

Open School East
Pilot Year
2013-2014



“Open School East promises to build on the long tradition of innovation in art-school teaching in the UK by offering new avenues that could have significant potential for artistic practice in the 21st century.”

– Sir Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate

About

Located in East London, Open School East is a unique space that brings together:

- A free study programme for 12 emerging artists;
- A multifaceted programme of public projects and events which facilitate interactions between artists, local residents and audiences from further afield.

Open School East was founded in 2013 in response to spiralling tuition fees and student debt, and a climate of increasing bureaucracy in arts education.

It was instituted as a space for artistic learning that is experimental, versatile and highly collaborative.

Central to Open School East's approach is a commitment to foster cultural, intellectual and social exchanges between artists and the broader public. We do this by opening our study programme outwards, responding to our locality and providing an informal environment for the sharing of knowledge and skills across various communities – artistic, local and otherwise.



The Study Programme

Open School East is a space for artistic learning that is free and structurally light, and that interacts socially with its surroundings. It is run according to principles of collaboration and experimentation, and welcomes practitioners who engage with these notions in different ways.

In its pilot year, Open School East has supported the artistic and professional development of the associate artists through:

- Studio provision;
- Critical and practical teaching from international and local practitioners, theorists and curators;
- The production of artistic projects.

The associates take responsibility for the direction of their own learning, and for the learning of others. Working individually or in groups, they shape the teaching programme around their practice and their shared interests.

Tuition takes place two days per week, and is delivered through a combination of workshops, lectures, seminars, site visits, tutorials and group crits, by artists and arts professionals including:

Ed Atkins, Pablo Bronstein, Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, Matthew Darbyshire, T.J. Demos, Tim Etchells, Mark Fisher, Paul Goodwin, Melissa Gronlund, Maria Lind, Phil Minton, Sally O'Reilly, Hannah Rickards, Sally Tallant, Richard Wentworth, and Catherine Wood.

Open School East is a non-accredited programme.

"This year at Open School East has given me the space and time to develop my independent practice. Meeting a group of people with such a breadth of interests has provided the most valuable network of support and guidance, and I've met friends and collaborators that will last beyond Open School East."

– Eva Rowson, associate

The Associates

Following an open call in spring 2013, Open School East attracted **265** applications from prospective associates, from which 12 were selected by a panel of art and education professionals, including:

Anna Colin (co-director, OSE; co-curator, British Art Show 8), Matthew Darbyshire (artist), Gini Simpson (head of learning & participation, Barbican), Laurence Taylor (co-director, OSE; freelance producer) and Sam Thorne (co-founder, OSE; and artistic director, Tate St. Ives).

The associates in 2013-2014 were:

Yemi Awosile, Ania Bas, Lucy Beech, Andrea Francke, Matthew de Kersaint Giraudeau, Charlie George, Jonathan Hoskins, Ross Jardine, Eva Rowson, Graham Reid, Lisa Skuret, Tommy Ting.

Working in the fields of visual art and design, the selected associates have completed a BA or MA, or taken alternative routes into art-making.



Associate Projects: Highlights

Ania Bas has worked on two projects during her time at Open School East: 'The Walking Reading Group' (in collaboration with Lydia Ashman and Simone Mair) which offers participants a context in which to read and discuss texts exploring participation, engagement and collaboration whilst walking through an environment. She has also worked on 'H', a publication composed of conversations with the local community, exploring questions of change, regeneration and gentrification, which will form the base for a community play that Bas is working on in 2014.

Since February 2014, **Matthew de Kersaint Giraudeau** has been working on 'The Bad Vibes Club', a six-month programme of talks and a reading group about negative ethics. Visiting lecturers have included: writer and theorist Mark Fisher on the trajectory of anti-vitalism in contemporary critical theory; and Daniel Oliver of the efficacy of awkwardness in contemporary participatory art and performance.



Tommy Ting has worked on 'Limehouse Blues', a new operatic composition which draws upon the history of the Chinese diaspora in Britain, and explores the human voice as a political and personal tool of resilience.

