

Residency, Awards & Community Programme



'Portraits: Patients and Psychiatrists' by Gemma Anderson Fire Station Programme 4 (2010-2015)
Acme Project Space, Nov-Dec 2010. Photo: Gemma Anderson (2010)

Introduction

Helping artists by providing them with affordable studio and living space has always been Acme Studios' principal charitable activity. Over the years we have worked hard to secure, expand and improve this provision so that increasing numbers of artists can benefit from high-quality, long-term, accessible and affordable studios, enabling them to spend more time devoted to their professional practice in a stable, well-managed and supportive environment.

In recent years we have been developing new ways of supporting artists, adding value to our core provision but remaining true to our belief that providing artists with time and space is fundamental to supporting the development of contemporary fine art practice.

This programme now has a number of different strands: work/live residencies and bursaries at low rents, and awards which provide free studios and grants. The programme also includes studio residency schemes for selected artists whose practice

naturally embraces or reflects the areas and communities where the studios are based, resulting in direct public engagement in creative visual arts activity. This is in contrast to many other schemes where there is often a requirement for artists to deliver quantifiable outcomes. Experience tells us that our approach works, that encouraging risk-taking in this way often leads to the enhancement of an artist's work, profile and future prospects. Timing is key, and we always work with external expert artists and others to help assess whether an artist is in a position to make best use of the opportunities provided.

Although obligation-free, we ensure that artists operate within a clear support structure often, as with our Southwark and Tower Hamlets Studio residencies, working with external partners to provide mentoring, and support with advice and resources when needed. Increasingly we are developing partnerships to help fund new awards.

Our awards and residency programme is one of the most extensive and direct means of support to artists in the UK.

Work/Live Programme

The driving force behind Acme Studio's work/live programmes is the need for artists to have adequate studio space. The living element is necessary but ancillary to that of the studio. Acme deliberately refers to units as 'work/live' because it is the artists' professional practice, their need for a studio, that determines the design and philosophy of the scheme.

Fire Station

Acme's work/live programme at the Fire Station provides combined studio and living space at low rents as well as special bursaries: rent-free space and grants of £5,000/year.

The former fire station was bought in 1997 and converted with funding from the National Lottery and other sources. Restored and converted to provide 12 purpose-designed work/live and six non-residential studios, these units were developed in response to the lack of affordable space for artists to work and live in, and in particular, to the lack of studios properly accessible to disabled artists.

The five-year fixed-term residency scheme is intended to allow artists more time to concentrate on the development of their work and professional careers, and less time working to survive.

Since the programme began in 1997, more than forty artists have benefitted from work/live residencies at the Fire Station.

The 12 artists selected for Programme Four (2010-2015) are:

Briony Anderson, Gemma Anderson, Kate Atkin, Jonathan Baldock, George Charman, Melanie Clifford, Susan Corke, Robin Footitt, Haroon Mirza, Matthew Noel-Tod, David Osbaldeston and Emma Smith.



Melanie Clifford in her Work/Live unit at the Fire Station, Programme 4 (2010 - 2015). Photo: Acme Studios (2010)

Sugar House

The work/live residency programme, based at The Sugar House, provides artists with combined studio and living space at low rents .

Like the Fire Station, the project was designed in response to the lack of affordable space in London for artists to work and live in. The project alleviates pressures on artists - both financial and practical. Low rent reduces the amount of time artists have to spend earning to pay for somewhere to live and work, while increasing the time spent developing their professional careers.

The current artists on work/live residencies are:

Ruth Caig, Ignaz Cassar, Arantxa Echarte, Max Goodchild, Harold Offeh, Jochen Holz, Tania Rowlings and David Smith.

The area surrounding the Sugar House is undergoing a major regeneration project which will result in a new use for this important local building. Over 20 artists will have benefitted from this scheme when the current programme comes to an end in November 2011.

Our new-build studio residencies aim to extend the value and visibility of our studio project to the wider community. Selected artists have the opportunity to develop their practice and to embrace and reflect the context and the communities in which the studios are located.

Southwark Studio Residency

This residency is awarded to Southwark-based artists, who receive a rent-free studio (worth £4,750 a year) for 18 months, plus a cash stipend of £10,000.

