

## Acme Studios International Residencies Programme Highlights 2015

Acme International Residencies Programme works with international governments, cultural agencies and foundations to manage and deliver artists' residencies in London.



13 Residencies in Europe by Style Books

During May 2014 **Acme International Residencies Programme** welcomed Korean art journalist Sook Hyun Cho to visit our residencies as part of her extended research project into European Art Residencies and the interaction between artists and the residency communities they work in. Sook toured some of our studios, met with **Québec** resident artist Sophie Jodoin, visited the **Acme Project Space** and discussed Acme's international residencies philosophy with Acme IRP manager Lea O'Loughlin. The result of her visit was the recent publication of 13 Residencies in Europe by Style Books.

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### **Welcoming our new International Residencies Programme Administrator**

Laura Martin has become the newest member of the Acme Studios team. Laura started work in June as our new International Residencies Programme Administrator. She comes to Acme from Kingsgate Workshops Trust, where she supported the establishment of their Arts Council funded public programme. The launch of the new public programme began with the solo exhibition of artist in resident Lauren Godfrey's, *Entrée Stage Left*. Laura also played a key role in running the Testbed programme in collaboration with Camden Arts centre. Testbed seeks to develop and nurture young artists, arts educators and arts administrators of the future by running professional development workshops and creating opportunities for exhibitions and events.

Laura recently completed an MA in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy at Goldsmith's, University of the Arts London. During her MA Laura had the opportunity to meet many internationally focused organisations including LIFT, and gained insight into current international cultural policy and practice. Previous to her MA Laura completed a BA in Fine Art from the University of Hertfordshire. As a practicing artist herself Laura has an interest in supporting other artists to develop their practice and she is looking forward to supporting the artists on the international residency programme at Acme.

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Installation shot of FAKIYESI/OFFEH: *How to Speak to Power?* at the Acme Project Space, January 2015

## Stephen Fakiyesi (Canada)

**Canada Council for the Arts** London residency artist Stephen Fakiyesi celebrated his six-month London residency by exhibiting FAKIYESI/OFFEH: How to Speak to Power? with British artist Harold Offeh, at the **Acme Project Space** in January. In FAKIYESI/OFFEH: How to Speak to Power? the two artists used play and humour in their art work, as disarmingly as a court jester, to suggest strategies that give voice to the voiceless and that makes visible the imbalances of power which often goes unnoticed in regular social interactions. In so doing, they pointed to a more equitable balance of power within the world at large.

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The Australia Council for the Arts pavillion at Venice Bienalle 2015

## Venice Australian Council pavilion

A highlight of this year's Venice Bienalle for us was celebrating the opening of the new Australian Pavilion, the first twenty-first century pavilion to be built in the historic Giardini, marking a new phase for the representation of Australian art and architecture on the international stage.

Artist Fiona Hall AO, a previous recipient of the **Australia Council for the Arts** London Studio Residency with Acme Studios, represented Australia at the 56th International Art Exhibition. The inaugural exhibition of the new Australian Pavilion, curated by Linda Michael, was an immersive installation confronting global political, financial, and environmental events and issues. In the artist's words, the exhibition was intended to be "a minefield of madness, badness, and sadness in equal measure".

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Installation shot of The World Turned Upside Down at the Acme Project Space, February 2015

### **Love Enqvist (Sweden)**

During January **iaspis** London residency artist Love Enqvist exhibited a body of new work *The World Turned Upside Down* at the **Acme Project Space**. For this exhibition Enqvist harvested radical gardening references using them to create an environment for imaginary gardens. Each of Enqvist's layered references began with an historical character, whose solitary obsession with gardens was inspired by a spiritual belief. The exhibition was a labyrinth of imagery and language, and at its centre was an invitation to create an imaginary garden through a hypnotic process. The title, taken from Leon Rosselson's folk song of the same name, references the 17th century movement the Diggers and introduces the concept that assumed knowledge can be "turned upside down".

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### **Christiane Keys-Statham (Australia)**

Curator Christiane Keys-Statham undertook a one-month residency during May as part of our 2015 **Associate Artist Residency Programme**. The focus of her residency was to undertake first-hand research into best practice artist commissioning. During her residency Christiane met with a wide range of individuals and organisations including: Artangel, Artichoke, the Freud Museum, Hayward Gallery, In Between Time and Victoria & Albert Museum. The residency enabled her to meet with industry professionals and foster beneficial working relationships, research the success and failures of a wide range of commissioning projects, which helped to stimulate the development of new ideas for Christiane and challenge her practice with new perspectives.

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'Paper War' by Guan Wei

### **Guan Wei (Australia)**

Guan Wei is the current **Australia Council for the Arts** London Studio residency artist. Born in Beijing, China in 1957, Guan Wei first arrived in Australia in 1989 to take up an artist-in-residence opportunity at the Tasmanian School of Art. Subsequent residencies and opportunities followed and he now lives and works in both Beijing and Sydney.

Guan Wei's work has a profoundly felt, if implicitly ironic, moral dimension. In their complex symbolic form, his subjects potently embody current social and environmental dilemmas. They are equally the product of his rich cultural repertory of symbols and his informed socio-political awareness and art-historical knowledge.

As part of his London residency Guan will be exhibiting *Crossing Lines* in collaboration with British artist Wayne Warren at the **Acme Project Space**. *Crossing Lines* reflects on aspects of harmony and tolerance within society, by exploring areas of disruption where violence, greed and corruption prevail. The exhibition will open on Thursday 30 July, 6-8pm and run until Sunday 2 August.

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### **Acme IRP in Singapore**

Senior International Residencies Programme Manager Lea O'Loughlin will be traveling to Singapore 27 August - 5 September. On behalf of Acme IRP, Lea will be making contact with colleagues and organisations working with residencies and studios in order to gain a better understanding of the complex nature of contemporary art and its provision in the region. Lea will also be representing Res Artis at the THRIVE – Networking Culture Leaders workshop, taking place during the Singapore International Festival of the Arts. THRIVE is presented through a partnership between the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA); the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA); Arts Network Asia and presenting partner LASALLE College of the Arts (Faculty for the Creative Industries). The project is supported by ASEF Creative Networks of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and by the National Arts Council of Singapore.

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**Acme International Residencies Programme** 44 Copperfield Road, Bow, London E3 4RR  
T 020 8981 6811 E [irp@acme.org.uk](mailto:irp@acme.org.uk) W [www.acme.org.uk/irp](http://www.acme.org.uk/irp)