

## PRESS RELEASE

Monday 7 September 09

For immediate release



# New Art Exchange celebrates its first anniversary



*Left to right: Mohan Kheira - Board Director, New Art Exchange; Peter Knott - Director of Arts and Development, Arts Council England; Eddy Maxwell - Chair, New Art Exchange; Cat Arnold - Assistant Portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers, Nottingham City Council; Ben Harriot - Artist in Residence, New Art Exchange. Photograph by Bartosz Kali*

New Art Exchange, the UK's only centre dedicated to African, African Caribbean and South Asian visual arts, and the largest facility of its kind outside of London, is celebrating a year since it first opened its doors. Members of the Board, strategic funders and local artists came together to mark the first anniversary with the unveiling of a commemorative banner on Friday.

The New Art Exchange was opened in September 2008 in Nottingham's Hyson Green, to provide a creative space dedicated to meet the artistic and cultural needs of local residents, as well as showcasing art of international standing. The centre not only holds exhibitions in its gallery space but has also hosted theatre productions, music festivals and an extensive educational programme in its' hugely successful inaugural year. Funded by both Arts Council England and Nottingham City Council, its biggest success has come from its ground-breaking commissions with international artists, as well as bringing strong contemporary art to the local community.

Highlights over the past year include:

- **Over 150,000 people experienced work commissioned and produced by New Art Exchange**
- **Over 300 artists took part in exhibitions, events and activities produced by New Art Exchange**
- **A strong programme of NAE curated exhibitions including An(other) Story, Strength of Feeling by Sokari Douglas-Camp and Next We Change Earth**

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- **New Art Exchange commissions from internationally acclaimed artists including Keith Piper, Samson Kambalu and Zineb Sedira**
- **Producing substantial new commissions including Floating Coffins and An(other) Story, which have gone onto tour internationally, to Finland, Sweden and Denmark**
- **Supporting local Nottingham artists such as Michael Forbes and Hetain Patel; one of Arts Council England's Artists Taking the Lead, Cultural Olympiad Finalists**
- **Won numerous national and regional design awards including RIBA and The Civic Trust**
- **Co-producing the Mela 21 festival which garnered national and international news and media coverage, with attendance from the Australian and Indian cricket teams**
- **A strong education and events programme, working with regional educational and community groups and culminating in the launch of the new Central Gallery**
- **Making Nottingham part of a European art world; with cutting edge exhibitions that have garnered international recognition and presence**

Cat Arnold - Assistant Portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture and Customers, Nottingham City Council said: *"New Art Exchange is a superb initiative that puts Nottingham on the map culturally. I have been particularly impressed by its location and accessibility, as well as the diverse audiences I have encountered here. Congratulations also for a very innovative programme that is both artistic and socially relevant."*

Peter Knott - Director of Arts and Development, Arts Council England commented: *"I think it's fabulous that New Art Exchange is celebrating this milestone, a fantastic first year with some great art, not least the latest exhibition. Nottingham is becoming a real hotspot for visual arts and New Art Exchange is making a real impact nationally and internationally, whilst still making inroads within the local community."*

Skinder Hundal, Chief Executive at New Art Exchange, said: *"Since the launch of New Art Exchange we have achieved much over the past year, with three hugely successful exhibition commissions, strong links with the local community and a host of exciting opportunities for Nottingham residents. We're looking ahead to a bright future working with the best of international and local artists. Our aim is to establish a cultural quarter of international significance within Nottingham, and thanks to our funders, supporters, volunteers and patrons over the past 12 months we have been able to achieve this."*

The centre reflects the richness and diversity of African, African Caribbean and South Asian art forms as well as showcasing the best in regional contemporary art. The New Art Exchange was formed as a partnership between APNA Arts and EMACA Visual Arts. New Art Exchange is located at 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE. For more information please visit [www.nae.org.uk](http://www.nae.org.uk) or call 0115 924 8630.

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## Notes to Editors

- **New Art Exchange** launched with the venue with the opening of its inaugural exhibition, **Next We Change Earth** on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008.
- Vision: To deliver an innovative and exciting programme of contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts.
- New Art Exchange has been funded by Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council
- New Art Exchange is located at 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE
- Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 5pm
- **Credit for images** - Image courtesy: New Art Exchange, Photographer: Bartosz Kali

## **New Art Exchange**

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins \ Brown**, boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighborhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange's ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*