

MEDIA RELEASE

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Second time's a charm for artist

Artist Lorraine Sutherland proved coming back for more was the key to success last night when she won first prize in The West Australian Open Art Exhibition.

The Pickering Brook artist tied for first place in the open class last year but this year will take home all the \$5000 prize money.

Her acrylic piece, Drago – The Orchardist, was described by the judges as: “a commanding, powerful and confident piece. A work of art with compelling and mysterious qualities. Strong composition is matched with superb use of subtle colours.”

The best rural artist award went to Anne Pearson from Kondinin with Philodendron & The Blue Hat. She receives \$1500 prize money.

Judges said this work was intriguing and imbued with personality and atmosphere. The composition cleverly draws the viewer to return to the figure repeatedly and is a portrait with an unconventional yet strong presence.

Awards of merit were given to Wembley Downs' Jacqueline Kennaugh with Fruit Bowl, Kelmscott's Felicia Lowe with Hey Ewe! and North Coogee's Julie Podstolski with Going In (Where I May Not Follow).

Councillor-in-charge on the competition, Shirley Thorn, says the standard of the work this year had greatly improved, much of which she puts down to the restricting of entries to one per artist.

“I think this meant that people were sending their best piece,” says Shirley. “This competition is a special one because it is open to recognised artists through to amateurs and everyone accepted has a chance to be hung and seen.

“The array of art also offers something for everyone.”

The work will be on display and for sale everyday in the Art & Photography Gallery at the 2009 Smoke Free Perth Royal Show. Also in the same pavilion is the Agricultural Art Award.

Don't forget to vote for the People's Choice while there. That winner will receive \$500.

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The Smoke Free Perth Royal Show is presented by The Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia



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