



FOUR ATTEMPTS TO ASSUME THE POSITION OF BORLASE SMART

In this video, Ian Everard attempts to assume the position of Borlase Smart (pictured above).

Captain Borlase Smart (1881-1947) was a legendary figure in St. Ives, Cornwall, England, Ian Everard's birthplace. Smart was of the generation of painters in the early part of the twentieth century who would dress for dinner to go out painting. He is seen here, seated on a rock, below the St. Ives Arts Cub, painting the scene, sometime in the 1930's. The Arts Club is next to the house of Everard's birth and the scene looks much the same today.

Smart was, essentially, a gentleman painter. He did not have to worry too much about his income or standing in society. However, he had a serious academic training, is widely respected to this day, and there can be no doubting his commitment to his work. His painting was in the style of *plein air* -Post Impressionist landscape and seascape painting, made in the open air, as opposed to the studio. It would have been considered traditional at the time. However, unlike his peers, and despite his rather 'posh' appearance and academic training, he attempted to bridge the generations -encouraging and supporting younger artists in their experiments with abstraction and what was then referred to as the *non-objective world*.

It proved to be a challenge for Everard to assume the position of Smart. He purchased a stylish hat for the occasion but had to clamber over slimy rocks with a high fever. He made four attempts.....