During his time at Open School East, **Ross Jardine** produced and directed a film, the culmination of an ongoing investigation into pirate radio. 'From the Bedroom to the Metropolis' (2014) is a cinematic journey through the landscape of pirate radio, which premiered at OSE's Open Studios in May.

The Public Programme

The public programme facilitates interactions between artists, the local neighbourhood and the broader public.

The programme encompasses aspects of the teaching that are made public (including selected seminars, lectures, and workshops) as well as distinct events and activities devised by the team, the associates, guest curators and partner organisations.

Selected events:

June: A walk and talk through Kings Cross with the artist Richard Wentworth.

May: 'Reading Materials', a series of workshops exploring objects, assembly and disassembly, initiated by associate Yemi Awosile.

April: 'The Bad Vibes Club', a series of talks which address negative ethics. Programmed by associate Matthew de Kersaint Giraudeau.

March: 'Care and Crisis', a talk on the ethical and emotional toll of our economy led by architect Kim Trogal, and programmed by Kathrin Böhm.

February: 'On the Architecture of the De Beauvoir Town Estate', a discussion between Wilson Briscoe and Owen Hatherley.

November: 'The Summit of Sex' by Richard John Jones, a film premiere and talk.

October: 'Negotiating Spaces', a salon on design and learning in collaboration with LSE, with Ken Warpole, Adam Murray, and Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad.

September: 'Art, School, Society', the first in a series of roundtable discussions on ideas close to Open School East, including alternative education and radical community organisations, with Elena Crippa, Alistair Hudson, Janna Graham, and Ahmet Ögüt.



OSE and the Community

Central to our activities have been our public **workshops** and **skill-sharing activities**.

Highlights include:

- Monthly introductory ceramics classes, hosted by Troy Town Art Pottery (see overleaf);
- In partnership with the Shoreditch Trust, we've run a placement programme for young people between 18 and 23 who are not in full-time education, but who have a passion for continued learning, using the arts as a tool for developing creative projects;
- Parallel Radio, which started as a 6-week intergenerational radio-making workshop and has now evolved into a semi-independent collective, who meet at OSE weekly. They produce creative radio content which continues to be broadcast on Resonance FM.

"This is an incredible project. It has provided a location and platform for me to have conversations with older people that I would not normally come into contact with. They are insightful, exciting and absolutely hilarious. Truly young at heart!"

– Joseph Bond, Parallel Radio participant



Open School East Commission

Troy Town Art Pottery

Troy Town Art Pottery is a unique ceramics facility for artists and the local community. It was devised by artist Aaron Angell and commissioned by Open School East as a response to dwindling ceramics access in London.

Troy Town Art Pottery aims to promote ceramics as a sculptural corollary to painting and drawing. It is a place for emerging artists to learn ceramics skills, while also serving the associate artists and the local community.

To date, Troy Town has:

- Hosted **28** resident artists;
- Provided **66** local residents with an introduction to ceramics workshops;
- Hosted **30** pupils from the Hackney New School, for two days of introductory workshops.

In February 2014, Troy Town Art Pottery opened its doors for its first public viewing. **187** people attended to see new works by Sophie von Hellermann, Nicolas Deshayes, Sam Keogh, Aaron Angell and many others.



In Numbers

September 2013 – July 2014

- Open School East supported the artistic and professional development of **12** emerging artists. Next year, **15** associate artists will join the study programme.
- The associates received teaching from **79** practitioners, delivered through workshops, lectures, seminars, site visits, tutorials and group crits.
- **1,058** emerging artists and art students benefited from Open School East's public programme and from direct contact with key practitioners.
- Our open studios – showcasing the associate artists' work – attracted **518** visitors, and the associates developed **7** collaborative artistic projects delivered within the locale.
- Our workshops have enabled **489** East London residents to learn new skills in activities including radio-making, ceramics and creative writing.
- **2,149** people have attended our year-long series of panel discussions, debates and lectures, screenings and social events.



