed in natural light, the studios range in size and are separated by partitions.



Artists at May St Studios, St Peters.

There is also a gallery space which will hold biannual shows for the resident artists and is available to other artists for shows.

Denise Campbell from Leichhardt moved to May St after a stint at Rozelle's one+2 artist studios.

The former primary school teacher made a career change more than a decade ago and is regularly com-

mitted to create works for large organisations.

Ms Campbell, known for her aerial landscapes of Central Australia, said she enjoys being in a studio because it helps to nurture the creative process.

The public is invited to the studio's official opening this Saturday, May St Studios, 23 May St, St Peters. Details: 0421 665 522.