

Sir Timothy Colman 1929 – 2021

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Sir Timothy Colman on the 9 September 2021.

EAAF ranks high amongst the marvellous charitable achievements led by Sir Timothy, indeed EAAF would not exist without his central involvement in the Tate in the East Project from which we evolved. This idea was first discussed early in 1989 at an open meeting at The Maid's Head Hotel, convened by Sir Timothy and attended by Tate Director, Nicholas Serota. The initiative met with an enthusiastic response across the city and the county, galvanising a committed group of supporters around the ambition to establish a new high-quality exhibition venue. The following year, on Sir Timothy's initiative, the Tate in the East Foundation was formally registered as a charity.

In the end, a standalone Tate in the East Gallery was not realised. Instead, the determination to provide exhibition space and exhibitions of national and international standard, found its focus at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery where, in parallel, a hugely successful long-term exhibition partnership with Tate was established. Furthermore, with the encouragement of Sir Timothy, we developed Open Art Shows at the Castle so that local living artists could exhibit and sell their works there – an almost revolutionary concept back in 2005!

In the last thirty years the East Anglia Art Fund has supported over 70 exhibitions at the Castle and across Norfolk and Suffolk. Recent projects have highlighted the international significance of art works in our region and these include *The Paston Treasure: Riches and Rarities of the Known World* 2018, *Lines of Sight: W.G. Sebald's East Anglia* 2019 and *A Passion for Landscape: Rediscovering John Crome* 2021.

A founding Trustee of EAAF, Sir Timothy's commitment was both steadfast and active, continuing as President of EAAF until his death. Our charity has grown, formed by the wisdom, friendliness and generosity of spirit that he brought to all our activities. A keen painter himself, Sir Timothy was always approachable and enthusiastic, often attending Private Views with Lady Mary as well as regularly bringing members of his family to our EAAF events. Sir Timothy was instrumental in the bequest of the magnificent Adeane Collection to EAAF and his continued generosity included seminal support for the refurbishment of the Colman Norwich School Art Galleries, the loan of Barbara Hepworth's beautiful *Forms in Movement (Pavan)* and, most recently, the gift to Norwich Castle of the magnificent painting by Maggi Hambling, *Heron in the Shallows*.

We are proud that EAAF will continue as a legacy of Sir Timothy's passion for the visual arts and tireless commitment to Norwich Castle and the cultural life of the region.

Amanda Geitner
Director