

30th Anniversary
SMA Spring Exhibition 2016
Winning Paintings and

Judge (Gabrielle Jones) comments on winning paintings

30th Anniversary " 9 x 5 " Section

1st Prize: "Reflections" by Ann Warnes



Ann's work has reached that point that all aspiring artists seek - she has her own style. This painting stood out amongst a really excellent group of works because of that. The artwork is fresh and brave, evokes the scene well and with a sense of joy. Selection of elements to paint is made with a discerning, artistic eye. This is a strong painting that belies the small size.

Section 1: Oils



1st Prize: "View Along Sublime Point Road" by Marilyn Ecob

Marilyn has made a pretty picture of gorgeous colours in an individual style that nevertheless evokes the scene well in terms of space and structure (it is also well framed, which can make the difference in a highly competitive arena like this). I chose this because it was different, fresh and full of air with deft handling of paint, and, in the end, it was one I would happily take home (in other words, my stylistic preference)

2nd Prize: "Moon Beams" by Ruth Dengate

Beautiful little painting in the style of Turner (also reminds me of early Australian Impressionists). Deft, confident and expressive handling of medium; evocative, tonal painting nailing the experience of the scene in moonlight.

Highly Commended: "Landslide, Blackheath" by Phillip Budge

Absolutely skilful handling of paint, both in terms of colour to evoke depth, and texture to evoke rocks and trees. Sky and distant escarpment, as well as depth of foreground trees are perfect - reminds me of Warwick Fuller, so put your prices up!

Highly Commended: "Where Rivers Meet" by Alfred Blakers

Use of fresh paint against slippery swathes of flat brushwork evokes beautifully the stillness of shallow waters and Australian bush and its banks. Nice "Walk Through" composition and accurate tones of colours make this a very pleasant painting. Nailed colour of water and sky!

Section 2: Acrylics



1st Prize: "MacMasters Lagoon" by Anna Marshall

Beautiful handling of paint to evoke a peaceful atmosphere and reflective water. Realistic painting that nails colour, depth of space in landscape and mood, whilst not overcrowding - simplified composition choice - makes me want to dive in.

2nd Prize: "On Way To Mudgee" by Maunie Kwok

Strong lines in tree are depicted to draw attention and evoke wintry sunny day. Good evocation of distance.

Section 3: Watercolour



1st Prize: "Serenity, Lake Eyre" by Marie Morris

Excellent handling of watercolour medium, allowing the transparencies of colour to do their thing. Evokes fabulous pace and light; just enough detail in twigs etc. in foreground to offset space in larger swathes of warm colours. Not afraid to leave paper to show through.

2nd Prize: "Kanimbla Hills" by Helen Hudson

Contemporary use of water colours more like acrylic. I particularly responded to bravery of marks and layering of paint in brushwork and application - fresh and evocative. Great modulations of green tones - a difficult colour to do well - to evoke distance. Nicely framed, enjoyable painting.

Highly Commended: "The Bridge From Observatory Hill" by Dennis West

Outstanding handling of tree in foreground - just enough detail to evoke the feel, species, shade experienced - a difficult thing to do. Masterful handling of green tones(also difficult to achieve) which dominate the painting. Choice of viewpoint also good - different to standard scene of the bridge - but still captures light and space of Sydney scene.

Section 4: Works On Paper



1st Prize: "Atlas, Megalong Street" by Lia Johnston

Lovely painterly use of charcoal and pastel subject "Old Man Tree". Expressive use of mediums but also used delicately. This artwork evokes something more than the tree depicted, which moves the work to real "Art".

2nd Prize: "Treescape At Turon Gates" by Peter Ayres

Fresh use of mediums of pen and paint. Light and sense of air well delivered when using only what is important to portray the scene (which could be overwhelming). Nice selection of motifs using Artistic discernment.

Section 5: Small Paintings



1st Prize: "A Busy Day At The Quay"
by Peter Ayres

Lively handling of the medium; colour and composition is excellent, as is linework. Awareness of abstract elements in the composition is very contemporary and adds a further interest in composition.

2nd Prize: "Steps. Walls Lookout"
by Marie Morris

Taking a prosaic subject such as this and making a beautiful little painting is very difficult. Again, the handling of the paint medium is excellent - highly skilful -, but I particularly enjoyed the style of small dots of finely selected and graded tone overlaid on each other to indicate both light and texture of stone.

Section 6: Beyond Reality



1st Prize: "Sky Diver" by Mave Roberts

Nice balance between Diver, delicately painted, and water, expressively painted. Brave brush movement and accurate, abstract depiction.