

Cervantes Art Prize 2017 Judges' comments

This is a wonderful exhibition that demonstrates a huge range of creative and skilled artists. The work is varied and competent and is a delight to look at. The judges found it difficult to make some decisions because so many works are worthy winners. What looked for was work that showed a creative and unusual choice of subject and composition together with a high level of skill in the medium used. It is wonderful to see such a wealth of talent and creativity. Congratulations to everyone who entered and to the art committee who made this event happen.

Art section

A Oil/acrylic: landscape, seascape, street-scape, townscape, dreamscape

Winner: A1 Whale Spa

This skilfully painted work evokes a wonderful atmospheric depiction of the deep sea. The unusual shape of the canvas and the choice of subject, together with the expert technique make this an impressive painting.

Highly commended: A4 Wildflower Season

This interesting composition uses a strong use of perspective that gives the painting a depth that draws the viewer in, and the creative use of colour works very well.

B Oil/acrylic: people, portraits, pets, still-life, flora, fauna, fish, the imaginative abstract

Winner: B19 Gentle Giant

This is an impressive powerful portrait of a forceful personality that has been very skilfully executed. This subject holds the viewer with a piercing gaze and the dark background and composition make this a strong and dynamic piece.

Highly Commended: B16 'Buzzer' Bush Balladeer

A skilful portrait perfectly complemented by a 'bush' frame. The unusual scale adds impact to make this a strong and absorbing painting.

Highly Commended: B6 Take Me Home

A delightful and engaging portrait of a dog that captures the connection between dog and man. It has a strong impact despite the small size of the canvas.

C Watercolour any subject

Winner: C17 Greek Salad

This is a watercolour that demonstrates a controlled and creative use of the medium. The subtle colours and unusual composition understate the subject matter which makes it an intriguing work. A lovely piece.

Highly commended: C5 The Old Shed

This is a careful depiction of a collection of objects in a shed. The skilful use of a difficult medium evokes a nostalgic subject beautifully.

D Other media/mixed media including pastel, pencil, crayon, ink, collage, etc

Winner: D23 Tom

A delightful and unassuming pencil drawing that displays expertise and affection for the subject. This piece is a deceptively simple work of art that rewards viewing. This is an example of how a small piece can provide real impact and delight.

Highly commended: D18 Red Hills

The creative use of mediums make this work impressive in its depiction of banksias. Using a landscape background makes this an unusual botanical piece and adds to the impact.

E Sculpture any medium

Winner: E4 In the Men's shed

A quirky piece that demonstrates an expert use of materials that is cleverly titled and made impressively life-sized. Fantastic!

Highly commended: E5 I Feel Shattered

This creative work has been cleverly made with unusual materials. The title of the sculpture adds to the clever conception.

F Art by a high school student

Winner: F16 Puzzled

The unusual and creative use of materials with a very competent and well-drawn portrait make this an impressive and clever work.

Highly commended: F12 Kite

This is an impressive and skilled depiction of a bird – the attention to detail in the feathers make this a clever work

G Art by a Primary school student

This was the hardest section to judge because every piece was really engaging and demonstrated skill and experimentation. The choice of a winner was very difficult to make.

Winner: G11 Ham & The Fish

This fun and happy piece used a lovely selection of colours and papers which made it stand out.

Highly commended: This award goes to everyone who drew or painted or collaged their families, hamburgers, space and landscapes! Every piece was lovely. Keep drawing and painting and making collages!

Craft

H 3-dimensional objects: jewellery, wood, metal, ceramic, leather, glass, plastics, found materials

Winner: H12 Beer Drinking Table Marine Yacht Inspired

This clever and witty table using recycled marine materials is a real talking point. The height is perfect for a beer table and the excellent craftsmanship makes this a beautiful piece.

J Textiles: fashion, quilts

This section was a difficult section to judge as the entries ranged from exquisite traditional work to creative contemporary pieces. The standard of the entries was excellent.

Winner: J20 Deceptively Alive

A contemporary use of a traditional craft with a lovely sense of movement and subtle colour palette. This is beautifully made and is most impressive.

Highly commended Traditional Craft: J2 Girls' Tatted Booties

A delightful use of a traditional technique exquisitely made.

Highly commended Contemporary Craft: J7 Birdhouse

Fabulous use of fibres and found materials used to create an intriguing object.

K Craft by a high school student

Winner: K2 beanie

This beanie has been expertly made from beautiful spun and dyed wool – the subtle colours make this a lovely piece.

L Craft by a primary school student

Winner: L3 Surf Camp

A delightful depiction of a surf shack that has been cleverly constructed with a variety of material and attention to detail.

Photography

This is a very strong section with a wonderful range of highly competent photographs.

O Portraiture

Winner: O3 New Meets Old

This composition focuses on both the hands of the subjects and the baby's face – it is a lovely portrait that conveys a strong sense of love and care.

P Landscape, seascape

Winner: P1 Log

This is a creative and unusual observation of a detail in a landscape that gives an impression of a much wider place. It is technically impressive.

Q Flora, fauna

Winner: Q1 The Lonely Bottle Brush

This is an unconventional image that evokes a sense of mystery and intrigue. The composition is beautifully balanced and the colour unusual.

Highly commended: Q 3 Awakening Bloom

A well-composed and beautifully presented image that captures the details of an opening bud beautifully.

Local Award: B17 Still Life Lures Me In

This is a dramatic work with a great sense of the movement of a wave and a clever imaginative depiction of fish and fishing – something that Cervantes is known for. It is technically competent and has a strong presence. An impressive work of art.