

Anthony Whishaw (RA, Hon RWA) at 80

To celebrate Anthony Whishaw's 80th birthday and 30 year association with Acme Studios, his Acme studio in Bethnal Green will be transformed to present an exhibition of paintings chosen from the last three decades.

Anthony's first contact with Acme was in 1978 when he approached The Acme Gallery, Covent Garden for an exhibition. Better remembered for the radical use of its spaces to accommodate and champion installation and performance work, the gallery responded enthusiastically to the vitality and beauty of his work. Acme, formed by recent art graduates in 1972, was already supporting many hundreds of artists with studios and living space in East London by the time The Acme Gallery opened in 1976.

Consistent with the gallery's policy of supporting artists at critical points in their careers, Anthony's major show of recent paintings received critical acclaim and marked an important step in the development of his practice. When the gallery closed in October 1981, to make way for the redevelopment of Covent Garden, its final act, 'Touching Class', an installation by Stuart Brisley and Iain Robertson, began the process of the building's demolition. Acme moved its headquarters back East to a new studio complex, in Bethnal Green, converted from an old brush factory and Anthony rented a studio there, where he has been ever since.

In the intervening years Anthony has gone on to consolidate his position as one of Britain's foremost painters. He has exhibited widely in both group and solo shows and his work is represented in many collections, both private and public, including the Arts Council and Tate. Anthony's paintings are developed in series, many concurrently, sometimes overlapping to form unexpected hybrids. The subjects, which include land/water-scapes and interiors reoccur over the years in different guises producing more series and what he calls 'mavericks'.

Anthony will be in his studio every weekend during the exhibition: from 2.00 to 6.00pm on 12/13, 19/20 and 26/27 June. www.anthonywhishaw.com

Exhibition 11 to 27 June 2010, Tuesday to Sunday, 12.00 to 6.00pm

Private View 6.30 to 8.30pm Thursday 10 June

Access via: **Acme Project Space**, 44 Bonner Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9JS

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