

# EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL ART CENTRE

NORWICH SCHOOL PAINTERS AND SUFFOLK ARTISTS

1750 – 1950



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# EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL ART CENTRE

NORWICH SCHOOL PAINTERS AND SUFFOLK ARTISTS

Working 1750 – 1950

Our objective is to promote interest in the Fine Art produced by painters working in Norfolk and Suffolk between 1750 and 1950. This period encompasses many East Anglian masters, commencing with Gainsborough, Crome, Cotman and Constable, all of whom inspired many further members of the Norwich School and the Ipswich Fine Art Club. The rise of impressionism in the late nineteenth century produced the innovators Arnesby Brown and Munnings whilst later Seago rounded off what is one of the most impressive lists of regional artists.

With access to an extensive archive of research material the East Anglian Traditional Art Centre aims to investigate and further knowledge of the artists and their works. Over the years some attributions have become blurred, and the condition of many of the paintings has deteriorated. The Centre offers a professional in-depth assessment process to fully evaluate the traditional works from the region, both from an authenticity and condition viewpoint. The website [eatac.co.uk](http://eatac.co.uk) has been established. Longer-term objectives of the Centre are to increase awareness and enthusiasm for the Fine Art of the region by offering loans to exhibitions, publishing books and organising talks and courses.



**John Constable R.A.**

The Artist's Birthplace, East Bergholt, August 1812

Cover: **John Crome.** Norfolk Cottage, Exhibited 1834, from the Collection of James Wadmore



**Thomas Churchyard** 1798 – 1865

The Quay, Woodbridge

## **THE REFERENCE ARCHIVE**

The Centre houses an Archive which has been assembled over the last sixty years and relates to many aspects of East Anglian Art. All the standard reference books are included, together with many of the rare titles and catalogues from Exhibitions held since the early 1800's. From these specialist publications the histories of paintings can often be built up and firm attributions established. Authorship of works by the Norwich School artists is easily confused due to the commonality of influences and their similar painting styles. Of particular assistance in these cases is the extensive library of photographs held by the Centre, many of which were secured by Harold Day in the course of writing his volumes in the mid 1960's. Auction and Exhibition catalogues held on site provide a further vast pool of information. The digital library held on hard drives provides useful additional material, and subscriptions to other digital sources are maintained.

Within the Archive are papers and documents from many of the Artists themselves, and from their families. A major advantage the Centre offers is that original works by most of the artists are available on site for comparison purposes, which is invaluable in some cases.



James Stark 1794 - 1859

Wooded Landscape

## — THE DAY COLLECTION —

The Day Collection was founded by Harold Day in the late 1950's with the shared enthusiasm of his mother, Ethel M. Day. She was born Ingamells, suggesting her family was of Dutch descent. Ethel was the daughter of a Lincolnshire farmer from near Boston, an area of strong Dutch influence. Although Harold Day trained and qualified as an engineer and went on to become a teacher, he left London in the 1950's to start a smallholding in Essex. The farm specialised in Landrace pig breeding and growing fruit for Tiptree at Witham and Britvic in Chelmsford. It was at this time, whilst attending livestock markets in Norwich and Ipswich, that the artists of the area first came to his notice, and it was not long before he was avidly collecting their works. This was probably the ideal time as all but the top names were largely overlooked. It is amusing to note from his old account books that a good picture was often about the same value as a good pig!

Harold was instrumental in discovering works by Claude, Gainsborough and other Old Masters, which he had authenticated and successfully sold to supplement the farm income and support the picture

buying for the Collection. With his wife Sheila's support pictures were purchased, primarily of the Norwich School and by Ipswich artists. Research was undertaken, culminating in the writing and publication of the 'East Anglian Painters' series of books from 1965. The volume recording Suffolk School artists in 1967 was the first to be published which gathered together the County's gifted sons ranging in date from Gainsborough in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to George Rope, who died in 1929.

