

Anthony Whishaw (RA, Hon RWA) at 80

We are delighted to be presenting an exhibition of paintings by Anthony Whishaw to celebrate his 80th birthday and 30 year association with Acme Studios. His Acme studio in Bethnal Green will be transformed to present work chosen from the last three decades. The show will run from **11 to 27 June** – and is one of a number of solo and group shows, in London, Bristol and Carlow, Ireland throughout 2010.



Anthony Whishaw at work in his studio. Photo: Andrew McCargow (2010)

Anthony's first contact with Acme was in 1978 when he approached The Acme Gallery, Covent Garden for an exhibition. Better remembered for the radical use of its spaces to accommodate and champion installation and performance work, the gallery responded enthusiastically to the vitality and beauty of his work. Acme, formed by recent art graduates in 1972, was already supporting many hundreds of artists with studios and living space in East London by the time The Acme Gallery opened in 1976.

Consistent with the gallery's policy of supporting artists at critical points in their careers, Anthony's major show of recent paintings received critical acclaim and marked an important step in the development of his practice. When the gallery closed in October 1981, to make way for the redevelopment of Covent Garden, its final act, 'Touching Class', an installation by Stuart Brisley and Iain Robertson, began the process of the building's demolition. Acme moved its headquarters back East, to Bethnal Green, to a new studio complex converted from an old brush factory and Anthony rented a studio there, where he has been ever since.

In the intervening years Anthony has gone on to consolidate his position as one of Britain's foremost painters. He has exhibited widely in both group and solo shows and his work is represented in many collections, both private and public, including the Arts Council and Tate. Anthony's paintings are developed in series, many concurrently, sometimes overlapping to form unexpected hybrids. The subjects, which include land/waterscapes and interiors reoccur over the years in different guises producing more series and what he calls 'mavericks'.

ENDS

Notes for editors:

Anthony will be in his studio every weekend during the exhibition: from 2.00 to 6.00pm on 12/13, 19/20 and 26/27 June. www.anthonywhishaw.com

Exhibition 11 to 27 June 2010, Tuesday to Sunday, 12.00 to 6.00pm

Private View 6.30 to 8.30pm Thursday 10 June

Access via: **Acme Project Space**, 44 Bonner Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9JS

Anthony Whishaw will be exhibiting throughout 2010:

- *IMAGES ON THE EDGE OF PERCEPTION - LARGE PAINTINGS*
Kings Place Gallery Gallery Level, 90 York Way, London, N1 9AG (20 August - 8 October 2010)
- *ANNUAL LONDON GROUP EXHIBITION*
The Cello Factory 33-34 Cornwall Road, London, SE1 8TJ (1 June - 11 June 2010)
- *RA SUMMER EXHIBITION*
Royal Academy London, W1J 0BD (14 June - 22 August 2010)
- *THE RA'S COME TO RICHMOND*
The Richmond Hill Gallery London, TW10 6QX (17 June - 13 September 2010)
- *ST PAUL'S IN THE 21ST CENTURY - A celebration with works by more than 60 artists*
St Paul's Crypt London, EC4M 8AD (20 September - 15 October 2010)
- *30 YEARS OF EIGSE ART*
Visual Centre for Contemporary Art Carlow, Ireland (11 June - 31 August 2010)
- *NEAR AND FAR*
Royal West of England Academy Bristol BS8 1PX (18 July - 5 September 2010)
- *AUTUMN SHOW*
Royal West of England Academy Bristol, BS8 1PX (24 October - 12 December 2010)

Acme Studios

Founded by Jonathan Harvey and David Panton in 1972, Acme Studios is a London-based charity which provides affordable studio space, residencies and awards for non-commercial fine artists. Acme manages over 400 studios in 12 buildings across London. Since its inception Acme has supported over 5,000 artists, many of them for significant periods of time and at critical stages in the development of their work. By providing support for artists at the level of research and production Acme continues to make an important contribution to the development of contemporary art practice in the UK.

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:

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