



For Immediate Release [Photos available]

Contacts: James Colman 07534 898558, Katy Jon Went 07808 970429, Sarah Young 07979 671392
press@paintout.org, james@paintout.org, katy@paintout.org, sarah@paintout.org

PAINT OUT Wells 2017 Prize Awards

Paint Out Wells – a success for event and artists alike

It's September in Wells-next-the-Sea, whilst the beaches are noticeably less populated, the queues at the fish and chips marginally shorter, the small seaside town was buzzing with pirates and over 20 **Paint Out** artists, last weekend (15-17/Sept).

These weather-hardened outdoor painters, unique among artists to leave the warmth and walls of the studio, visited Wells in the third year of this festival of *plein air* art competition event. The now annual event has established a visible pop-up presence for art in the form of an artists' hub in the Congregational Hall and marquee gallery on the Buttlands. Many hundreds visited the exhibition of 120 artworks painted during the weekend, from sunrise to sunset, from Wells' beach to Blakeney's boats.

Fast becoming a must-do event in the art and festival calendar, more people than ever encountered the artists painting the North Norfolk coast, returning to the tent to see the works come in, get their tickets, and go on display. The largest painting of over 1m square, titled "East Hills Dawn" by local artist Tom Cringle, was painted at dawn on the beach, and sold within minutes of going on display. Tom was among 21 brave artists who rose before 5am to watch and paint the superb sunrise on both the beach and pre-dawn purples and oranges appearing as beautiful backdrop to the silhouetted *Albatros* on the quay, where several artists stayed during the weekend.

The judges – art dealers and valuers, James Glennie and Nick Holmes, along with experienced *plein air* artist Michael Richardson – considered long and hard over the works but were nigh on unanimous in their choice of Jack Godfrey's bold widescape, "The width of Wells", as first prize winner. Jack, 40, from Norwich, won third prize at the first **Paint Out Wells** and was highly commended last year for his paintings of Brancaster Staithe.

Hopkins Homes have graciously sponsored the prizes all three years and the second prize this year was awarded to newcomer Sam Robbins, a former EDP staff photographer, and who currently teaches GCSE photography at **North Walsham High School**. In 2014, he gained a Masters Degree in Fine Art from **Norwich University of the Arts** and has a piece of his work in the University Permanent Collection. So does one of the judges, now, as his prize piece "Blakeney Hard", a *sgraffito* oil on cardboard work with scraped back paint effects of the sign and mooring posts at Blakeney Quay was sold along with another of Wells Ebb Tide.

Judges' commendations also went to Sarah Muir Poland, Shaun Carey, and to Robert Nelmes – a winner at our Norwich 2016 and Royal Norfolk Show 2017 events. The 'Spirit of Plein Air' award went to local artist Karen Adams, who interrupted a holiday in Spain to fly back and take part and who two-years running was first up to paint the sunrise. That's commitment!

Paint Out seeks to put raw, wet, unframed art, straight off the easel into the hands of new and seasoned art buyers alike. It challenges the assumption that gilt frames and established galleries are the only places to find Fine Art. Instead, we encourage art lovers to discover it 'in-process', watch it being created, and then own it, packaged in a posh 'paint out' pizza box to keep it pristine on its journey to a new home and frame of the purchaser's choice.

The organisers are grateful to the welcoming community of Wells-next-the-Sea and their support of our unique event. Wells residents are already wise to the fact that they live in a place that is a veritable paradise for artists with some of the best vantage points from which to paint the serene sights of the north Norfolk coast. **Paint Out** is confident that the event will grow and grow, returning next year; first-up, though is our **Norwich** event next month, 14-18 October.

Continues...

--- Ends ---

Note to Editors:

En plein air is a French expression meaning “in the open air” *i.e.*, – painting outdoors.” Historically, the style of painting developed in mid-19th century France alongside the invention of the portable box easel with some earlier roots, was executed outdoors and as a direct response to *sur le motif* scene or subject in front of the artist. It is about interpreting the actual visual and temporal conditions seen at the time of the painting in natural changing light, not the studio. Notable artists include Monet, Renoir, Singer Sargent, and of particular relevance to Norfolk, the Norwich School artists – John Sell Cotman, John Crome, Joseph Stannard, and others, many of whose works are exhibited in the Colman Gallery at the Castle Museum in Norwich, and Tate Britain.

Sgraffito is a technique of scraping back wet paint with a palette knife or end of a brush, often with an accompanying scratching sound, revealing dry paint or board underneath; from the Italian *sgraffire*, “to scratch”.

Paint Out was founded by former London gallery-owner and local artist James Colman in 2013/14.

Media pack photos download (25Mb) www.paintoutwellsnextthesea.org/media/pow2017-media-photos.zip

Further details and additional photos are available from info@paintout.org.

www.paintoutwells.org | www.paintout.org | www.paintoutnorwich.org