

October 2015

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ABOVE 'juice', CSM Associate Studio Programme at the Acme Project Space. Photo: Acme Studios/Fiona Haggerty (2015)

INTRODUCTION

Helping artists by providing them with affordable studio and living space has always been Acme Studios' principal charitable activity. Over the years we have worked hard to secure, expand and improve this provision so that increasing numbers of artists can benefit from high-quality, long-term, accessible and affordable studios, enabling them to spend more time devoted to their professional practice in a stable, well-managed and supportive environment.

In recent years we have been developing new ways of supporting artists, adding value to our core provision but remaining true to our belief that providing artists with time and space is fundamental to supporting the development of contemporary fine art practice. This programme now involves work/live residencies at low rents and awards which provide free studios and grants.

Experience tells us that our approach works, that encouraging risk-taking in this way often leads to the enhancement of an artist's work, profile and future prospects. Timing is key, and we always work with external expert artists and others to help assess whether an artist is in a position to make best use of the opportunities provided. Although obligation-free, we ensure that artists operate within a clear support structure often working with external partners to provide mentoring, and support with advice and resources when needed.

Increasingly we are developing partnerships to help fund new awards. Our Residency & Awards Programme is one of the most extensive and direct means of support to artists in the UK.

Work/Live Programme

The driving force behind Acme Studios' work/live programme is the need for artists to have adequate studio space. Acme refers to units as 'work/live' because it is the artists' professional practice, their need for a studio, that determines the design and philosophy of the scheme.

FIRE STATION WORK/LIVE PROGRAMME

Acme's work/live programme at the Fire Station provides combined studio and living space at low rents. The former fire station was bought in 1997 and converted with funding from the National Lottery and other sources. Acme created 12 purpose-designed work/live and six non-residential studios, developed in response to the lack of affordable space for artists to work and live in, and in particular, to the lack of studios properly accessible to disabled artists.

The five-year fixed-term residency scheme is intended to allow artists more time to concentrate on developing their work and professional careers.

The artists currently on Programme Five (2015-2020) are: **Aaron Angell, Holly Antrum, Leah Capaldi, Lucy Clout, Samantha Donnelly, Alex Frost, Seth Guy, Richard Healy, Rizwan Mirza, Geraldine Swayne, Michelle Usher and Lucy Woodhouse.**



ABOVE Artists from Programme 4 outside the rear of the Fire Station. Photo: Hugo Glendinning (2015)

DUBLIN WORK/LIVE RESIDENCY

In July 2013, an exchange work/live residency took place with the Fire Station Artists' Studios, Dublin which provided a rent-free work/live space for a month and a bursary for travel and project funding.

The artist selected from Dublin was **Maria McKinney** who used her time to explore London and build a network. **Sue Corke** from Acme's Fire Station, collaborating with Hagen Betzweiser, took up the reciprocal work/live residency in Dublin. Following the success of the first year's scheme, a further exchange took place in July 2014 with **Bridget O'Gorman** coming to London and **Briony Anderson** and **George Charman** going to Dublin and in July 2015 with **Caroline Doolin** coming to London and **Seth Guy** going to Dublin.

Based in a purpose-built studio, this scheme provides an affordable route into a professional studio space in a mutually supportive environment. The emphasis is on the creation of a mixed but cooperative community of emerging artists, who are committed to pursuing a professional practice.



ABOVE Associate Studio Programme artists at the Glassyard, SW9. Photo: Hugo Glendinning (2014)

CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS ASSOCIATE STUDIO PROGRAMME

Developed out of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership between Central Saint Martins (CSM) and Acme Studios, 'transitional' studio spaces for recent graduates were created in two halls of residence, the Glassyard in Stockwell, SW9 and the Highline Building in Elephant and Castle, SE17.

CSM Associate Studio Programme offers new-build, self-contained, ground floor open-plan spaces for 20 graduates from BA Fine Art at Central Saint Martins.

