

CONTEMPORARY
ANDCOUNTRY

Avant Gardeners

Celebrating the horticultural and the cultivated landscape behind and beyond the garden wall.

THE STABLES AT HOUGHTON HALL
NORFOLK PE31 6TY

1 MAY TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

OPEN WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS,
SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS

[CONTEMPORARYANDCOUNTRY.COM](https://www.contemporaryandcountry.com)

SEE [HOUGHTONHALL.COM](https://www.houghtonhall.com) FOR OPENING TIMES /TICKET PRICES



All the art and objects are for sale. We will introduce new work to the Stables during the exhibition as items sell. More examples of work by these artists are available online

SEE HOUGHTONHALL.COM FOR OPENING TIMES/TICKET PRICES

ARTISTS AND MAKERS

PAINTINGS PRINTS DRAWINGS

SUE BLANDFORD
MARY BLUE
CLAIRE CANSICK
SIMON CARTER
EILEEN COXON
AMANDA EDGCOMBE
JUDITH ELLIS
KATE GILES
JANE HINDMARCH
LINDA JAMIESON
CAROL LAKE
LIZ MCGOWAN
ELIZABETH MERRIMAN
MARTIN MITCHELL
PANDORA MOND
MARIA PAVLEDIS
ANN PAYNE
PETER RUDOLFO
CAROL SAUNDERSON
COLIN SELF
IVY SMITH
JONI SMITH
SUSAN WHATLING

TEXTILE ART

JEN CABLE
JAMES GLADWELL

DESIGN FOR THE HOME

CAROLYN BROOKES-DAVIES
JANE CRISP
STEVE GORE-ROWE
KATHRYN HEARN
STEWART HEARN
LAURA HUSTON
SUE KIRK
STEPHEN MURFITT
TIM PLUNKETT
JACK WHEELER
KATRINA WHEELER
STEVEN WILL

SCULPTURE

KERON BEATTIE
ROGER HARDY
RUTH HOWES
ANDREW JONES
CHRISTOPHER MARVELL
EMILY MAYER

PHOTOGRAPHY

POLLY CRUSE
KATAYOUN DOWLATSHAHI
GARETH HACON
ED LEE

Avant Gardeners

Britain has a reputation for the variety of its gardens and the informal balance of its designed landscapes. Gardening is seen as a national pastime. Nowhere is this cultivated creativity made more evident than in the garden and parkland at Houghton Hall, North Norfolk, celebrating its 300th anniversary this year.

Art has been a vital component at the Houghton Hall Estate for most of those years, and the permanent collection continues this story today. It is the first time Contemporary and Country (C&C) have configured an exhibition that complements its magnificent walled garden and parkland.

While this exhibition cannot reflect the full diversity of East Anglia's horticultural heritage, the art and objects encompassed by it show how artists and makers take their ideas from the garden, the seasonal cycle, plant studies, harnessing natural processes that encourage growth or that aid decomposition and exploring how nature can be 'improved upon' in an aesthetic approach to landscape. Some have focussed their attention on the animals, birds, and insects taking advantage of the protective conditions found in a garden.

Others have been attracted to an expanse of coastal marshland and marginal areas or the confines of a neatly arranged allotment or herbaceous border.

The English landscape has become a contested arena now that awareness of its potential as a lifeless expanse has been made more apparent. The countryside has been altered by destructive influences including unrestricted urban development and industrial scale farming's use of insecticides that has seen insect and bird numbers decline. The rate of reduction has only slowed through an informal alliance of conservation areas, national parks, enlightened landowners and the patchwork of public parks, allotments and suburban gardens that stand in as substitutes for the landscape in microcosm in our built-up areas.

Exhibitors

(Left to right):OPPOSITE: Kate Giles; Roger Hardy; Jane Crisp BELOW: Tim Plunkett; Carol Lake; Polly Cruse.



“If we opened people up we’d find landscapes.”

