

# Celebrating Norfolk and the great art it inspires...

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A kaleidoscope of contemporary and creative interpretations of our county's landscapes will greet audiences at this year's Hostry Festival in Norwich.

For the first time the festival has included a focus on visual art, and its inaugural exhibition at the Norwich Cathedral venue presents a colourful collection of Norfolk-inspired work. The exhibition *My Norfolk* opened the 2013 Hostry Festival last night with a private view, and the free art show will run throughout the whole of the arts extravaganza until November 3.

Mike King, part of the exhibition's curating team and patron and associate producer of the festival, said: "The title is *My Norfolk* and the translation of that theme is pretty wide, many of the works relate to Norfolk scenes and all are by Norfolk artists. It is very much a contemporary exhibition."

He added: "There are some incredibly powerful images and some incredibly soothing, misty and moody images of Norfolk, contemporary views of some of those really lovely Norfolk scenes. It is also a great exhibition of contrasts."

James Colman, also part of the curating team along with Théodora Lecrinier and Molly Rigg, said the 12 pieces were picked from more than 100 works that were submitted for consideration for the exhibition.

"What we have tried to do is find a balance between more traditional painting and a mixture of semi-abstract and totally abstract work. The exhibition is primarily painting, with one piece of sculpture," he said.

The artists whose work features in

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the show include Fred Ingrams, Lorraine Bewick, Chris Kirby, Rosamund Evennett, David Lindsay, Joffy Chapman, Katarzyna Coleman, David Jones, Emma Hedgecoe, Dina Leigh, Ursula Spottiswoode and Susan Taylor.

About some of the work, Mr Colman said: "Fred Ingrams work is very evocative of the Fens and semi-abstract. He is quoted in the programme as saying that, 'the flatness of the area makes distances hard to judge and perspective seem altered. It's like no other place in Britain.'

"David Jones' image is of Pull's Ferry. The colours are very heightened making it a visually very exciting image that works from close up and at a long distance.

"David Lindsay's painting is a very powerful abstract image and the largest painting in the show, while Katarzyna Coleman's painting of Great Yarmouth has a definite sense of place.

"Joffy Chapman's sculpture uses locally sourced reclaimed stone and oak, and seems to respond to the cathedral itself. There's a definite connection between the materials of the cathedral and the materials that have been used in the sculpture."

■ **My Norfolk is at the Hostry until November 3. It is open daily 9.30am-4pm and during Hostry Festival performances. Entry to the exhibition is free.**

## Hostry Festival events this weekend

The first weekend of this year's Hostry Festival includes "From Norfolk to Normandy," a Chamber Orchestra Anglia concert which will be performed to archive films of the Home Front in Norfolk during the second world war and footage of Upper Normandy in France during enemy occupation. The footage has been brought together by Norwich HEART's Digital Heritage Project. The

concert is tonight, 7pm-9.30pm, at the Hostry. Tickets £15 (concessions £12). Meanwhile, Norfolk jazz group Cyan Traces will entertain dinner guests at the Refectory at Norwich Cathedral on Sunday from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £25 and include a three-course meal.

■ **For more and to book visit [www.hostryfestival.org](http://www.hostryfestival.org) or call 01603 598676.**



■ The launch of the Hostry Festival's *My Norfolk* visual arts exhibition at Norwich Cathedral last night.

## Remembering a Norfolk poet, painter and songwriter

The inspiration behind the title of the *My Norfolk* exhibition comes from a poem about Norfolk, written in the 1970s by the late Norfolk poet, painter and songwriter Derek Pratt.

Mr Pratt, from Loddon, was born and bred in Norfolk and lived in the county all his life.

Hostry Festival artistic director Stash Kirkbride said: "Derek was a close family friend and colleague in song writing for over 10 years in the 1980s; his wisdom and humour were always apparent whenever we worked together and I am extremely proud that we're able to honour his talent in this way.

"Anyone who met Derek instantly knew he knew Norfolk better than most, having painted and decorated houses all over the county, as well as having written poetry



■ Derek Pratt was born and bred in Norfolk.

about his observations along the way. He was very much part of the colour of the countryside himself and has been greatly missed since he passed away in 2003."

Paying tribute to his father, Mr Pratt's son Mike Ward said: "My childhood and teenage memories of Dad are of paint, poetry and pencil. He wrote many of his poems about the unique and magical character of Norfolk when I was a child and read 'My Norfolk' and my favourite, 'Titania's Wood' to us at bedtime.

"He also painted rural Norfolk scenes in oils, a scent that would mix with the already familiar smells of the housepaint he used in his work as a decorator.

"Later, as a teenager, I would work with him, sometimes in empty houses and it was quite usual to see him sketch a picture of a Norfolk windpump or a farmhouse on the bare plaster of a wall before covering it with paper. There must still be many hidden works of pencil art on walls in houses around Norwich and the Yare Valley!"

Mr Pratt's painting *My Norfolk* will also be on display alongside the *My Norfolk* exhibition, along with two paintings of the Hostry and Norwich Cathedral, one by Fran Currie and the front cover of this year's Hostry Festival brochure, the other is by Charlotte Taylor and the front cover of the *My Norfolk* programme.