

Exhibition explores memories within an empty home

'It was magical for me to roam the huge house's colourful, patterned rooms filled with strange and beautiful objects. What would later affect me would be the books and the paintings. I think my experience of Sydney Road would in part lead me to realise that I could possibly become an artist.' - Stephanie Kingston

Sydney Road is an exhibition of paintings, photographs, film and collected memorabilia, by **Stephanie Kingston** which opens at the Acme Project Space on 7 October. The works are the result of Stephanie's intense engagement with the house in Sydney Road of her Uncle and Aunt, Mark and Marigold Kingston. Mark and Marigold were both actors and Stephanie had known the house almost from birth.

In 2008, her Uncle and Aunt, diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia, left the house after nearly forty years to move together into a residential home. The paintings reflect the extraordinary vitality of their house. In a most affecting way they also communicate the sense of loss as the house became emptied leaving behind only traces and memories. Stephanie's letter to Mark and Marigold which introduces the accompanying publication to the exhibition touches on their possible struggle to remember what was once so central to their lives.



Original Features, 2010, oil on canvas, 80 x 54 cm, photographed in situ

In 2009 Stephanie was selected for Acme's Jessica Wilkes Award and this support enabled her to develop this new series of paintings. The annual award provides an Acme tenant with a grant of £10,000 so they can devote more time and resources to their studio practice.

The exhibition is complemented by a 48 page publication, which includes a moving reminiscence from Mark and Marigold's great friends, Tom and Isabel Courtenay.

Acme Project Space

44 Bonner Road, Bethnal Green
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Exhibition 7 to 31 October 2010

Thursday to Sunday, 12.00 to 6.00pm

Tube Bethnal Green

Train Cambridge Heath Road

Car On-street pay & display

Private View 2.00 to 4.00pm

Sunday 10 October

ENDS

Notes for editors

Founded by Jonathan Harvey and David Panton in 1972, Acme Studios is a London-based charity that provides artists with affordable studios and living space, residencies and awards. Our expanding Residency, Awards & Community Programme will support over 30 artists this year through the provision of rent-free studios, bursaries, mentoring and professional support. Many of the artists on residency programmes provide public benefit through their engagement with local communities.

Acme manages over 400 studios in 12 buildings across London. 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
- 27 studios at Stratford High Street, E15 with Genesis Housing Group (opens 2012).
- 49 studios at Lesney Toys Factory, Homerton, E9 with Telford Homes (opens 2012).

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

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