



## **ncas** was delighted to support the commissioning of a new work by the Singh Twins, titled *Alternative A-Z of Empire* for Norwich Castle Museum & Gallery

Norfolk Contemporary Art Society **ncas** are delighted to continue our support of Norwich Castle Museum again in contributing to the commission and acquisition of The Singh Twins' *Alternative A-Z of Empire*, 2022.

The commissioned work is on display in the Decorative Arts and Wider World Gallery of the Castle Museum alongside objects from the Museum's permanent collections, subjects that inspired and are referenced in the work.

The work explores global perspectives on colonial histories in response to objects in Norfolk Museum Service's collection. It was first presented as part of the highly acclaimed *Slaves of Fashion* exhibition.

*Alternative A-Z of Empire* takes an 18th century jigsaw puzzle, titled *Inhabitants of The World Alphabetically Arrang'd*, from Norfolk Museums Service's collection of childrens' games as its starting point. Like the original jigsaw, the work comprises a series of pieces representing each letter from A-Z, alphabetically arranged as a single

mixed-media image. The Singh Twins suggest that the concept of the jigsaw puzzle, a single image comprised of individual but interconnected narratives shaped by different experiences and viewpoints, represents the nature of colonial history as a global story. The Singh Twins describe the work as a selection of facts and observations that collectively serve to represent key moments and characteristics, rather than presenting a comprehensive, systematic, or chronological account of colonial history. Such an approach, suggest the artists, challenges popular misperceptions about the nature of Empire, stimulating debate about this important chapter in our collective human experience.

*Alternative A-Z of Empire* was commissioned by Norfolk Museums Service and made possible with generous support from Art Fund, Norfolk Contemporary Art Society **ncas**, and the Friends of Norwich Museums.

*Alternative A-Z of Empire* courtesy of Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

## ncas are pleased to partner the Norfolk & Norwich Festival for the first time

### Will Gompertz in conversation with Rana Begum RA

Will Gompertz photo courtesy of Artiq/Lovisa Ranta

Rana Begum photo courtesy of Josh Murfitt



Will Gompertz has led the Barbican Centre's artistic direction and wide-ranging education programmes since June 2021. His ambitious Artistic Vision aims to build on the Barbican's role as a world-class international arts centre by investing in emerging talent, education programme and closely collaborating with its local communities, whilst increasing inclusivity and diversity among its staff, associates and audiences.

Immediately before joining the Barbican, Will was the BBC's first ever Arts Editor, a senior journalistic and broadcasting role he started in 2009. Will reported extensively on the arts across the globe, interviewed countless artists, actors, writers, musicians and directors.

He also wrote and presented documentaries for BBC One and BBC Two, and hosted shows on Radio 2, Radio 4 and BBC 5-Live.

Will has written two internationally best-selling non-fiction books *What Are You Looking At?* (2012) – a history of modern art and *Think Like an Artist* (2015) about creativity and this year, *See What You're Missing* (2023) – **on sale at this event.**

The work of London-based artist Rana Begum distils spatial and visual experience into ordered form. Through her refined language of Minimalist abstraction, Begum blurs the boundaries between sculpture, painting and architecture. Her visual language draws from the urban landscape as well as geometric patterns from traditional Islamic art and architecture. Light is fundamental to her process. Begum's works absorb and reflect varied densities of light to produce an experience for the viewer that is both temporal and sensorial.

Born in Bangladesh in 1977, Rana Begum lives and works in London. In 1999, Begum graduated with a BA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and Design and, in 2002, gained an MFA in Painting from Slade School of Fine Art. Begum has received the Jack Goldhill Award for Sculpture (2012) and Abraaj Group Art Prize (2017). Begum was elected RA in 2019.

