

acme

Supporting art & artists since 1972

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■ ARTISTS SELECTED FOR NEW WORK/LIVE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

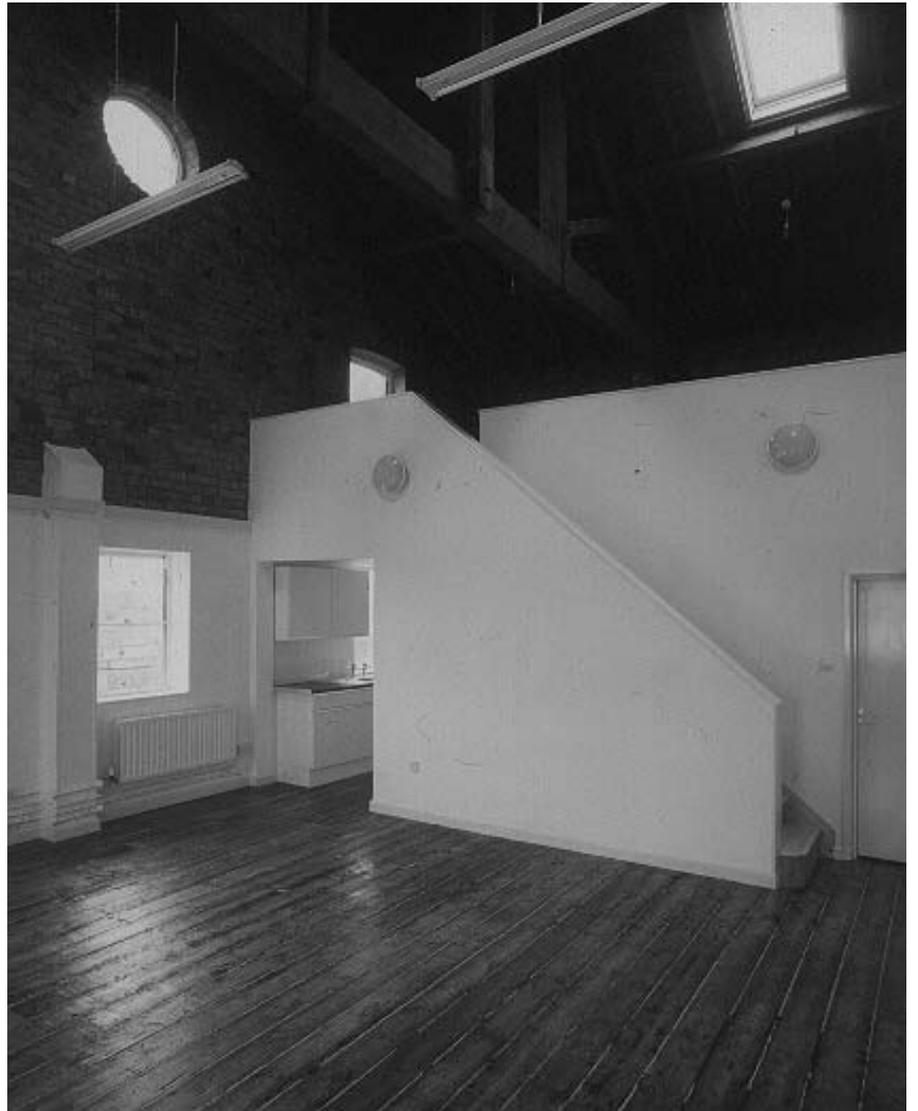
We are delighted to announce the 8 artists who have taken-up our new 5 year work/live residency programme (April 2002 - February 2007) at The Sugar House in London E15.

They are: **Neil Exeter, Louisa Fairclough, James Fisher, James Grant, Al Holmes, Brigid McCleer, Gail Pickering and David Rhodes.**

The artists have now moved into the 8 work/live units, which have been specially converted from the upper floors of a Victorian warehouse. The Sugar House, which will be managed by Acme for ten years, forms part of the Boss Business Village on Sugar House Lane, E15, owned by Boss Property Ltd.

The scheme has been developed as a partnership between Solon Co-operative Housing Services, the Boss Group and Acme Studios and has been joint-funded by the Housing Corporation, Stratford Development Partnership and Acme.

The units (varying in size from 480 to 960 sq. ft.) are situated on the first and second floors of the building, those on the second floor being double-height with mezzanine sleeping areas extending into the open roof



spaces. The units have separate kitchens, bathrooms and stores, with open-plan working and living/sleeping areas. We have worked closely with the architects, Survey and Design Partnership and the contractors, Artinville Ltd., to achieve flexible units and to maximise the sense of space and light.

