

## Acme International Residencies Programme Highlights 2015 (July-December)



### APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN - Associate Artist Residencies (AAR)

The **Associate Artist Residency** programme allows international artists, curators, academics and arts writers to apply to Acme Studios for short-term (one, two or three months) London based professional development residencies.

**Associate Artist Residencies** provide individual mentoring for international artists, matching their skills and ambitions with contemporary galleries, curators, arts professionals, cultural organisations and leading artists in London. We create bespoke and stimulating residencies to push the boundaries of each artists' work and to tap into the core of what makes London such an exciting international cultural centre.

Residencies can be developed around a particular project or conceived of as networking and contacts-focused. The programme is open to applicants resident in any country outside of England.

Please note that unless otherwise stated, artists will need to source their own funding for AAR opportunities and are usually funded by professional development or travel grants available in their home countries.

Applications received before 1 April 2016 will be considered for residencies taking place during 2017. Further information and AAR application forms can be downloaded from the Acme website: <http://www.acme.org.uk/international/assoc-artist-res>



Image: Isaiah Ceccarelli with Agent-General Christos Sirros (middle) and the nu:nord musicians.

### **Isaiah Ceccarelli Recital**

On the 11th December 2015, The Québec Government Office in London hosted a recital of new chamber works composed by the **Québec Arts Council's artist-in-residence at Acme Studios**, Isaiah Ceccarelli.

Isaiah is a composer, improviser and occasional singer of very early music who spent his six month residency in London developing networks, performing locally and composing three new works; BOW for string quartet, FALSOBORDONE for string quartet and DUNSTABLE for violin, viola & cello.

These were premiered to a specially invited audience at the Quebec Government Office, organised in collaboration with Acme Studios and nu:nord. The recital featured nu:nord's 2016 ensemble-in-residence soloists Galya Bisengalieva (violin), Mira Benjamin (violin), Robert Ames (viola) and Gregor Riddell (cello). The pieces were also recorded by UK independent label Another Timbre, and are scheduled for release in late 2016.

Since its opening by the Québec government in 2009, the **Québec Studio at Acme Studios** has enabled 13 artists to undertake six-month long residencies in London. Introducing the evening, Agent-General Christos Sirros underscored the importance of the Québec London Studio programme in allowing artists to reflect upon their practice, work on new projects and assist in career development.



Image: Work by Rosika Desnoyers

### **The Creative Industry of Mary Linwood**

During 2015 Acme's International Residencies Programme welcomed Canadian artist Rosika Desnoyers on a six-month **Canada Council for the Arts London Studio Residency**.

Over several decades, Rosika has developed an interdisciplinary art practice premised on the aesthetic use, study and collection of pictorial embroidery as a means to explore the disciplinary social relations of contemporary art production. Her thesis in research-creation investigates the conditions of emergence of Berlin work (needlepoint) in the early nineteenth century and its eventual shift from official knowledge - the most widely practiced form of art by European women; to submerged knowledge displaced by the skill-based ethics of the Arts & Crafts Movement and by formalist philosophy at the turn of the last century.

During her residency Rosika worked with the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court Palace and developed a new body of work, *The Creative Industry of Mary Linwood*, which was exhibited at the Acme Project Space.

The exhibition explored the late eighteenth-century needlepainting of Mary Linwood as a strategy for the production of new visual propositions within the context of Rosika's own display strategies, expanding her investigation of this now submerged cultural practice.



Image: Acme International Residency Programme Artists viewing work at Enclave, South London

### **Art Gallery Tours - Deptford X (South London) & First Thursday (East London)**

A vital part of Acme's **International Residencies Programme** is connecting our visiting artists with vibrant artists, exhibitions and events happening across London. Working with Artlicks and SLAM, recent gallery and exhibition tours have taken place in East and South London. Deptford X is an extraordinary festival of arts in South London, featuring more than 360 established and emerging artists across two weeks of site-specific installations, group exhibitions, open studios, tours, workshops, one-off performances and events.

