

## Visit to Bruer Tidman's Studio Gallery and the Hippodrome Circus, Great Yarmouth

19 December 2023

The mid December drizzly gloom magically lifted on entering Bruer Tidman's vibrant gallery situated in an old fishing warehouse in the industrial heartland of Great Yarmouth.



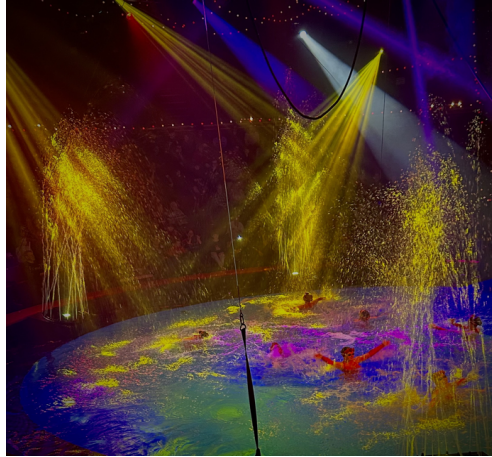
Superbly curated by Tidman, **ncas** members were treated to an extraordinary selection of paintings, prints and sketchbooks dating back to the 1980s. His works, using a range of oils, acrylics, watercolours, pastels, wax mixed with pigments, sparkles and even builders' sand ('beach sand is too salty for the canvas') radiated luminous colour. By contrast, a series of striking black and white portraits gazed directly at the viewer. One floor up, we were also welcomed to Mark Cator's elegant studio which hosts regular *Utter Nonsense* exhibitions, music recitals and collaborative workshops.



Among Tidman's artwork and sketchbooks on show were numerous studies and works inspired by the iconic Hippodrome Circus where Tidman was artist in residence for some years. It was a wonderful curtain raiser for the Hippodrome's Christmas Spectacular. Featuring a range of acts from around the world and the legendary water spectacular, the performance also included young dancers from the local Estelle Dance School based at the Hippodrome.

Post performance, **ncas** members were also able to visit the *Back Stage Circus Museum*, an astonishing collection of eclectic circus and music memorabilia curated by Hippodrome owner, Peter Jay. The wonderful retro circus-themed *Cafe 1903* also proved popular with the group. In all, it was a fascinating, memorable and engaging visit.

Our thanks go to Bruer for his time and generosity in welcoming the Group and talking about his work; the hugely helpful Hippodrome Circus Management Team and Selwyn and Janey for organising.



Written by Danuta Wurm  
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