The artists were selected from a national open submission.

Second floor double-height unit at The Sugar House showing sleeping area above kitchen, bathroom and entrance

The scheme at The Sugar House complements the work/live programme at our Fire Station building in Gillender Street, London E14 where 12 artists are part-way through the second programme (April 2001 to February 2005).

Residencies of up to 5 years allow artists a significant breathing-space in which to concentrate on the development of their practice.

The creation of low-cost work/live schemes by Acme is in response to the lack of affordable space in London where artists can work and live and aims to alleviate financial and practical pressures. Residencies of up to 5 years allow artists a significant breathing-space in which to concentrate on the development of their practice.

■ MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN NEWHAM TO PROVIDE 50 STUDIOS

We have just signed a 25 year lease with Boss Property Ltd. on 23,500 square feet of ground and first floor industrial space which forms part of the Boss Business Village on Sugar House Lane. The agreement has resulted from the relationship Acme forged with Boss in developing The Sugar House work/live units and from Boss' keenness to encourage more arts-related activity on the same site.

We have an eighteen month feasibility period in which to design and cost the conversion, seek additional funding for the initial capital works and liaise with artists on our studio waiting list.

The conversion, which will create up to 50 high-quality studios, will begin, at the latest, in October 2003, with the units ready for occupation in April 2004.

■ NEW-BUILD STUDIOS – DESIGN GUIDELINES UPDATE

The artists' working party to develop ideas for a new-build studio prototype met for the first time in January. Nine artists were asked to join the group, from an open invitation, to work with representatives from Acme and our access consultants **Damien Robinson** and **Andrew Walker**.

The artists are: **Emma Cameron, Catherine Bertola, Lynn Cox, Iris Argyropoulou, Elizabeth LeMoine, Joanna Sands, Kathrin Boehm, Arnaud Desjardin** and **Ju Gosling, Liz Whitehouse** and **Stuart Bolton** from **The Art House** have also joined the working party. The Art House, which supports disabled and non-disabled artists, was set up in 1995. Now based in Doncaster, The Art House plans to create purpose-built studio and exhibition space that is accessible to all, with technical support, enabling disabled and non-disabled artists to work and exhibit alongside each other on equal terms.

As stated in our November bulletin, taking Acme's experience in converting existing buildings as the starting point, the purpose of the group is to build on that experience and extend it into the realms of new-build with the publication of comprehensive design guidelines.

The first meeting concentrated on an analysis and appreciation of the fundamental concepts behind studio design. Through their desire to make and create, artists experience a need for a studio which encompasses notions of identity, individuality, freedom, communication and relationships with other artists. This need is then modified and articulated

through economic necessities and availability. It is therefore crucial **where** a studio is located, **with whom** the experience is shared and **how much** it costs. These and other fundamental issues have to be fully embraced before further consideration of design and construction detail results in a brief which can be translated by architects into reality.

A visit to **ACAVA's** Blechynden Studios in North Kensington, London, was undertaken before the group convened for a second time in April at which design elements were considered in detail, and a framework for a final document put forward.

Two visits to Persistence Works, **Yorkshire ArtSpace's** new development in Sheffield, are planned for June and July to provide comparisons and further inform the group so that by September, when the third meeting is planned, we have an agreed structure and defined scope for the guidelines. These we hope to publish in the form of a manual early in 2003. We hope the guidelines will be an invaluable tool for groups of artists or artists' organisations seeking to develop studio space. The manual is intended not so much as a 'how to' guide, but rather as a comprehensive set of questions and choices that will allow others to develop schemes appropriate to their own needs and philosophies.

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Support towards the cost of this work has been provided by **London Arts** from their New Initiatives for Artists programme. London Arts have kindly hosted and attended meetings of the group.

■ ROBINSON ROAD STUDIOS, BETHNAL GREEN, E2 – COMPLETION OF PHASE 1 REFURBISHMENT

In 2000 we achieved a new 30 year lease from the Crown Estate on the industrial site behind Robinson, Approach and Bonner Roads in Bethnal Green, helping to underpin Acme's long term commitment to establishing a network of permanent studios in London. Acme has occupied this site, which has housed 46 artists' studios and the Showroom Gallery, since 1981.

In July last year we commenced the first phase of the major improvement works which necessitated artists temporarily vacating their studios.

