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## Arts News

### Southwark Artist in Residence

Southwark's artist in residence programme is a new initiative that helps local artists to develop by supporting them with affordable studio space and materials.

Isa Suarez is the borough's first artist in residence. In April 2006 she was awarded a one-year studio residency as part of a new initiative involving Southwark Council, Acme Studios and South London Gallery to support the development of art within the borough. She is spending a year working in one of 50 new-build studios at The Galleria in Peckham.



### About Isa

Originally from the Basque region of South West France, Isa has lived in Southwark for the last 12 years, an area she describes as: "lively, culturally mixed and vibrant".

Trained as a musician, Isa is a composer for film, a song writer, a performer and a sound artist. Music forms a crucial part of her sound art work, which is often based on everyday life: people's experiences, travels, nature and urban places as well as the human body.

Residency artist Isa said: "This award gives me the chance to develop my work as a composer, performer and sound artist within the Southwark community and will also help me develop my current commissions planned for this coming year in London and abroad. This studio is good not only for my Southwark residency work but also for my practice in general.

"I now have an ideal studio space within the lively and vibrant community where I live and work, together with financial help and support from Acme Studios, Southwark Council and The South London Gallery - it is the perfect scenario."

Isa has exhibited art works at Tate Britain, Whitechapel Art Gallery and Musée d'Art Moderne de Guéthary in France among many others.

She has worked on projects locally and across the world, involving people from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and abilities. Isa invites participants to take part in every stage of the creative process, especially through a hands-on approach to technology.

"Art can be intimidating - I try to make it more accessible through workshops and collaborative projects which culminate in a proper piece of art work."

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