The two-year programme offers an average weekly rent for each artist of around £20 and includes monthly seminars and studio visits arranged by the college.

The artists selected for Programme 1 (2013-2016, Glassyard) are: **Lydia Davies, Chris Ifould, Piotr Krzymowski, Sean Lavelle, Asta Meldal Lyng, Cameron Scott, Tilly Shiner and Nikhil Vettukattil.**

The artists selected for Programme 2 (2015-2017, the Highline Building) are: **Adeeb Ashfaq, Oliver Coltman, Nina Davies, Anna Pickles Harvey, Abbi Jones, Daniel Kan, Suzy Lawlor, Corinne Macdonald, Helena de Pulford, Eleanor Turnbull, Charles Verni and Jacob Watmore.**

Studio Awards for Graduates

Acme's graduate awards are located in purpose-designed studios at Warton House, E15. The adjoining studios naturally promote peer support, as well as professional input from galleries and through mentoring and studio visits. These awards have been carefully developed with Acme's partners to provide a valuable and effective bridge between college and professional practice.

ADRIAN CARRUTHERS STUDIO AWARD

Established in 2002 for artists graduating from The Slade School of Art, the Adrian Carruthers Studio Award provides a rent-free studio for a year, plus a bursary of £6,000.

The award was created in memory of Adrian Carruthers, who died in 2001 at the age of 40. A graduate of The Slade School of Art, Adrian's family, friends and fellow artists worked together to set up an award in his name, which offers practical support to artists at the beginning of their careers.

Acme contributes half the cost of the studio at Warton House. Adrian's friends and family continue to fundraise to provide the remainder of the costs.

The graduate selected for the 2015-16 award is **Rutie Borthwick**. Previous award holders in date order were: **Milou van der Maaden, Marianna Simnett, Ninna Bohn Pederson, Luke McCreadie, Rose Davey, Janne Malmros, Revati Mann, Terumitsu Hishinuma, Nicola Wallis, Lorraine Neeson; Bryan Parsons, Corinna Till, Eddie Farrell, Gil Pasternak, Graham Hayward & Emma Hart; Matt Templeton and Sibylle Baltzer.**



CHELSEA STUDIO AWARD

In 2009, second-year students at Chelsea College of Art and Design, Kiki Claxton and Harry Major, approached Acme for support in providing new and more appropriate awards for graduating students.

The award provides a rent-free studio for 12 months, professional mentoring and a cash bursary. It is jointly funded by Acme, Chelsea Arts Club Trust and supported by Chelsea College of Art and Design. The award is co-organised with second year students each year.

The graduate selected for the 2015-16 award is **Harriet Foyster**. Previous award holders in date order were: **Aaron Wells, Naomi Fitzsimmons, Rafal Zajko, Anna Moderato, Amy Gee and Sam Austen.**

LEFT Installation as part of 'in Spite of the Mass' by Milou van der Maaden at the Acme Project Space. Photo: Milou van der Maaden (2015)

Studio Awards for Graduates

GOLDSMITHS MFA STUDIO AWARD

Recognising the importance of supporting students once they graduate, an award for MFA Fine Art students was set up enabling the recipient to devote more time to studio practice. The award is a partnership funded by Jane Hamlyn, Acme and ISA Charity through the Artisa Foundation.

The 12-month award comprises a rent-free studio, bursary and a mentoring programme tailored specifically to the graduate's practice including studio visits from other artists, curators and access to networking opportunities.