Acme International Residencies Programme artists were treated to an opening night journey around Deptford's unique arts spaces. The tour was hosted by SLAM (South London Art Map) Fridays and BEARSPACE Gallery, who introduced us to some of the festival's highlights, exhibiting artists, curators and spaces including Liz K. Miller's solo exhibition 'Scordatura' at BEARSPACE, open studios and exhibitions including news of the world and Res at Enclave, Creekside Artists exhibition 'From Creek to Coast' in Deptford's 'Artists' Quarter', the opening night of Ben Cove's exhibition 'Modern Language' at Peter von Kant and finally ending at APT to celebrate their 20th anniversary with 'Twentieth', an exhibition showcasing the diverse work of its members, artists and trustees, past and present.

Articks Director Holly Willats led us through spaces and exhibitions in east London, coinciding with November's First Thursday initiative. On the First Thursday of every month, over 150 galleries in east London come together and run free events, exhibitions, talks, workshops, and private views during a special late opening.

**Acme International Residency** Artists were treated to individual curator and director introductions to exhibitions at Space, Transition Gallery, Space In Between, Lychee One and The Approach Gallery.

Articks was founded in response to a frustration that information about independent initiatives was not easily accessible to the public, but by word of mouth and exclusive networks. These tours specifically highlight and promote the younger generation of London artists, curators and spaces, actively making connections between projects and audiences.



Thrive Public Session (L-R): Audrey Wong, Programme Leader, MA Arts & Cultural Management, LASALLE College of the Arts; Sarah Gardner, Director, IFACCA; Lea O'Loughlin Senior International Residencies Programme Manager, Acme Studios and Secretary of the Board, Res Artis; Phloeun Prim, Executive Director, Cambodian Living Arts; Aleksandra Uzelac, Senior Research Associate and Head of Department for Culture and Communication, Institute for Development and International Relations; Shahidul Alam, Founder, Drik Picture Library.

## Thrive

Leaders of international culture networks and invited guests, representing 16 countries in Asia and Europe, gathered in Singapore on 28-31 August at the Thrive workshop organised by IFACCA in partnership with the European League of Institutes of the Arts and Arts Network Asia.

The workshop and a related public session were held at LASALLE College of the Arts thanks to a partnership with the Faculty for the Creative Industries. Both events were generously supported by January 2016

ASEF Creative Networks of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and by the National Arts Council of Singapore (NAC).

The aim of the workshop, which was organised to coincide with the Singapore International Festival of Arts, was to share experiences and discuss ways to improve the operations and impact of cultural networks. The public session, held on Monday 31 August, attracted 80 participants to hear selected network leaders give presentations on the topic: 'Global Issues for International Culture Networks: Perspectives from Asia and Europe'.

The topics debated were wide ranging and included: the need for networks to engage more actively both within their memberships and outside the culture sector; ways to encourage the involvement of the next generation of culture leaders in networks and provide training opportunities; the interest in increasing networking within the culture sector in Asia; ways to promote the value of networks and to advocate on behalf of culture in general; the challenges of sourcing financial support for international networks from funders that are often focussed on national, regional or issues-based agendas; the challenge for networks of taking an informed critical position on sensitive issues; and understanding and celebrating networks as living entities that are born, develop and may eventually cease to exist and how to manage those transitions. Further information about the workshop can be seen in this short interview of participants:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vws9GYhvUjM>



Image: Liza Eurich discussing her London residency work in progress.

### **Liza Eurich Critique**

As part of its **Associate Artist Programme** Acme Studios supported Canadian artist Liza Eurich

during her three-month London residency, funded through a travel grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

During her time in London Liza connected with other artists on Acme's **International Residencies Programmes** attending exhibitions and events and undertaking an exploration of museum collections in the capital.

Liza became intrigued by missing display objects in museums and focused her residency on developing work for a publication that documents the empty spaces and absent armatures left by works on loan from permanent collections. The project, which continues post residency, sees Liza teamed up with a London based writer, facilitated by Acme Studios and X Marks the Bökship, a project space for independent publishers, specialising in publishing works and projects by artists and designers.

Towards the end of her residency Liza undertook a public critique session, hosted by Art/Work Association (A/WA), to discuss and gain feedback on her residency and work in progress.

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