

PROGRAMME

11.00am onwards - Arrival

11.30am: Annual General Meeting (Apologies to norfolkart@gmail.com please)

AGM AGENDA

1. Officers present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of AGM held on 8th August 2021
4. Matters arising
5. Chair's report
6. Treasurer's report and financial statement
7. Election of officers and trustees
8. Any other business

12 noon approx.:

Holt Art Festival – the Craxton Picasso exhibition. A presentation by James Glennie of Art & Antique Appraisals

12.30pm onwards: Buffet lunch.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (NCAS) held on Sunday 8th August 2021 at the home of Kate and Colin O'Grady, Hempnall, Norfolk, NR2 3DQ.

1. Present

The officers present were Chris Mardell (Chair) and Cate Allwood (Treasurer).

The guest speaker was Marie Brennan from NUA and the AGM was attended by 60 members of the society.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members:

Michael and Sally Fowler, Caroline Fisher, Vanessa Pooley, Carl Rowe, Joyce Dunbar, Nell Croose Myhill, Charlotte Crawley, Hester and Paul King, Caroline and John Evans, Julia Cameron, Chris Popperwell, Joanna Price, John and Barbara Marshall, Chris Loukes, Laure Powell, Helen Eisler, Derek Morris, Diana Heuvel, Frances Martin, Ben Heuvel, Catarina Matos, Ken and Moira Johnston, Joyce Dunbar.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held virtually on 8th July 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's Report

Welcome

Good afternoon and welcome to you all. It is so very good to see so many of you in person. Thank you very much for joining us.

Thank you too to Kate and Colin O'Grady for kindly hosting this year's NCAS AGM here in their beautiful garden at Hempnall House.

Well, we live in extraordinary times, and I would like to start by acknowledging that for many of us personally and professionally Covid has changed our lives. We will have individual and collective stories of the challenges we have faced and of difficult and sometimes sad times. Amongst all of this it is good to hear that for some, lockdown after lockdown has provided a creative space, free from interruption and for that we can be grateful.

From an organisational perspective on behalf of NCAS I would like to say how the NCAS committee appreciates your, and all NCAS members continuing support for the Arts – thank you.

In the last year we said a big thank you to Keith Roberts for his tireless work as Chair and trustee of NCAS. Due to Covid restrictions on meeting face to face we were sadly only able to acknowledge his many contributions in a very limited way, although he was kind enough to say he enjoyed the impromptu meeting and gift from NCAS. I would like you now to put your hands together to formally and collectively acknowledge Keith's work. Thank you, Keith.

I would like to take this opportunity to also say a special thank you to Brenda Ferris on behalf of the Society. Brenda has been a longstanding Trustee and has decided to resign from the NCAS committee this year. She has been an enthusiastic and outspoken Trustee and has contributed much to the development of NCAS. In particular she has been an enthusiastic supporter of our association with the Castle Museum and has represented us well on the Norwich Area Museum Service Committee. As a token of our thanks, we would like to present Brenda with this thank you card, kindly designed by Peter Kent the Norwich Artist and Illustrator and an artist whose work is much loved by Brenda.

Thank you, Peter, and thank you Brenda.

During this year we also accepted the resignation of Andrew Eden who resigned after a period of ill health. We thank him for his contribution to the Society.

We look forward to seeing Keith, Nicky, Brenda and Andrew and Sue at future events.

Positively, we have continued to meet regularly as a committee albeit via Zoom and latterly in committee members gardens. None the less I think it is fair to say that we have all been frustrated by not having regular face to face contact.

We have had three new Trustees join us this year: Claudia Milburn, Helen Eisler and Paul Simmonds. I am sure they too look forward to regular face to face meetings.

During the year we considered with Norwich BID, the use of vacant city centre retail space for use as temporary exhibition space for Norfolk artists, to support them during the pandemic. However, we concluded that this would conflict with the interests of local commercial galleries.

We were pleased to award the annual NCAS prize of £500 for outstanding work to Anna Ward in the NUA degree show. We particularly enjoyed her exploration of fabrics, threads and weaving. Unfortunately, the selection process was held on-line and sadly this remains the case for our current selection of this year's award, to be announced at the Graduation Ceremony 8 September.

Our long-planned for NCAS members' exhibition NCA2018, was postponed, initially because of difficulties with renting space in the Forum, then compounded by the government Covid 19 restrictions. This exhibition, now NCA2021, is booked for 8 November – 5 December 2021 in the Norwich Cathedral Hostry. Invitations to submit works of art will go out to members next week.

Our programme of events was curtailed by the government restrictions imposed due to the pandemic. Our last unrestricted event being the lecture of Caryn Franklin on 20th February 2020.

