

Acme and University of the Arts London secure pioneering Fine Art Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)

Acme Studios and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, University of the Arts London, have secured a two-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP), a part government-funded programme which helps businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of the knowledge, technology and skills that are available within the UK knowledge base.

The project will review the changing role of the artists' studio within contemporary art practice, through an extensive programme of studio visits and interviews. The project will be undertaken by an Artists' Studios Research and Development Associate, who will be based with Acme full-time for two years, employed by the university and jointly supported by an academic and Acme supervisor. The project is set to begin in Spring, 2010.

The project will result in new design specifications for artists' studios which will help ensure that Acme continues to provide and manage studios which meet the changing needs of artists' practice. As one of the first-ever KTPs in Fine Art practice the project has already generated a great deal of interest and it is hoped it will pave the way for other arts-based KTPs in the future.

Acme Studios is the leading studio development organisation in England and will open over 100 new purpose-built artists' studios over the next two years in addition to 71 new-build studios which have recently been completed. This development programme is part-funded by Arts Council England's Grants for the arts – capital programme. Acme's Chief Executive Jonathan Harvey explains, "Securing a KTP to develop new designs for artists' studios is extremely exciting for Acme and important for the affordable studios sector as a whole. This project will allow Acme to work in innovative ways to provide artists in economic need with high-quality, permanent, affordable space."

The partnership is the result of discussions between Graham Ellard for *Double Agents*, the research project based at Central Saint Martins which he leads with Professor Anne Tallentire, and Jonathan Harvey. Acme is keen to increase its links with art colleges and this project complements its expanding programme of support for recent graduates working with The Slade School of Art, Chelsea College of Art and Design, Royal Academy Schools and Royal College of Art.

For Acme, University of the Arts London is the obvious academic institution for this project with its international reputation in art and its extensive experience of successfully delivering KTPs.

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Acme Studios

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12 February 2010

Notes for editors

Acme Studios is a London-based charity that provides artists with affordable studios and living space, residencies and awards. Acme works in partnership with housing association and commercial developers to create purpose-built, affordable studios designed to its specifications, including:

- 50 studios at the Galleria, Peckham, SE15 with Barratt Homes – opened 2006
- 21 studios at Leven Road, Poplar, E14 with Swan Housing Group – opened 2009
- 12 studios at Harrow Road, NW10 with Catalyst Housing Group – opens 2010
- 15 studios at Stratford High Street, E15 with Genesis Housing Group – opens 2012
- 49 studios at Lesney Toys Factory, E8 with Telford Homes – opens 2012

Acme Studios' development programme is part-funded by Arts Council England's Grants for the arts – capital programme.



University of the Arts London

- Six-college system
- 20,835 students: 4,780 at Central Saint Martins
- 3,820 academic, research, teaching and support staff
- 255 courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, plus high-level research and hundreds of short and professional courses
- 17 sites across London

Acme's work with art colleges includes:

- Slade School of Art, Adrian Carruthers Award – Annual award for selected final year MA student who receives a one-year rent-free studio and £5,000 bursary
- Chelsea School of Art, Chelsea Studio Award – Annual award for selected final year BA student who receives a six-month rent-free studio and bursary supported by Chelsea Arts Club Trust
- Royal College of Art, Inspire MA Programme – Thirteen students work with Acme award holders to curate an exhibition at the Acme Project Space

For further information about Acme Studios, see www.acme.org.uk or call 020 8981 6811.

For further press information, please contact Jack Fortescue, Communications Officer at:

Acme Studios, 44 Copperfield Road, London E3 4RR

T 020 8981 6811 F 020 8983 0567 E jack@acme.org.uk

For further information about University of the Arts London, see www.arts.ac.uk or call 020 7514 6287.

For further press information, please contact Jill Kovacs, at:

University of the Arts London, 65 Davies Street, London W1K 5DA

T 020 7514 6287 F 020 7514 8376 E j.kovacs@arts.ac.uk