



East Anglia Contemporary Group

April 2024

"We are here because
you were there."



About East Anglia Contemporary Group EACG

We are member of the Contemporary Special Interest Group of the RPS who reside in East Anglia. It is a large geographic area covering from the M25 up to the Wash and the western edge of Cambridgeshire,

The participants are small in number and spread all over the region. We meet monthly via Zoom and try to produce bodies of work twice per year that we exhibit virtually.

The problem with virtual exhibitions is the quality of image rendition. This zine is an attempt to do justice to the work produced

We are here because you were there.

This theme is taken from the title of a book by Ian Sanjay Patel "We're here because you were there: Immigration and the end of Empire".

The intent of this group is to interpret our set themes without necessarily taking the literal interpretation. This theme proved to be challenging and provide diverse responses from the artists.

Exhibitors

Keith Locke ARPS	4
Barry Badcock ARPS	8
Jonathan Williams	12
Mark Farrington LRPS	20
Paul Ashley ARPS	26
Tom Owens ARPS	34

Keith Locke ARPS

The Douaumont Ossuary is a large memorial building containing the unidentified remains of both French and German soldiers who died on the Verdun battlefield. It is located in Douaumont-Vaux, France, within the Verdun battlefield.

As you look through the small outside windows, the skeletal remains of at least 130,000 unidentified soldiers of both nationalities are clearly visible filling up the alcoves all around the lower edges of the building





Barry Badcock ARPS

In my seventies now I lived for the first 57 years in one place, a city. We took the plunge to move to a village. I feel that these photos show objects that support village life because we are there.





We are here

Jonathan Williams

This set of photographs represent the results of our travel abroad. By visiting other lands, we unintentionally pick things up, moreover we deliberately bring things back that could have consequences for our environment. I have chosen 6 life realms to represent the things we have and might have brought back with us.

- Bacteria Zoo manure
- Plants Non-native plant
- Fungi Spores from Canadian Fungi
- Animals Grey Squirrel damage
- Insects Moving Northward
- Lichen An overlooked world.
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16



17



because

Mark Farrington LRPS

Colonialism and immigration - how do these themes play out today in a small area of central Cambridge?

Images 1 and 2 were taken within Cambridge University's Archaeology and Anthropology Museum.

The main salon houses a tangled jumble of artefacts from across the World, fascinating and mystifying the Victorian mind. The display is currently arranged as it would in the past.

The University houses a collection of glorious bronzes, plundered by British forces in the Benin Expedition of 1897. A process to return most of them to Benin City has been under way since 2017.

The Fitzwilliam Museum's founder inherited much of his wealth from a slave-owning relative (Image 3). Image 4 is at the entrance to the Black Atlantic exhibits, showing historical flows of people, wealth and ideas across the Atlantic.

Image 5 is a few hundred yards away in Regent Street, with signs of the coloniser being themselves colonised..







Paul Ashley ARPS

We travelled from 'here' to 'there' in search of valuable plants and minerals. Then they were inconceivably rare and exotic. How plain our lives would be without them. And how plain our lives would be without the peoples who took the return journey, from 'there' to 'here'..









you were there

Tom Owens ARPS

From the mid 1700s colonial exploration resulted in a plethora of exotic plants brought back from the furthest reaches of the World without their native predators to keep them in check. The most invasive of these are Rhododendron and Laurel, which because of their 'cover' nature were planted by landowners to provide 'cover' for shooting game.

Coincidentally, the emergence of memorial benches began as formal parks and gardens were established in the late Georgian and Victorian realms.

All the benches in these images are planted in front of non-native, and in most cases, invasive species.

Formal planting schemes made great use of these hardy invasive species, many of which are now banned from planting outside of formal parks and gardens..







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