

# Factories for art

ARTISTS' STUDIO AND WORKSHOP complexes come about as much from private endeavour as from public funding. In Newcastle, the Biscuit Factory studios were launched in November, the result of an initiative by local businessmen Ramy Zack and Andy Balman. After a two-year planning process, the building has become home to thirty-two artists ranging from newcomers to the more established, drawn from north east England's artist-community. In promoting the building, the organisers say that "many will open their studios so that visitors can watch them at work, others will be involved in giving master classes". The gallery exhibition programme will include a Liliane Lijn retrospective. Balman said the aim is to "provide a focal point for artists in the region, whilst also bringing in national and international artists. We have been extremely encouraged by the reaction of artists so far. Presenting their work in an environment of this quality and with this

ethos is something they feel very positive about". The Biscuit Factory is in the Shieldfield area of the city at 16 Stoddart Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, T: 0191 261 1103, E: [art@thebiscuitfactory.com](mailto:art@thebiscuitfactory.com) or [www.thebiscuitfactory.com](http://www.thebiscuitfactory.com)

● Container City in East London – described as "a stylish new concept for providing stimulating affordable workspaces for artists and the creative industries" – was set up last year by developers Trinity Buoy Wharf Space Management, an arm of Urban Space Management. Located at Trinity Buoy, just down river from Canary Wharf, expansion over the summer has now created a five-storey site complete with access lift and wonderful views. Units can be fitted out according to artists' specific requirements. Details from John Burton or Martyn Wills, T: 020 7515 7153, E: [john.burton@urban-space.co.uk](mailto:john.burton@urban-space.co.uk) or [martyn.wills@urban-space.co.uk](mailto:martyn.wills@urban-space.co.uk)

Below: Container City

