

THE PHOENIX PROJECT

The Visual Arts Department of the Arts Council, in conjunction with Greater London Arts, and in support of the Council's policy on cultural diversity has determined to meet the demand for a major visual arts venue which addresses the issues of culturally diverse art at the highest level. They have commissioned Gavin Jantjes to lead a programme of action research to examine the feasibility of creating such a venue in central London.

The Concept

To create in the UK the foremost gallery for the exhibition and appreciation of contemporary visual arts by artists from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific basin and those who have cultural roots in these regions but who live in Europe and the west. To establish a working platform within the mainstream gallery sector from which contemporary 'non-Western' visual art can address itself to a British and a larger European and international audience. The gallery will primarily be an arena for the presentation of visual arts (painting, sculpture, performance, installation, prints, drawings and lens media work).

In support of its exhibition programme, and to underpin the cultural value of work presented, the gallery will promote academic research into the fields of cultural diversity and cultural difference in the visual arts and related areas, through a series of fellowships, residencies and commissions.

It will effect the publication and distribution of this research and material relating to exhibitions to enable a British, European and international audience to recognise the value and the impact of non-Western art on a post-1992 European and global visual culture.

The Local and Regional Value

Apart from its academic importance to the international arts community, the gallery will provide an educational resource for local and regional communities. Likewise through its touring programme, its value to the regions of England and the other European states will be as a bridge to a better understanding of other cultural practises and views which are already a part of the new multi-cultural Europe, and will in the next decade become more relevant to international social relations. The gallery will have a training remit for curators, educationalists and arts management workers.