Three studio blocks (comprising 23 studios) have undergone re-roofing and fabric repairs, complete internal refurbishment to bring the studios fully up to current fire standards, redecoration of the staircases and corridors, and there is now a complete new electrical installation both to the studios and to the lobbies, staircases and corridors. We have installed a full external main/emergency lighting, smoke detection and fire alarm system, also a new entryphone system linking all the buildings, the new gates and external circulation areas.

The studio element of this phase was successfully

completed by the end of February, and artists were able to reoccupy substantially refurbished spaces.

Although delayed for three months by last minute design requirements by the conservation department of the borough, we have now completed the construction of a new accessible WC and wash-up building, and have resurfaced the yard area.

We are due to start Phase 2 of refurbishment to the largest single block in April 2003, which will involve complete re-roofing and basement damp-proofing, as well as a comprehensive refurbishment of the external fabric and the studios.

Phases 3 and 4, embracing the last buildings on the site together with the Showroom Gallery, will follow in 2004 and 2005.

■ ADRIAN CARRUTHERS STUDIO AWARD

A memorial fund has been set up in the name of the artist **Adrian Carruthers** who died at the age of 40 last year.

Adrian worked in an Acme studio at Childers Street Studios, Deptford in South East London and a group of his friends, fellow artists and family have worked together to set up an award in his name.

The award will provide a free studio at Childers Street for one year plus a bursary of £5,000. Acme will contribute half the annual rent of the studio and will work with The Slade School of Art, where Adrian had studied, to nominate a graduating student for the award for his or her first year out of college. Occupation of the studio for the first recipient will commence in September 2002.

The award will provide a free studio at Childers Street for one year plus a bursary of £5,000.

The aim of the award is to support artists at a critical and vulnerable time in their careers. The difficulties of both funding work and finding affordable secure work-space is something faced by many students leaving art colleges across the country each summer. The cost of living in London makes it extremely difficult for young artists to afford both somewhere to live and work and the many hundreds of artists who apply for Acme's work/live residency projects bears this out.

Editorial from Tate magazine has helped to raise enough money to support the first two years of the scheme but support is still sought to continue the award. If you would like to make a donation please send your contribution to the Adrian Carruthers Memorial Fund, c/o Acme Studios, 44 Copperfield Road, London E3 4RR.

There will be an exhibition to launch the award opening on Tuesday 17th September at the Slade School.

“Young artists live by expedients that always means they have less time to develop their talent. Yet, so much in their future production depends on being able to explore that talent vigorously in the early years. The most critical and vulnerable moment is, indeed, just after they leave art college.”

Mary-Louise Hume,
The Adrian Carruthers
Memorial Fund

■ OPEN HOUSE – FIRE STATION PROJECT TO OPEN TO PUBLIC

Acme has been invited to take part in this year's **London Open House** weekend.

London Open House is a co-ordinated event that promotes public access to buildings and architectural projects of interest across the capital. This initiative is part of a European-wide scheme supported by the British Government through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

This year we will be opening the doors of The Fire Station building at Bromley-by-Bow in East London that is home to our first development of low-cost work/live studios for artists.

The former L.C.C Fire Station was built in 1911 and then converted in 1997 to provide 12 fully accessible low-cost residential studios for fine artists on a residency programme and six non-residential studios. The building was remarkably suited to its new use and the conversion necessitated only minor changes to the external shell.

A number of the artists on the current programme will open their work/live units and studios for public viewing during the weekend. There will be information and photographs on display about the conversion of the building and other Acme

One aim of the event is to highlight the vital part that artists and studios play in the regeneration of urban space and the continuing importance of providing low-cost space for artists in the city.



The Fire Station – 6 ground floor non-residential studios and 12 work/live units on the upper floors

projects. One aim of the event, which attracts large numbers of visitors, is to highlight the vital part that artists and studios play in the regeneration of urban space and the continuing importance of providing low-cost space for artists in the city.

The event takes place on the weekend of the **21st and 22nd of September and the doors will be open for free public access on both days between 1-5pm.**

The Fire Station, 30 Gillender Street, London E14.
Tube: Bromley-by-Bow,
DLR: Devons Road

■ ORSMAN ROAD WORK/LIVE UNITS – UPDATE ON SALES

In 2000 we purchased our major studio site in Orsman Road, Hackney (48 studios – 26,500 sq.ft.). Together with our Copperfield Road and Fire Station buildings, this is the third to be acquired by Acme for permanent use as low-cost studios for artists.

To ensure that the whole project was financially viable, effectively to cross-subsidise the affordable studios, it was necessary to develop a small part of the site to create eight work/live units for sale on the open market.

The part new-build work/live units (ranging in size from 900 to 2,200 sq.ft.) were completed last summer. Five of the units have now been sold, fitted-out and occupied, and we have accepted offers on the remaining three.

