



**Kanturk Arts Festival**

**Adjudicator's Report**

**Schools' Art Competition 2012**



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The 2011 Schools' Art Competition and Schools' Street Exhibition have been sponsored by Kanturk Credit Union Ltd.



## Adjudicator's Report

As this is my fourth year to adjudicate the Schools' Art Competition I am in a good position to commend the development of the competition and to note the great number of fine works submitted. This year particularly, I can see the fruits of the commitment by teachers and schools, to nurture the talents of the pupils. They have created a good environment for these talents to flourish and the young pupils have responded with the kind of enthusiasm that gives each entry a shining charge that I find delightful.

The number of entries submitted, has more or less stabilised, but I am happy to say that the breadth of quality has improved yet again.

I must comment on the use of materials and techniques employed, because I can see that pupils have been offered opportunities to experiment with their materials. Paints, crayons, pencils, cutouts (glues and sparkles etc.) have all been employed to great effect. Guidance in the uses of paints – mixing imaginatively and not just 'straight-from-the-tube' – makes the paintings far more interesting to behold.

The other striking influence of the teachers is the difficult area known as composition. To make a picture tell a story is a complicated thing. – While you need to establish the major elements, you also walk a tightrope, needing to balance clarity with 'only telling enough to provoke interest'. Bold compositions lend immediacy to the work, but leaving room for subtle nuances is essential. – I will give some examples in my comments on the prizewinners.

More than ever, people feel that they need cheering up and I can think of few better ways of passing time than navigating the shop windows of Kanturk when the entries are displayed.

I have been delighted again this year by the qualities of enthusiasm, innocence, subtlety, exuberance, aside from the skills in drawing painting and clever use of colour.

I feel that we have four worthy category winners to represent the overall body of works submitted. Two of the four are painted images, one is executed in crayon and one has been drawn in Biro. The manner in which each of these four pieces rises above the other shortlisted entries is instructive to anyone who would endeavour to make a drawing or a painting. Each one displays a very definite vision of their subject. Each one displays this vision boldly. Each displays some measure of whimsy – a light touch. The three that use colour manage their colours with subtle harmony that is both measured and courageous. The one in monochrome is rendered in subtle tones that allow us to clearly see how the drawing is made yet bring a quality of the magician to the outcome.

I hope to see the work of these young people in years to come. They deserve to be torch-bearers for their generation.

*John Philip Murray, Lissardagh, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012*

**Overall winner 2012:**

**Category D:**

**Siobhán Gillies, Dreaming ('Destructive Dreaming')**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Scoil Mhuire**



This is an outstanding piece of work. I particularly admire the economy of means. – We all know what it is to use a Biro, to scrawl a note, or draw a rough map to give directions, etc. but we may never explore the possibilities that the humble Biro possesses. Siobhán Gillies has drawn people, caricatures with obvious personalities and put them into a very tight setting. She has done this deliberately. – Box them in, so that they want to explode from the frame with energy. She has drawn them with obvious confidence, way beyond her years. She doesn't hesitate in her line, for instance the sense of rightness when an eye isn't obviously attached to a face is not

something that is achieved easily. Her use of hatching (parallel lines, built up to produce varying tones.) is masterful. Her observations of little things, paving stones, drain gratings, patterns on fabric, children brushed aside by the onflow of adult humans, the solid, stolid woman and the spiky energetic movements of the men, are all beautifully documented. Finally, the charm of the humour is the work's crowning glory. It is all very well to be technically accomplished but it is good to use that skill to communicate a story - one of life's little vignettes.

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**Category A:**

**Winner: Liam Fitzmaurice**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Class Ballyhass N.S.**



Here is a weightless creature, suspended, smiling in a blue & cottonwool–clouded sky. This picture could cheer up a failing economy! The design works beautifully. Our subject takes up most of the area of the page. The snout, antlers and wing tether the creature to the edges. Mostly, though, the attitude at which the creature is angled convinces us that it is cheerfully bouncing off the clouds. The manner of painting is very clever; primary red, yellow and especially blue – The creature is mostly blue, but a different blue from the surrounding sky. Little touches complete an already confident picture: the dark creases in the trunk, the yellow stripe across the red tail, little hints of yellow on the trailing edges of the wings and what may be the brown stripe of a harness, all make their contribution. This creature resolutely flies off in the direction in which his eye is guiding him.

