

Art competition showcases local talent



Written by Ann Brown

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Results of the 'My Spain' Art Competition at Casa La Pedrera: The Grand Design House Music, Arts & Craft Festival June, 2012

A fantastic selection of paintings were entered into the art competition and judging by local artists Martin Robinson and Helen Layfield, was no easy task. There could have been many winners as technically the art produced was of very high standard but the judges felt that the winners interpreted and fulfilled the brief of the title of the competition 'My Spain'.

1st PLACE: *Flamenco el Sol* by Dennis Ashley

Judges' Comments: The choice of colours and brightness of light is evocative of Spain, especially in conjunction with traditional Spanish body shapes.

Dennis Ashley is a retired design engineer who now lives in Quesada. He enjoys dabbling in different art mediums. His love of use of colour is evident in the winning entry and the judges especially were impressed with the message that his painting portrayed.

In the corner of the painting is the Spanish Flag which is being protected by the silhouette of the dancers. This symbolises the traditions of Spain are being lost and if not protected, will be overtaken by the rising sun. A fellow artist put it like this:

"I love the painting, it not only caught my eye as soon as I entered the house but has also really captured the essence of the Spanish spirit. What brings the scene to life for me is that just as the couple are dancing in harmony to the music in front of our eyes, so are the vibrant colours of the sunset behind them. Overall the image is quite enchanting and has a very refreshing quality to it."

A worthy winner indeed!!

2nd PLACE: *Sunset in Crevillente* by Ronen Zlotogoura

Judges' Comments: Typical Spanish sunset - The cranes silhouetted against the night sky and dark shapes of the streets etc. gives it a modern slant and intrigue so the viewer keeps finding more in the shadows.

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Ronen is essentially an airbrush artist, who has been experimenting with mixing colours since an early age. In high school he discovered air brush painting and enjoyed the high level precision that it brings and wanted to bring it to another level. His passion is Realsim and his influences have mainly been from a few hyper realistic airbrush artists such as Hubert De Lartigue from France, Meinrad Froschin from Germany and Dru Blair from America who is actually running an airbrush course in Valencia, which Ronen will be attending.

Together with a Spanish artist Pastrana, he will be exhibiting in the exhibition room of the new Centro Cultural in Dolores from the 15th - 24th June 2012, 5pm - 9pm.

3rd PLACE: *Through the Window* by Dorren Colerick

Judges Comments: Nice collage of glimpses of Spain

At the prizegiving Dorren Colerick was shocked to have won 3rd prize, but her charming views of glimpses of Spain through open windows was a popular choice. Dorren used work at Wedgewood and uses her spare time to develop her love of drawing and watercolour. She has her designs printed on mugs, table mats, coasters and greeting cards.

VOTED MOST POPULAR PAINTING by the public: *Guardamar Girl* by Edwin Thornber

This was a clear winner of this category not only because of its amazing technical ability of the artist but because the image of a young girl enjoying her day out to the beach intent on netting fish, was endearing.

Edwin Thornber is an extremely talented artist with fantastic attention to detail and in fact many other paintings including "Las Cuevas" and "The prospector" were also nominated for most popular painting. He has exhibited in London and won many art competitions and thankfully has decided to retire to Spain and now teaches painting classes at the Castle.

CHILDREN'S CATEGORY

Winner of 5 - 9 years: Joe Layfield - Joe Layfield is 8 years old and has since the age of 5 loved photography. He seems to do it very naturally and will take photos of everything and anything. His grandfather was a photographer in East Africa. His photographs are available as limited edition prints in various sizes and post cards.

Judges' comments - Good composition of photos of a holiday in Southern Spain.

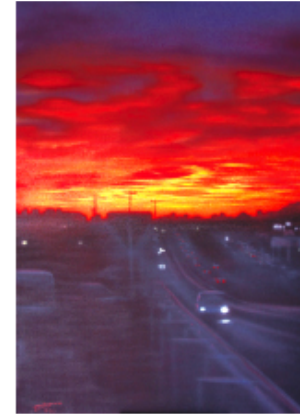
Winner of 10 - 15 years: Jessica Drewett - Jessica painted a picture of her favourite ride - The Aladdin ride! She loves the atmosphere at night with all the flashing lights contrasting against the dark sky. Vibrant, colourful and exciting are all words to describe both Jessica personally and her style of painting!

Judges' comments - Wonderful use of paint and colour giving bright and happy images.

16 - 18 years: Nicola Whitehead - Nicola is 17 years of age, originally from Pailsey Scotland . She attends Mar Azul International School currently in year 10 and in her spare time she is learning about Art and Photography . Her main love is Photography and design and she planning to work towards a BA Degree in Art & Photography. Nicola was thrilled and excited to have won in her agegroup on her first ever entry to an Art Competition .

Judges' comments - Mature observation and composition of photos contrasting new and old Spain.

A big thank you to all our artists and all those who took part. It is interesting to note that almost every painting entered into the competition was nominated as "Publics Favourite" category. Also a massive thank you to those who donated paintings to be sold with proceeds to EMAUS which has increased the amount raised to almost €700. Well done!



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