The volumes which followed covered the Norwich School and were equally well received, expanding knowledge of the artists. In 1975 'Constable Drawings' was written and published, the first book to examine in detail the Master's works on paper. At one time the drawings in the Day Collection represented the largest privately owned group of Constable drawings. A significant number were sold from the Collection in the 1960's to the Mellon Collection at Yale. Other international collections have also acquired works including the National Gallery of Art in Washington, this sale being negotiated by John Day. The drawings retained represent a cross section of the artist's subjects, with an emphasis on illustrating his working techniques.

By the 1990's the Collection was condensed as Harold Day spent more time in Australia, where he maintained an interest in East Anglian Art. Several of the paintings purchased in this period were published in his later books, written in Australia. Since his death in 2010 his son John has taken over the administration of the Collection, which is still evolving. John has a special interest in the Suffolk Artists, particularly Constable and his circle, including Frost and Churchyard, also George Thomas Rope, undertaking considerable original research which has been published. John Day has also studied the paintings of the Norwich School for nearly fifty years, and is presently researching the works of John Crome and their influence on the later Norwich School and Norfolk artists. This is in preparation for the 2021 John Crome Bicentenary.

Two recent Exhibitions, Constable's 'Aspire' in 2015 at Christchurch Mansion and 'Life through the Eyes of East Anglian Artists' at Stowmarket Museum, have provided an opportunity to loan works from the Collection. The drawings loaned by John Day to 'Aspire' at Ipswich gave an important illustration of Constable's working practice of developing drawings into oil paintings. We look forward to making further loans from the Collection to forthcoming public exhibitions.

## **COLLECTING EAST ANGLIAN PAINTINGS**

In the 1950's, when Harold Day began collecting works by the Norwich School artists, there were no internet sites or digital auction catalogues to look at. Today it is very different with every provincial auction room and internet site parading a wide selection of goods with glamorous illustrations, which, thanks to image enhancement, do not always represent the items accurately. Internet auctions have yielded bargains, but most traders on the sites have no specialist knowledge, so it is easy to attach an attribution to a Norfolk artist to any traditional-looking lane or cottage scene.

The auction rooms cannot possibly hope to have the experience and knowledge on the multitude of schools and periods they are expected to catalogue, often at short notice and under pressure from the vendors. The result of this lack of expertise can be a high number of unsold lots with the occasional work selling for many times the estimate and reserve, when knowledgeable dealers happen to recognise an authentic work.

Quite often it is not just the authenticity of works which is problematic, but also the condition of a painting, which may have been damaged, and restored and cleaned many times in its life.

## **THE HISTORY OF OUR GALLERY BUSINESS**

Harold Day opened a Gallery in 1964, with his son John joining him in 1972, and for over half a century Eastbourne Fine Art handled a very large number of East Anglian pictures. Specialist Exhibitions were held and numerous books on the subject were published. We are aware of the location of many fine East Anglian paintings, for which we are occasionally asked to find new homes. This background enables us to offer a unique service to Collectors as we have the knowledge required to undertake discreet disposals and acquisitions in all price ranges. We presently act for Private Clients and Museums worldwide, having sold to many institutions, including Tate Britain in London.

We invite Collectors to advise us of their interests which we will add to our confidential database, advising when we know of suitable works for sale. It is often the personal knowledge of a Collection which will enable us to fill gaps and build up a significant related group of paintings. The Centre will hold selling Exhibitions periodically and clients will be invited to Antiques Fairs and events in the region. A list of quality works currently available for sale can be forwarded on request.



Panorama of Ipswich undergoing research

## SERVICES OFFERED AT THE EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL ART CENTRE

**General advice** – We are available by appointment to examine pictures, and will give complementary advice regarding condition and presentation, also if we consider it is worthwhile having the work researched or valued. It will be clearly stated if, in our opinion, the value does not warrant expenditure on research or conservation.

**Research** – A listing of the charges stating the different levels of services we offer is available, clearly indicating the depth of research which is expected to be undertaken for each project. Advice will be given free of charge during the first visit to the Centre when works are presented for assessment or research.