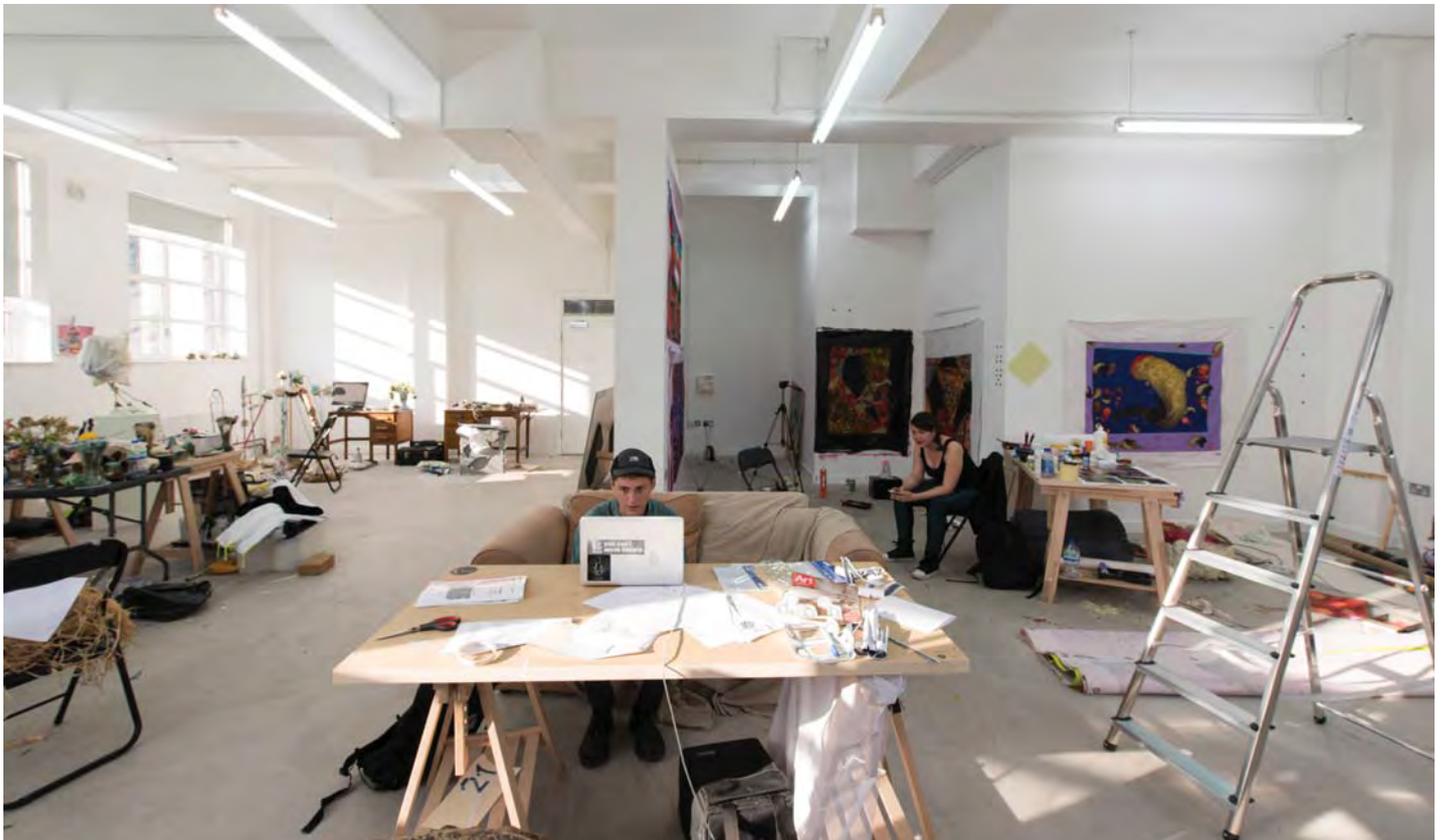
The graduate selected for the 2015-16 award is **Alison Ballance**. Previous award holders in date order were: **Cynthia Cruz** and **Sarah Duffy**.

HELEN SCOTT LIDGETT STUDIO AWARD

Helen Scott Lidgett was a student at Saint Martin's School of Art and was an energetic advocate for the arts, particularly in her role as a Governor of University of the Arts London. Helen died in 2012 but her legacy will continue to support future artists through this initiative.

