

Fire Station Centenary – Open Weekend

Saturday 21 May and Sunday 22 May, 12 noon to 6pm

On 19 May 1911, a new fire station opened in Poplar, E14. One of the first built for motorised fire engines, the station served heavily-bombed East London during the Blitz of WWII.

This landmark listed building was decommissioned in the 1970s and purchased and converted in 1997 to become the permanent home of Acme Studios' Fire Station Work/Live Residency Programme.

To celebrate the building's centenary and its new life as the base for a major artists' residency programme, the Fire Station will be opening its doors to the public. Former fireman and local MP Jim Fitzpatrick will unveil a plaque designed by former Fire Station artist Ben Cove to commemorate the occasion.

Over 50 artists have already benefited from the residencies; the current Programme 4 (2010 - 2015) artists are: **Briony Anderson, Gemma Anderson, Kate Atkin, Jonathan Baldock, George Charman, Melanie Clifford, Susan Corke, Robin Footitt, Haroon Mirza, Matthew Noel-Tod, David Osbaldeston and Emma Smith.**

The 12 residency artists, along with artists Julie Umerle, Andre Wallace and Richard Ducker on the ground floor, will be opening up their studios during the weekend with some of the artists responding to the centenary with new work. Refreshments will be available throughout.

ENDS

Notes for editors

Acme Studios

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 over 30 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, please contact Jack Fortescue, Communications Officer at:

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