We are pleased to say that we have been able to reschedule some of the events that have had to be postponed.

We are fortunate to have already rescheduled a visit to the studio of Bob Catchpole and we have had one very successful and enjoyable visit in July, with good feedback and another one scheduled for August.

We have managed a curated tour for 30 members to the opening exhibition at Yare Gallery in Great Yarmouth and we look forward to future visits to the gallery later this year.

We have a commitment to NCAS from a number of exciting speakers and look forward to finalising dates once the limitations of Covid allow.

📅 A conversation with sculptor Ann Christopher Royal Academician

📅 A presentation by Steven Wright, a former textile designer and Art Director and his "House of Dreams"

📅 Dr Giuliana Borea speaking of the indigenous contemporary art of Peru. Giuliana has been Peru's Director of Museums and Cultural Heritage and Co – Ordinator of Museum Projects.

📅 Laurence Edwards: Members will recall the extraordinary day we enjoyed at the studio and foundry of sculptor Lawrence Edwards in 2018. We plan to enjoy a presentation by Laurence in 2022 in Norwich.

📅 Lara Wardle: Director and Curator of the Jerwood Foundation is a specialist in 20th century British Art. Lara will talk to us about the Jerwood Foundation and their work in supporting young and emerging Artists.

Finally, for now, we have concluded as a committee that the lives and work of young and emerging artists and curators will have been significantly impacted by Covid 19. Pretty obvious really. We believe that NCAS has a role to play in bringing together the wealth of knowledge, experience and learning of NCAS members and the enthusiasm and innovation of these new artists and curators. We plan to progress work on this during the course of this year.

TREASURERS REPORT Cate Allwood, our Treasurer presented her Report.
Accounts agreed, as trustees report.

Election of Officers and Trustees

The 2020 Trustees Annual Report dated 5 June 2020 – agreed.

Officers willing to stand for re-election as trustees were confirmed as follows:

Frances Martin served as our Administrator and Membership Administrator and is willing to continue in this role. Frances also serves as the representative for the Norwich 20 Group.

Dr Rosy Gray served as the representative for Norwich Castle Museum and Gallery and is willing to continue in this role.

Trustees who are due for re-election and wishing to remain as a trustee are Robert Short, Rose Davies, Diana Heuvel and Chris Mardell.

We have received one nomination for a new Trustee: Carl Rowe was confirmed as a trustee.

‘Thank You’ to Kate and Colin. I would like to thank Janey Bevington once more for all her hard work with the arrangements for today. Thank you, Janey.

Thank you too to Selwyn Taylor, Paul Simmonds and to all the other Trustees and members for their hard work and support for today.

INTRODUCTION TO MARIE BRENNAN

We are now joined by Marie Brennan, NUA’s Head of Postgraduate Taught Awards

Marie has a diverse background and prior to leading NUA’s MA courses ran a creative consultancy, and worked as a culture expert for the European Union. Marie has recently been appointed to the British Council, working for the Arts and Creative Economy Advisory Group, advising on arts strategies.

We look forward to the opportunity of working with NUA, with the Castle Museum and with City College, to provide support and encouragement to the artistic community of tomorrow.

This concluded the Chair’s formal report to AGM.

NCAS Trustees' report for the financial year ended 31st May 2022

Norfolk Contemporary Art Society is a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commissioners (no. 262730). For official purposes its address is c/o Frances Martin, 184 Drayton Road, Norwich NR3 2EA

Its website is www.n-cas.org.uk. Its rules are governed by its revised constitution dated 8th July 2007 and 24th July 2016.

Trustees

Paid up members can nominate and second the names of prospective trustees each year at the AGM, which for 2021 was held in the gardens of Hempnall House, courtesy of Kate and Colin O'Grady.

A maximum of 16 Trustees are each elected for 3 years. Trustees and officers of the Society for the year 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2022 were:

Officers:

Chris Mardell, *Chair*

Cate Allwood, *Treasurer*

Vacant, *Hon. Sec.*

Member Trustees:

Selwyn Taylor, *Deputy Chair*

Janey Bevington

Caroline Fisher

Diana Heuvel

Derek Morris

Robert Short

Rose Davies

Danuta Wurm

Nell Croose-Myhill (resigned 13 August 2021)

Claudia Milburn

Helen Eisler

Carl Rowe

Dr Rosy Gray served as the representative for Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. Frances Martin served as the representative for the Norwich Twenty Group. Frances Martin also serves as NCAS Administrator, for which she receives a fee of £2,400 p.a.

The Society

The object of the Society is “to advance the education of the public in the appreciation of the arts and in particular the creative art of the present day in all its branches.”