The award provides a recent CSM MA graduate with a rent-free studio for 12 months together with a bursary of £5,000 and the opportunity to access curators, other professional artists and networking opportunities. It is jointly funded by Acme and the Helen Scott Lidgett Fund.

The graduate selected for the 2015-16 award is **Hugo Brazao**. Previous award holders in date order were: **Emma Corrall** and **Jamie Hosegood**.



ABOVE Aaron Wells (Chelsea Studio Award) and Cynthia Cruz (Goldsmiths MFA Studio Award) in one of the purpose-bult award studios at Warton House, Stratford, E15. Photo: Hugo Glendinning (2015)

Professional Development Opportunities

In addition to the support provided by affordable studios, Acme has developed opportunities for artists currently renting a studio. A key factor in the selection of artists is that the award will make a significant difference to the development of their practice.

JESSICA WILKES STUDIO AWARD

The award provides an artist currently in an Acme studio with a grant worth £10,000 to enable them to devote more of their time to their studio practice. The award covers the selected artist's rent for one year with the remaining amount paid as a bursary.

This major professional development opportunity is the result of a legacy from the artist Jessica Wilkes who died in 2005 at the age of 56. The award was established by Acme in collaboration with Jessica's family and friends to celebrate her life. This year we are delighted to be involved in a partnership with PEER, who will work with the selected artist towards a solo show to take place in spring 2016. The exhibition will be supported by additional funding from Acme and PEER.

The artist selected for the 2014-15 award was **Barry Thompson**. Previous award holders in date order were: **Clare Price, Andro Semeiko, Stephanie Kingston** and **Howard Dyke**.

RITA HARRIS STUDIO AWARD

The Rita Harris Studio Award commemorates the life and work of Rita Harris who died of cancer in May 2013. Rita was an artist and a master of T'ai Chi, which she taught for over 20 years. She was married to Jonathan Harvey, Acme's Chief Executive and co-founder, and they had been together since 1978.

The award is made every other year and alternates with the Jessica Studio Wilkes Award. Jessica and Rita were close friends, so it is especially appropriate that these two commemorative awards alternate as companions to each other. The award is supported by Jonathan, Acme, friends and family and is made to an artist selected from applications by current Acme studio tenants.

The artist selected for the inaugural 2014-15 award was **Duncan Pickstock**.



ABOVE Duncan Pickstock in his studio (Rita Harris Studio Award). Photo: Hugo Glendinning (2015)

Acme works with partners to develop individual projects which create opportunities for artists to develop and expand their practice.

