

New studios provide focal point for major graduate art awards

Three significant awards for recent art college graduates will be housed together at newly-converted, self-contained studios at Acme Studio's Childers Street building in Deptford, SE8. The collective value of the three awards is £30,000 with each award providing artists with rent-free studios, cash bursaries and mentoring support from artists and art professionals. The three artists benefitting from the awards from October this year are:

- **Rose Davey** - the ninth recipient of the Adrian Carruthers Award for MA graduates at the Slade School of Art;
- **Amy Gee** - the second recipient of the Chelsea Studio Award for BA graduates at the Chelsea College of Art & Design;
- **Sarah Poots** - the inaugural recipient of the Chadwell Award, a post-graduate from the Royal Academy Schools



Exterior of Acme Studios Childers Street building. Photo: Greg Goodale (2010)

Each artist receives a 280 sq ft (30m²) self-contained studio with large windows and doors and four metre high ceilings. Locating the residencies together gives the artists opportunities to meet and share ideas with one another. Acme has a long history of working in South East London and has managed studios at Childers Street for 20 years. During the residencies, Acme will work with the selected artists to provide a comprehensive programme of mentoring and supported opportunities with experienced artists, local galleries and arts organisations.

The **Adrian Carruthers Award** was established in 2002 in memory of the artist Adrian Carruthers for artists graduating from The Slade School of Art. Award holders receive a rent-free studio for a year, plus a bursary of £5,000.

The **Chelsea Studio Award** was initiated in 2009 by Kiki Claxton and Harry Major, two second-year students at Chelsea College of Art and Design. The award offers a cash bursary and a rent-free studio for six months. The award is supported by Acme, the Chelsea Arts Club Trust and Chelsea College of Art and Design.

The **Chadwell Award** is a new studio award created with philanthropist art collectors Andrew Post and Mary Aylmer which aims to provide a bridge between art school and practice as a professional artist. A recent art MA graduate will receive a free studio, together with a bursary of £5,000 jointly funded with Acme Studios. The award for 2010-2011 was offered to a student at one of two London courses – Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art at the Royal Academy Schools and MA Painting at the Royal College of Art.

Acme Studios has managed studios in a former propeller factory in Childers Street, Deptford since 1990 and recently signed a lease extension until 2028. In addition to the 100 existing studios, Acme is currently developing 30 additional self-contained studios on the ground and first floors which will be ready for occupation in October 2010. To arrange a visit, please email - newstudios@acme.org.uk or visit www.acme.org.uk/childers/php

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Notes for editors

Founded by Jonathan Harvey and David Panton in 1972, Acme Studios is a London-based charity that provides artists with affordable studios and living space, residencies and awards. Our expanding Residency, Awards & Community Programme will support over 30 artists this year through the provision of rent-free studios, bursaries, mentoring and professional support. Many of the artists on residency programmes provide public benefit through their engagement with local communities.

Acme manages over 400 studios in 12 buildings across London. Acme has pioneered new models of mixed-use developments with commercial house builders and social housing providers including:

- 50 studios at the Galleria, Peckham, SE15 with Barratt Homes.
- 21 studios at Leven Road, Poplar, E14 with Swan Housing Group.
- 12 studios at Harrow Road, NW10 with Catalyst Housing Group
- 27 studios at Stratford High Street, E15 with Genesis Housing Group (opens 2012).
- 49 studios at Lesney Toys Factory, Homerton, E9 with Telford Homes (opens 2012).

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