

PRESS RELEASE

Arts Council grant award for Yorkshire Artspace's new studio site at Manor Oaks, Sheffield

Yorkshire Artspace has received a *Grants for the Arts award* of £30,000 from Arts Council England, Yorkshire in support of a new development programme for emerging ceramicists. The programme will start in September 2010 at the stunning new studio complex that has been developed by Yorkshire Artspace in partnership with Green Estate at Manor Oaks in Sheffield.

Based on the highly successful Starter Studio Programme for emerging silversmiths, which has been running for nearly 10 years, this new programme aims to support ceramicists who are at an early stage of their career. The award will enable Yorkshire Artspace to equip one of the new studios and enable the beneficiaries of this programme to access business, mentor and technical support for a period of 2 years.

“Everyone who visits the Manor Oaks Studios site falls in love. Less than 2 miles from the city centre, Manor Oaks has a truly rural feel yet plays an active role at the heart of a large local community. The new Starter Studio Programme for emerging ceramicists is exciting because it not only builds on an ancient tradition of ceramics at Manor Oaks but also draws on the skills and experience of the large number of professional ceramicists that have studios at Yorkshire Artspace.” *Kate Dore, Director, Director Yorkshire Artspace*

The new studios at Manor Oaks are due for completion in June 2010. Yorkshire Artspace is working in close partnership with Green Estate who is developing this former deer park site into a heritage visitor attraction. The Discovery Centre, which displays archaeological finds and tells the story of Tudor presence on this site, opened in 2009. Work has begun on the farm shop, café and a heritage skills training centre due for completion this year.

“At Manor Lodge the emphasis is on learning from the past and applying it to the future. This grant will see Sheffield's rich ceramics tradition made more accessible to a wider audience in the best way possible. Through the daily transfer of skills and knowledge from experienced to emerging artists thus keeping creative tradition alive and flourishing in new ways”. *Sue France, Director Green Estate*

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Editor's notes

More information about the programme can be obtained from Mir Jansen, Programme Manager at Yorkshire Artspace.

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Yorkshire Artspace has been in existence since 1977 to provide affordable good quality studio space for artists and craftspeople and additional professional development support opportunities. Yorkshire Artspace opened its flagship and award winning building Persistence Works on Brown Street, Sheffield in November 2001 and Porter Brooks studios in July 2009. More information can be found on www.artspace.org.uk

Green Estate has been operating in the Manor and Castle areas of Sheffield since 1999. It is a social enterprise that uses landscape and cultural business to tackle local poverty and a poor environment. Green Estate manages a diverse portfolio of operations and activities but is particularly interested in:

- how our urban estates can be truly productive and be managed to help mitigate some of the impacts of climate change
- how we can contribute to our future energy, food and waste needs
- how traditions and skills can be passed on and have a positive economic impact
- and how we can create great spaces that can raise aspirations and quality of life for some of the most marginalised societies

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Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts, they support a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art and carnival to crafts. Between 2008 and 2011 they are investing £1.3 billion of public money from government and a further £0.3 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country