

# Art at the Heart of Ipswich

## 1874 - 2024

A programme of events to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ipswich Art Society and the cultural life of the town. A set of parallel exhibitions, and a series of talks and workshops is designed to encourage public involvement in art and local heritage. Working together with a number of partner organisations, this celebration shines a light on the cultural life of Ipswich.

### Exhibitions

3rd May - 23rd June. Suffolk Archives at The Hold. This tells the story of Ipswich Art Society in the context of significant changes and developments in the town. Items include works by Art Society members acquired by the Borough Art Collection over the 150 years, and items from the archives of The Hold and Ipswich Art Society.

4th May - 15th June. Ipswich Art Society Annual Open Exhibition at St Clement's Arts Centre, Star Lane. Art created by the public as well as members of Ipswich Art Society, in our flagship annual exhibition.

May and June. Christchurch Mansion. Specially labelled works of Ipswich Art Society Members from the Borough Collection displayed throughout the building.

3rd May - 3rd June. University of Suffolk Waterfront Building. *Making it Count*, an exhibition of the work of Fine Art students, in response to new and archival information on the flora and fauna of Suffolk.

24th May - 8th June. The East Anglian Traditional Art Centre, Wickham Market. *Inspired by Suffolk* will feature works from the collection of Suffolk art held at the East Anglian Traditional Art Centre, marking sixty years of collecting by the Day family. Additionally, a selection of works by Suffolk Artists from 1875 -1950 will be for sale.

20th April - 25th May. The Cut, Halesworth. A collection of works (1955-2024) by our long-term Member Richard Pinkney.

### Talks

Held at 7pm in The Hold Lecture Theatre (Thursdays). Booking essential. Prices £10 and £7 (concessions). Book at [www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on)

28th March. John Sheeran, *Masterpiece Paintings*. The former curator of the Dulwich Picture Gallery will explain his admiration for 10 of his favourite old master and modern paintings. Artists include Botticelli, Leonardo, Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Turner, Monet, Van Gogh and Picasso.

9th May. Mark Beesley, *Landskips*. Two of Britain's greatest painters were from Suffolk, - Gainsborough and Constable - and both painted landscapes. The talk will trace how these painters helped elevate landscape as a serious subject for high art.

16th May. Emma Roodhouse, *Art Gossip and Sketching: Art in the Borough Collection*. The history of the Ipswich Art Society and the Ipswich Borough art collection are inextricably intertwined. Find out more about the artists and artworks that form a fundamental part of Ipswich's cultural history.

23rd May. Matthew Bowman, *Haunting Suffolk Landscapes*. The 150th Anniversary of Ipswich Art Society coincides with the 120th Anniversary of M R James' book "Ghost Stories of an Antiquary". The settings in Suffolk reflect the changing understanding of the landscape during the time of industrialisation, providing a fresh perspective on the interpretation of the Suffolk landscape over the last 150 years.

## Workshops

Free at The Hold and Christchurch Mansion. All materials provided.

Workshops at *The Hold*: book free of charge at [www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whats-on) for the sessions at either 10:30 - 13:00 or 13:30 - 16:00.

Workshops at *Christchurch Mansion* are drop-in during 10:30 - 13:00 and 13:30 - 16:00.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May, The Hold. Stitching onto fabric and family recipes. Exchange stories and recipes.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May, The Hold. Handmade sketchbook creative hub. Make a special sketchbook and fill it with sketches of, for example, The Hold or Waterfront. Age 7 - 17.

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May, The Hold. Neurodiverse creatives workshop. For self-diagnosed or diagnosed neurodivergent people and their supporters (if desired). Exploring the concept of masking through art. Create a piece for public exhibition.

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> May, Christchurch Mansion. Family portraits or Mansion portraits - respond with puppet-making. Age 7 - 17.

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> May, Christchurch Mansion. Photo-scavengers. Transform black and white images from corners of the Mansion into colourful artworks. Ages 7+.

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May, Christchurch Park. Paint in the Park - open air drawing session for families and anyone passing by.

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June, The Hold. Cartoon drawing styles in 20<sup>th</sup> century magazines. Look at the works of renowned artists like Edward Ardizzone, Ronald Searle, Saul Steinberg, Walter Herriman and Peter Arno, and then try the styles yourself. Ages 17+ .

## Guided walks

Ipswich Tourist Guides Association has designed several guided walks based on its famous artists and related points of interest. These can be booked via the Ipswich Institute at <https://ipswichinstitute.org.uk/>

## Other Birthdays...

2024 also sees some major anniversaries of other prominent Ipswich societies and organisations...

The Ipswich Institute is 200 years old this year. It provides lending library facilities and an extensive programme of leisure learning courses, talks and trips to over 2,000 members. Their anniversary will be celebrated at a special event at The Hold at 2:00 on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. All welcome.

Ipswich Choral Society is also 200 years old. Their special performances include Haydn's Creation at Snape Maltings on 20<sup>th</sup> April and Christchurch Park on 29<sup>th</sup> June as part of the Wolsey 550 events; and Handel's Messiah on 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Corn Exchange.

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It mounted the very recent *Arrivals* exhibition at The Hold, tracing the contribution of new arrivals and their contribution to the life and commerce of the town. Sir Edward Packard, a founder member of the Chamber was also a founder member of Ipswich Art Society (then "Club").

Ipswich Symphony Orchestra is 122 years old. Their summer concert is at the Corn Exchange, on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Berlioz, Florence Price, Dvořák. Piano soloist Alexandra Dariescu.

Ipswich Art Society is pleased to be sharing membership for the year with The Friends of Ipswich Museums, a charity dedicated to supporting and promoting the three Ipswich Museums.



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