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PROUDLY SHOWCASING NORFOLK



IMAGE: ©MARY BLUE | CONTEMPORARYANDACOUNTRY.COM

Lay of the Land: The East Anglian Landscape Now

Explore a captivating creative exhibition opening on 25th September at St George's Guildhall in the historic heart of King's Lynn

An enchanting free exhibition soon set to launch in King's Lynn, Lay of the Land celebrates what makes the East Anglian landscape so distinctive.

Displayed in the Fermoy Gallery and Shakespeare Barn at the beautiful Grade I listed Guildhall of St George, this inspiring showcase features a diverse range of artwork such as paintings, sculptures, photographs, ceramics, glass and shell crafts.

The event has been expertly curated by Paul Vater and Paul Barratt of Contemporary & Country, an organisation which collaborates with artists and makers inspired by their environment to host original pop-up

exhibitions. These vary in location, size, and theme, focusing on contemporary and applied art and promoting East Anglian creativity through flexible, project-based collaborations.

Lay of the Land encompasses recent works by 35 artists and makers who demonstrate why the east of England continues to enthrall and inspire modern creatives.

All of these artists draw their inspiration directly from the landscape, both inland and along the coast. Their depictions of the sea and artificial waterways capture the intriguing intersection between the two, resulting in pieces that are captivating, intimate, and evocative of the eastern region.

"The East Anglian landscape is not like any other; it's both glorious and majestic, secretive and stunning. It's surrounded and shaped by the sea, giving and taking from it, basking in its beauty and reflecting it," says St George's Guildhall Creative Director, Tim FitzHigham. "Like many in East Anglia, I could go on for thousands of words to describe it but, remembering the saying 'a picture paints a thousand words', we've come up with a much better idea – to support the artists who capture it brilliantly."

This following selection covers the various genres that are featured in Lay of the Land, from paintings and photography to sculpture and ceramics.

Mary Blue

(OPPOSITE PAGE)

Originally from the USA and now based in Wells-next-the-Sea, Mary Blue is renowned for her atmospheric beach and seascapes. Her technique involves generous smears, slurps, and splashes of paint over delicately drawn underpainting. She captures the clarity of coastal air and its dynamic nature through her vigorous brush strokes.



IMAGE: ©SIMON CARTER | CONTEMPORARYANDACOUNTRY.COM

Simon Carter

Simon's collection includes paintings on canvas and paper, depicting the inlets and creeks of the Essex coast where he has spent most of his life. "I create my paintings inspired by walking and drawing in the Essex marshes, returning to the same spots to seek the unexpected in familiar landscapes," he explains.



IMAGE: ©STEWART HEARN | CONTEMPORARYANDACOUNTRY.COM

Stewart Hearn

Stewart Hearn, an award-winning glassblower, has spent decades mastering his craft. Since relocating to the Cambridgeshire Fens, he finds inspiration in the landscape's shifting hues and reflective waters. His modern glass vessels, shaped with newfound creative freedom, complement a wide range of interiors.

Bill Jackson

Bill considers himself an investigative artist, creating spaces for people to escape their busy lives into a 'secret world.' Working from dusk till dawn, he captures the fading and returning light, layering still and moving images to create an existential experience of the landscape, suspending time and place.



IMAGE: ©VICTORIA FENN | CONTEMPORARYANDACOUNTRY.COM

Victoria Fenn

Victoria Fenn's sculpture 'The Plough' reflects her deep connection with farming, stemming from her upbringing on a Fenland farm. Now living in rural Norfolk, she remains captivated by the land, saying, "I'm mesmerised by ploughing and the effortless, smooth action of the blade cutting through the earth."

Cecilia Willis

Cecilia Willis's 20 years in Asia deeply influenced her artistic vision, blending Japanese aesthetics with her decorator's eye. Since returning to England in 2014, she has set up a Norfolk studio where she explores the 'moon jar' form, perfecting brush marks and glaze colours through her evolving creative process.



IMAGE: ©CECILIA WILLIS | CONTEMPORARYANDACOUNTRY.COM



IMAGE: ©BILL JACKSON | CONTEMPORARYANDACOUNTRY.COM

Linda Jamieson

Linda Jamieson's paintings, inspired by the North Norfolk coastline, explore the dynamic forces of nature. Her process mirrors tidal shifts, adding and removing elements as moods change. Though her works are described as landscapes, Linda says their subject *'is myself and my investigation into my experience of the world and what that world is.'*



IMAGE: ©LINDA JAMIESON | CONTEMPORARYANDCOUNTRY.COM

Tim Plunkett

Norfolk wood turner Tim Plunkett creates elegant and practical items that highlight the beauty of natural wood through simple, clean lines. His bowls, cutting boards, book stands, and tables will be showcased at the exhibition. With a BSc in Environmental Science and activism against forest destruction, Tim ensures his work uses sustainably sourced local wood.



IMAGE: ©TIM PLUNKETT | CONTEMPORARYANDCOUNTRY.COM



IMAGE: ©NESSIE STONEBRIDGE
CONTEMPORARYANDCOUNTRY.COM

Nessie Stonebridge

Nessie Stonebridge's work draws inspiration from the bucolic and wind-battered Norfolk coastline near her studio. She will be showing recent sculpture employing ceramics, and paintings of birds often engaged in the ritual of territorial defence. The sense of air, wind and water is intrinsic to these urgent creatures as they are caught in motion.

Carolyn Brookes Davies

Carolyn Brookes-Davies is a multi-media artist and maker based in North Norfolk. Her work involves repetitive processes, through which she builds three-dimensional objects by consciously sourcing, gathering, collecting, and assembling materials. She integrates recycled paper, shells, wood, and metal to craft sculptural constructions that manipulate natural forms and bring attention to often overlooked elements. Her creations exhibit an archival character, reminiscent of artefacts excavated from an archaeological site of an ancient tribe inhabiting a mystical landscape.



IMAGE: ©CAROLYN BROOKES DAVIES
CONTEMPORARYANDCOUNTRY.COM



For more information on this captivating showcase please visit www.contemporaryandcountry.com or www.stgeorgesguildhall.com

LAY OF THE LAND: THE EAST ANGLIAN LANDSCAPE NOW

25th September to 26th October 2024

The Fermoy Gallery and Shakespeare Barn at St. George's Guildhall, 29 King Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1HA.

Open: Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays www.guildhall-events.co.uk