

**Open School East
Year 3
2016**



About

Prior to relocating to Margate in 2017, Open School East was located in De Beauvoir Town, East London, providing a unique space that brought together:

- A free, year-long learning and studio-based programme for emerging artists – the 'OSE associates';
- A multifaceted programme of events and activities open to all.

Open School East (OSE) was founded in 2013 in response to spiralling tuition fees and student debt, and the decrease in both studio provision and civic spaces in the capital. It was instituted as a space for artistic learning and production that is experimental, versatile and highly collaborative.

OSE works to develop the talent of artists at an early stage of their career and equip them with the tools to become resourceful and self-sufficient. Central to OSE's approach is a commitment to foster cultural, intellectual and social exchanges between artists and the broader public. We do this by opening our associates 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.



“I was looking for a venue where my colleagues and I could continue our work of bringing critical ideas to a wider audience and OSE was a perfect fit. It was a great pleasure to engage in discussions about the relationship between cultural theory and art making in an environment that also welcomed participants from the local community. The arts, in particular, have suffered from cuts to funding and the need to respond to the increasing commodification of higher education. Those of us committed to free education and sustaining critical debate very much welcome initiatives like OSE. ”

– Debra Benita Shaw, Reader in Cultural Theory, University of East London

The Associates Programme

Open School East is an innovative model of an artists' study programme that engages socially and culturally with its local context. Free to attend and non-accredited, the associates programme runs across twelve months and is principally self-directed, creating platforms for the associate artists to develop their practice.

We provide a unique environment for artist-led learning through:

- Shared studio provision, accessible 24/7;
- Tuition and mentorship from international practitioners and curators;
- Pastoral and practical support;
- Seed-funding to develop, research or initiate a project.

Tuition takes place two days per week and in Term 1 is programmed by a guest artist, who in turn invites other practitioners to lead workshops, seminars and site visits. This year, Olivia Plender's curriculum revolved around models of collaboration, authorship, the politics of the voice and feminisms. In Term 2 and 3, the associates take responsibility for the direction of their learning. Working individually and in groups, they shape the programme around their practice and shared interests and open it out to the public. In 2016, tuition was delivered by artists including: John Akomfrah, Sonia Boyce, Adam Broomberg, Jeremy Deller, Ciara Phillips, Simon Starling and Michael Rakowitz. OSE's core team of mentors was composed of artists Matthew Darbyshire, Olivia Plender and Ed Webb-Ingall; curators Janna Graham and Marijke Steedman; and writer Sally O'Reilly.

In lieu of paying fees, the associate artists take an active role in devising or assisting with public events and activities in and around the building.

"My time at OSE was an amazing opportunity to extend my practice in a shared studio in which I developed an object-making practice. It also allowed me to make a new circle of friends and collaborators, and to meet communities who helped me challenge my thoughts and recurring patterns in my work. I am extremely grateful to them as well as my fellow associates and the OSE team."

– Ève Chabanon, 2016 associate artist

The Associates & Alumni

Associates at OSE are emerging artists with or without a BA, MA or formal artistic qualification. They are selected following a yearly open call sent locally, nationally and internationally and according to the following criteria: artistic quality; a recognised need to access free and non-conventional learning opportunities; and the ability to work collaboratively and to enter into a meaningful dialogue with local audiences and publics from further afield.

The associates in 2016 were:

Henry Babbage, Eleanor Davies, Eve Chabanon, Louis-Jack Horton-Stephen, Anneke Kampman, Tanu Kotecha, Rosie Morris, Anni Movsisyan, Bekki Perriman, Alex Ressel, Emil Scheffmann, Theo Shields, Joel Sines and Eleanor Vonne Brown.

The alumni community:

Former associates continue to work collaboratively, share studios and programme events and projects in the building, engaging in dialogue with the current associates and forming a growing alumni community.

Alumni have gone on to exhibit and perform at the Liverpool Biennial, South London Gallery, Serpentine Gallery, Turner Contemporary, Tate Modern, Britain and St Ives, the Venice Biennial and Glasgow International Festival.



Associates Projects: Highlights

While at OSE, **Ève Chabanon** developed an artistic practice that is at once visual, textual and performative. She started new long-term projects such as 'Orlando', a series of events giving voice to marginalized communities. She also developed a collaboration with a group of teenage girls training in the beauty industry in Dagenham, using digital technology, IT language and public space.



Louis-Jack Horton-Stephens continued his practice developing films that consider the poetics, symbolic significance and societal role of haptic reasoning. For the end of year show, he collaborated with fellow associate Henry Babbage to produce 'Gates of Rome'. A video and multimedia installation that reflects on the role of creative production in expressing "radical" views at a time when they are subsumed into the mainstream and proliferate alongside brand sensibilities.

Eleanor Vonne Brown set up the 'Post Internet Cafe', a social space for the consumption and digestion of our communication systems. This research continued with a self appointed residency at the PC Corner Internet Cafe in London, which she began to think of as a public site for desktop publishing. She used photogrammetry to create a 3D model of the space, and shared computer resources to access online digital printing platforms and open source software.

Theo Shield's research was centred around a material- and process-driven practice using a kiln. Found TV screens, windows, metal frames and domestic items were warped to create seductive installations, questioning the material properties of physical matter.

Public Programme

Our public programme enables interactions between the artistic community, the local neighbourhood and the broader public. It is conceived by the associates, working in groups around shared interests, OSE alumni and guest collaborators.

