



2024 Spring Exhibition

ASOC Spring Exhibition - Prize winners and Judges' comments

The Artists Society of Canberra 2024 Spring Exhibition was opened by Nicki McKay-Sim, Director, Curatorial & Collection Research at the National Library of Australia, on Saturday 19 October.

This is the Society's 82nd Spring Exhibition and 282 artworks by 91 artists have been entered.

The Exhibition is open at the Fitters Workshop in Kingston – next door to the Bus Depot Markets - and runs from 19 October to Sunday 27 October 10 am to 4pm (closed Monday 21st October).

This year's exhibition was judged by classically trained artist and educator **Leigh D. Walker** and **Anthony Oates**, Director of the ANU Drill Hall Gallery.

The Judges overall comments were:

Leigh D. Walker - It has been a really exciting, diverse show to judge. Thankfully, Tony and I agreed on all of the winners. The standard of the work was excellent and it was great to see such diversity in style, experience and technique. Some of the works were truly outstanding. It's fantastic to see such adventurous creativity in ASOC. It was a privilege to judge.

Anthony Oates – Fantastic selection of adventurous works with a very high standard making our selection of works particularly challenging. The oils in this year's show were very fine, as were the mixed media. All artists should be commended! I'm pleased to be one of the first to see the exhibition.

BEST IN SHOW - SPONSORED BY BLACKETT HOMES

Café au Lait Dahlias, watercolour

Maria Pfohl

Judges' comments:

Fabulous, compressed composition, excellent technique – just exquisite. (LDW)

Wonderful technique and magic composition that compresses the image in mysterious ways! (AO)

BEST LANDSCAPE

Cows in the Haze, oils

Alex Lynn

Judges' comments:

I love the pastoral landscape juxtaposed with the almost Soviet style buildings - really fantastic handling of paint. Great muted palette. (LDW)

The artist possesses a sensitive touch in this work – evocative of place. (AO)

BEST ABSTRACT

Parallel Lines, acrylic and pen

Louise Spencer

Judges' comments:

Beautiful composition. Varying quality of line. (LDW)

Loose and gestural, raw quality of line and weight in ratio to the space around. (AO)

BEST PORTRAIT OR FIGURE

Waiting for Phở (Bistro Nguyens), paper collage, acrylic paint, posca pen

Stephen Clively

Judges' comments:

Just fabulous! Quirky, excellent composition, bold, adventurous – I love it. (LDW)

One of the most adventurous works in the show with highly sensitive collage elements. (AO)

BEST FLORA, FAUNA OR STILL LIFE

Pink Rose, oil

Inge Frank

Judges' comments:

Beautiful, semi-abstract composition reminiscent of Georgia O'Keeffe. (LDW)

Well-rendered work using the full extent of the canvas in an almost abstract mode. (AO)

1. ACRYLICS - SPONSORED BY DERIVAN

1st Prize

Seaspray, acrylic

Annette Rennie

Judges' comments:

Really nice paint handling in *Seaspray*. (LDW)

Seaspray has a nice handling of medium. (AO)

2nd Prize

Silent Canberra, acrylic

Belinda Gill

2. DRAWING

1st Prize

Thomas Boyd trackhead Goobarragandra NSW, white charcoal

Vickie Hingston-Jones

Judges' comments:

Nice touch. (AO)

3. OILS - SPONSORED BY ECKERSLEY'S ART AND CRAFT

1st Prize

Lake Tuggeranong, oil

Alex Lynn

Judges' comments:

Atmospheric; beautiful, muted palette; lovely paint handling. (LDW)

Smoky haze is very atmospheric in Alex Lynn's work. (AO)

2nd Prize

Lady in Purple Top, oil

Kylie Heslop

3rd Prize:

Blue Hydrangeas, oil

Inge Frank

4. PASTELS

1st Prize

Suncatcher, soft pastel on Pastelmat paper

Jo Anne Pulko

Judges' comments:

Delightful rendering and colour and delightful title. (AO)

2nd Prize

Pangolin in the Spotlight, pastel pencil

Vickie Hingston-Jones

3rd Prize

Meandering, wax pastel

Rebecca Gray

5. WATERCOLOUR AND GOUACHE - SPONSORED BY CAPITAL CHEMIST

David A.D. Hatton Prize for best Watercolour or Gouache

This prize honours the late David Hatton, an ASOC life member and past president, whose dedication to the advancement and development of ASOC is fondly remembered by all who knew him and were inspired by his work.

Coastal Dreaming, watercolour and gouache

Maxine Sumner

Judges' comments:

Exquisite, almost bleak emptiness- so evocative. Delicacy and space. (LDW)

Spare description that transports to place. (AO)

2nd Prize

Rest Time, watercolours

Ekaterina Mortensen

3rd Prize:

Lady of Shalott Roses, watercolour

Maria Pfohl

6. THE ATELIER PRIZES IN MIXED MEDIA AND OTHER ART – SPONSORED BY CHROMA

1st Prize

Under Wraps (the Knox), collage - paper, high vis fabric, tracing paper, Posca pen

Stephen Clively

Judges' comments:

Funky, adventurous, quirky – I love it (LDW)

2nd Prize

Shoreline, collage of printed acrylic artwork on fibre with added silk, lutradur and Tyvek

Robyn Lynette Diener

3rd Prize

Freedom, pencil with lino print on paper (1/1)

Lauren Alcantara

7. PRINTMAKING

1st Prize

Little Mulligan's (triptych), linocut embossed porcelain. Eds. 6/12

Fenja T. Ringl

Judges' comments:

Exquisite work with the porcelain. I love the three-dimensional landscape running through the triptych. Beautiful presentation. (LDW)

Very unusual and adventurous technique. (AO)

2nd Prize

Untitled, gel plate print

Lynn Nicholas

3rd Prize

Two Cats, linoprint

Christine Jarrett

8. DIGITAL ART - SPONSORED BY CHARTERTECH

1st Prize

Tidelines, digital painting, archival fine art print

Jo Anne Pulko

Judges' comments:

Beautiful abstract composition. I love the textures and the simplicity. (LDW)

Delicate, non-mechanical, natural. (AO)

2nd Prize

MY MAN(dala) post-stroke recovery, iPad and Procreate Bobby Graham

9. MINIATURES

1st Prize

Nautilus, watercolour

Helen Jensma

Judges' comments:

Exquisite painting of shell – delicate and sensitive handling. (LDW)

Remarkable and delicate drawing. (AO)

2nd Prize

Fairy-Wren with Grass, linocut on porcelain. Ed. 3 of 25

Fenja T. Ringl

The exhibition judges are independent and perform their judging at arms-length from ASOC.

Our major sponsors and donors for this year's exhibition are Capital Chemist, the Tall Foundation, Blackett Homes, Chartertech, and Buvelot Picture Framers.

JUDGES' BIOS

Leigh D Walker

Leigh D Walker is a classically trained artist who specialises in drawing and painting. She currently lives, creates and teaches in Canberra.

Born in Scotland, Leigh studied Drawing & Painting at Edinburgh College of Art/Edinburgh University, gaining her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in Fine Art in 1998, and her Master of Fine Arts in 2006.

Being the recipient of numerous awards, Leigh's work has been exhibited widely in the UK and Australia. Her art has been shown in venues such as The Royal Scottish Academy, The National Portrait Gallery (London) and the Mall Galleries (London). Leigh's drawings and paintings are held in public and private collections throughout the UK and Australia.

Her paintings are both meditative and intuitive and she seeks to explore concepts of the sublime and the spiritual through her abstract, landscape and figurative work.

Leigh has been sharing her knowledge and skill for over 25 years in both the UK and Australia. She currently teaches for numerous art organisations throughout Canberra and beyond.

Anthony Oates

Anthony Oates is the Director of the ANU Drill Hall Gallery. He has curated numerous survey exhibitions including: Peter Maloney: Missing in Action (2018); Liz Coats: Active Seeing (2017); Brian Blanchflower Canopies (2016), David Serisier – Colour real and imagined (2015); Karl Wiebke Paintings 1994-2012 (2012) and Bert Flugelman Survey (2012).

He has a reputation for curating energetic thematic exhibitions including Painting Amongst Other Things (2018); Repurpose (2016) and Colour Music (2014). Anthony Oates has published widely and made international contributions to journals and conferences.

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