ICA

ARTIST RESIDENCIES AT THE ICA

The ICA hosts 6a architects to explore an open-ended 6 month architectural residency

The ICA is proud to announce a new Residencies strand to our programme. This presents an opportunity for artists and practitioners to engage with staff, communities and audiences through visible events, meetings and collaborations, in order to stimulate dialogue within culture, society and also the contemporary role of public institutions.

From October 2010, we are delighted to welcome 6a architects to the building, joining us for a six month architectural residency. 6a will be exploring the possibilities of renewal within the ICA spaces and responding to the wider restructuring of the institution over the past year. 6a will be based at different locations within the building, examining how the spaces work and potentially experimenting with small changes to furniture and layout, talking to staff and visitors, and engaging with our programme in a physical way.

The residency offers a process-led approach as a way of making change without the need for major fund raising, it also communicates an open message. The ICA is thinking in public. This process is viewed as a possible alternative to large, capital dependent, instrument of renewal. The ICA's recent organisational reforms need some corollary in the physical environment to communicate to artists and audiences new creative and critical values.

6a architects' residency at the ICA follows a thorough organisational review, led by Executive Director Ekow Eshun, which has now placed the Institute on a more secure footing following a period of considerable financial pressure. With a strong autumn programme in place and a new five-year business plan delivered, the ICA is well placed artistically, financially and organisationally to meet new challenges and thrive into the future as a forum for progressive thinking in the arts.

Stephanie Macdonald, **Co-Director of 6a architects*:*** 'The spaces should engage with the diversity of the ICA's programme and the social life within and around it. In order to foster this kind of cultural laboratory and it's communities the spaces must be open, beautiful, authentic and specific – the character of the ICA must be unmistakable.'

Ekow Eshun**, Executive Director of the ICA**; welcomed the residency: 'We are delighted to be hosting 6a architects and look forward to open-ended exploration of the highest calibre aimed at communicating the renewed mission and confidence of the organisation. We anticipate that the residency will include a series of interventions at the ICA inviting artists and curators to participate as well as building infrastructure.'

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGES AND INTERVIEWS:

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-Notes to Editors –

6a Architects

6a architects was founded by Tom Emerson and Stephanie Macdonald in 2001 after meeting at the Royal College of Art and has become one of the leading young architectural practices in the UK. The practice works at varied scales from product design to large scale housing projects but has developed a particular reputation for contemporary arts projects and working in sensitive environments. Recent projects include the critically acclaimed expansion of the South London Gallery, which opened in June 2010, Raven Row, a new contemporary art centre in Spitalfields which opened in February 2009 and the exhibition design of Ed Ruscha's retrospective at the Hayward Gallery. Raven Row was the only project in the UK to be selected by the Design Museum for the Brit Insurance Design Award. Recently 6a Architects has won three major architectural competition: a new sustainable Country House and park in Cambridgeshire, the redevelopment of a large industrial complex in Oval for the London Development Agency and a new building for Churchill College in Cambridge. 6a has won several European design awards and has been published and exhibited extensively. Along side practice, 6a architects has also developed a strong reputation for research and teaching. Tom Emerson was recently appointed professor of architecture at Department of Architecture of the ETH in Zurich.

Current ICA programme

Using Russian collective Chto delat? as a point of departure, the ICA is currently presenting Dissent, a season of projects on art, activism and social change and investigating culture as a site for protest in a time of economic crisis. In November, we celebrate an important moment for emerging art practice with the return to the ICA of the Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2010. This is an opportunity to engage with new ideas from across the UK as the ICA comes alive with the work of 49 new and emerging artists.

About the ICA

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary arts centre established in 1947 by a collective of artists, poets and writers to showcase and champion contemporary culture across the broadest range of art forms. Housing two galleries, two cinemas, a theatre, reading room, bookshop and café/bar, the ICA has been at the forefront of cultural experiment since its formation and has presented some of the most radical exhibitions, artists, films, music and thought to have shaped our world. It exists today as a committed proponent of contemporary arts practice and new ideas, presenting an international and contextualised programme of work in new and experimental frameworks across a variety of platforms. Entrance to galleries, bookshop, café and bar events is free of charge before 11pm.

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