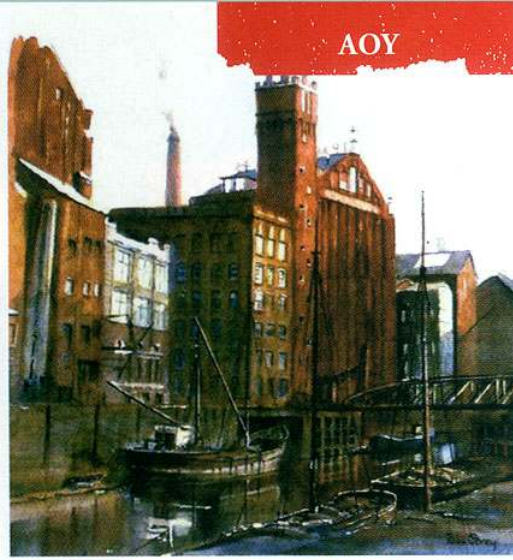




'Diane's Jumper on Holiday in Yorkshire' by Diane King, Abstract or Experimental amateur winner



'Rank Flour Mills' by Robin Storey, Waterscape, Boats or Seascape professional winner

Be Inspired!

In last month's issue we featured some of the main winners of this year's Artist of the Year titles, but we had such an array of fantastic entries that we can't resist showing you some more!

Within every category in our Artist of the Year competition, we have several different winners, including Junior, Beginner, Amateur and Professional. By awarding so many prizes we are able to recognise and reward talent amongst the thousands of wonderful entries that are sent in.

Some of the most inspiring entries come from our youngest members. Jenny Exley, aged 13, received a commendation for her entry in the 2007 competition, and this year she was the Junior winner in the Animal and Wildlife category with her watercolour painting 'Saffron'.

"Saffron is my cat," explains Jenny, who is currently in Year 8 at Pennthorpe School in Rudgwick. "I took some photos of her when she was on my bed, and this painting is taken from one of those. It is quite experimental: I dropped clean water onto the paper and dribbled colour onto the wet areas, then I let the paint do the rest. I was very pleased with the result. I'm so pleased to have won, I love drawing and painting. At the moment we're painting a jungle scene mural on our art block wall at school, which is great fun."

At the other end of the age spectrum is Robin Storey, who didn't pick up a paintbrush until he was 55, but now describes art as his "consuming passion". Robin's watercolour "Rank Flour Mills" won the Professional title in the Waterscape, Boats or Seascape category, and is one of several paintings he has completed in a 'Hull Retrospective' series using old photographs and newspaper cuttings showing aspects of the city. Robin currently works from his studio in Beverley, selling paintings from his website and various retail outlets. He is a former tennis player who twice qualified to play at Wimbledon, as well as a parachutist and hang glider pilot, and says that adrenalin now fuels the production of his watercolours. "I began painting when I took early retirement, and, having never painted before, my learning curve was very steep," he says. "Thanks to numerous books and videos I gradually developed my own style, and after five years felt able to exhibit in local exhibitions



'Saffron' by Jenny Exley, Animal and Wildlife Junior winner

and rapidly developed a reputation as a serious landscape and townscape artist."

Diane King started painting six years ago, and her attitude towards her hobby is as enthusiastic and upbeat as her winning painting, "Diane's Jumper on Holiday in Yorkshire", which took the Amateur title in the Abstract or Experimental Art category. "I had so much fun painting this," she says. "On holiday in the Yorkshire Dales I became fascinated by the black faced sheep – they looked so sad and yet so inquisitive. To the surprise of my friend I started collecting their strands of wool from the fences and hedges. The background colours of the picture are inspired by a much loved favourite woollen jumper I sadly shrunk in the wash. I experimented with heather and grasses collected in the fields mixed with gesso to obtain the texture, and used the wool for the sheep!"

ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2009

An international painting competition open to artists of all ages, from beginners to professionals.

The 2009 competition has categories to suit all levels and abilities, so no one should feel that Artist of the Year is out of their league, or that this is a competition purely for the artistic elite. If you're an SAA member, entry is free, and you can enter as many times as you want (for non-members the cost is £7.50 per entry).

1st prize is £2,000; the winning artist will receive £1,000 cash and £1,000 worth of art materials, along with an engraved crystal goblet, plus £500 worth of art materials for the art club, group or school of their choice.

Closing date for entries is Friday 6th March 2009.

Entry forms are enclosed with this issue of Paint, but are also available via www.saa.co.uk

1st PRIZE
worth
£2,000