



Steve Marshall (left) and Tim Craven (right)

Tim Craven's retirement: A tribute from Liz Goodall

At the end of April, **Tim Craven** left his post of Curator of Art to be a full-time artist. He had worked at Southampton City Art Gallery for 37 years: first as a Conservation Assistant, then Conservator and latterly, Curator. I have known him ever since he started in the Gallery in 1980 and in all that time he often said to me "at heart, I am really an artist". During these years he has worked away in his own time at his art practice and now, he is realising a dream.

Tim, in all his roles, has shown true professionalism, maintained high standards and kept abreast of best practice. As Conservator, he upgraded all the equipment and ensured visits to colleagues in the National Galleries kept the Gallery in the forefront of new thinking about restoration and scientific research. Then when the Gallery needed a Curator, he stepped up to the plate and developed his skills to undertake an entirely new profession.

He developed the Gallery's collection wisely and well; inheriting an art collection of international renown of rising young stars and rounded out the groups of 20th and 21st century work to create a historical record of unrivalled depth in any British Gallery. His great coups were to buy a **Bridget Riley** and to ferret out so many British Surrealist works.

He curated many wonderful exhibitions far too numerous to mention but I particularly enjoyed *The Romantic Thread* with his thought provoking essay on the traditions of Romanticism and those elements he sees as alive and well in artists' work today.

He has been fantastic at building relationships and networks which have all benefited the Gallery hugely. Relationships with artists, their families and executors, collectors, and other curators were all built on shared enthusiasms. Enthusiasm is Tim's middle name, his warmth and knowledge mark all his interactions. He has been an absolute delight to work with. His legacy to the Gallery's history will be recognisable and important.

He is already a successful artist. He has been voted in as a member of The London Group, a long standing prestigious society, and is a founder of The Arborealists, a group who are exhibiting widely – with a three-year programme of bookings. *Capture the Castle* which he helped to curate and which includes his work, is on in the Gallery now. We wish him all the best for his exciting new future."

Liz Goodall

Chair Chipperfield Advisory Committee, May 2017

Liz Goodall started at the Art Gallery as Keeper of Art in 1974 and was the founder of the contemporary art collection. Rising to a Director role in the 1980s, she led the award-winning refurbishment of the Gallery and the design and build of the Harbour Lights Cinema. In 2003, she was appointed Chief Executive of a Council in Dorset. The Chipperfield Advisory Committee advises the Council on the Art Gallery.