Organisation

Team

Anna Colin, co-director and co-founder
Laurence Taylor, co-director and co-founder
Basia Lewandowska Cummings, coordinator

Board

Sarah McCrory, director, Glasgow International and OSE co-founder
Zoe McLeod, consultant, Counterculture LLP
Emily Pethick, director, The Showroom
Sam Thorne, artistic director, Tate St Ives and OSE co-founder
Justin O'Shaughnessy, producer and festival director, Shoreditch Trust

Advisors

Matthew Darbyshire, artist
Hadrian Garrard, director, Create London
Sean Gregory, director of creative learning, Barbican
Louise Jeffreys, director of arts, Barbican

Contact information

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Open School East is fully wheelchair accessible.

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Registered Charity No: 1154104

Supporters and Partners 2013-14

Open School East's pilot year was commissioned by the Barbican and Create London.

We are thankful to our supporters:

Arts Council England
Outset
The Ampersand Foundation
The Sheepdrove Trust
Maureen Paley

And to our partners:

Agewell Social Network
AND Publishing
Artquest
Cornubian Arts and Science Trust
Peer Gallery
Resonance FM
Shoreditch Trust

CREATE

barbican

Supported by

Hackney



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

outset.



Selected Press

'Best in show'

Increasingly, many art students are approaching the British MFA and its equivalents as a kind of 'taught residency'... Add to this the growth of practice-based PhDs, many of which are pursued by mid-career artists of established reputation, and initiatives such as Open School East – a free alternative London art school (co-founded by frieze associate editor Sam Thorne) that launches this September, which has no formal academic entry requirements – then the degree show seems less like a threshold, and more like a revolving door.

– Tom Morton, frieze

'Alternative art schools: a threat to universities?'

A former library in Hackney may seem an unlikely venue for London's most talked-about new art school. The 1970s Rose Lipman building lacks the architectural wow factor of Central Saint Martins King's Cross campus, but demand for places on the postgraduate Open School East in De Beauvoir town is high. The year-long programme boasts visiting lecturers, including the curator of contemporary art and performance at Tate Modern, Catherine Wood, and artists such as Pablo Bronstein and Ed Atkins. And, at a time when art MAs in the capital cost up to £9,000 a year, the students pay no tuition fees.

– David Batty, The Guardian

'Hackney takes to the airwaves'

Run by Open School East, an education venture using the Rose Lipman Community Centre, more than 20 people – from schoolchildren to senior citizens – give up four hours each Saturday to share memories through music. Rick Crust, workshop leader, said: 'In just two weeks, they've learnt to use the equipment [and] how to make jingles. But, more importantly, because we've been talking about music we remember from a long time ago to induce memories, we've found out more about each other. That is the real value.'

– Rachel Banning-Lover, Hackney Post

Support Open School East

After an incredibly successful pilot year, Open School East needs your support to continue championing the artists of tomorrow.

Help us grow the scope of our study programme and develop a far-reaching public programme by becoming a supporter of Open School East.

Levels of support and benefits:

Friends: £25 to £250

- Name recognition on the Friends list in print and online
- Advanced invitations to open studios

Supporters: £500 to £1,000

- Name recognition on the Supporters list in print and online
- Advanced invitations to open studios and special events
- Visits to the School and artists' studios hosted by the Directors of OSE

Patrons: £1,500 and beyond

- Name recognition on the Patrons list in print and online
- Advanced invitations to open studios and special events
- Visits to the School and artists' studios hosted by the Directors of OSE
- Invitation to an annual reception with the associate artists, Faculty and Board

For more information on how to support Open School East, please contact co-director Anna Colin: anna@openschooleast.org or +44 (0) 7974 134 352.

Account information:

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Account number: 41545078

IBAN: GB20MIDL40031941545078
SWIFT: MIDLGB22

“Open School East is of a generation of new thinkers and leaders who illuminate new possibilities. Since its launch, Open School East has developed a unique approach blending learning, public programming and commissioning. It has created a truly independent and thought-provoking space that caters for early career practitioners, local residents and the broader public in equal measure. Open School East is a promising new model.”

– Peter Heslip, Director, Visual Arts, Arts Council England