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Arts London * *
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Acme Studios

THE FUTURE OF THE ARTIST'S STUDIO

“Securing a KTP to develop new designs and management protocols for artists’ studios is extremely exciting for Acme and important for the affordable studios sector as a whole. This project will ensure Acme continues to provide high-quality, permanent and affordable space which continues to meet the requirements of artists in economic need.”

Jonathan Harvey, Chief Executive, Acme Studios

CASE STUDY

Acme Studios is the leading studio development organisation in England. Its current development programme which is part funded by Arts Council England’s Grants for the arts – capital programme, will result in 200 new and permanent studios in London by 2012. To establish accurate user briefs for artists’ studios, Acme recently started a two-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design (CSM), University of the Arts London, to review the changing role of the artists’ studio within contemporary art practice through an extensive programme of studio visits and interviews.

PURPOSE OF THE INITIATIVE

Acme is increasingly involved in the development of new purpose-built artists’ studios. In order to continue to provide studios which meet the changing needs of artists’ practice, Acme wanted to develop a project resulting in new design specifications and management protocols for future artists’ studios. As one of the first-ever KTPs in Fine Art practice the project has already generated interest and it is hoped it will pave the way for other arts-based KTPs in the future.

OUTCOMES

- An in-depth review of Acme’s current studio provision, including its current design and performance specification and management regimes
- A study of contemporary art and emergent practices relating to the role and form of the studio
- An informed and authoritative model of the function of the artist’s studio and a template for future design, provision and management
- The publication of papers and the organisation of a conference which will underpin Acme as the leading professional body in the UK developing and managing affordable space for artists
- Wide dissemination of the project findings to benefit all those involved in the development and management of artists’ studios and in contemporary art practice more generally
- Arantxa Echarte has been appointed as the project’s research and development associate, and the partnership brings together the work of Acme Studios with Double agents, a research project based at CSM led by Graham Ellard and Professor Anne Tallentire

For further information email knowledgetransfer@arts.ac.uk