

'SAVE'

*An exhibition
of paintings
by
Gerard Stamp*

“As a schoolboy in Norwich I watched with mounting fury as a vast swathe of the already bomb damaged city was razed to the ground for what became the notorious Anglia Square development. Mediæval, Georgian and Victorian buildings (including, unbelievably, one of Norwich’s famous medieval churches) were obliterated. A lovely street – Magdalen – which only a decade before had won Civic Awards for restoration, was severed by a flyover. (Now, fifty years later, the entire area is again embroiled in controversy as plans to rebuild include a vast and utterly incompatible tower block, the height of which would be second only to Norwich Cathedral spire.)

Later on we successfully campaigned to save another area of the city, Timber Hill, from a similar fate, thereby curbing (if not completely halting) the relentless destruction of Mediæval Norwich.

My love for architecture, and my conviction that our built environment has a huge effect on how we feel and behave, stems from my time growing up in that wonderful city.

Too often people appreciate the beauty and environmental importance of a building only after it has gone, but at the same time are blind to the potential value of a disused building and only see decay, broken glass, damp and ruin. By painting just a few of the hundreds of wonderful but vulnerable

buildings on the SAVE register I want to help reveal their beauty and potential, and to do all I can to save them for future generations to cherish.”

Gerard Stamp (born 1955) lives and works in Norfolk. He went to school under the shadow of Norwich Cathedral, where he developed a passion for drawing and painting architecture. After Art College Gerard followed a career in London’s Design and Advertising industry before focusing full time on painting in 2002.

Using light, atmosphere and detail Gerard strives to convey the feeling of a place, and what Ruskin called the “golden stain of time”.

He has had multiple exhibitions in Norfolk and London including *Spirits in Stone* (a series of architectural portraits), *Twelve Churches* which celebrated the Churches Conservation Trust’s 40th anniversary, and *Conquest* at Norwich Castle (alongside paintings by his artist hero, John Sell Cotman). He has also staged exhibitions in several English Cathedrals including York Minster, Norwich, Exeter, and Ely.

He is represented in public collections at Norwich Castle Art Gallery and East Contemporary Art (UCS). His work in private collections around the World include those of Dame Judi Dench, the Duke of Bedford, HRH The Prince of Wales and HM The Queen.