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PAINT OUT NORWICH, OCTOBER 15-19, 2016

Exhibition at the Hostry, Norwich Cathedral until October 29

Countdown to Paint Out Norwich en plein air art competition begins

In two weeks' time the historic streets, alleyways, and even River Wensum in Norwich, will be the "workplace" for dozens of artists in the UK's leading juried-entry outdoor painting competition, Paint Out Norwich.

Held as part of the Hostry Festival, Paint Out is a lively two-day timed competition attracting national artists, and was instigated by Norfolk artist James Colman, whose aim is to reinvigorate, redefine, and make relevant the genre of *en plein air** painting to a 21st century digitally overloaded audience.

Paint Out offers a rare opportunity for members of the public to watch artists at work and see at first hand the challenges of creating art outdoors - inclement weather being one of them. Core artists work in three-hour periods on both days (Oct 17 and 18) and Freestyle artists over two whole days, both in every conceivable location in and around the city producing work that is judged and awarded on the final day (Oct 19) by a line up of world art grandees.

New, this year, is the chance for artists to paint some of the views made famous by Norwich School painters during the 18th century. This time, some of the artists will be situated along the Wensum, from the relative discomfort of 21st century canoes, kindly supplied by Pub and Paddle's Nick Hannington.

Artists enter in three categories: Core (comprising for the first time in Paint Out's history three sections defined by medium - oils, watercolour, and mixed media), Nocturne, and Freestyle. This offers more opportunities for artists to win and means their work is judged alongside those working in the same medium or time-frame. All are subjected to a rigorous online juried-entry application and judging processes to ensure the highest standard of entries and exhibition.

By the time we went to press, the first 33 artists had been selected, among them some of the traditional *en plein air* painters from the acclaimed Wapping Group of Artists, Michael Richardson and Roger Dellar. In addition, some of the newer artists with a different, more contemporary take - Norwich's Brian Korteling, and prize-winning Jack Godfrey, who has just completed a 100 paintings in 100 days art project including painting refugees at Calais.

Paint Out is delighted to have brought eminent names from the art world to judge and award a winner and runner-up in each category. From these an overall winner of Paint Out Norwich 2016 will be found.

Monetary prizes totalling about £5000 will be presented by sponsors Strutt and Parker, Sowerbys, La Ronde Wright, and Archant, during a ticket-only gala preview on October 19. Works can be purchased through a silent auction on the night and tickets are available online. The exhibition continues daily from 9am-4pm at the Cathedral Hostry until October 29.

“*En plein air* is tougher than it looks; you are constantly chasing the light. It is a fantastic tradition stretching back to the 18th century from which to take the innovations of the past and expand them,” said James. “We are particularly excited about the new Freestyle category, introduced this year, inviting artists to paint any size work in any medium at their own speed. We want them to have the freedom to create in their own time and are optimistic of some exciting results. Who knows, we may even find the next great thing here in Norwich!”

Ends

Note to Editors:

- *En plein air* is a French expression meaning “in the open air – painting outdoors.” Historically, the style of painting developed in mid-19th century France, was executed outdoors and as a direct response to the scene or subject in front of the artist.
- In the last 12 years it has been enjoying a revival, particularly in the USA.
- It has particular relevance to Norwich, as the Norwich School artists – John Sell Cotman, John Crome, Joseph Stannard - were exponents of this genre. Their works are exhibited in the Colman Gallery at the Castle Museum in Norwich.
- Paint Out was founded by former London gallery-owner and artist James Colman in 2013/14.