

SMA Spring Exhibition 2015

Winning Paintings and

Judge (Graham Marchant) comments on winning paintings

Section 1: Oils



"Golden Hills" by Marie Morris

1st Prize: "Golden Hills" by Marie Morris

I could feel the crisp dry grass snapping as I looked at this Dry Arid Hillside.

It reminded me of Lloyd Rees's 'Road to Berry' in the AGNSW with the hills suggesting anatomical form.

I love the contrast with the beautiful Monet sky, with the manganese blue sky playing off the cold greys in the clouds.

2nd Prize: "End Of An Aussie Day" by Phillip Budge

Of Phillips' four paintings 'End of an Aussie Day' was the simplest with the fewest ingredients. Yet it was immediately apparent why Phillip had painted it and looking at it I was transported to that landscape, the metaphor Phillip chose in paint described the landscape so admirably.

Again, the sky was exquisitely painted.

Highly Commended: "Lion's Head" by Patricia Carruthers

What distinguished this painting from those of a similar subject matter was that, although small, it managed to convey the infinite distance we are all familiar with.

The economic flicks of paint of paint described the texture and the space. There was a timelessness about the image, yet so essentially the Blue Mountains.

Section 2: Acrylics



"Gull Flight" by Alfred Blakers

1st Prize: "Gull Flight" by Alfred Blakers

Strong composition, and the brittle light was very well handled, particularly the cool grey shadows on the bird against the warm violet flicks on the ground.

Reminds me of Winslow Homer, the 19th Century American watercolourist who lived on the East coast in Maine and utilised his pioneering passions as his subject matter.

2nd Prize: "April Showers" by Eve Kennedy

Simple but very effective, the sky is beautifully painted and I enjoyed the way the distant mountains dissolve into a rain laden sky.

Quintessential Australia.

Highly Commended: "Wyangala Guardians" by John Marsh

'Wyangala Guardians' has a fractured stark presence to it. I liked the collage technique which suggested the encroaching of the built environment into the landscape. Similar to English artist Paul Nash with his "Monster" field paintings following the battlefields of the 1st World War.

Section 3: Watercolour



**"Window On A Courtyard - Everglades"
by Mara Jordan**

1st Prize: "Window on a Courtyard – Everglades" by Mara Jordan

A beautiful arrangement of manicured nature, which gardens are. I enjoyed the preoccupation with human intervention in the courtyard pavers and the suggestion of order.

It is a symphony of greens, well handled and varied.

2nd Prize: "Botanical Gardens" by Dennis West

Very clever interpretation of the Botanic Gardens with the suggested skyscraper in the distance.

I am very familiar with these gates having seen them innumerable times and they are very convincing.

A good use of the medium particularly in the contrasts between the pillars and the warm crimson hint of the foreground wash.

Highly Commended: "Snowfall" by Marie Morris

Reminiscent of the Impressionist's painting of snow.

Very good use of the white paper and whilst the trees weave and tangle we are still aware of each one rather than a birdsnest.

Great use of the medium.

Section 4: Works On Paper



**"Hartley Valley From Mt. York"
by Lia Johnston**

1st Prize: "Hartley Valley From Mt. York" by Lia Johnston

Beautiful light and conveys the majestic quality of the valley.

Although describing one place it acts as a catalyst reminding us of so many similar vistas available in the Mountains.

Tremendous variety with use of the pastels and an immense range of applications.

2nd Prize: "Cat Cool" by Richard Grammer

'Cat Cool' has remarkable presence, beautiful and economic handling of the medium. Such is the intensity of the cat one could imagine it moving if one turned away.

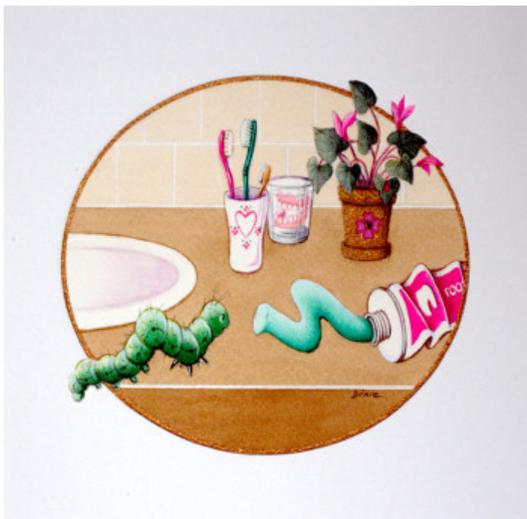
A similar delightful control of the medium was demonstrated one of Richard's other works, 'Presence'.

Highly Commended: "View From Observatory Hill" by Peter A Ayres

Very well controlled, demonstrating a wonderful command of perspective.

It reminded me of Lloyd Rees' drawings of the 1930's and this image has a timeless serenity about it.

Section 5: Small Paintings



**"An Affair To Remember"
by Dixie Willmott**

***1st Prize: "An Affair to Remember"
by Dixie Willmott***

A delightful image showing a mischievous sense of humour.

I enjoyed the cutout and how the frame of the image was repeatedly broken.

Some delightful moments of watercolour e.g. the false teeth and toothbrushes; The image will be with me every time I clean my teeth.

Section 6: Beyond Reality



"Friendship" by Shirley Williams

1st Prize: "Friendship" by Shirley Williams

It poses all sorts of questions about how we construct paintings; it is full of surprises and the way the figures form a flower is very inventive and delightful.

It suggests friendship but suggests nature and landscape as well.

A delight.