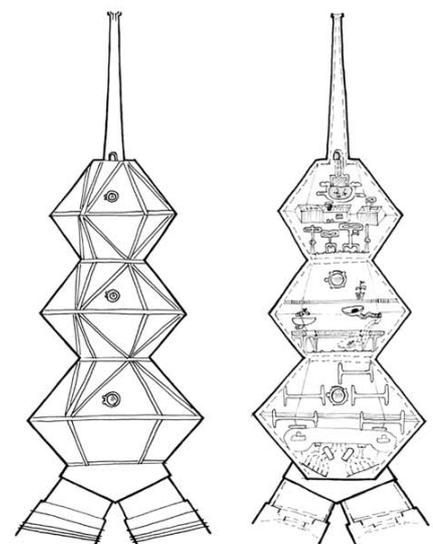


Third Acme tenant receives Jessica Wilkes Award

The 2011 recipient of the Acme Studios' Jessica Wilkes Award is **Andro Semeiko**. This is the third year of the award which is open to current Acme tenants in occupation of one of our non-residential studios in London. Created as the result of a legacy from the artist Jessica Wilkes who died in November 2005, the award was established by Acme, and Jessica's family and friends to celebrate her life.



'Rocket MT2010' by Andro Semeiko, Berwick Gymnasium Art Gallery, April-May 2010.

The annual award, worth £10,000, provides an artist with a free studio and grant to enable them to devote more of their time to their studio practice. Andro has a studio at Acme's Orsman Road building in Hackney and describes what the award means to him:

'The award has been given to me just at the right time. My work is at a crucial stage at the moment as I need to commit to my practice fully to bring it to a higher level. With the support of the Jessica Wilkes Award, I will be able to broaden my practice and allow enough time in my studio for experimenting. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to develop a solo exhibition at the Acme Project Space.'

Andro was selected by a panel consisting of Melissa Appleton (Jessica's niece), Jane Colling (artist and friend), Jonathan Harvey (Chief Executive, Acme Studios) and Laura Hewison (Jessica's niece). Jonathan Harvey explains the decision to select Andro:

'The panel were very excited by Andro's recent work and felt that the award would be hugely beneficial at this point in his career. Andro will be the third artist to benefit from the hard work and generosity of Jessica's family and friends in establishing this award. The Jessica Wilkes Award is an important part of our Residency, Awards and Community Programme which will directly support 27 artists this year.'

In 2010, Andro was awarded the Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship which culminated in a solo exhibition entitled 'Unveiling' at Berwick Gymnasium Art Gallery, Berwick-upon-Tweed. To accompany the exhibition, an artist book, 'Unveiling: Rocket MT2010', was edited and published by Basement Art Projects with support from Arts Council England Grants for the arts. The publication features images created and compiled by artist Andro Semeiko, and texts specially written by Neil Mulholland and JJ Charlesworth. For more information visit:

http://basementartprojects.org/publications/2010_Unveiling_Rocket_MT2010

ENDS

Notes for editors

Founded by Jonathan Harvey and David Panton in 1972, Acme Studios is a London-based charity that provides artists with affordable studios and living space, residencies and awards. Our expanding Residency, Awards & Community Programme will support 27 artists this year through the provision of rent-free studios, bursaries, mentoring and professional support. Many of the artists on residency programmes provide public benefit through their engagement with local communities.

Acme manages over 400 studios in 12 buildings across London. Acme has pioneered new models of mixed-use developments with commercial house builders and social housing providers including:

- 50 studios at the Galleria, Peckham, SE15 with Barratt Homes.
- 21 studios at Leven Road, Poplar, E14 with Swan Housing Group.
- 12 studios at Harrow Road, NW10 with Catalyst Housing Group
- 27 studios at Stratford High Street, E15 with Genesis Housing Group (opens 2012).
- 49 studios at Lesney Toys Factory, Homerton, E9 with Telford Homes (opens 2012).

For further information about Acme Studios, see www.acme.org.uk or call 020 8981 6811.

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