

June 2010: Events update on recent programmes

MARTIN KARLSSON / IASPIS RESIDENCY, SWEDEN

During his time in London on a 12 month IASPIS funded residency Martin Karlsson worked on his project 'London – An Imagery'. Taking Gustave Dore's 1872 publication, 'London – A Pilgrimage' as his starting point Martin's project saw him re-imagining the city of London, highlighting the ways in which the architecture, characters and patterns of urban life have endured or changed in contemporary London.

Martin first exhibited a selection of these drawings as part of an exhibition at the Acme Project Space in October 2009, with fellow residency artists Tina Hild and Margarida Gouveia (from the Hessische Kulturstiftung, Germany and Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal residencies respectively). He also commemorated the project with a catalogue publication.

We are delighted to announce that to celebrate the beginning of the works for the new 'Transforming

Tate Modern' building Martin Karlsson's project has been selected for the 100 metre hoarding that encloses the construction works around the new Tate Modern extension. Martin will be discussing his work with writer and London chronicler, Iain Sinclair at Tate Modern on Saturday 3 July and his work will be on display until the end of 2010.

VISITING ARTS 1 MILE² PROJECT

As part of Visiting Arts' 1mile² project, Acme IRP hosted a London residency for Chinese artist Xu Zhifeng (Shaw) from October – December 2009.

The 1mile² project involves artists from overseas coming to work with communities in the UK and British artists travelling abroad to work with overseas communities and ecologists. The artists carry out an initial three month residency in a given 'mile', working with a local community and with young people in schools and post-school age. After the artist's residency, the local community responds to and continues the work of the initial artist's residency through workshops, events and projects, and contributing to the online forum.



Martin Karlsson and Ben Borthwick Assistant Curator at Tate Modern. Photo: © James Deavin

Shaw uses architecture, photography, sculpture and video to explore neighbourhoods and stories of people. His works often culminate as interventions within the social sphere, focusing on communities in transition. His mile was in the London Borough of Waltham Forest and Acme IRP provided not only an international context for Shaw to work within but also gave support to the ambition of his proposal.

Shaw's project involved defining a circle of residential houses in east London which simultaneously echoed and contrasted the nature of the Olympic site - highlighting the individual and personal lives of residents within this area. Working with local artists he door-knocked residents who participated in developing written recordings of their lives, and commemorated the project by attaching balloons to the chimney pots their houses.



Test flight of balloon above the Fire Station. Photo: Xu Zhifeng (2009)

CHRISTIAN QUESNEL EXHIBITION

Christian Quesnel, the inaugural recipient of the six monthly Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) London Artist Residency, marked the end of his residency in December 2009 with a solo exhibition in the Acme Project Space.

The exhibition 'Hearts of Clay' (Coeurs d'Argile) explored the creation of a graphic novel about the artist's house which had previously been host to the broken dreams of two lovers from western Québec in the 1930s. Visitors to the exhibition were able to follow two stories: the romantic drama and the process of creating the graphic novel. Using antiques, photographs, letters, plans and archives from the 1930s, Christian Quesnel pieced together an engaging narrative about both the story and the process of its artistic creation.

The exhibition was visited by The Québec Minister of Culture, Communications and the

Status of Women, Madame Christine St-Pierre, Québec Agent-General in London, Pierre Boulanger and Colin Hicks, Director Cultural Services at the Quebec Government Office London.



Pierre Boulanger, Christian Quesnel and Madame Christine St-Pierre. Photo: Québec Government

'16MM AND MORE'

Swiss artist Jeannette Munoz hosted a film screening at the Acme Project Space as part of her Aargauer Kuratorium residency. As well as featuring the work of Jeannette Munoz, the evening also featured a selection of short films by artists Lucy Parker and Peter Todd. The film screening was followed by a lively discussion and artist Q&A.

'AN ELABORATE FICTION'

Australia Council for the Arts residency artist Michelle Ussher curated the exhibition 'An Elaborate Fiction', showing her work alongside fellow Australian artist Alexander Pittendrigh, Swiss artist Daniel Lipp, and Italian artist Marco Belfore. Featuring drawing, painting, installation and film work, the show drew on the artists' shared experience of being alien to the landscape in which they currently reside.



'An Elaborate Fiction' at the Acme Project Space. Photo: Acme IRP (2010)



Claremont Court, East London which houses artists from five international residency programmes

ACME IRP RESIDENCY CLIENTS

- Zuger Kulturstiftung Landis & Gyr, Switzerland (established 1987)
- Australia Council for the Arts, Australia (1992)
- Hessische Kulturstiftung, Germany (1995)
- International Artists Studio Program in Sweden (IASPIS), Sweden (1996)
- Aargauer Kuratorium, Switzerland (1999)
- The Swiss Federal Office of Culture (BAK), Switzerland (2002)
- Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Portugal (2008)
- Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Canada (2008)

ABOUT ACME STUDIOS

Acme Artists Studios Limited was founded by Jonathan Harvey and David Panton in 1972 and is a London-based charity which provides affordable studio space, residencies and awards for fine artists in economic need. Through this provision it continues to make a vital contribution to the development of visual arts practice by helping artists at the most fundamental level. Acme is recognised as the leading studio development organisation in England and has helped more than 5,000 artists. Acme is supported by Arts Council England.

‘Acme operates with supreme professionalism, managing simultaneously to be rigorously business-like and sensitively aware of the various needs of artists.’

Siân Ede, Deputy Director,
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK)

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in exploring how a London residency might form part of your cultural and strategic objectives, please contact:

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