

## Groundbreaking two-year studio research project underway

A pioneering research project by Acme Studios and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, University of the Arts has begun. The two-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) will review the changing role of the artists' studio within contemporary art practice, through an extensive programme of studio visits and interviews.

The project will be undertaken by an Artists' Studios Research and Development Associate - **Arantxa Echarte**. Arantxa is currently completing her PhD in Fine Arts at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, and has a Pg Dip in Research (UWE, Bristol), an MA in Art and Design (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen) and an Honours Degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Basque Country (UPV, Bilbao). She has continued to maintain her practice as an artist and curator, and has experience of studio space as a practitioner, previously being based at BV studios, Bristol. Arantxa will be based with Acme full-time for two years, employed by the university and jointly supported by Graham Ellard for *Double Agents*, the research project based at Central Saint Martins which he leads with Professor Anne Tallentire, and Acme Chief Executive Jonathan Harvey.

This is the first time Fine Art Practice has been the subject of a KTP and there is significant interest in the project which will result in new design specifications for artists' studios. The outcomes of the KTP will help ensure that Acme continues to provide and manage studios which meet the changing needs of artists' practice.

Acme Studios is the leading studio development organisation in England. Its current development programme which is part-funded by Arts Council England's Grants for the arts – capital programme, will result in 180 new studios in London by 2012.

ENDS

### Notes for editors

Acme Studios is a London-based charity that provides artists with affordable studios and living space, residencies and awards. Acme works in partnership with housing associations and commercial developers to create purpose-built, affordable studios designed to its specifications, including:

- 50 studios at the Galleria, Peckham, SE15 with Barratt Homes – opened 2006
- 21 studios at Leven Road, Poplar, E14 with Swan Housing Group – opened 2009
- 12 studios at Harrow Road, NW10 with Catalyst Housing Group – opens 2010
- 15 studios at Stratford High Street, E15 with Genesis Housing Group – opens 2012
- 49 studios at Lesney Toys Factory, E8 with Telford Homes – opens 2012

Acme Studios' development programme is part-funded by Arts Council England's Grants for the arts – capital programme.



#### University of the Arts London

- Six-college system
- 20,835 students: 4,780 at Central Saint Martins
- 3,820 academic, research, teaching and support staff
- 255 courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, plus high-level research and hundreds of short and professional courses
- 17 sites across London

Acme's work with art colleges includes:

- Slade School of Art, Adrian Carruthers Award – Annual award for selected final year MA student who receives a one-year rent-free studio and £5,000 bursary
- Chelsea School of Art, Chelsea Studio Award – Annual award for selected final year BA student who receives a six-month rent-free studio and bursary supported by Chelsea Arts Club Trust
- Royal College of Art, Inspire MA Programme – Thirteen students work with Acme award holders to curate an exhibition at the Acme Project Space

**For further information about Acme Studios, see [www.acme.org.uk](http://www.acme.org.uk) or call 020 8981 6811.**

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