

Once they were the outsiders, the debutants and contrarians of the art world. But as extreme becomes mainstream, these same painters, gallerists, collectors and critics are now running the show. Meet Britain's New Art Establishment, the men and women in control of the country's creative streak

THE NEW MASTERS

Portfolio
by **David Bailey**

THE ILLUMINATORS

ROB AND NICK CARTER

ARTISTS

AGES 40, 39 **BACKGROUND** Married duo Rob and Nick Carter live and work in London. Nick began waitressing at the Groucho Club in 1989 before she became the venue's art curator. In 1997 she married Rob, a photographer, and the couple began collaborating. Since then, they've exhibited, in London, New York, LA and Zürich.

MOST RENOWNED For working in the dark. In their studio, glow-in-the-dark stars taken from their daughter's bedroom warn of pillars and other dangerous objects, while the pair "paint with light" in the pitch black. Their artwork is a combination of fine art and photography. Private collectors include Sir Elton John, Kevin Spacey and Jude Law.

CURRENTLY Working on a series of large light works based on optical illusions and psychological colour tests for a solo show in London in 2010.

ROB WEARS SHIRT BY RALPH LAUREN POLO, £65, 020-7535 4600. NICK WEARS SHIRT BY MATTHEW WILLIAMSON, £330, AT LIBERTY, 020-7734 1234

