

It was a busy Autumn for ncas members with a rich offering of things to do – exhibitions, talks, studio visits, the auction and a Christmas treat. And our new website is also nearly ready to launch. This has all meant a lot of work for your committee and we do remain keen to encourage physically active, younger members to join us on the committee and to get involved.



## Recent Events

NUA's Dean of Arts and Media, Richard Sawdon Smith gave the highlight talk of the last session.

Immaculate in his three-piece Vivienne Westwood suit, Richard gave a brilliant account of his trajectory through the various issues



that surround body image, gender and identity in a post-AIDS world, with a chance to see how his various projects have gradually evolved from one another over the course of two decades. He showed us examples from three bodies of photographic work, the first two dealing with issues of health, identity and sexuality. The third, his current as yet unseen project *The Unknowing*, a playful but dark series of portraits straight from the adult dressing up box!

Our visit to sculptor Lee Grandjean's studio was a great opportunity to see many of his works in progress and to see many finished pieces placed outside in his extensive grounds. Lee was one of the artists in our *Port-2-Port* exhibition and he engaged us all in interesting conversations afterwards over a pint and a pub lunch in Reepham.

## Charity Auction

Every two years we hold a charity art auction to augment our war chest and enable us to further our charitable aims over the next couple of years. This November's was the most successful yet, raising over £12,000. The change to holding a pre-auction exhibition in the Greenhouse, courtesy of Tigger, was a large part of this success. along with the generosity of the artists and members in donating such wonderful and saleable artworks. We are grateful to professional auctioneer, James Glennie, for doing such a splendid job in raising so much in so little time.



Lee Grandjean's studio and grounds



## Port-2-Port

This pair of curated exhibitions, a cultural exchange between the two ancient ports of Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn, was a great success. Starting with the well-attended private view in the Fermoy Gallery and the Red Barn in King's Lynn, where works by the self-styled Yarmouth Five were hung, the evening followed up with numerous pop-up art events in the town.



Many thanks to all the volunteers who acted as invigilators here and then later on when we moved to Great Yarmouth Library where work from five West Norfolk artists were shown. The free, fully-illustrated catalogue, designed by Selwyn Taylor, was made possible by grants from Norfolk County Council and East Anglia Art Fund.



*Photos courtesy of Keith Roberts and Selwyn Taylor*

## Our Future Programme

We have another busy programme of talks for the Spring, details of all of which you will find in your programme. We are delighted to again be joining with NUA in presenting a talk by fashion commentator and activist, Caryn Franklin, who will talk about the politics of fashion, and the problems this raises about culture and inclusivity. Many will remember her distinctive presence on the BBC's *The Clothes Show* and *Style Challenge*.

And another studio visit you will need to sign up for quickly – this time to see Bob Catchpole's studio and gallery in North Walsham (Mr Johnson just missed out on being taught by Bob at Eton – how history might be different?) And then on to the fabulous Gunton Arms for lunch, with a rare opportunity to hear owner and dealer Ivor Braka talk about his eclectic and subversive collection of artworks around the gastro-pub and in the grounds.



## My Blue Heaven

As a Christmas treat for our members, we arranged an evening social at the Sainsbury Centre on the 5 December (with mince pies) to hear more about the growing sculpture park at UEA, and in particular to say farewell to John Christie's wonderful 'shed', *My Blue Heaven*. About 60 members braved the cold to hear Calvin Winner give a

short talk about progress with the park and with future acquisitions, followed by an introduction to the social history of sheds by social historian Ken Worpole, and a discussion about the work's genesis with the artist, John Christie, before we all ventured outside to see the work at night (and to listen to it)!



Compiled by Keith Roberts Designed by Selwyn Taylor