

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

# East Anglia Contemporary Group



April 2023

## 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

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.

Do not go where the path may lead, go  
instead where there is no path and  
leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Exhibitors

Paul Ashley ARPS	4
Barry Badcock ARPS	12
Mark Farrington LRPS	20
Keith Locke ARPS	28
Tom Owens ARPS	32
Charles Robinson	40
Jonathan Williams	48
Peter Ellis	56

# Paul Ashley ARPS

When we set out on our lives we have no path to follow. We look ahead, we plan, we choose a direction. But we cannot know where our journey will take us. At the end of our lives we look back and see the route we have taken. We have left a trail for our children – but they do not choose to follow it. They make their own trail. My photos are waymarkers of the journeys I took from birth up to the time of the next generation







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## Barry Badcock ARPS

By 11 years old I had made 4 life decisions

1. My Nana and parents introduced me to photography and that has become an obsession.
2. My Father introduced working with wood and that has become a hobby.
3. My Uncle John gave me a crystal radio and gave me an interest in electronics and that became a job.
4. I decided not to become a vicar.

This set of images is about 'Working with Wood'.

My Parents gave me a carpentry set. I used the small Hammer, seen in the first image, to put dents along the edge of our new 9" television cabinet as I pretended to be a carpenter. The Ball-peen hammer, in the same image, that was the first tool I bought with my own money at 16 years old.

Throughout my life I have loved tools and gadgets

















## Mark Farrington LRPS

Trails made by living creatures are often transient and of little benefit to the individual making them, or even to others, but longer-lived tracks may have more consequence.

Image #1 shows a trail written transiently in the waters of the Mara River by wildebeest during the Great Migration in Kenya: it has no lasting significance from which conclusions may be drawn.

#2 shows the overlying tracks made in the Botswanan dust by a Landcruiser, a lizard, and my desert boot. These last several days, and experienced trackers can base game watching or hunting decisions on their observations.

In #3 we see the highways trodden for centuries across the dry Amboseli lakebed by elephant groups in Kenya. Their morning begins browsing the forest (#4), before following the tracks for tens of kilometres (#5) to the marsh, where they wallow and drink (#6). These tracks are as impressed **t**

















## Keith Locke ARPS

Ralph Waldo Emerson. (May 25, 1803 – April 27, 1882), preferred to use his middle name Waldo, an American essayist, lecturer, philosopher and abolitionist. He was also a poet who helped to form the transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century.

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail".

It is a motivational quote about finding the courage to do something you have never done before, to explore the unexplored, that is to make your own pathway in life.

Emerson's writing consistently refers back to one major theme: "Trust thyself".

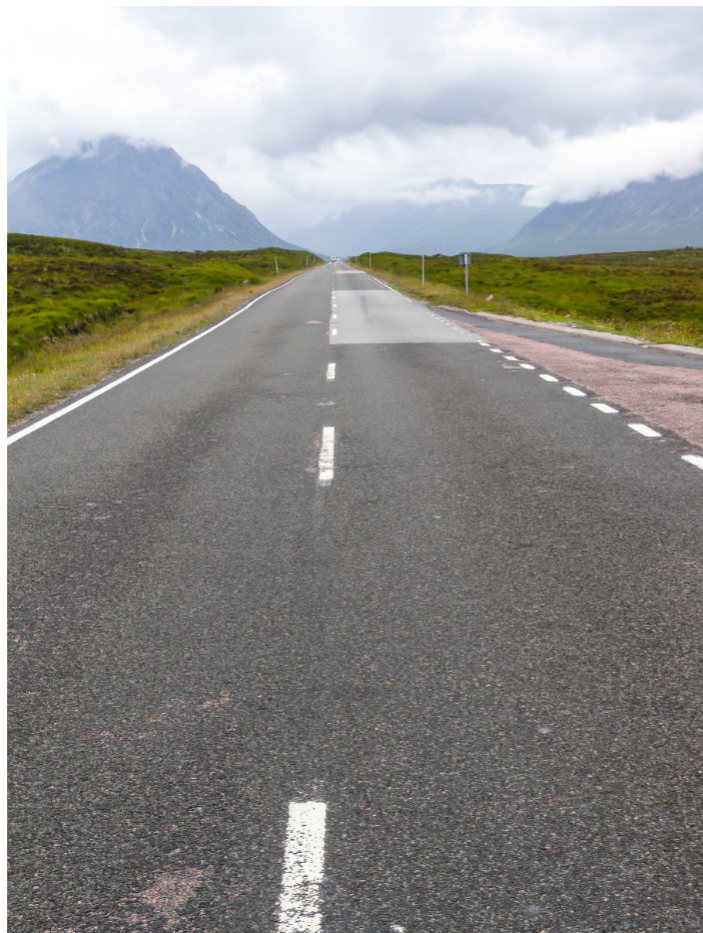
A prevalent theme throughout the essays is nonconformity. Emerson stated,

"Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist".

He encourages his readers to do what they think is right no matter what others think.









## Tom Owens ARPS

Easton Bavants cliffs just North of Southwold are rapidly being eroded by the onslaught of the North sea and successive cuts in sea defences by successive governments.

Hardly a week goes by in Winter without news of eroding East Anglian cliffs with lost properties and the increased potential or flooding of prime fertile farmland.

The base of the cliffs here are some 4,000,000 years old, the Pliocene layer and yields fossils from when this was an arid land bridge to the continent.

There are no paths in geology but most definitely there is a trail.

