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NEWS RELEASE—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATALYST ARTS LAUNCHES SUMMER SCHOOL IN EASTBOURNE

Catalyst Arts, the organisation that is seeking to encourage a renaissance in the creative arts from a biblical viewpoint, is hosting its first Summer School this year in Eastbourne. The dates are **17-22 August**, and workshops will take place at St Andrew's URC, Blackwater Road, Bonners Music Superstore, the Revival Media Radio Station and other venues yet to be confirmed.

Catalyst Arts is unusual – with the stated objective of **encouraging a renaissance in the creative arts**. Its shared belief is that the creation, far from being a meaningless accident on the cosmic front, provides both wonder and purpose, and that these can be explored through all the senses and expressed powerfully through the arts. Ben Ecclestone, co-founder of Catalyst Arts, says that this is completely opposite to the view held by the late artist Francis Bacon, who stated: *'I think that man now realises that he is an accident, that he is a completely futile being, that he has to play out the game without reason.'*

Catalyst Arts aims to establish an environment in which creative expression and innovation can be explored by people of all ages, regardless of their culture and educational background. A developing vision is to make the arts accessible to the wider community, working with schools and existing arts agencies. There will be a positive focus on youth, encouraging and stimulating creativity with vocational and non-vocational objectives. People with special needs, who for one reason or another have missed out in the educational system, will also find expression for their unrealised artistic potential.

Ben Ecclestone, along with other members of the team – John Houghton, Martyn Relf and Helen McCabe – held a breakfast reception in June for church leaders and local artists to hear the vision behind this new arts movement. Project Manager Helen McCabe commented: "We are really encouraged by the amount of support we have received so far from churches and individuals in Eastbourne. We are looking forward to putting together a really exciting programme so that many people in Eastbourne can come and take part in one way or another."

Part of the vision of Catalyst Arts is to work collaboratively with individuals, groups and organisations in Eastbourne. If you'd like to get involved in this exciting new arts venture, there are plenty of opportunities:

- **Publicity** – Could you help with distributing flyers and posters?

- **Venues** – Could you host workshops in your church or place of work?
- **Volunteers** – Could you help with setting up and running the Summer School?
- **Tutors with teaching experience** - Could you help with running a workshop (music, craft, etc.)?
- **Materials** – Could you provide materials, such as stationery?
- **Fundraising** – Could you raise funds to get the Summer School up and running?

The Summer School, from 17-22 August 2009, launches the programme with workshops in:

- **Visual arts** There will be seminars on art history, the French artist Fragonard, and Taking Drawing Seriously, along with practical workshops in drawing and painting.
- **Music and singing** There will be saxophone, drumming and singing workshops, as well as music workshops especially for children.
- **Performing arts** There will be events using drama and dance.
- **Writing and media** There will be opportunities to improve your writing skills, and a workshop on producing for radio.
- **Crafts** There will be workshops on Jewellery making, fimo modelling, and quilting.

The week will end on the evening of Saturday 22nd August with a showcase concert at All Saints Church, Grange Road, Eastbourne, starting at 7.30pm.

To book your place at this year's Summer School, visit www.catalyst-arts.org or contact Helen McCabe by emailing her on info@catalyst-arts.org or by telephoning 01323 649005/09754 043819. **Book before 31st July 2009 for discounts!**

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Contact Information

For further information regarding the content of this news release or for photographs, logos, etc please contact Helen McCabe, Project Manager on 07545 043819 or email: info@catalyst-arts.org