

Housing regeneration project gets its own artist

Acme Studios, with the support of the Swan Foundation, has developed a one-year artist residency based around Swan Housing's major regeneration project at Bow Cross, London, E3. **Simon Terrill** is today announced as the recipient of the award and will spend the next 12 months working on an experimental photography project with local residents.

Simon explains, 'My aim is to identify sites in Bow Cross that hold some kind of significance to residents, and once identified, generate a series of staged photographs that aim to extract some of the latent imagery residing here. I intend to establish a process of "scripting" the images in dialogue and collaboration with residents. As a development of my practice, the focus will be on portraiture as well as experiments with time, exposure and the multiple within a single image. With this project, what I mean to end up with is a series of "extracts" that form a larger work, a reversal to how I have tended to work in the past.'

The programme was recently launched with an informal event featuring food and refreshments prepared by residents and an historical photography exhibition of Bow Cross. Simon will receive support throughout the residency from Acme Studios and a member of the residents' association, as well as funding from Swan Foundation of £10,000 and £10,000 towards project costs.

'We selected Simon for this award because we felt his work would actively engage the residents of Bow Cross,' said Brian Gregory, Swan Foundation Trustee. 'His proposal allows the residents to take part in both guiding and creating a series of art pieces that capture key aspects of life on and around Bow Cross.'

Acme Studios was formed as a housing association in Bow and for nearly 40 years has been supporting artists in the area with affordable housing and studios. Co-founder and Chief Executive of Acme Studios, Jonathan Harvey says, *'We were very impressed by Simon's proposal and his ability to engage people from a range of backgrounds. It is very exciting to be involved in a project a short distance from where Acme began in 1972 which continues our aim to support artists and the communities in which they live and work. Swan Foundation's decision to invest in an artist residency instead of commissioning a single piece of art will have a greater and more lasting impression on the residents of Bow Cross.'*

The Bow Cross Artist Residency was open to Tower Hamlets artists and was selected by a panel comprising Pamela Brown (Swan Foundation), Brian Gregory (Swan Foundation Trustee) Jonathan Harvey (Acme Studios), Abdullah Hossain (Swan Housing Group) and William Raban (independent artist).

ENDS

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 425 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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The **Swan Foundation** was established in 2009 to improve the quality of life for people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The Foundation works with other organisations and business to be a catalyst for positive change, change the way people think and overcome social and economic barriers. With the support of Swan Housing Group the Foundation is able to apply 100% of monies raised to projects.

For further information about the Swan Foundation, see www.swanfoundation.org.uk or call Pamela Brown 0208 656 2636



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