Under its rules the Society is invested with the following powers:

- a) To purchase works of art for presentation or loan to public museums, art galleries or other organisations where such works of art will be on view to the public;
- b) To raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise: in exercising this power, the Trustees must not undertake any substantial permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
- c) To buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire, property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- d) To stage exhibitions, lectures, trips and events to further the object.

The day-to-day business of the Society is run by its two committees – *Events* (chaired by Janey Bevington and Selwyn Taylor) and *Exhibitions* (chaired by Chris Mardell and Selwyn Taylor).

Events

The 2021-2022 programme of events was partly curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, and trustees meetings early in the year continued on Zoom. However, trustees were delighted to recommence events with curator Sarah Lowndes talk at the new Yare Gallery in Great Yarmouth, followed by visits to the studio of Bob Catchpole and a talk of his sculpture; visits to the Old Schoolhouse Gallery, Wighton for a talk and exhibition of the work of Alfred Cohen; a visit to the Corn Hall Gallery, Diss for an exhibition and talk of the work of Victor Passmore; a Conversation with Ann Christopher RA, sculptor and painter; Professor Giuliana Borea talking of the indigenous contemporary art of Peru; a curator talk at Firstsite Colchester of the Benton End Group exhibition; a talk of collecting 20th and 21st century art by Lara Wardle, Director Curator of the Jerwood Foundation and James Rawlin, former Head of Modern and Contemporary Art at Sothebys; the Art of the Intangible - a talk of digital art by Peter Higgins and Lol Sargent and finally a conversation with John Carter RA. We tried new venues for our events, enjoying the facilities at NUA lecture theatres, Norwich School lecture theatre and the Forum.

Exhibitions

Our long-planned Norfolk Contemporary Art Society member's exhibition NCA2018, was postponed, until 2021. NCA21 ran from 8 November – 5 December 2021, exhibited in the Cathedral Hostry and the quality of the work and exhibition considered by many to be of a very high standard. An award of £500 was made to Maria Pavledis for the most outstanding work and the Adnams prize for the most accomplished work was awarded to Geoffrey Lefever.

We sponsored the Geoffrey Lefever Exhibition at the Crypt Gallery, the Norwich School, from 21 – 29 March 2022, a space ideally suited to his work.

We have had preliminary discussions with the Norwich Cathedral regarding the future exhibition of contemporary art in and around the Cathedral.

Artworks Collection

In 1985 the society adopted a policy of purchasing art works by artists working in the region. The pieces were bought with the intention of exhibiting them in the region and in places where the public has access but outside the normal confines of galleries. No progress has been made this year in placing our works and we will review our strategy for the collection in the forthcoming year. Diana Heuvel, is responsible for the collection.

Additional notes

- We reached agreement for a new website, designed by Mark Fuller of GrafikMarka, and this has now gone live. We continue to update the website.
- The society also has a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram, established for us by Rachel Allen from Mandell's Gallery and maintained by Caroline Fisher.
- We continue to participate in *Art in Norwich*, the digest of all visual art activity in the city and also send out regular editions during the year of both our programme and our newsletters.
- We again awarded an NCAS prize of £500 for the outstanding work in the Norwich University of the Arts Degree Show, albeit that viewing and selection was online. Tara Mayo won the ncas award with Rebecca Foster-Clarke and Ellen Sibley highly commended. We were pleased to share the presentation of the ncas awards to the students in person with the new NUA Vice-Chancellor Simon Ofield-Kerr in the brand-new NUA Duke Street Riverside building.
- We plan to continue with Norwich Twenty Group to arrange transcribing a selection of the late Mike Toll's VHS cassettes onto DVDs. A selection has previously been shown to NCAS members.

We contributed £360 towards the purchase of a piece by Ian Giles by the Castle Museum. We contributed £560 towards the exhibition by Laura Wilson by the Castle Museum.

- The society continues to serve in a co-opted capacity on the Norwich Area Museums Committee, represented by Janey Bevington and Danuta Wurm.
- Subscription rates are £20 individual, £30 joint. Students at both Norwich University of the Arts and Norwich City College can now attend all NCAS talks for free and can register to receive all NCAS programmes, newsletters and alerts by email.
- A working balance of funds is held in Barclays Bank current accounts (one general account, and one account for dedicated funds). Remaining funds are invested in a COIF Charity Investment Fund.

Trustees and their responsibilities

The trustees are each year required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus for the year then ended. In preparing financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring proper accounting records are kept which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and follow the guidance for accounting for smaller charities issued by the Charity Commission. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

Chris Mardell – Chair

June 2022