

Drawing Upon Cotman

Norwich Castle Museum, 5th Dec 2009 – 21 March 2010

Current and alumnae students of Norwich University College of the Arts were invited to respond to the work of the Cotman family on show in Norwich castle. They were asked to think particularly about drawing as a process which can give an individual a sense of location in space and/or time.

This exhibition was spearheaded by the Great British Art Debate, a partnership between Norfolk Museums and Archeology Service, Tate Britain, Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums, Museums Sheffield, and the Institute of International Visual Arts. The Great British Art Debate is a project exploring what British Art has to say about identity and nationality. The Great British Art Debate is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and the MLA's Renaissance Programme.

NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY:

Opening Times

Monday – Friday 10am – 4.30pm
Saturday 10am – 5pm
All Sundays 1pm – 5pm

Admission

Castle Ticket
(Includes Special Exhibitions)
Adult £6.00, Conc. £5.10,
Young Person (4-16) £4.40

Pop in for £1 one hour
before closing.

Also 12 noon – 1pm weekdays
during school term.

Travel and Parking

By Car: Sat Nav NR1 3JU.
Park on level 13 in Castle
Mall shopping centre for
the shortest route to the
Castle. For information on
Park and Ride visit www.passengertransport.norfolk.gov.uk or tel. 01603 223954.
Call traveline on 08706082608
for public transport options.

Contact

General Enquiries:
01603 493625/495897

24 Hour Information:
01603 493648

Email: museums@norfolk.gov.uk

ORGANISED BY

Anna Green, Learning Officer,
Norwich Castle Museum
& Art Gallery (Great British
Art Debate), and Lecturer
at Norwich University
College of the Arts

and

Caroline Wright, previously
Course Leader for MA Drawing,
Norwich University College of
the Arts, and practising artist

—GREAT
BRITISH
ART
DEBATE

DRAWING UPON COTMAN

A partnership exhibition between

MA Drawing Students from
Norwich University College of the Arts

and

the Great British Art Debate
at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

in the Cotman Gallery at NORWICH CASTLE

**5TH DECEMBER 2009
21ST MARCH 2010**

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JADE DE MONTSERRAT
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By appropriating images then translating them via a complex process into watercolour, my work emulates Cotman's approach to landscape. My work in this exhibition, 'Islands in the Sky' posits a fictionalized-cum-real world which plays with aspects of contemporary and past culture within the East Anglian landscape.



ANNA MORTIMER
scottmortimer@dsl.pipex.com

I respond to the landscape of East Anglia in which I walk. The mixed media piece, 'Voices Softly Unsung', in this exhibition, with its knots, organic pods and threads resonates with the Cotmans' use of delicate details: stitching on sails and flags, and the shapes and patterns reflecting the rhythms of the natural world. My work is concerned with the fragility and ambiguity of personal identity.



SANDRA WALMSLEY
Sandra.prosser2@ukonline.co.uk

Cotman was particularly interested in realistic drawing from nature and held classes to teach the skills when he was in Norwich. My series of small landscape drawings in this exhibition reflect this craft element of drawing. In addition, they engage with the process of change from managed reed beds to Alder Carr woodland, crucial to the Norfolk Broads.



HELEN BREACH
helen.breach@talk21.com

The relationship between place and person is very powerful, especially that of 'home'. Cotman's 'Old Houses at Gorleston', although appearing to be a straightforward picture of an old building, is ambiguous. Is it a romantic view of a simpler way of life or a statement of poverty and social disintegration?

My interpretation of the picture takes the property and turns it into a twenty-first century renovated dream house.



FLISS CARY
Flisscary@btinternet.com

My work in this exhibition, 'Mrs Cotman's Favourite Scenes' is in two mutually reinforcing parts: a still drawing of Mrs Cotman, taken from John Sell Cotman's own portrait of his wife; and a video using drawn elements of the Cotman landscapes conflated with drawings from the BBC television production of *Pride & Prejudice*.

Together they reference the gulf of time and technology between the Cotmans and ourselves.



KATIE FALCON
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For most of my life I have lived and worked in Norfolk, walking its coastline regularly, sketching and painting throughout the year in all weather conditions. Like Cotman, therefore, my work is concerned with a "sense of place", the experience of being in, rather than merely looking at the landscape.



CLAUDIA MILBURN
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Researching John Sell Cotman's relationship with Norwich throughout his life has encouraged me literally to follow his footsteps through photographs and oil paintings.

In so doing I establish personal connections and identify myself with the subject. The themes of Cotman's work – the river, reflections, views through trees, through foliage – infiltrate my vision. I adopt the role of 'artist in residence' in Cotman's world, tracing his ground, chasing his shadow, re-discovering his subjects anew.