



Jonathan Harvey with artist Claire Morgan and Hazel Blears at the Leven Road Studios in Poplar.  
Photo: Anna Braithwaite

## MP visits artists' housing project

**GOVERNMENT minister Hazel Blears visited a newly opened art studio created by a partnership between a housing group and a charity in Poplar.**

The Secretary of State for communities and local government visited Acme's Leven Road Studios last Tuesday, May 5.

Acme, formed in 1972 to support the development of fine art by providing artists with affordable studio and living space, has developed 21 purpose-built studios and 66 affordable housing units in partnership with Swan Housing.

Acme chief executive Jonathan Harvey said: "Our studios at Lev-

en Road were 100 per cent occupied from day one and though the artists have only been here a short time, connections are already being made between residents and local people."

To further strengthen ties between the existing community and both the residents and artists in the new development, Acme has established the Tower Hamlets studio residency.

The two-year award includes a free studio (worth £7,000) and a bursary of £10,000 a year and is given to an artist whose work involves social engagement.

The minister's visit was organised by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation.