

# Combined Art Societies of Sydney Inc

The Patrons of the Combined Art Societies of Sydney are Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC Governor of New South Wales and Mr Dennis Wilson.

ABN 81 459 592 277

## ART OF SYDNEY AWARDS EXHIBITION

Online at [www.artofsydneyexhibition.com](http://www.artofsydneyexhibition.com) from 15<sup>th</sup> January until 28<sup>th</sup> February

Judge: Mr John Haycraft

Judge's Comments Overall: The standard of work presented for judging in the Art of Sydney Exhibition 2021 was outstanding. Particularly in the crowded Section 1 where there were more candidates worthy of prizes than there were prizes to give. Inevitably, in such cases, when the quality has bubbled to the surface, the judge is faced with choices so numerous that to single a few out seems unfair to those works that stand equally alongside each other in manner, matter and execution. At last resort then, when the judge has applied all the criteria that one brings to judgement and the field is still not separated, the hapless individual digs into their emotions and responds accordingly.

### Best in Show-The Art Scene

Title of the painting: Moody Morning Capertee Valley – John Wilson (Oatley 101 Society of Artists)

Judge's Comment: The Best in Show has been chosen from many fine works as one that, of course, displays accomplished skill in handling the medium as one would expect, yet has a quality that makes it especially appealing. And that quality is the use of linear perspective that carries the viewer off into the distance coupled with colour perspective that uses hue saturation in such a beguiling manner. The hero of the scene is probably the craggy mountain etched against the sky, but as one becomes absorbed in the picture the delicate wisp of smoke from the house asks the viewer to rethink their involvement in the scene. All figurative painting carries a narrative. With this piece the artist uses multiple messages, sub-plots if you like, that revolve around each other and involves the viewer in an experience than goes beyond the first glance and rewards contemplation.

### Section 1. Oil or acrylic painted as oil.

Award	Title of Painting	Artist	Art Society
Winner	Yearning for Youth	David El-Melky	Castle Hill Art Society
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	The Diggings, Lightening	David Lake	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Self	Xavier Ghazi	Drummoyne Art Society
Highly Commended	Studio Props	Julie Brown	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Commended	Sydney Summers	Catherine Harry	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Finalist	Road to Fullers Place	John Wilson	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Finalist	Somersault	Joy Bye	Continuum Art Society
Finalist	Gum Leaves	John Perkins	Drummoyne Art Society
Finalist	Clarissa	Joy Bye	Continuum Art Society
Finalist	Boiled Eggs at Grandma's	Marlene Weaver	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Finalist	Welcoming Rain	Diana Garth	Oatley 101 Society of Artists

#### Judge's comments –

Winner: An accomplished piece in the chiaroscuro style with a nod to Caravaggio. Photo-realist work can be highly skillful and admirable but lack the spontaneity we admire in more loosely handled painting. Then, now and again, a painting comes along that shows bravura painting that absorbs the viewer in the skill of the artist, the manner of the brushwork as well as the emotion in the subject. This

is one of them.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize A painting that breaks the rules of composition with contempt yet invites our contemplation of the subject using rhythm and hue changes with masterly arrangement. The saturated sky colour is bold, nearly sweet, but is offset by the powerfully painted grey mid-values in the foreground. A great example of a painter who knows how to change the rules and has the skill to pull it off.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize Self evident bravura painting, with clever use of monochrome and value changes to turn a assured, competent portrait into an arresting work of art.

## Section 2. Water Medium – painted using watercolour techniques

Award	Title of Painting	Artist	Art Society
Winner	The Road Home	Richard Bardsley Smith	Randwick Art Society
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Magnolia Blossom	Dee Jackson	Ku-ring-gai Art Society
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Portrait	Susheela Giri	Bankstown Art Society
Highly Commended	Turbulence	Niki Koepl	Randwick Art Society
Commended	La Maison Rose, Mont	Trish Maclachan	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Finalist	Yellow Flowers	Patricia Johnston	Macarthur Art Group
Finalist	Catherine and Tony’s Wall	Richard Bardsley Smith	Randwick Art Society
Finalist	Tram Door	Richard Bardsley Smith	Randwick Art Society
Finalist	Lisle-Sur-Tarn, France	Christine Matthews	Castle Hill Art Society
Finalist	High Mountains Snowgum	Narelle Scott	Oatley 101 Society of Artists

Judge’s comments –

Winner: A cleverly handled piece with excellent drawing skills, strong composition and an experienced painter’s understanding of chromatic balance between background and foreground. All this achieved within a limited palette that shows the artist’s grasp of the importance of using saturated and de-saturated colour to create distance and depth.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize This is an example of bravura watercolour painting where the artist lives on the edge of disaster. A moment’s inattention to the caprice of the medium can mean the difference between success and failure. Working wet-in-wet the watercolour painter has to allow the medium to find its own way yet have the skill to add to it or leave it when required. Boldly, and well achieved here.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize An astute use of the medium where overpainting is invited but resisted here with fresh, clean, bold painting over a sound grasp of anatomical perspective.

## Section 3. Drawing and Mixed Media

Award	Title of Painting	Artist	Art Society
Winner	Contemplation	Robert Adams	Continuum Art Society
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Basil	Jeanette Starr	Macquarie Towns Art Society
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Basilica, Venice	Kurt Koepl	Randwick Art Society
Highly Commended	Girl in Profile	Thomas Parslow	Randwick Art Society
Commended	Old Mates	Jeanette Starr	Macquarie Towns Art Society
Finalist	Invigorates My Soul	Trish Bennett	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Finalist	Pastel Study	Chris Seale	Macquarie Towns Art Society
Finalist	Rockpool	Jane Wray	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Finalist	The Silver Earring	Robert Adams	Continuum Art Society

Judge’s comments –

Winner: A very skillful combination of strong figure drawing, an interesting pose, and sensitive rendering. The choice of background and colour harmonies gives the picture of an ordinary domestic scene a poignancy that is delicate yet assured in its execution. The modeling of the light on the figure and the flesh tones are stuff of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize The sheer skill of the artist here has lifted what could be a sentimental study of a sweet animal into a powerful, bold statement full of action and seemingly catching the subject in a

fleeting moment. The artist shows a complete confidence in the drafting and rendering of the hair and character. And has gone beyond that to imbue the picture with a personal drawing style that is outstanding.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize A picture full of whimsy and a sense of fun yet displaying a clear grasp of architectural form and clever composition.

#### Section 4. Abstract.

Award	Title of Painting	Artist	Art Society
Winner	Composition in Green	David Lake	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Revelation	Kurt Koepl	Randwick Art Society
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	City Portal	Heather Macorison	Northern Beaches Art
Highly Commended	Theta !	Xavier Ghazi	Drummoyne Art Society
Commended	Sugar Candy	Jennifer Maclaine Cross	Continuum Art Society
Finalist	Tidal Surge	V Isabella Kwiatkowski	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
Finalist	Colour Field	Clarissa Regan	Continuum Art Society
Finalist	Blue Puddles	Jani Nanavati	St George Art Society
Finalist	Earth Forms	Ruth Eager	Central Coast Art Society

Judge's comments –

Winner: \_\_\_\_\_ This work boldly tackles the Green dilemma. Although the longest band in the colour spectrum Green is often avoided by artists wary of its power and effect on surrounding hues. Here it is used assuredly by a masterful painter, cleverly mixing it with complements and analogous colours to give the work vibrancy and a sense of rhythmic patterning throughout.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \_\_\_\_\_ A clever use of the medium and letting 'watercolour be watercolour'. Whilst there is a sense of the accidental here, it could equally be interpreted as controlled spontaneity. The result is an unfolding of inner light as darker edges are peeled back to reveal something subliminal.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize Abstraction is sometimes only understood by the artist. Its appeal then, has to be in the shapes, colour, and direction of the line. This one has power and angularity that suggests an opening. The clue is in its name. Its interpretation is up to the viewer.

#### Section 5. 9" x 5".

Award	Title of Painting	Artist	Art Society
Winner	Evening Pastoral	David Lake	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Boys at the River	Madeleine Szymanski	Ku-ring-gai Art Society
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Scone	Werner Filipich	Drummoyne Art Society
Highly Commended	A Stretch	Xavier Ghazi	Drummoyne Art Society
Commended	After the Rain	Diana Garth	Oatley 101 Society of Artists

Judge's comments –

Winner: \_\_\_\_\_ An appealing colour scheme, added to an unusual composition and shape gives this piece a quality that is evocative. This is an atmosphere that is more easily achieved in larger works where the artist has more room to move. The fact that it has been captured here with such minimal treatment is a testament to the quality of the painter.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \_\_\_\_\_ A clever use of the medium and the oft spoken phrase in watercolour painting to, "preserve your lights" has been finely demonstrated with this piece. A very skillful little painting with drawing competency, composition, simplicity, tonal values, granulation, in fact all the 'isms' that make watercolour so appealing.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize Masterful painting, well handled in such a small size. This honours the fine progenitors of this genre of painting.

## Section 6. Miniatures

Award	Title of Painting	Artist	Art Society
Winner	Stirs the Heart	Trish Bennet	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Juliet	Mara Marston Boni	Oatley 101 Society of Artists
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Friends	Madeleine Szymanski	Ku-ring-gai Art Society
Highly Commended	Islands	Madeleine Szymanski	Ku-ring-gai Art Society
Commended	Moored in the Bay	Freda Surgenor	Oatley 101 Society of Artists

Judge's comments –

Winner: \_\_\_\_\_ Well composed and boldly painted. With limited room to move this artist has kept the composition and colour scheme simple and effective.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \_\_\_\_\_ Rubenesque in appearance this small work appeals for how much the artist has managed to express with such a small study. It is full of character and suggests an intimacy between the sitter and the painter that is very appealing.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize \_\_\_\_\_ A sensitive moment caught sensitively by the artist using a clever colour scheme and tonal value arrangement that draws the viewer into the picture and makes them privy to a quiet moment.