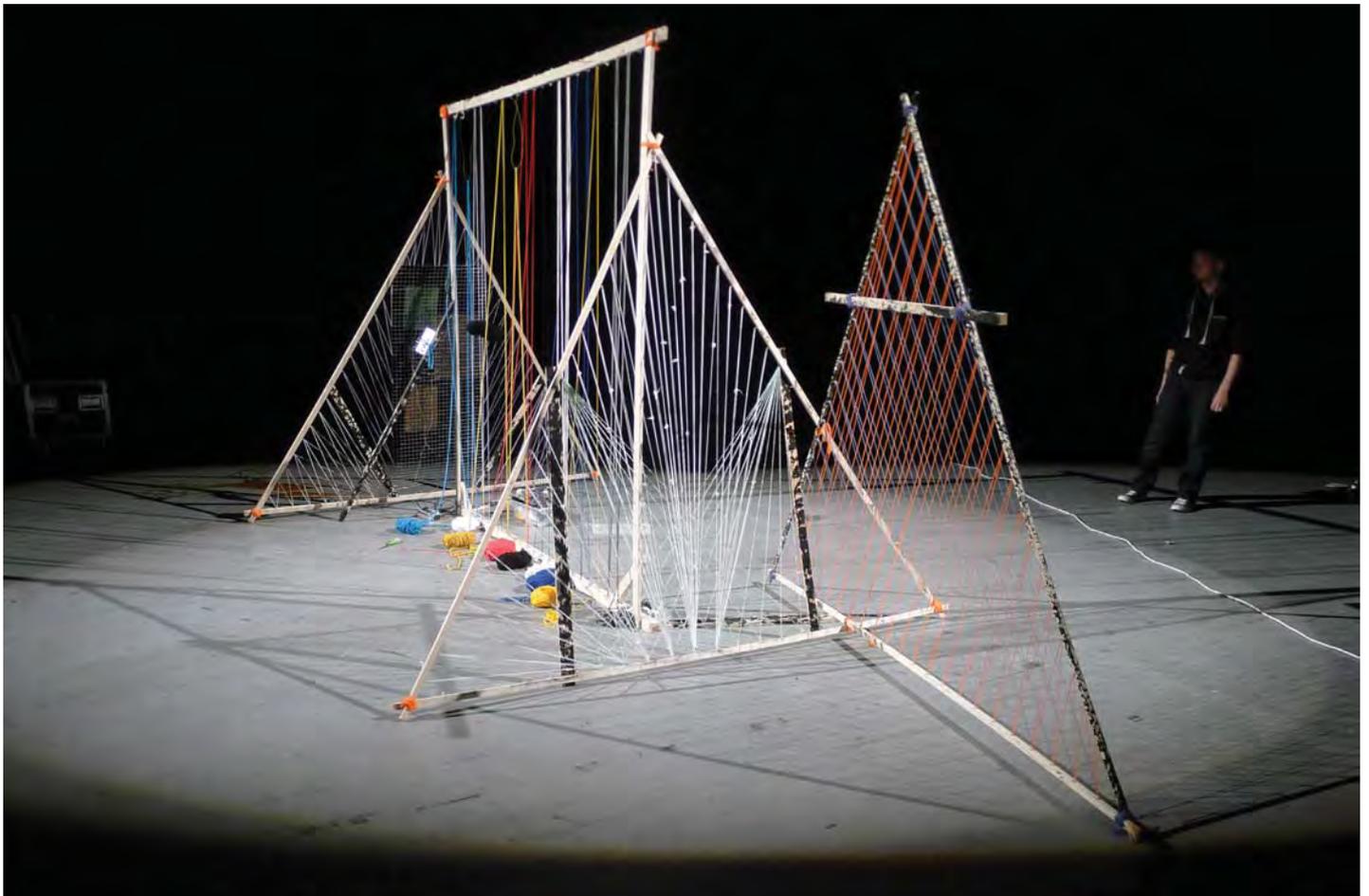
STEPHEN CRIPPS' STUDIO AWARD

The Stephen Cripps' Studio Award provides a resource and support structure from which artists can develop their practice and realise and present, planned or new projects.

The award, based at new-build, purpose-designed studios at High House Production Park, Thurrock, not only celebrates the work of Stephen Cripps, an important 'pyrotechnic sculptor', but also helps make manifest the potential for creative collaboration between the Park's partners: High House Production Park, the Royal Opera House Production Workshop, the Backstage Centre and Acme Studios.

Each award provides a rent-free large 'production' studio, a £10,000 bursary and £10,000 towards project realisation costs. The award is funded by Acme, The Henry Moore Foundation, High House Production Park Ltd and Stephen Cripps' family. The third and final Stephen Cripps' Studio Award will take place in 2016/2017.

Rita Evans was selected for the second award (2014-15) and performance-sculptor **Aaron Williamson** for the inaugural award (2013-14).



ABOVE 'Rita Evans at the Backstage Centre' rehearsal for *Wool Matrix*, a performance piece by Rita Evans featuring local knitting group. Photo: Rita Evans (2015)

Further Information

CONTACT

For more information about our Residency & Awards Programme, please contact:

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ABOVE Emma Corral (Helen Scott Lidgett Studio Award) in her studio. Photo: Hugo Glendinning (2015)

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