X-Ray and other specialist investigations can be undertaken.

### **Valuations for Insurance, Probate and Family Division.**

Discreet professional service, usually with modest quoted fees.

**Client Sales Service** – A full advisory service is offered for single items, collections or estates. Special low commission rates are available if we can place works directly into a Private Collection.

We work with the top names in the art dealing world and have contacts in most of the auction rooms. It is essential that advice be sought when selling through auction, as there are problems to avoid and options to be considered. This is our speciality, often at little or no cost to the vendor.

The auctioneer's fees in some cases are now becoming prohibitive. The buyer's premium is charged at up to 30% on top of the final bid. When this is added to the commission paid by the seller it can result a total auctioneer's charge of 50% of the hammer price. We can advise the best companies and have negotiated special terms for Collections and Estates.

## FRAMING SERVICES AT THE ART CENTRE

**Antique Frame Restoration** – We undertake work, or suggest alternatives. Original old frames in good condition bought and sold.

**Museum Quality Conservation Framing** – In recent years the advances in glass technology have provided the means of preserving your watercolours and works on paper with UV filtering glass. We can recommend the best mounting and framing methods.

## CLEANING, CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICES AT THE ART CENTRE

John Day has fifty years' of experience dealing with works from our chosen period and it is the specialist knowledge of the paints and techniques used by East Anglian artists which is the unique asset of our service. Each work is different and demands a different cleaning and restoration programme. We give our advice freely, consulting with the owners of the work if required during the process. We have the option to call upon the services of various conservationists and will recommend others for some projects.



**John Duvall** 1816-1892

showing the left side undergoing cleaning

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL ART CENTRE

### ‘Norwich School of Painters’

Volumes 2 & 3 East Anglian Painters Series H. A.E. Day ISBN 0-902010-10-7 £16.50

### ‘East Anglian Art Jottings’

Volume 6 East Anglian Painters Series By H. A. E. Day ISBN 0-902010-12-3 £14.50

### ‘Norwich School & Suffolk School Art’

Volume 7 East Anglian Painters Series By H. A. E. Day ISBN1-876261-45-5 £14.50

### ‘Thomas Churchyard - The Oil Paintings’

Soft Back With 40 Colour Illustrations By John Day ISBN 0-902010-7-4 £7.50

**The Artist’s Daughter: Memoir of Ellen Churchyard** by Sally Kibble £17.50

**The Search for Thomas Churchyard** by Robert Blake Soft Back £10.00

**‘A Twilight Landscape’** The Hidden Art of George James Rowe of Woodbridge

By Chloe Bennett Soft-Back £14.95

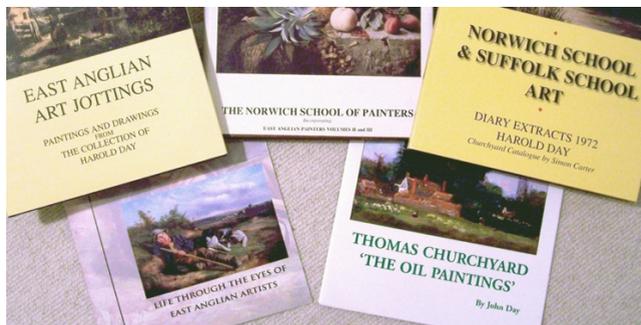
**‘Blaxhall’s Creative Past’** (George T. Rope biography by John Day)

By the Blaxhall Archive Group Hard Back £20.00

**‘Old Sketchbooks & Albums’** By H. A. E. Day ISBN 0-9579365-0-8 £16.00

**‘The Secret Life of Paganini’** By H. A. E. Day ISBN0-9579365-1-6 £16.00

**‘The Stannards of Bedfordshire’** By A. Lester ISBN 0-902010 115 £25.00



Out of Print and Rare Books in stock at the Centre

We stock many of the standard reference books dealing with East Anglian Art, including a good selection on Constable, The Norwich School and the Suffolk Artists. Artists biographies are a speciality.