- **Soul-Less-Ness**, a curriculum for sound, voice and performance, explored modes of production, methods of representation and the future politics of listening. The series included three 'Writing for...' workshops, transforming written texts for radio, performance and documentary, taught by Ed Baxter, Sally O'Reilly and Andrea Luka Zimmerman.
- **Speculative Tours** developed new approaches to knowledge sharing in urban space with guests including artist Adam Broomberg, architect and theorist Keller Easterling and Pitt Rivers Museum curator Dan Hicks.
- **The Bad Vibes Club**, a reading group and lecture series on negative ethics led by OSE alumnus Matthew de Kersaint Giraudeau.
- **Culture, Technology & Power**, an introduction to Cultural Studies taught by senior academics Debra Benita Shaw and Jeremy Gilbert moonlighting from their day jobs at University of East London.



Working with Young People

In 2016, we piloted two discrete programmes aimed at young people:

- **New Producers**, a motivational platform and a taster for young people to understand how the creative industries work. For two weeks, ten students aged 16-18 from BSix College, Hackney acquired training in architecture, sculpture, performance, printmaking and broadcast. They worked towards a **Bronze Arts Award**, which is accredited by Trinity College London.
- **Wrestle a lot harder**, organised by associate Anneke Kampman, was an experimental music workshop for ten young people aged 14-16. Across five day-long workshops, they wrote, performed, recorded, produced and designed a collective 12-inch vinyl record with musicians including Charles Hayward and Mira Calix and designers Åbåke.

“I was actually surprised by how the course went. I was expecting something more school-like and not that liberal and free. I have enjoyed a lot sharing experiences with the associates and the different artists we have been working with. I would definitely recommend the New Producers programme to everyone of my generation.”

– Juan Andion, New Producers participant



Partnerships

In 2016, Open School East launched three major partnerships:

- OSE is engaged in a **collaborative doctoral partnership** with Tate, MIMA in Middlesbrough and the Royal College of Art. In September, PhD student Marianne Mulvey was selected to develop a doctoral research project titled 'A critical examination of the 'Public Programme' within contemporary art institutions', focusing on Tate, Open School East and MIMA.
- Via a **Catalyst** grant awarded by Arts Council England, we have teamed up with Wysing Arts Centre and Outpost in Norwich to set up the **Artists for Artists** campaign. Until 2019, we will work together to programme, fundraise and enable a thriving culture of support where established artists and patrons can actively advocate the need to support the next generation of artists.
- Finally, we are pleased to announce we are working in partnership with Create London to develop and launch in summer 2018 **The Station**, a new workspace and community resource in North Woolwich's old train station. The Station is set up to facilitate cultural, social and employment opportunities for the residents of North Woolwich, and to support artists, creative organisations and social enterprises through affordable workspace.



In Numbers

January – December 2016

- A total of **4,365** people attended our activities in 2016.
- Open School East supported the artistic and professional development of **14** emerging artists selected out of **100** applications.
- The associates received ongoing mentorship from **6** artists, curators and writers, and teaching from **36** international practitioners, delivered through workshops, lectures, seminars and site visits.
- The associates developed **7** collaborative projects delivered in the locale and our open studios – showcasing the artists' work – attracted **620** visitors.
- **2,570** emerging artists and art students benefited from OSE's public seminars, talk series and workshops and from direct contact with key practitioners.
- Our workshops have enabled **1,175** senior and junior East London residents to learn new skills in filmmaking, ceramics and music production.



Supporters and Partners 2016

Programme Supporters:

Arts Council England
Foyle Foundation
The Mercers' Company
The Goldsmiths' Company

Patrons:

Brian Boylan
Sarah and Gerard Griffin
Jack Kirkland
New Art Centre
Maureen Paley
The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks
Foundation
Stuart and Bianca Roden
Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners
Matthew Slotover and Emily King
John Studzinski
Thomas Dane, London
Alice Waters

Supporters:

Garrick Jones
Jamie Oliver
Sutton PR

And all others who wish to remain
anonymous.

Supporting Artists:

Martin Boyce
Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin
Jake & Dinos Chapman
Matthew Darbyshire
Jeremy Deller
Nicolas Deshayes
Dora Garcia
Camille Henrot
Oliver Laric
Paul Maheke
Helen Marten
Magali Reus
Marie Toseland

Partners:

A New Direction
CAST
Create London
Hackney Stream
The Merz Barn
University of East London, CCSR



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Support Open School East

Help us provide artists with free education 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 and special events

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 plus

- 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

Open School East is looking for anchor patrons who will help secure the organisation's future.

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:

Open School East
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Sort code: 40-03-19
Account number: 41545078

IBAN: GB20MIDL40031941545078
SWIFT: MIDLGB22

Organisation

Team

Anna Colin, co-director and co-founder

Laurence Taylor, co-director and co-founder

Ayaan Bulale, communications and events manager

Board

Ryan Gander, artist

Hadrian Garrard, director, Create London

Sarah Griffin, curator of applied arts

Sarah McCrory, director, New Goldsmiths Gallery and OSE co-founder

Stephanie McLaren-Neckles, co-founder, Let's Be Brief and twenty%extra

Zoe McLeod, consultant, Counterculture LLP

Justin O'Shaughnessy, independent producer

Emily Pethick, director, The Showroom

Fanny Singer, writer and independent curator

Sam Thorne, director, Nottingham Contemporary and OSE co-founder

Open School East's Board is comprised of 10 members representing a blend of experience across the art, community and public funding sectors. The Board is committed to an annual review of itself, including its ability to evaluate on behalf of Open School East the following: OSE's stated objectives; available financial and human capital resources; key performance measures; and strategic, operational and financial risks.

Contact information

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Registered Charity No: 1154104

In 2017, OSE relocated to Margate, where we continue to create an environment for artistic learning that is free and brings together diverse voices. In partnership with regional organisations, we are focusing our efforts on projects with early career artists, young people and senior citizens.

