

Artists' archive unearths the creative history of the Olympic Park

'UNEARTHED – Creative remains of a brownfield site' by Neville Gabie and artists from Carpenters Road Studios

Launch Party Friday 2 September 2011 from 6pm – 9pm

An archive exhibition is set to reveal how a brownfield site in a once-hidden corner of East London was home to a major artist building providing studios for 500 artists during the 1980s and 90s. Acme Studios managed Carpenters Road studios in Stratford, E15 from 1985 to 2001, at its time the largest artists' studio building in Europe until the ageing Yardley's Perfume factory was demolished to make way for the redevelopment of the 2012 Olympic Park.

Sarah Weir, Head of Arts and Cultural Strategy for the Olympic Delivery Authority explains, *'Standing next to the new Aquatics Centre, it's incredible to think that artists such as Rachel Whiteread, Grayson Perry, Fiona Banner, Jordan Baseman and numerous others were working as relative unknown artists on this exact site only a matter of years ago.'*

Uncovering this unique period in the history of the East End, a public exhibition of the archive will be held in Warton House, Stratford 3-11 September 2011. Working with Acme Studios, InSite Arts and archaeologist James Dixon, ODA Artist in Residence Neville Gabie explains the purpose and nature of the artist archive: *'I am keen to make visible the conceptual thinking and creative works inspired by the experience of being based in the Carpenters Road Studios. What was the impact on the artists who used them and the ideas generated by the experience of this specific piece of London? We are collating notebooks, memories, photographic records, film and video installations, sculpture and painting, which document the influence of this.'*

Adorned with its distinctive 'lavender lady' mural, Warton House is a much-loved local landmark and was originally the office for the Carpenters Road factory. Next year, 27 permanent affordable artists' studios will be created in Warton House for Acme ensuring a continued artistic presence in E15. Jonathan Harvey, CEO Acme Studios explains: *'The area is completely unrecognisable from when we managed studios here and Neville's project captures the unique nature of being an artist at that particular time and place. This project will ensure that the creative impact of this location is preserved and the creation of new high-quality permanent studios will guarantee that this area continues to benefit for years to come.'*

Exhibition runs: 3-11 September 2011 – 10am-4pm

Notes for editors

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 has had a presence in Hackney for almost 40 years and manages 50 studios at Orsman Road, N1, the only permanent studio building in the borough. 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 (opens 2010)
- 15 studios at Stratford High Street, E15 with Genesis Housing Group (opens 2012).

In total, Acme manages over 400 studios in existing buildings across London.

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

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