## **Especially Commended**

Shauna O'Connor, Lismire N.S.  
Hollie Linehan, Convent Primary School  
Ronan McCrory, Kilbrin N.S.

## **Very Highly Commended:**

Cillian O'Sullivan, Ballyhass N.S.  
Aileen O'Mahony Convent Primary School  
Grace Fogarty-Kennedy, Ballyhass N.S.  
Tristan Finnegan, Ballyhass N.S.  
Joachim O'Driscoll, Ballyhass N.S.  
Mirren O'Leary, Kilbrin N.S.  
Sean McMahon, Kilbrin N.S.  
Jessica Buckley, Kilbrin N.S.  
Hollie O'Sullivan, Kilbrin N.S.  
Adam Corbett, Kilbrin N.S.  
Erik Martins-Bitri, Ballyhass N.S.  
Aine Martin, Convent Primary School  
David Heffernan, Kilbrin N.S.  
Clodagh Hogan, Convent Girls School

**Category B:**

**Winner: Eoghan Boyce – My Dream Bird  
St. Colman's Boys N.S.**



This is a deceptively straightforward-looking picture. It only looks that way because it has been done so well. He leaves us no room for distraction. Our focus is the bird – its enormous bill, plain black and white body and we are nailed by its relentless, beady-eyed stare. The bird is framed by the branch on which it stands, the backdrop consists of hard, shiny, green leaves and a black sky that becomes one with the bird's plumage. Everything leads our eye where he wants us to look. This is a fine composition.

**Especially Commended**

Vivienne O'Keeffe, Girls N.S

Eve McAuliffe, Girls N.S.

Nicole Scannell, Banteer N.S.

**Very Highly Commended:**

Eoin Geaney, St. Colman's Boys N.S.

Kuba, Ballyhass N.S.

Holly Massey, Ballyhass N.S.

Alan Walsh, St. Colman's Boys N.S.

Dylan O'Connor, St. Colman's Boys N.S.

Chelsey Carroll, Girls N.S.

Lucziano, St. Colman's Boys N.S.

Gintare Óraiwaité, Convent Primary School

Roisín Foley, Banteer N.S.

Conor Prendiville, Ballyhass N.S.

Nicola Collins, Lismire N.S.

Leona Murphy, Kanturk Girls N.S.

Jesse McAuliffe, Ballyhass N.S.

Sarah O'Keeffe, Lismire N.S.

Jessica Noonan, Girls N.S.

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**Category C:**

**Winner: Rachel O'Sullivan, 'Walking in the Air'**

**Scoil Mhuire**



So many other entrants chose this subject, but Rachel O'Sullivan achieves the dizzying sensation of flight without an aircraft in a striking painting. She handles paint with proficiency especially when she describes the hair of our intrepid flier. Rather than giving a plain black colour – we experience the blue-black healthy shine that blows in the wind. When she paints the fields – each one has its own character – no 'one green fits all' here! This picture has all the hallmarks of one that is interesting enough to keep coming back for another look.

**Especially Commended**

Nadine Lyons, Coláiste Treasa

Isabella Gryglewicz, Coláiste Treasa

Mantas Orantas, Scoil Mhuire

**Very Highly Commended:**

Fiona Gillespie, Scoil Mhuire

Conor Mannix, Scoil Mhuire

Bart Murphy, Scoil Mhuire

Evan O'Sullivan, Scoil Mhuire

Lianne Daly, Scoil Mhuire  
Katie O'Donoghue, Scoil Mhuire

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**Category D:**

**Winner: Siobhán Gillies, Dreaming ('Destructive Dreaming')**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Scoil Mhuire**

Siobhán Gillies is also the overall winner described earlier.

**Especially Commended**

Áine Singleton, Coláiste Treasa  
Dara Meehan, Scoil Mhuire  
Orla Kelleher, Coláiste Treasa

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