



## **PRESS RELEASE**

9<sup>th</sup> June 2008

### **Novas Gallery Camden re-opens with Sculpture Exhibition Opening and Private view 19th June 2008 (6.30-8.30pm)**

Novas Gallery Camden re-opens its doors with an exciting Sculpture Exhibition created in its sister community based Sculpture Studio. The Studio is one of the hidden artistic gems in Camden Town providing much needed creative sculpture space for the community.

Novas Gallery Camden and the Sculpture Studio, owned by the Novas Scarman Group, is managed as an ethical community based social enterprise.

The Gallery re-opens with an exhibition of the work of over 20 different sculptors highlighting the talent that exists in a diverse range of local artists.

The Sculpture Studio managed by tutor Chris Cullen aims to encourage the development of individual talent through an unstructured but supportive artistic environment.

Chris Cullen notes: "The Studio has definitely strengthened the community in Camden and enabled some excellent and high quality work to be developed demonstrating the creativity that exists in local people."

Sam Heywood, one of the students, comments: " There is a great camaraderie amongst the artists and many strong friendships have been built – not least the sense of support the artists have from each other regarding their work and working practice".

The students and their work are very diverse reflecting the inclusive cross section of the local community using the gallery, from experienced artists and homeless people to those new to sculpture.

The exhibition of their work aims to provide a profile for the artists as well as help develop an income to support them in their artistic careers. 100% of any commission made by the Gallery is re-invested back into the Novas Scarman Group's charitable work with homeless people in Camden.

Members of the public are encouraged to support this creative venture by attending the exhibition, which opens on the 20<sup>th</sup> June and will run until the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Entry to the gallery is FREE and opening times are 12pm to 7pm throughout the week. The private view is to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June between 6.30 to 8.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

**For any enquiries or further information regarding the exhibition please contact Chris Cullen on 07940389108.**

## **ENDS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITOR**

The **Novas Scarman Group** is major social justice charity at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through social enterprise, innovation and positive impact.

Novas Scarman works at a local level to empower people and communities by creating opportunities for positive change through personalised support and development, pathways into work and learning, inclusive local decision making and change programmes, and releasing enterprise and cultural expression.

We bring communities together by enabling a voice for those often not heard or marginalised, to be at the heart of our communities, and we aim to become one of the world's most influential and effective catalysts for social justice, inclusion and diversity.

Three organisations – Novas Group, PATH and Scarman Trust – merged in December 2007 to create the Novas Scarman Group, representing a joining together of shared values in order to facilitate social justice and inclusion, diversity and cohesion.

The organisation has four core activities:

- Community support services serving the most disadvantaged communities
- Clusters of social enterprises based in Contemporary Urban Centres
- Nation-wide programmes of learning and inclusive pathways to work
- Campaigning and policy advocacy work – “connecting the streets with the corridors of power”

In October 2007 Maria Donoghue-Mills, Co-Group Chief Executive/Founder of the Novas Scarman Group, was appointed as a Social Enterprise Ambassador as a key part of the Government's Social Enterprise Action Plan, which was launched last year by then Chancellor Gordon Brown. The programme is funded by the Cabinet Office and led by the Social Enterprise Coalition.

### **About the three organisations**

The Novas Group was Charity of the Year in 2007 and combines support for vulnerable individuals with major programmes of social enterprise development

The Scarman Trust pioneered support for grassroots social entrepreneurs and recently helped to develop proposals for a new Social Investment Bank – backed by both Gordon Brown and David Cameron

PATH supports Black and Minority Ethnic entrants to professions and has recently been given both the RTPI and Civil Service Diversity Award

### **About Novas Arts**

Novas Arts is an evolving programme of creative expression for people of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities who seek to experience the transformative power of art. Through exhibitions, public art and educational programs we promote artistic exploration and appreciation; encourage community participation and growth; and provide opportunities for empowerment and social change.