The work/live units were designed and built in marked contrast to the very many, so-called, 'live/work' schemes currently being marketed throughout London. Such developments often drift into residential use against the planning policies of local authorities who wish to maintain employment use and are often unsuitable as workspace.

We are pleased to report that the purchasers of the work/live units at Orsman Road (painters, photographers, designers and choreographers) have all bought to occupy their units as genuine work-space with ancillary accommodation.

Not only have we achieved units of high-quality which

meet the needs of these artists, but through the sale of the units have generated capital to make the studio project viable as low-cost space. Such an exercise, which exploits the mechanisms of the property market, though time-consuming and complex, provides a useful model for achieving affordable space at a time of soaring property prices.

Work/live unit at Orsman Road before fitting-out showing new-build residential first floor area with large skylight over void to original converted ground floor work-space.

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■ STUDIO WAITING LIST – UPDATE

The waiting list for non-residential studios will be open again for new applications from **October 2002**.

There is still a long waiting time for long-term studios in our most popular buildings but there is a regular turnover of short-term studios and sharing arrangements in Acme's existing buildings that can be available to artists who have recently registered.

We are also looking ahead to the development of a number of new buildings over the next few years and the waiting list, as an indicator of artists' current studio requirements, is vital for planning new space.

If you are a fine artist interested in registering on the waiting list please contact the Acme office from 1st October for further information.



■ ACME STUDIOS

ACME STUDIOS is a London-based charity formed by artists in 1972. It supports the development of fine art practice by providing artists with low-cost studio and living space. Acme is the largest organisation of its kind in the United Kingdom and has helped over 4,000 artists with this fundamental means of support. Acme is recognised as the leading development agency for artists' working and living accommodation.

In 1997 Acme secured Lottery funding to enable it to purchase and develop 2 of its studio buildings, the Fire Station in E14 and Copperfield Road in E3. Building on this success, Acme purchased its third major studio building in Orsman Road, N1 in April 2000. These buildings represent a significant step in achieving our long-term goal of securing a permanent and sustainable network of affordable and accessible studios for artists in London.

- We provide 380 studios in over 170,000 square feet in 10 studio blocks throughout East and South East London at inclusive rent levels of between £5.25 and £7.00/sq.ft./annum.
- We provide 25 units of accommodation.

- We provide a 4 year Work/Live Residency Programme for 12 artists with and without disabilities at our fully accessible Fire Station in Gillender Street, E14.
- We provide a 5 year Work/Live Residency Programme for 8 artists at The Sugar House in E15.
- We maintain a register and waiting list of artists seeking non-residential studios in London.
- We manage a major international residency programme for 5 foreign agencies from Australia, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland (2).
- We provide space for two important publicly-funded galleries: Matt's Gallery and The Showroom.
- We work in partnership with other housing associations.
- We provide a nation-wide free advisory service to artists on all aspects of property negotiation, conversion and management.
- We provide a consultancy service on studio provision to a wide range of organisations including funding bodies, local authorities, other studio organisations and development agencies.

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LONDON ARTS



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Supporting art and artists since 1972

Acme studios consists of three exempt charities registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965:

Acme Studios Housing Association Limited

Reg. No: 28377R,
VAT Reg. No: 680 7763 03

Acme Artists Housing Association Limited

Reg. No: 27215R

Acme Housing Association Limited

Reg. No: 20468R

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Acme Studios

44 Copperfield Road, Bow,
London E3 4RR
T 020 8981 6811/6821
voice & minicom
F 020 8983 0567
E mail@acme.org.uk

Co-Directors

Jonathan Harvey, David Panton

Committee of Management

Robert Barnes
Naomi Dines
Jonathan Harvey (Company Secretary/Treasurer)
Henry Lydiate
Richard Millward
David Panton (Chairman)
Trevor Sutton

Staff

Sarah Greengrass (Senior Manager, Rents)
Roger Kite (Senior Manager, Repairs & Maintenance)
Heather Deedman (Artists' Liaison Officer)
Jane Leighton (Artists' Liaison Officer)
Julia Lancaster (Administrator, Development and Agency)
Richard Kingsnorth (Manager, Accounts)
John Lang (Manager, Repairs & Maintenance)

Solicitors

Trowers & Hamlins
Sceptre Court
40 Tower Hill,
London EC3N 4DX

Accountants

Alliotts
9 Kingsway, London WC2B 6XF

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank Plc
Public and Community Sector
39 Threadneedle Street
London EC2 8AU