# The Norwich School of Painters

## Introduction

/v šZ o š íóìì Œ o Ç íôìì[• ] o]• }Œ ]u P]v Œ Ç o v • ‰ • Á Œ
of painters did not follow this trend, instead painting what they saw around them. Green in Bottinelli
(2013 p11) says šZ Ç ]u š} ^‰ ]vš šZ • v Œ]PZš }v šZ ]Œ }}Œ•š ‰ Z

In this essay I ]• µ•• ÁZ š ]• u vš Ç ZšZ E}ŒÁ] Z ^ Z}}o }( W ]vš Œ•[V
explore what made it different through examination of the work of its two most talented members.

## What is the Norwich School of Painters?

In the early nineteenth century a group of painters living in and around Norwich founded a Society of Artists, meeting regularly to compare work, exchange ideas, and from 1805 until 1833, hold annual exhibitions of their work. Artists within this group became known as the Norwich School of Painters.

D µŒŒ Ç ~íõõó ‰ïóð• •š š šZ š ^dZ]• Á • šZ }vo Ç Œ }Pv]• • Z}}
an interna o }Z •]}v }u‰ Œ o š} šZ /š o] v o} consider Z}}šZ _šX ^ZdZv ] ~íõ
Norwich Society is without doubt the most important of the provincial artist groups of the 19th
vš µŒ Ç ]v vPo v _X

## Who were the members of the Norwich School of Pai nters?

Holme (1920 p72) quotes from the announcement of the reopening of the Norwich Society of Artists
Exhibition In 1828 ^^]v ]š• •š o]•Zu vš šZ E}ŒÁ] Z ^} ] šÇ Z • •Z}Áv ðU
of 323 individ µ o•_X

When considering those artists that have stood the test of time, then two names stand out, John
Crome and John Sell Cotman. Moore (1985 p9) sums up the sentiments of all the work I have read
(}Œ šZ]• ‰Œ}i š ÁZ v Z •š š • ^ndZ ‰ John Sell Cotman are the two most Œ
Á}Œl }( šZ E}ŒÁ] Z ^ Z}}o _X

It is beyond the scope of this essay to consider membership of the Norwich School, Day (1979), Barnard (1950) and Rajnai (1985) all have lists of members. Walpole (1997) has a comprehensive list of 57 artists plus Appendices on ^Works by Norwich School Artists in Public Collections _and ^Norwich School Artists Represented in the Witt Library _. In terms of major members there is no doubt as to the pre-eminence of Crome and Cotman, others to receive most citations are the children of Crome and Cotman, James Stark, George Vincent, John Thirtle and Joseph Stannard.

It is important at this stage to state that not everyone would agree with the importance or influence of The Norwich School. Andrew Graham-Dixon writes on his website ^dZ ^ Z}}o }( E}ŒÁ] Z ]•
of a myth. Plenty of painters, most of them amateurs of some description, became affiliated to the
E}ŒÁ] Z ^} ] šÇ }( Œš]•š•U µš šZ ]Œ Á}Œl Á • µv À v v U š} ‰µš