



STATEMENT ON REASONS FOR MOVE

If anyone thinks community isn't important, the recent 'sign or get out' debacle between Cor Blimey Arts/Core Gallery and our landlords Workspace at Faircharm Trading Estate will prove otherwise. On Friday, October 28th 2011 we were given the ultimatum to sign a financially constricting and binding contract to remain in our studios - or get out by Monday October 31st.

We gave notice on our existing lease three months previously with the understanding that we were still negotiating terms on a new lease. It was insinuated that although our current lease would expire on October 31st, negotiations would continue after this date until an agreement was reached – a flexible agreement suitable for artist led spaces such as ourselves.

However, it was with great surprise and dismay that, at the eleventh hour, we were presented with a 'sign or get out' ultimatum from Workspace. This demand came late on Friday evening, before the weekend when there would be no management personnel on their premises to answer our questions. To put their email into context, Workspace had kept us waiting for a reply to our previous correspondence for three weeks – this despite previously pleading with us to stay until 2013 at which time the whole complex will be redeveloped.

Our position became untenable. Faced with possible eviction and damage or loss to our materials, equipment and artwork, we moved off site. Over the seven years Cor Blimey studios has been based at Workspace, we have supported artistic achievement and excellence, enhancing Deptford's artistic community in the process. Unfortunately this has clearly not been recognised by Workspace.

Workspace finally responded on Monday morning saying they wanted to keep us on the site, even suggesting we move all our work back in once negotiations have finished. Do they have any perception of how artists work and the financial constraints we are all under ? Simply hiring vans to move our materials is the equivalent to some artists' entire studio rent for a month.

At times like these, community is where strength comes from. Our studio community has shown tremendous steadfastness, courage and sheer hard work in the face of these dreadful circumstances. Deptford's larger arts community have mobilised, with artists including Margaret Higginson, Graham Crowley, Michaela Nettell Craig Dunsmuir and Rich White helping us move into a temporary location nearby. Furthermore, the many messages of support we have received from across the world has been phenomenal. For this, we are deeply grateful.

The Core Gallery ethos is generosity, integrity and nurturing artists. We have had outstanding exhibitions and fantastic events, and are proud to have strong principals and a

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great many supporters who admire them too. Cor Blimey Arts and Core Gallery are not just physical spaces – they will continue long into the future.

In the new year we will be re-opening at a new site, continuing our internationally renowned programme of exhibitions, talks, events and support for artists. With our deep felt thanks and appreciation to our community. We shall keep you posted!

Rosalind Davis, Core Gallery and DIY Manager

On behalf of the Core Gallery Management Team

**Gillian Best Powell, Managing Trustee, Core Gallery / Cor Blimey Arts Studios
Deptford**

The end of an era, the beginning of another:

As I locked the doors for a final time of Core Gallery / Cor Blimey Arts at the Faircharm Trading Estate, feeling extremely tired and emotional, angry with Workspace for their unethical behaviour, I was overcome with floods of memories of all the amazingly successful events and happy times we spent there. We must remember these truly outstanding exhibitions, workshops and parties with pride as a commendable part of our lives, never to be forgotten. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all our members across the years and everyone in the extended community for the overwhelming messages of support and friendship during this transitional phase.

Notes to Editors.

Core Gallery was set up within the Cor Blimey Arts Studios in 2010. We have worked with over 200 artists and curators since our inception. We also run DIY Educate a critically acclaimed artist's education programme which has had guest speakers such as British Art Star Phoebe Unwin.

Rosalind Davis is an artist, co- founder and manager of Core Gallery and DIY Educate

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