Agnes Varda (Belgian-born, French film director)

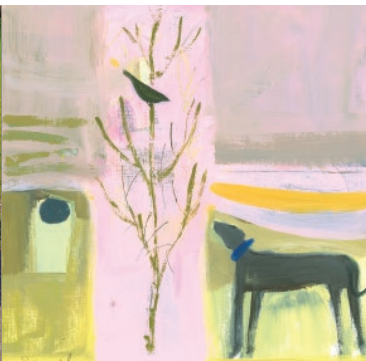
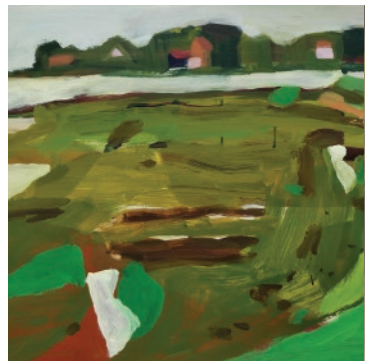
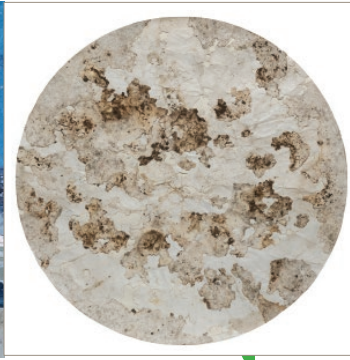
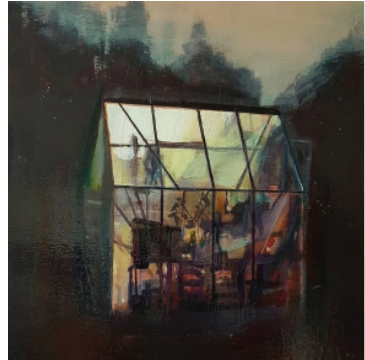


During the early eighteenth century to coincide with the establishment of estates like Houghton Hall, landscape gardening was elevated to an art form. As the pandemic has progressed, things have turned full-circle, gardening has never been more popular. So many more have an interest in the creative side of gardening and landscape design. And yet there is a disconnect that demands re-balance. Our rural surroundings are viewed today as a resource for leisure, an open space to let off steam, or a

convenience store to be endlessly exploited.

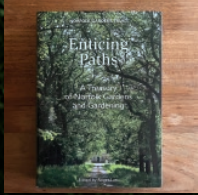
The response of Avant Gardeners' artists and makers to what they see is often something that has been overlooked and undervalued in the garden and in the wider landscape. The exhibition is an opportunity to survey the work of different creative people, based East Anglia, who have employed a broad variety of methodologies to realise their interpretations of a subject that never grows old.

(left to right): ROW 1: Linda Jamieson; Stewart Crisp, Katayoun Dowlatshahi. ROW 2: Sue Blandford; Eileen Coxon; Mary Blue; Liz McGowan; James Gladwell; and Jane Hindmarch. ROW 3: Simon Carter; Sue Kirk; Carol Saunderson; Claire Cansick; Laura Huston; Andrew Jones ROW 4: Steven Will; Ed Lee; Peter Rodulfo; Keron Beattie; Ivy Smith; and Gareth Hacon.



SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM @contemporary_and_country
TWITTER @cc_art_handmade
FACEBOOK contemporaryandcountry
LINKEDIN paulvater



Norfolk Gardens Trust

This exhibition was inspired by of **Enticing Paths** edited by Roger Last – a collection of essays focusing on Norfolk's extraordinary horticultural history, published by **Norfolk Gardens Trust**.

CONTEMPORARY AND COUNTRY

Contemporary and Country (C&C) present art and handmade objects by emerging as well as established artists and makers from the east of England in non-gallery spaces celebrating our rural surroundings. We work with those who include the natural world in their subject matter or production process. They bring about a closer understanding of the countryside, what makes the east of England landscape so unique. Looking creatively beyond the passing trend they encourage greater consideration for nature, as its appreciation and preservation becomes ever more prescient to our time. For more contact paulvater@contemporaryandcountry.com

Contemporary and Country will make a contribution to a recently established biennial artists' award for projects in 2024



Isabel Vasseur at Glasgow Garden Festival, Richard Deacon Nose to Nose, Beginning To End, 1988

THE VASSEUR BALTIC ARTISTS' AWARD

The VASSEUR BALTIC ARTISTS' AWARD was established in April 2022, in memory of the late Isabel Vasseur, a remarkable champion for commissioning contemporary art for the public realm. Isabel was a lecturer as well as a public art consultant inspiring a generation of curators and many artists. She encouraged artists to produce their best work for public spaces, the built environment, gardens and green spaces. Early in her career Isabel set the creative direction of two of the **National Garden Festivals**, Glasgow 1988 and then Gateshead in 1990, that spearheaded the cultural regeneration of these two industrial areas. She commissioned local and internationally acclaimed artists to create installations along the banks of the River Clyde and Tyne, and invited hundreds of thousands of visitors to see it all. It is therefore appropriate that as a part of the **Avant Gardeners** exhibition there is a link to the memory of this influential and dynamic figure.

More: <https://baltic.art/>

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Centre for Contemporary Art