The trail that we leave behind will no doubt be known as the Plasticene(sic) layer







34



35





36



37







## Charles Robinson

Finding out somewhere you thought you knew like the back of your hand, has changed and changed forever induces one to re-explore the atmosphere and soul of a once-loved landscape, discovering it afresh. This was the case for a favourite photography location near where I grew up in Devon. The River Otter was somewhere I worked, relaxed and photographed as a youngster. Going back recently I felt like I was visiting it for the first time.

A £15million project is rewilding a large part of the valley, allowing cattle pastures to flood and in the process transforming this popular place. My photographs aim to capture this transformation. Taken during the Winter of 2022 and early Spring of 2023 mid-way through the transformation as access was just being opened, I made these images on black and white 35mm film to convey the atmosphere I experienced at the times of my visits.

















# Jonathan Williams

## A New Aesthetic

For this project I am rejecting old aesthetic styles dating back to the Renaissance. In making up my own aesthetic, I am forging a new path both in the style of photograph I take and that of not trying to please other people. If people want to follow my path, they can do, it is their choice.

Is it presumptuous for an individual to shape a New Aesthetic? Probably, but there is no doubt that aesthetics changes over time. If you look at photographs taken in previous years, there are changes in what is thought of being acceptable aesthetics even considering technical changes that may have occurred.







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51



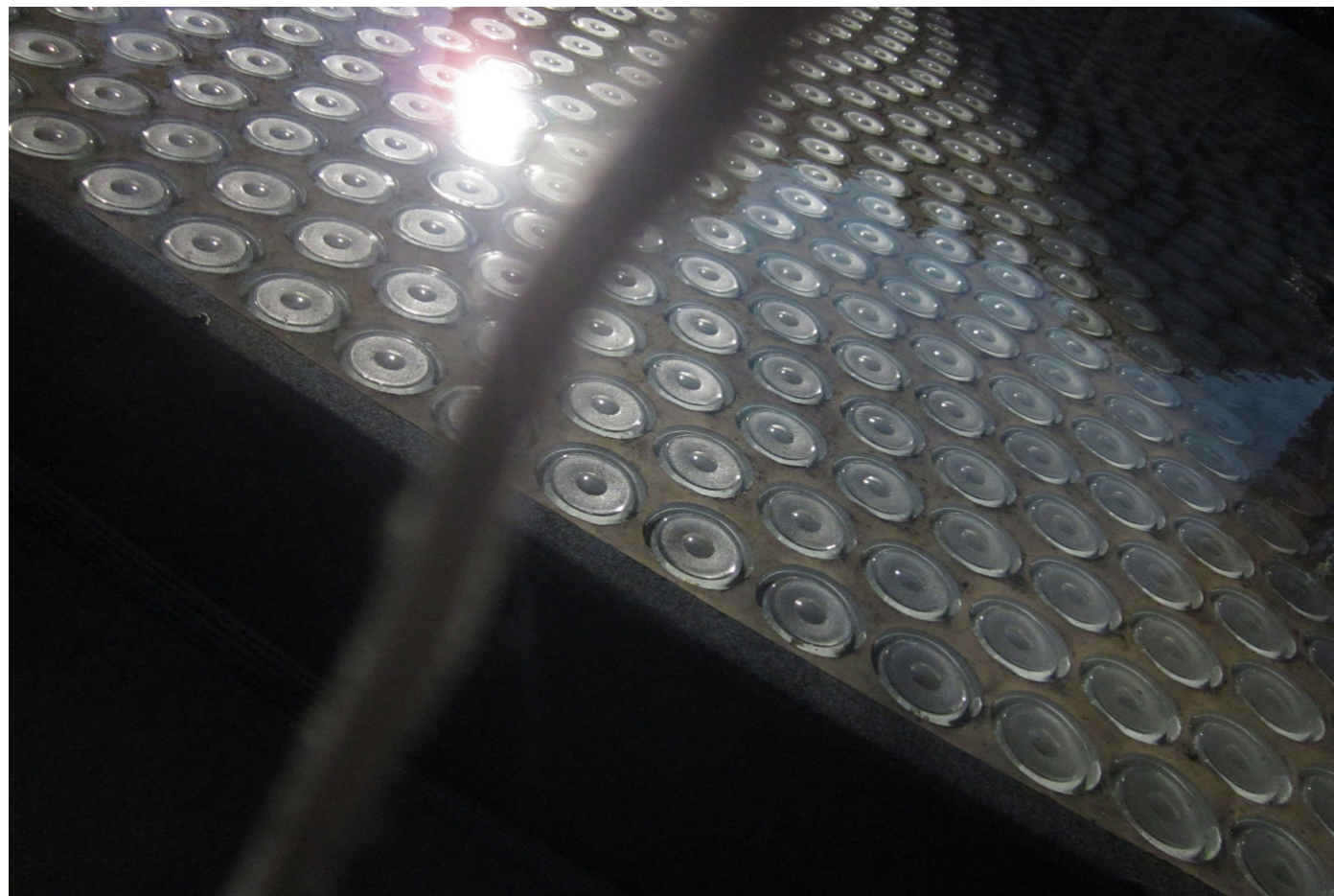


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53







Guest exhibitors

Prior to 2024 we allowed guest exhibitors to partake in our exhibitions

## Peter Ellis

My Journeys in Covid

My photography is important to me along with my interest in Zen and how it influences the way I see.

My time during covid and the associated lockdowns was affected by health problems and taking walks has been an essential and welcome part of my routine.

These are the images I have taken during these journeys, and they reflect my feelings and emotions during those troubled times.













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For more information about the Contemporary Group  
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<https://rps.org/groups/contemporary/>