

acmestudios

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCIES PROGRAMME

Establishing residencies for artists in London

INTRODUCTION

International residencies provide artists with the opportunity to work and live abroad for periods of time supported by governments and cultural agencies. They nurture individuals' creative and career development and promote international relations for the countries involved.

Since 1987, Acme Studios International Residencies Programme (Acme IRP) has enabled governments, cultural agencies, foundations and businesses to offer individuals major work/live residencies in London. Over 300 artists have benefited from stipend-supported residencies for periods of three, six or twelve months. We currently manage 22 residencies annually, working with eight client organisations from Australia, Canada, Germany, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland (3).

Residency artists come from a wide variety of disciplines – artists, writers, critics, curators, designers, composers, musicians, dancers and arts professionals. This range of practice reflects our clients' individual programmes.

London is one of the most inspiring and exciting capital cities in the world. Its rich history and diversity are compelling attractions, and as a

leading centre for the presentation and production of culture it holds a particular interest for artists.

Residencies that allow artists to spend extended periods living and working in the heart of London can be life-changing experiences. They present new professional challenges, perspectives and opportunities. Artists use residencies to refresh their practice, to develop new work and to engage with a wide range of new ideas and people.

The Acme Studios International Residencies Programme enables artists to have this experience.

OUR SERVICE

For governments and cultural agencies who wish to provide residency opportunities for their artists, Acme IRP provides a comprehensive service, taking care of every aspect of an artist's living and working needs.

All residencies are based in East London, an area which is an international destination for visual artists, studios and galleries. We work closely with our clients to ensure that their London residencies are individually tailored; delivering long-term

Tate Modern, the Millennium Bridge and the River Thames





benefits for the individual artist whilst furthering the strategic aims of the client organisation.

Acme IRP manages both property and services. This includes leasing suitable property, overseeing maintenance and cleaning, providing furnishings and fittings, organising utilities and paying accounts.

We also provide a social and cultural framework for visiting artists. We help artists adjust to their new surroundings, giving advice and 24-hour emergency support. Access is provided to professional networks and artists are regularly invited to private views and events. All visiting artists are introduced to one another helping to create and strengthen their own networks, thus further enhancing the residency benefits.

CLIENT BENEFITS

Acme IRP helps its clients to achieve their individual cultural ambitions and wider strategic goals through international residencies.

Working with Acme IRP enables organisations to adopt a sustained approach towards residencies, recognising their potential to develop as a serious long-term investment which will provide a multitude of benefits.

In addition to the vital role of supporting the development of individual artistic practice, these residencies also provide additional benefits, including:

- Promoting the client's commitment to the value of culture
- Developing international relationships
- Acting as a gateway to wider networks
- Promoting individual cultures on an international stage
- Fostering creative collaboration

Artists who are awarded international residencies are often viewed as role models within their local and national contexts. Artists share their expanded

international networks, experience and knowledge with others once their residencies have finished, bringing benefits to further artists in their home countries.

ARTIST BENEFITS

For artists, residency opportunities provide vital development time, enabling them to take stock of their practice, explore new directions and gain inspiration from new surroundings. They also provide an opportunity to improve career prospects by:

- Making new links with international networks
- Gaining knowledge of other cultures
- Learning about developments in the international art world

As a direct result of networks developed during Acme IRP residencies artists have:

- Participated in international projects and exhibitions
- Achieved gallery representation
- Gained international reputations

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Acme IRP is here to meet the varying needs of our residency clients within the ever-changing landscape of contemporary art practice.

In addition to the management service we offer, our international residency clients can also choose from a variety of bespoke 'value-added' services, including:

- Individual artist mentoring sessions conducted by established UK curators, critics and gallery directors
- Curated group exhibition opportunities at the Acme Project Space, East London
- Further professional development opportunities including facilitated group seminars, critiques and artist visits

PURCHASING A PROPERTY

Hessische Kulturstiftung is a foundation whose purpose is the advancement and preservation of art and culture in the State of Hesse, Germany. The foundation has work/live studios in London, New York, Paris and Rotterdam.

Acme IRP has managed the London residency programme on behalf of Hessische Kulturstiftung since 1995, when we helped them purchase, renovate and furnish a three-bedroom terraced house in Bow, East London.

The refurbished accommodation allows the artists' families to join them during their 12-month residencies. The house is also equipped with a large studio on the ground floor and outdoor workspace.

Based in a residential area populated by many artists, the house is well situated for access to other arts spaces and central London.

Purchasing a property has resulted in significantly reduced annual residency costs. The property also provides a significant capital investment for the organisation.



Artist Tina Isabella Hild at work in the Hessische Kulturstiftung studio

RENTING A PROPERTY

The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) in partnership with the Québec Government Office in London began working with Acme in 2008 to develop a London residency programme as part of a wider cultural strategy.

The London residency provides two six-month residencies annually for peer-selected Québécois artists with a minimum of 10 years professional experience.

The residency is based in a rented two-bedroom work/live apartment in the heart of London's East End cultural district, in the same building as residencies managed by Acme from Australia, Portugal and Switzerland.

Acme also offers a specific professional development programme, tailored to each artist's needs and area of specialisation.



Artist Christian Quesnel in the CALQ work/live apartment

FOCUS ON RESIDENCY ARTIST VICTORINE MUELLER

'I spent seven months in London on a scholarship from the Landis & Gyr Foundation. This was an unforgettable, formative and progressive period for my artwork, something very special and important for me. Freed from the usual obligations and frame of reference, I was on the one hand especially close to my inner world (where I create), and on the other hand very open towards the unknown, this very alive and "current" city.

The scholarship gave me the time to work and explore in a focused way, and the studio was ideal for enabling me to enlarge and

develop my performative and sculptural practice, allowing me to create new work.

London's English and multicultural atmosphere had an enormously inspiring effect on me. I was also able to visit important exhibitions, theatre and concerts which I wouldn't usually have time to see or which aren't available in Zurich. I developed a completely new "work-rhythm" and perspective on life which supported, nurtured, inspired and expanded my practice. Meeting other scholarship holders was stimulating and supportive, and lasting contacts with artists were developed.'



Claremont Court, East London which houses artists from five international residency programmes

ACME IRP RESIDENCY CLIENTS

- Zuger Kulturstiftung Landis & Gyr, Switzerland (established 1987)
- Australia Council for the Arts, Australia (1992)
- Hessische Kulturstiftung, Germany (1995)
- International Artists Studio Program in Sweden (IASPIS), Sweden (1996)
- Aargauer Kuratorium, Switzerland (1999)
- The Swiss Federal Office of Culture (BAK), Switzerland (2002)
- Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Portugal (2008)
- Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Canada (2008)

ABOUT ACME STUDIOS

Acme Artists Studios Limited was founded by Jonathan Harvey and David Panton in 1972 and is a London-based charity which provides affordable studio space, residencies and awards for fine artists in economic need. Through this provision it continues to make a vital contribution to the development of visual arts practice by helping artists at the most fundamental level. Acme is recognised as the leading studio development organisation in England and has helped more than 5,000 artists. Acme is supported by Arts Council England.

‘Acme operates with supreme professionalism, managing simultaneously to be rigorously business-like and sensitively aware of the various needs of artists.’

Siân Ede, Deputy Director,
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK)

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in exploring how a London residency might form part of your cultural and strategic objectives, please contact:

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