The Southwark Studio Residency was established in 2006 and is based in our new-build studios at the Galleria in Peckham. In partnership with Southwark Council and the South London Gallery, the residency offers an opportunity for artists who are involved in socially-engaged practice to develop significant relationships with cultural agencies and communities in the borough. It is also a financial breathing-space, allowing artists to focus on the development of their practice.

The partners provide key support: Southwark Council provides £5,000 to the residency, as well as support and advice; South London Gallery provides support from their senior curator and/or director who visits the artist throughout the residency period and support for marketing and programming.

The partners aim to nurture and extend the relationship between the artist, their work and the wider community, and the artist is supported to achieve publicly visible outcomes at the end of the programme.

The artist selected for the 2010-11 residency is **K Yoland**.

The previously selected artists are:

Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre (2008-2009) and **Isa Saurez** (2006-2007)

www.acme.org.uk/southwark.php

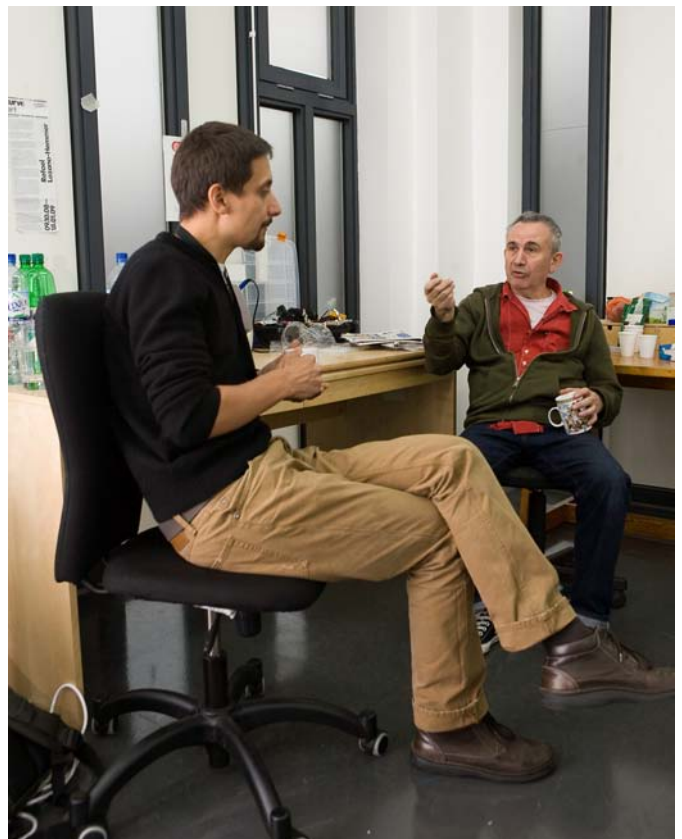
Tower Hamlets Studio Residency

As part of our new-build studios in Leven Road, London, E14, an artist living or working in London was offered a two-year rent-free studio residency worth £7,000, plus a grant of £10,000 a year.

The residency is an opportunity for an artist involved with socially-engaged practice to develop significant relationships, through their work, with local residents and the wider community. Like the Southwark Studio Residency it also offers a financial breathing-space, allowing artists to focus on the development of their practice.

The artist selected for the initial residency was **Jan Hendrickse** (2009-2011).

Acme is currently developing the residency to include partners for future programmes in order to bring additional benefits to the selected artist and the wider community.



Jan Hendrickske, Tower Hamlets Studio Residency (2009-2011) and Robin Klassnik, Matts Gallery in Jan's studio at Leven Road. Photo: Greg Goodale (2009)

www.acme.org.uk/towerhamlets.php

Studio Awards for Graduates

Acme's four graduate awards are permanently located in purpose-designed award studios, located at our Childers Street studios in Deptford. The adjoining studios naturally promote peer support, as well as professional input from galleries and through mentoring and studio visits. These awards have been carefully developed with Acme's partners to provide a valuable and effective bridge between college and professional practice.

Adrian Carruthers Award

Established in 2002 for artists graduating from The Slade School of Art, the Adrian Carruthers Studio Award provides a rent-free studio for a year, plus a bursary of £5,000.

The award was created in memory of the artist Adrian Carruthers, who died in 2001 at the age of 40. A graduate of The Slade School of Art, Adrian's family, friends and fellow artists have worked together to set up an award in his name, which offers practical support to artists at the beginning of their careers.

