

Norfolk Contemporary Art Society

Report to Norwich Area Museums Committee,

March 8th 2016

60 years of NCAS

2016 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society, which was set up in 1956, initially chaired by Lettice Colman, in order to encourage the Castle Museum to acquire work in the modern idiom to balance its fine collection of the nineteenth-century Norwich School of painters. Since then the Society has acquired its own art collection which forms the basis of holdings in post-war art in the Castle. Among the items the NCAS has lent to the Castle are works by Edward Barker, Jeffrey Camp, Prunella Clough, Eduardo Paolozzi, Graham Sutherland and Colin Self. Pieces that the Society has purchased and then given to the Norfolk Museums Service include works by Derrick Greaves, Howard Hodgkin, L.S. Lowry, Mary Mellor and Derek Morris. In addition other works have been part-funded by the NCAS, the latest being a contribution of £3,000 in January towards the acquisition of an Andrew Dadson photograph, conditional on the rest of the funding being in place. These close links with the Castle were underscored last year by a contribution to the post of Exhibitions Officer for one year.

The NCAS is hoping to mark this very special year with a number of events.

Firstly, we plan to update and revise the Society's illustrated history, *Fifty Years On*, including the comprehensive list of work for public display in the Castle. Secondly, this new book will be published to accompany the celebrations associated with NCA16, the biennial exhibition of artist members of NCAS from 2nd to 10th September in the Forum. It is also hoped that it will be possible to stage an exhibition of works in the Castle's collection which have been either lent, gifted or part-funded by the NCAS over the last 60 years, but that is still subject to confirmation.

Forthcoming events programme

Besides the 60th anniversary celebrations forthcoming events include 'A figurative Presence: A discussion (by a number of local artists) on figurative imagery within a modernist context', on April 6th in the Curve at the Forum, chaired by Hannah Higham, the Castle's Contemporary Art Curator. On Tuesday, May 3rd, also at the Forum, SCVA Curator, Claudia Milburn, will be the speaker for 'Alberto Giacometti: A Line Through Time', coinciding with the exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre. Then – a most exciting prospect – on July 3rd (venue to be confirmed) architect Christopher Heuvel will be hosting a talk by a member of ASSEMBLE, winners of the 2015 Turner Prize – a real catch for the Society!