

Media Release:

Archis/e

The Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme

2013 Project Programme Launched

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An exciting programme of exhibitions and events giving the Jersey Community the opportunity to plug into the international contemporary photography scene is launched this week. Jersey's first International Photographer in Residence, Michelle Sank has begun work on a new commission of photographs for the island. Alongside the commission she is going out to the island's schools, Highlands College, La Motte Street Centre and Jersey Arts Centre to deliver workshops. Michelle's new exhibition 'In My Skin', currently on show at Ron Mandos Gallery, Amsterdam is championed in the last issue of *Guardian Weekend Magazine* and *British Journal of Photography*. The programme features a series of open access workshops in Jersey including a summer half-term 'Photo School and exhibition' for under 18s, a contemporary photography workshop for adults at Jersey Arts Centre in July and workshops and portfolio reviews within the Skipton Open Studios event in partnership with Jersey Arts Trust.

Archis/e Project Leader Gareth Syvret said, 'The philosophy of this new residency is to commission cutting edge photography about Jersey while giving the community the chance to engage with contemporary practitioners. Alongside a major exhibition in September and a legacy for the Jersey photographic archives, the project gives the public the chance to learn what it takes to succeed as an independent artist internationally, achieving exhibitions, commissions, residencies and getting work published. As well as appealing to fans of contemporary photography this kind of project is a boost for creative industries and contemporary art scene in Jersey.'

The 2013 programme sees the return of Archis/e's biennial Open Photography Exhibition. Offering awards of £3,800, the event invites photographers to submit three photographs in response to the brief: Interior/Exterior. Winning and selected photographs will be exhibited at the Berni Gallery, Jersey Arts Centre from 18 November to 7 December 2013. The closing date for submissions is 16 September and a full programme is available at public buildings, the Société Jersiaise, 7 Pier Road, St Helier and www.archis/e.org/je where photographers can also submit their entries online. The 2013 exhibition panel is: Gareth Syvret, Archis/e Project Leader; Michelle Sank, Archis/e Photographer in Residence; and Jean-Christophe Godet, Director, Guernsey Photography Festival.

Sophie Le Blond, One Foundation Administrator commented: 'The One Foundation is delighted to support the Archis/e visual arts project which has such a strong element of community engagement. In addition to producing a body of work inspired by the Island and its inhabitants, Michelle Sank will also be working with aspiring photographers within the community to pass on her considerable skills. Whether students in schools or at Highlands, young people developing their skills with the Youth Service or photographers attending public workshops at the Jersey Arts Centre, a wide range of islanders will have an opportunity to learn from an internationally recognised photographic artist. It promises to be a very exciting project which should help raise the profile of photography in the Island.'

Archis/e aims to inspire and equip Jersey based artists with the skills to produce work that reflects an understanding of historical, critical, theoretical and technical issues in relation to contemporary photography practice. The scope of the Archis/e #2 Open Exhibition 2013 gives Jersey and Channel Island artists the chance to engage in a visual discourse with international practitioners. At its heart the Archis/e project is about plugging Jersey into the international contemporary photography scene at a time when lens based media are increasingly fundamental to the development of the visual arts. In a contemporary context where physical borders and geographies are dissolved into new artistic spaces and constituencies, the 'open exhibition' format presents opportunities for innovation. Integrating the origin of the Archis/e project, in a particular island culture with its own distinctive senses of place and identity, with a global mediascape sets up creative tensions as a method for interrogating contemporary experiences, micro and macro.

Notes to Editors:

- *Archisle*: The Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme, hosted by the Société Jersiaise, promotes contemporary photography through an ongoing programme of exhibitions, education and commissions.
- The *Archisle* project connects photographic archives, contemporary practice and experiences of island cultures and geographies through the development of a space for creative discourse between Jersey and international practitioners.
- Full programme details are accessible on the *Archisle* project website at: www.archisle.org.je
- For a portfolio/biography on Michelle Sank see: www.michellesank.com

For further information and interviews please contact Gareth Syvret, *Archisle* Project Leader or Michelle Sank, *Archisle* Photographer in Residence on tel. 633398 or email archisle@societe-jersiaise.org .

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