The space is at Childers Street, Deptford, SE8, where Adrian had a studio. Acme contributes half of the cost of the studio space, and Adrian's friends and family continue to fundraise to provide the remainder of the costs.

The artist selected for the 2010-11 award is **Rose Davey**.

The previously selected artists for the Adrian Carruthers Award are:

Janne Malmros, Revati Mann, Terumitsu Hishinuma, Nicola Wallis, Lorraine Neeson, Bryan Parsons, Corinna Till, Eddie Farrell, Gil Pasternak, Graham Hayward & Emma Hart, Matt Templeton and Sibylle Baltzer.

The Chadwell Award

The Chadwell Award aims to provide a bridge between art school and practice as a professional artist. The award was set up in 2010 by Andrew Post and Mary Aylmer, philanthropic art collectors, in partnership with Acme. The award provides a recent MA graduate with a rent-free studio in Childers Street, Deptford, for a year, together with a bursary of £5,000 jointly funded with Acme.

The award will be offered to students who are about to complete postgraduate courses, and will target different institutions from one year to the next. The award for 2010-2011 was offered to students at one of two London colleges: the Royal College of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. The 2011-12 award will be offered to students at Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design and Wimbledon College of Art.

The artist selected for the inaugural 2010-11 award is **Sarah Poots**.



Chelsea Studio Award

In 2009, Kiki Claxton and Harry Major, two second-year students at Chelsea College of Art & Design, approached a number of organisations with the intention of setting up awards for graduating artists. Aware of the difficulties graduate artists face, and impressed by Kiki and Harry's proactivity, Acme offered to provide a rent-free studio and mentoring for six months.

In 2010, the Chelsea Studio Award was greatly enhanced as a result of a grant from Chelsea Arts Club Trust, who encourage art and design education, and provide help and support for artists and designers. Chelsea Arts Club Trust's contribution, meant the selected artist received a cash bursary.

Each year the role of organising the award is taken on by a second year student, who gains invaluable experience of working with professional arts bodies.

The artist selected for the 2010-11 award is **Amy Gee** following the inaugural holder **Sam Austen** (2009-10).

The 2011-2012 award will be extended to 12 months with additional support from Chelsea College of Art & Design.

Camberwell Studio Award

In 2010, Acme Studios began conversations with Camberwell College of Arts about ways of continuing to support graduating artists. The result of this was the creation of a 12-month studio award for BA Fine Art graduates which begins in September 2011. In addition to the rent-free studio, the selected artist will receive a cash bursary and support and mentoring from Camberwell College and Acme.

The first recipient will be selected this June by a panel including an external artist, college tutors and Natalie Brett, the Dean of Camberwell College of Arts.

The successful artist will share a large self-contained studio with the recipient of the Chelsea Studio Award. Both these awards are designed for BA fine art graduates and it is hoped that sharing the space will facilitate peer support and ease the transition from art college to establishing a studio practice.

Exterior of Acme's Childers Street studios in Deptford, SE8. Home to over 150 artists and the four purpose-designed graduate studios. Photo: Greg Goodale (2010)



Professional Development Opportunities

In addition to the support provided by affordable studios, Acme has developed opportunities for artists currently in receipt of a studio. A key factor in the selection of artists for these awards is that the award will make a significant difference to the development of their practice.

Jessica Wilkes Award

The annual award provides an artist currently in an Acme studio with a grant worth £10,000 to enable them to devote more of their time to their studio practice. The award covers the selected artist's rent for one year with the remaining amount available as a bursary.

This major professional development opportunity is the result of a legacy from the artist Jessica Wilkes who died in 2005 at the age of 56. The award has been established by Acme in collaboration with Jessica's family and friends to celebrate her life.

