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Islington Community Network



Upper Holloway Red Roofs 1989 26x18cms gouache on paper

Islington Community Network (ICN) brings together networks of voluntary and community groups in Islington to understand the issues that residents face, and to use that understanding to work for change with the council and other local organisations.

Voluntary Action Islington Exhibits

In 2011, news of an event hosted by **Creative Islington**, the network organisation for the arts and creative industries in the borough, came through the ICN to Voluntary Action Islington (VAI). It aimed to match artists with businesses willing to display their work and the talented **Chris Avis** convinced VAI to hang her work in its open plan office.

At the Private View she was inspired by the VAI Chief Exec's interest in the idea of original artwork on the walls to spontaneously volunteer as curator of shows for the organisation. These became part of **Rowan Arts'** borough wide Islington Exhibits programme as VAI Exhibits.

So far **twenty artists** have been involved in the production of **eight shows**. The selection has included artists with extensive experience of showing work across London through to those who have never shown work before.

Based on this work, Chris won a **Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship** 2013. The award will take her around Europe, forging links with artists and voluntary sector organisations, with the aim of arranging an international exchange of exhibitions.



To find out more:

www.vai.org.uk/services/islington-community-network

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European Project

Chris will be visiting

- **Amsterdam**
- **Berlin**
- **Copenhagen**

to explore how each city supports and empowers older artists.

She will also be investigating how the Islington voluntary sector can work with its Continental equivalents.