

# ISLINGTON EXHIBITS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 JUNE 2011

## **Islington Exhibits**

Unlocking Venues Exhibiting Art

- Taking place Friday 16 July – 24 July 2011
- Various locations in and around Islington
- Over 100 artists already registered, a majority of whom are Islington residents
- More than 70 venues taking part in Islington Exhibits, this number is expected to rise before the 2<sup>nd</sup> July deadline
- An extensive programme of talks, walks, workshops and performances

Islington Exhibits returns for its second year and is set to inspire even more artists and venues to unlock hidden spaces across the borough and highlight the hive of artistic talent and supportive business in North London. Open studios, pop up spaces, temporary performances and exhibitions will unite the borough of Islington over two weekends dedicated to the display of art.

Beginning on Friday night, over a hundred artists will welcome the public to explore a museum, tattoo parlours, a farm, galleries, hair salons, artist studios, a law firm, empty spaces, shops, pubs, artist homes, public walls and gardens.

The Old Fire Station will play host to eight hours of arts workshops on Saturday 16 July including an extraordinary literary life drawing class, poses will be based on classic narratives and participants can look forward to drawing ruffians and seducers, gluttonous heretics and amphibious lizard men. Younger artists can lose themselves in the creation of fantasy landscape collages with Sean Michael or alternatively letter fans of all ages can learn the art of Japanese calligraphy from Yukiko Ayres. Those in the mood for artistic mischief can join artist-in-residence, Thomas Mitchell in defacing book covers inspired by the artwork of legendary local inhabitants Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell.

Following feedback from last year, Islington Exhibits will be divided over two weekends, into North (Fri 16 – Sun 18 July) and South (Fri 22 - Sun 24 July) of the borough, allowing the artists and audience more opportunities to meet, support and connect with each other. For those unsure which exhibitions to visit there are artist-led walks organised on the two Sundays over the double weekend, alternatively art enthusiasts can create their own route using the Google map on the website.

The artist-in-residence programme is one strand of Islington Exhibits and aims to trigger unique dialogues between the artist and the host organisation, prompting both to gain new perspectives on their modes of labour. This year, filmmaker Ilinca Calugareanu will be creating a documentary on the regulars in Irish pub the Floirin, spoken word artist Thomas Mitchell will lead a book-altering project and visual sociologist Nela Milic will work with archive material and current users of the Old Fire Station community centre.

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This project is run on an extremely low budget and therefore takes advantage of digital media but for those who do not have access to information online can simply visit any library in Islington and pick up a print-out of the Islington Exhibits brochure.

Harriet Carter, Chair of Rowan Arts says,

“This year Islington Exhibits is bigger and better. We’ve been really impressed by the quality of the artwork and the enthusiasm of both artist and venues to highlight the vibrancy of their area.”

Highlight shows include:

## **The Electric Space**

A large group show with the work of MA students from Byam Shaw set in the expansive empty office space of The Studios, Hornsey Street, London N7

## **Water at the London Canal Museum**

A group show of 6 lens-based practitioners whose work have an affinity with or explore the subject of water. Work by Kevin Newark, Teresa Eng, Nick Smith, Heidi Kayla, Olivia Milani, Myka Baum. London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, London N1 9RT

## **Connecting Conversations with artist David Blandy**

David Blandy will meet with psychoanalyst Valerie Sinason to screen his latest film *Child of the Atom* and discuss making the work, memory and family legends in relation to historical traumas. Free Word Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3GA

## **Halfadozen Artists studio**

Come and view a diverse range of work in a relaxed atmosphere and have the opportunity to meet with the artists in their studio. Halfadozen, 164 Archway Road, London N6 5BB

## **Familiar Strangers at C4RD & public walls**

Art duo Monica Naranjo & Rodrigo Ora will be installing drawings of captured interactions on public transport in the Centre For Recent Drawing (C4RD) and the public walls around Highbury and Islington Station. C4RD, 2-4 Highbury Station Rd, London N1 1SB

## **Myka Baum at Freightliners Farm**

Myka Baum will present her photographic prints in the unusual setting of a working city farm; her pieces combine a fascination with natural phenomena and the painstaking process involved in printwork. Freightliners Farm, Sharningham Road, London N7 8PF

## **Sailor Die-o-rama at Into You tattoo shop**

A selection of Art prints by Alex Binnie with Eclectic Jewellery collections from Danila Tarcinale and Russell Lownsbrough. Tattooed and preserved pigs skin by Chris Higgins, Blue’s Die-O-Rama decorative boxes and customised vintage furniture by Lucy Pryor. Into You tattoo shop, 144 St John Street, London EC1V 4UA

## **Voluntary Action Islington**

This brand new building will host three exhibitions, *Making Inroads*, a story of putting down roots on and around the Holloway Road, Paul Clifford’s *Doors and Windows* and Chris Avis’ digital work *Mannequin Dreams*. VAI, 200a Pentonville Road, London N1 9JP

Galleries, studios and venues open (unless otherwise stated) 10-6pm; some venues will be open throughout the evening but you will need to enquire directly with individual venues.

# ISLINGTON EXHIBITS

Getting there: Tube stations - Old Street, Caledonian Road, Holloway Road, Archway  
Bus routes – 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, 153, 205, 214, 274, 341, 394, 476

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Notes to editors:

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Images are also available on request.

[www.islingtonexhibits.com](http://www.islingtonexhibits.com)

Follow us on Twitter: @IsIngtnExhibits

Join our mailing list for regular event updates by emailing [info@therowanartsproject.com](mailto:info@therowanartsproject.com)

**Islington Exhibits** is an initiative to unlock hidden venues to give artists and craft persons a space to display their work. It is produced by Rowan Arts in partnership with Cubitt Education, Holloway Neighbourhood Group and St Luke's Centre with support from Islington Council. Islington Exhibits runs from 15-17 July & 22-24 July 2011. [www.islingtonexhibits.com](http://www.islingtonexhibits.com)

**Rowan Arts** is a not-for-profit organisation based in North London. It works with local organisations and groups to bring the arts into everyday life through a variety of events, activities and projects. It produces regular larger scale events, including Holloway Arts Festival and Halloween in Holloway, that give the wider community a chance to come together, both as performers and as audience. [www.therowanartsproject.com](http://www.therowanartsproject.com)

With thanks to our partners:



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