

Judges comments. Karol Oakley MP PSA

Section 1 Open, Any Subject Any Medium Acquisitive.

First No.20 | Curiosity | Kevin Rogers | Pencils

Stands out for its clarity and colour. It is an interactive story with a title that matches the painting. The painting is beautifully crafted. The limited palette relates to the subject and continues over onto the framing witch supports and unites the work as a whole. The story is all important in a painting and this one is well known and old. The subject is one that has an impact across all channels, including social, political and environmental. It will be a talking point for all who see it, who intact with this work, as it invites inquiry and discussion as part of its story. The story in this work and the theme are relatable to the Acquisitive prize. This is a subject from the area and fits well into the supported prize by Fraser Coast Regional Council. The clarity of design and display along with the detailed observations are excellent. This work has an impact and yes its considered smallish in size but contains a world of curiosity.

Second No.5 | Snowy River Source | Bruce Daniel | Oil

This painting has an airiness and openness to it that invites the viewer in to follow that river to explore and journey along its grasslands path. The calm colours are engaging giving a clarity and impact that jumps off the wall. Unframed is not a disadvantage in this acquisitive section either. It represents a clean crisp feel that compliments the painting.

Highly Commended No. 16 | Colours of Dusk | Genevieve Neale | Pastel

A painting that has depth, that takes the viewer on a slow turn through the late afternoon light. The use of light is what stands out with this work. The use of the medium is in expert hands and used to give such detail in its textures, colours and handling of the light.

Commended No. 11 | Transition | Robin Hynes | Oil

A thought provoking painting that uses colour to great advantage.

Section 2 LANDSCAPE

First No.4 | Dry | Robin Hynes | Oil

Stand out work for the artists ability to tell stories within stories that are bold and evocative. This painting has a narrative that includes the landscape of the face as well s the earth. The use of colour and texture to describe the depth of the narrative has an impact from a distance that demands attention. The clarity and skilled use of the artists medium to create the feeling and mood that also stand out in they work is to be awarded.

Second No.11 | The Great Outdoors | Violetta Sandry | Pastel and Gouache

At first this painting doesn't call to much attention. Sure it has impact but its in a quiet contemplative manner. The story in the painting is challenging us to escape to have time out and be in the great outdoors. The title matches the work beautifully. There is a mystery in the painting too. Not only does it ask what is beyond the clearing but what is that red item having from the tree!! A great use of painting skills and knowledge of the medium to get this painting to hold the viewer.

Highly Commended No. 8 | Arkarra Swamp | Genevieve Neal | Pastel

The close range of colours and textures draws the views into the painting. The landscape is enclosed and so its and intimate setting that has an impact asking for further study. The use of pastel to describe to subject is such a good match as it is well organised and expressive confident use of the medium.

Commended No. 14 | Journey to Valencia | Jo Williams | Collaged Lino Prints

What a resourceful and intriguing work. It sparks curiosity in the viewer to explore this layered landscape. The fact that it is in a box adds to the intrigue. Well thought out and constructed.

Section 3 SEASCAPE

First No. 04 | A Deserted Tassie Beach | Chris Blake | Oil

Unusual outlook for a seascape is the reason this won first place. As well as the confident use of the medium to deliver and impact. The composition leads us in with strong colour and shadow as the doorway to this special painting. We can see that there is more to come, to explore. This painting has a strong visual impact that grabs attention from across the room. A title is as much a part of the painting as is the frame and this work uses both really well. The artist shows an excellent use and knowledge of the medium. The painting has a clarity of light that combined with the colour observations makes this a winner.

Second No.13 | Sea Through Grass | Genevieve Neale | Pastel

Another great use of composition, in the different outlook/view for a stand out painting. It has the feeling of being a kid again and hiding in the grass playing in the dunes. This artist has used the medium with skill, accentuating the mediums' unity with the support to create an unusual and expressive story. The colour combinations create a softness that gives clarity and makes this work so engaging. Skilled handling of the medium and painting tools.

Highly Commended No. 12 | Seascapes Burrum Heads | Lynn Munn | Pastel

The choice of a vertical view (portrait shape painting) shows off the light and the colour in this work. It acts as a lead in to the sky with the boat as a motif to establish place with a flow that is part of the time of day and the story. Good use of the medium to show texture and movement.

Commended No. 14 | On the Murray art Mannum SA | Kevin Rogers | Pencils

Strong colour handled confidently makes this work stand out. The painting tools are well utilised showing a command of skill and knowledge which give the clarity and impact to a this work.

Section 4 Australian Flora And Fauna.

First No. 14 | Nankeen night Heron | Paul Neale | Pastel

A standout work with impact that jumps off the wall. This painting has a clarity that separates the bird from the background in that it stands out while not being separate to its environment. The expert use of colour and clarity makes this separation a deliberate part of the painting. It's no accident and all the more strong for it. This artist has an excellent use of and knowledge of their medium to be able to craft a painting that demands such attention. The story of the bird in action is one of wondering which engages the viewer to want to know the rest of what happens!