‘Painting the Day’ by Morfey, ‘Suffolk Artists’ by Walpole, the original ‘East Anglian Painters’ by Day, ‘Norwich School of Painting’ by Dickes, Exhibition catalogues on the Norwich School, Churchyard etc. available.

We wish to purchase rare and interesting books and documents relating to our chosen field, either individually or as a collection.

## **FUTURE PROJECTS AT THE EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL ART CENTRE**

The Reception area at the Art Centre opened in the Spring of 2017. Please contact us for an appointment if you have a work upon which you would like us to give advice as we have limited opening hours, as detailed on the back cover of this brochure.

We hold loan Exhibitions of East Anglian Art throughout the year, and these are normally on show for six to eight weeks. There are usually works for sale by the artists in whom we specialise, and at the Centre we maintain the facility to have selling Exhibitions should a Collection or items from an Estate be offered.

Our website [www.eatac.co.uk](http://www.eatac.co.uk) will give details of forthcoming Exhibitions at the Centre, and other interesting events elsewhere. It is our ambition to establish an indispensable website featuring Traditional Art.

### **THE JOHN CROME BICENTENARY PROJECT, 2021**

Currently we have this research project underway, and invite interested parties to contact us with a view to assembling a research team to investigate the following aspects of Crome's life and paintings:

- Record and collate known works in the UK and overseas
- Build a high definition digital and x-ray reference archive

We will award the Crome Prize annually for a student's original research relating to John Crome or the Norwich School. Applications welcome.



**John Berney Crome 1794-1842**

**Norfolk Roadway (detail)**

## ARTISTS' ARCHIVES HELD BY THE CENTRE

### **John Constable R.A. 1776-1837**

John Day has studied and collected the works of Constable for many years, gathering a Collection of drawings illustrating many aspects of the Artist's working methods. The Constable reference library is comprehensive, backed up by many photographs and early catalogues. The Mezzotints are represented by an early Presentation Set of the English Landscape series, also the later 1855 Bohn issue and others.

### **John Crome of Norwich 1768-1821**

This Archive has been assembled since the 1950's and comprises of many photographs, exhibition and auction catalogues, specialist books and unpublished material. Harold Day's original notes from the 1960's, which were made whilst he was compiling the volumes on East Anglian Painters, are held in the Archive.

### **The Norwich School and Suffolk Artists 1750-1950**

We hold files on all the artists and have access to our extensive photographic libraries relating to many of the individual artists. The centre is expanding the Archive and is interested to hear of material available to acquire, store or to copy and pass on to a National Archive.

### **Thomas Churchyard of Woodbridge 1798 – 1865**

The Centre holds a chronological archive of documents relating to the artist and his family. From these we can often identify works from Exhibitions. Our photographic library of oils, watercolours and drawings is very extensive, probably the largest in existence. The Collection holds many works by the Artist, enabling comparisons to be made.

### **George Thomas Rope of Blaxhall, 1846 - 1929**

For over half a century a large quantity of material relating to this fascinating artist and naturalist has been accumulated by John Day. This has been added to that discovered by his father in the 1960's to form the most significant reference archive available. A large Collection of paintings and drawings is held in the Collection. An Exhibition of his work is planned, together with a catalogue raisonnee.





**George Thomas Rope**

**Fresh Pastures**

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From the South – A12 past Ipswich & Woodbridge

From Norwich – Beccles – Blythburgh - A12 to Wickham Market

From Bury St Edmunds – A14, A140, B1078 (Country route) or via A14 & A12

We are located in the Village Square, near the Car Parks

Please contact us to confirm opening hours. Normally Thurs to Sat 11am - 5pm



John Day invites enquiries: [john@eatac.co.uk](mailto:john@eatac.co.uk)

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Promoting Research and Enthusiasm