**Saturday 27 May 7.00pm**  
**Norwich School Blake Studio, Norwich NR1 4DD**  
**Tickets through N&NF Eventbrite**  
**£10.00, Under 18's £7.50, Young N&NF £7.50**

**Book signing, wine and soft drinks will be available after the conversation.**

## ncas to award two £500 prizes to NUA Fine Art graduates in 2023

**£500 Fine Art Prize and  
£500 New Makers Prize**

ncas are delighted to award each year an annual Fine Art Prize with Commendations to graduates from Norwich University of the Arts. In 2022 we added to the annual Fine Art Prize with a Sculpture Prize with Commendations. In 2023 we will extend the Sculpture Prize to include artworks in all mediums, processes and materials, naming this the New Makers Prize. The trustees look forward to judging the students work in June this year.

## Great support for the new season of **ncas** talks and events



Laurence Edwards presented a film on his sculpture Yoxman (the Suffolk Colossus) at the Blake Studio.



A talk by Professor Jago Cooper, the new Director of Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

Below: a visit to the Corn Hall, Diss to see Paula Rego—*The Dog will have his day* exhibition.



Paula Rego  
*A Frog he would a wooing go* etching.



'*The Brigadier*' (Penny Allen née Coleman), first president of **ncas**. Maggi Hambling donated the work to the Castle Museum & Art Gallery in 2018.



Maggi Hambling CBE was in conversation with Dr Francesca Vanke, Senior Curator and Keeper of Fine and Decorative Art, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

## Forthcoming Events To book contact [janeybevington0@gmail.com](mailto:janeybevington0@gmail.com)

### 15 April – A day immersed in world-class sculpture

Visit to Henry Moore Foundation, Much Hadham for a guided tour by Senior Curator Dr Hannah Higham, followed by the Private View of the Lee Grandjean solo show SEEING THINGS at the Gibberd Gallery, Harlow.

### 11 May – A guided tour of the **BIG WOMEN** exhibition at Firstsite in Colchester

Curated by Sarah Lucas, one of Britain's most celebrated artists, who first came to prominence as a leading light in the generation of Young British Artists (YBAs).



## ncas art auction returns to City Hall Council Chambers

It's been a while now since **ncas** has been able to hold its biennial art auction. This was largely due to Covid-19 restrictions, followed by the Society's reluctance to ask artists and friends to donate in very difficult times.

We hope the time is now right to resurrect this much loved event and have reserved the City Hall Council Chambers for the art auction on **Thursday 6 July, 7.00–9.00pm.**

There will be a preview of the artworks in the Undercroft (in front of City Hall, behind Norwich Market) on Monday 3, Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 July, 11.00am–4.00pm.

The auction will again be led by James Glennie, a qualified valuer with over thirty years experience in the art valuation and auction field, fourteen of which were with international auctioneers Bonhams. James led our last auction in 2019.



Most **ncas** member activities are not-for-profit events; the **ncas** art auction is a very important fund raiser to keep the society financially viable.

We would like to ask for your support, both in donating work and, of course, by attending on the night. To donate please contact

[selwyntaylor@btconnect.com](mailto:selwyntaylor@btconnect.com)

## ncas AGM will be held in the grounds of the Norwich School Sunday 23 July arrive at 11.00am

Last year our AGM was generously hosted by Charlotte and Henry Crawley at their beautiful home Hunworth Hall. This year we follow our tradition and return to Norwich. The **ncas** AGM provides an opportunity for **ncas** members to review the year, to enjoy a delicious buffet lunch, wine and soft drinks together in the charming setting of the lawns of Norwich School, overlooking Norwich Cathedral and the Bishops Palace. Our speaker this year is Professor Simon Ofield-Kerr, Vice-Chancellor of Norwich University of the Arts who will talk to us of his exciting plans for the next phase in the development of the University.

**To book contact [janeybevington0@gmail.com](mailto:janeybevington0@gmail.com)**



*Designed, edited and produced by Selwyn Taylor Photos courtesy of Selwyn Taylor*

Above: The Bishops Palace