Second No. 13 | Jak-kul-yak-kul | Will Hazzard | Acrylic

Big, bold and confident this painting is a stand out full of impact that grabs and holds the viewers attention. This work has a story that is engaging and asks for a conversation to start. The clarity of colour and light is contrasted so well against the flat black background. It is the textural component of the work that holds so much appeal and keeps the viewer looking for the variety of shapes, tones and colours. This artist uses the canvas so well on the composition, balancing the space effectively to show off the subject.

Highly Commended No. 03 | Preening Time | Ann Beach | Pastel

The birds are front and centre of the composition which is unusual but works in this painting. The action and direction of movement between the birds links them well. This painting has so much to view and to follow as the attention to detail is impactful.

Commended No.9 | It's Swooping Time | Michelle Evans | Acrylic

A painting that stands out with a message in the title and in the use of colour. The red warning in the background of this iconic bird has a story and clarity. Well designed and not overly detailed so that it gets attention but not overburdened with painting techniques.

Section 5 Figurative and Portraiture

First No. 12 | Allen Mac | Carole Rowe | Charcoal

A stand out work for its use of charcoal as a drawing medium for this subject. The artist has sort our all the nuances of light and dark to give this work clarity and impact. There is a story of mystery showing and amongst the other entries this one has a feeling of dignity and respect for the sitter. While not painting tools this is important to the narrative of the work. The craft used in this work is quite good, not expert, but more than makes up for in the way it moulds the sitter, so that we see him, he stands out.

Second No.06 | George and His Many Shirts | Michelle Evans | Acrylic

This work has a great presence in that it is engaging and there is that feeling of excitement radiating from the subject. The use of warm colours even in the cool areas pushes that sunny feeling of happy which adorns an undercurrent of excitement. Painting craft skills are well considered here making a work with impact that is crisp and clean. Less is More here.

Highly Commended No. 09 | Gurrumul | Warwick Lambert | Acrylic

Composition is a winner in this work. Having the subject enlarged in a small place draws attention. The use of such vivid colour creates an impact, an awareness, which makes us look again at the sitter and engage.

Commended No. 5 | Lilly | Sue Draney | Oil

Every part of this composition is about the sitter, about the child. It is also about the story that she is involved in. Clever use of colour to get attention to the painting with a luminosity of skin tones that stand out.

Section 6 ABSTRACT

First No. 1 | Cresendo | Rosemary Anderson | Mixed Media

A well thought out work that flows and tells a story by title and design. This has a clarity of colour and pattern which leads into a journey that is expressive. Each time it is viewed there is more to see, as we are pulled back to it for its elusiveness and subtlety. The painting shows that the artist has a great working knowledge of the media and know how to use it to effect. The use of a duller background has given added strength to the visual impact, allowing the definite patterns to show of their texture.

Second No. 11 | Complex Notions | Colin Hutchinson | Acrylic

This painting has a light and impact that goes 'boom' when first seen. Wonderful clarity and use of the medium to show texture that supports the subject and the story. The vignettes of abstraction engage and pause one for further contemplation. A good understanding of colour and the medium creates a mood of wonder.

Highly Commended No. 8 | Yellow hibiscus | Kaye Higginson | Acrylic

Detailed, colourful and nicely abstracted this still life works. The device of picture in picture gives dimension and depth too. Visual impact is strong and engaging.

Commended No. 12 | Nirvana | Koni Knight | Mixed

Simplicity of design with bold colour makes this stand out. The use of the curvy linear pattern lends a gentleness in such a big work.

Section 7 MINATURE PAINTING**First No. 12 Cold Morning | Maggie Spenceley | Ink and Pencil**

The impact is in the clarity, the simplicity and design. The details are crisp and clean so that they stand out from across the room. On closer inspection the skill of the artist is in the variation of the sky colours that are done so delicately. This shows an excellent understanding of the media and how to make it work for you.

Second No. 11 Daybreak at the Fishery | Rolf Sieber | Acrylic

The use of light and dark gives this highly detailed painting the impact that makes it stand out. So much detail tells the story with a great use of the medium to get so much in such a small space.

Highly Commended No. 02 | For You | Carmel Birchley | Mixed

The details in this are amazing. While it doesn't have the dramatic light or colour of its contemporaries it does have an engaging mood and story. The framing too compliments this miniature so well.

Commended No. 05 | Full Moon Over Oake | Colleen Helmore | Watercolour

A lovely feel good mood in this work that lifts it out of ordinary. Nicely presented too.

Judges comment

A show with a lot of variety in the subjects, the technical skills and the presentation. Which made it harder to find a line sometimes between one award and the next. Every painting was considered, scored and deliberated upon. Interesting to see so few watercolours in the show. While conversely, so many pastels. As a judge I am not swayed by any one medium. I'm looking for stand out works in the medium that the artist has chosen to use to tell their visual story. Technical ability in the craft of painting ranged from excellent to very new, so it's really pleasing to see artists put their work up on the same plain for consideration. I know from experience that that entering a work is a tough call to make sometimes. Congratulations to all who entered, as just doing that shows fortitude and commitment to creating the best art that you can. Keep painting and showing, learn and grow, but most of all take joy in creating from your heart.
Karol Oakley 2022