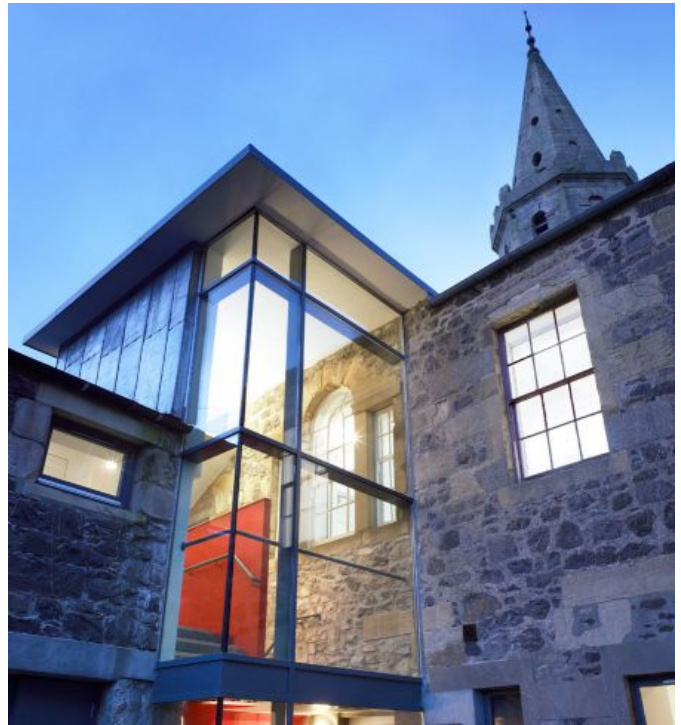
The artist selected for the 2010-11 award is **Andro Semeiko**.

The previously selected artists are:

Stephanie Kingston (2009-10) and **Howard Dyke** (2008-09).



'Sydney Road' Stephanie Kingston, Jessica Wilkes Award (2009-2010). Acme Project Space, October 2010. Photo: Esther Ellard (2010)



Exterior of the The Steeple, Newburgh. Photo: Wasps (2010)

Acme/WASPS Exchange Residency

Acme has a long relationship with the major artists' studios provider in Scotland, WASPS. As well as sharing expertise and experience, the two organisations have been looking at ways they can work in partnership to directly benefit artists. Acme offered WASPS tenants the opportunity to spend two months rent-free at a work/live unit at the Fire Station in London and WASPS offered Acme tenants the chance to spend a month at The Steeple in Fife.

Moray Hillary was selected as the recipient artist of the Acme/WASPS residency and, along with collaborator Agnes Nedregard, spent two months at Acme's Fire Station work/live programme in East London which ended in February 2010.

Acme Studios' tenant **Maggie Lill** was selected for a month-long residency at The Steeple studio development in Newburgh, Fife in August 2010.

Acme and WASPS are currently developing the next exchange programme for 2012.

Acme works with partners to develop individual projects which create opportunities for artists to develop and expand their practice.

Inspire MA Programme

Acme approached the Royal College of Art MA Curating Contemporary Art (Inspire) course to explore a collaborative approach to the use of the Acme Project Space which would both benefit the expanding number of artists on Acme awards and residencies, as well as support the aims of this innovative course by providing a platform for these young curators to develop ideas.

The students, who are placed at galleries and museums across England, are also supported by a highly experienced and dedicated team of academics and practitioners, including Head of Department Professor Mark Nash and Senior Tutors Clare Carolin and Karen Alexander.

RCA student curators speaking at the private view of 'Contort Yourself' MA Curating Contemporary Art (Inspire) at the Acme Project Space. Photo: James Neil (2010)

In 2010, 'Contort Yourself' featured work by Acme residency artists **Harold Offeh** and **Jan Hendrickse**.

In 2011, 'Sum Parts' features work by Acme residency artists, **Briony Anderson**, **Amy Gee**, **George Charman**, **Haroon Mirza**, **Emma Smith** and **K Yoland**.

Bow Cross Artist Residency

Acme Studios, in partnership with the Swan Foundation, established a 12-month residency for an artist to develop a project at Swan Housing Group's major regeneration scheme at Bow Cross, E3.

The partners believe that by investing in an artist and supporting a process of consultation, participation and collaboration with local residents, work will emerge which will have meaning and value both for local people and for the artist involved.

The residency includes a £10,000 bursary and £10,000 towards the project/s costs and support throughout the 12 month residency from Acme Studios and key stakeholders.

The artist selected for the residency is **Simon Terrill**.



Further Information

Acme Project Space

Opened in 2009, the Acme Project Space is a multi-purpose venue located at our major studio site at Robinson Road, Bethnal Green, E2.

The Acme Project Space supports a range of activities including our expanding Residency, Awards & Community Programme and our major International Residencies Programme with exhibitions, presentations, seminars and events.



www.acme.org.uk/projectspace.php

Contact

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Partner organisations involved in Acme Studios' Residency, Awards and Community Programme:



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