



£17,500 CLARK BURSARY AWARD

One of the UK's Largest Digital Art Awards Announced

Deadline for Applications: Monday 4th September 2006

For guidelines and application form: www.dshed.net/clarkbursary

Watershed Media Centre, Bristol is pleased to announce, and invite applications for, the 2006 **Clark Bursary** - 6th UK Digital Art Award – which this year amounts to **£17,500**, making it one of the largest digital arts awards in the UK.

The Award will be launched at a drinks reception at Watershed on Thursday 20th July - during the Bristol leg of the British Art Show tour - when this year's Clark Bursary website will go live. The new site will house a gallery archive of previous recipients creative content and documentation, as well as an online studio space in which this year's recipient will share their progress.

If you would like to attend the Clark Bursary reception at Watershed on Thu 20th July, please email Gill Haworth: gill@watershed.co.uk

Initiated in 1998, the Clark Bursary was founded by trustees of the J A Clark Charitable Trust and Watershed to support artists working in digital media, and enable them to research and present new work through a residency programme at Watershed. Since its inception 12 artists have been awarded grants totalling **over 70k** and have helped to establish the award's reputation for innovation, development and quality.

The Award enables the successful recipient to research and develop their proposed artwork(s) and present their work in progress through public presentations, online diaries, exhibition, performance or any other appropriate means. Watershed and their partners provide residency space, event and work-in-progress exhibition space, technical support, mentoring and opportunities for interaction with wider cultural, academic and commercial networks and audiences. The Award is tailored to the needs of the specific artist and the requirements of their individual proposal.

The Clark Bursary is funded by the J A Clark Charitable Trust, Watershed, and the Arts Council England, South West, in association with Situations at the University of the West of England.

Explains Watershed's Managing Director **Dick Penny**: " *This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for an artist to be based in the culturally vibrant city of Bristol, and to be given the space, time and support to develop and share their work*".

He continues: " *The successful recipient will be based at Watershed - a leading public media centre for the digital age - and they will document, present and discuss their work in progress to engage audiences throughout the development process. With additional input from key partners such as Situations (a research and commissioning programme at The University of the West of England), the artist will benefit from a responsive network of support and facilitation*".

Previous recipient of the Award, artist Stanza says: "*The Clark's Bursary is a unique opportunity supporting new artistic creativity and research, which is fully supported by a great bunch of people at Watershed.*"

In addition to the Bursary partners, this year's recipient will be selected by a distinguished panel including: **Chris Byrne**, Co-director of Art Research Communication and lecturer in Contemporary Media Theory at the University of Dundee; **Iliyana Nedkova**, described as 'a curator of taste and critical discernment', Iliyana is based in both Sofia and Edinburgh working on a range of contemporary art projects; **Helen Cole**, the Producer of Live Art and Dance and the Artistic Director of the Inbetweentime Festival of Live Art and Intrigue at Arnolfini, Bristol; and, **Anthony Rowe** (squidsoup) artist and previous recipient of the Clark Bursary.

Notes to Editors:

1. Watershed - a leading UK media centre which plays a key developmental role in promoting the visual arts and creative media, and which works towards integration across the cultural, commercial and educational sectors. Housing a number of spaces including cinemas, flexible projection rooms, café/bar, incubator and offices, its prime task is to promote innovative practice in digital media and to add value to creative media arts / technology activity across the South West and beyond. Watershed aims to deliver a year-round, high quality programme of work encompassing artists' commissions and residencies, online exhibition and touring programmes, international festivals, conferences and events, and a diverse programme of World Cinema. Integral to the programme is a range of learning opportunities. Activity at Watershed extends beyond the

venue via dShed.net – its online showcase for creativity.

www.watershed.co.uk and www.dshed.net

2. Situations at The University of the West of England, Bristol - supports the Clark Digital Bursary as part of the Place Research Centre and the Strategic Alliance between Watershed and UWE. Situations is a research and commissioning programme devised to investigate the significance of place and context in the commissioning and production of contemporary art works. It seeks to create a unique network of debates and projects, which radiate from its Bristol base across the South West of England, nationally and internationally - informing the ways in which art is commissioned and made. Situations will offer the Clark Bursary artist valuable support linking to the programme's research concerns and output, mentoring and an access to the wider academic network at UWE.

www.uwe.ac.uk and www.situations.org.uk

3. J A Clark Charitable Trust - funds arts activity in the South West of England and supports projects for social change in Britain and abroad. The original trust was established in 1970 by J Anthony Clark (the current Trustees are his descendants) who endowed it with shares in C and J Clark Limited (the shoe company based in Street, Somerset). The Clark Trust's remit is very wide and its deed allows for essentially any charitable gift to be made within the definitions of the Charity Commissioners. Existing areas of support include: Peace and Development in Palestine; Concerns in policy and practical action in development projects in Africa; Education for Women, particularly in communities that do not provide education for women for cultural reasons; Projects working for the alleviation of Aids in Africa; and Arts for social change and commissioning art, especially visual art.

4. Arts Council England - is the national development agency for the arts in England, distributing public money from Government and the National Lottery.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

5. Previous Clark Bursary Artists:

Stanza – *The Emergent City*

Squidsoup – *Come Closer* and *Ghosts*

Dane Watkins - *LoveMatch*

Joe Magee – *A Personal History of Corruption*

Susannah Silver – *Breath Hold*

Duncan Speakman – *Formality*

Simon Poulter - *Afterworld*

Mongrel - *Linker*

Rebecca Goddard and Michelle Henning – *Wingwalkers*

6. British Arts Show:

The British Art Show 6 tours to Bristol from 15th July – 17th September, for further information visit www.hayward.org.uk/britishartshow6/

For further press information please contact:

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