



Kanturk Arts Festival

Adjudicator's Report

Schools' Art Competition 2011

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



A message from Kanturk Arts Festival

The Committee of Kanturk Arts Festival is very pleased to present this report on the festival's third Schools' Art Competition. In setting out to promote the arts in the region, and to provide a platform for local artists, the festival has tried to balance its emphasis on the work of established artists with that of new and emerging artists. Promoting the artistic endeavours of young people from the region has, therefore, been one of the key priorities for the festival.

We are happy that the Adjudicator's comments in this report affirm the value and progress of this approach. While we were delighted with a total of 529 entries this year, we are even more than pleased with the increased standard which the Adjudicator has referred to in this report as 'outstanding'.

We are keenly aware that the works of the Category Winners described here represent just the tip of the iceberg and we wish to emphasise that we value the contribution of every young artist. In this regard, we ensure that every entry is exhibited in the Schools' Street Exhibition – what must now be one of Ireland's biggest art exhibitions.

The commitment of a wide range of individuals and organisations has made this element of the festival's programme possible and their enthusiasm is evidence of the value which the community places on the encouragement of young artists. The work of the volunteers who run the competition and organise the Street Exhibition must be acknowledged, along with all the businesses of Kanturk who host the work. John Philip Murray, who acted as Artistic Consultant to the festival at its inception, has continued his involvement as Adjudicator of this event and this has been invaluable in helping to maintain clear artistic focus. The support and sponsorship of Kanturk Credit Union is hugely appreciated and has greatly helped the development of the event. We also wish to acknowledge the support of Cork County Council to the festival.

However, the key ingredients in the success of the event are the contributions of teachers, pupils and parents. Their engagement with the themes provided by the festival has produced this wonderful blossoming of artistic expression and it is our privilege to witness this emerging process.

Tom Daly
Director Kanturk Arts Festival

A message from Kanturk Credit Union Ltd.

On behalf of Kanturk Credit Union Limited, I would like to acknowledge our distinct pleasure as a sponsor of this year's Kanturk Arts Festival. The Credit Union is particularly pleased to be associated with the School's Art aspect of the Festival. It is truly a wonderful sight to view the artistic splendours of such talented young local people proudly displayed throughout the area. If you haven't seen them yet, I would urge you to do so.

As an integral part of the local community, Kanturk Credit Union Limited is always supportive of projects that salute and promote the local community. I have no doubt that Kanturk Arts Festival will not only be an important date in the diary of Kanturk, but will also be used as a template for other towns wishing to emulate the success of the Arts Festival.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, drive and vision of the organising committee in bringing this Festival to life, and to wish the Festival every success in the years ahead. Thank you.

Thomas F. Martin,
Manager, Kanturk Credit Union Limited.

Adjudication Summary by John Philip Murray

2011 marks the third year of Kanturk Arts Festival and my third year as Adjudicator of the Schools' Art Competition. I am pleased, no, delighted with the continuation and development of this event. I had remarked after the inaugural festival of 2009 that that year's competition was "a *visible* manifestation of the force of creativity that exists in the locality – and an indicator of potential for the future". I am glad to report that this potential is being realised as I had hoped that it would.

The commitment and goodwill that schools and pupils in the locality have demonstrated is manifest. The themes chosen by the festival for this year's competition have given the teachers a perfect opportunity to engage pupils. The high quality of the work presented amply demonstrates what can result when inspiring teachers and receptive pupils are given the opportunity to actively meet this kind of challenge: studying a brief together, interpreting the themes, and carrying out the work using the most appropriate means.

I am well aware that the people of Kanturk take this event to their hearts and I know they will have a great uplift when they see the works displayed during the festival.

On several levels this year's entries are remarkable. Overall, the number of entrants has risen to 529. It is pleasing to note that the number of entries from the more senior pupils has increased significantly. An increase in numbers alone would be of minor importance but I can attest that the quality of the work is outstanding.

The range of materials used is wide but, importantly, the boundaries of these materials are being explored and pushed. Even when the "humble pencil" is the medium, there have been some fine examples in line and tone.

Paint has been effectively employed again this year. Bold designs, strong, yet restrained use of colour and some remarkable brush control have enriched the paintings.

Chalk pastels have been used imaginatively, the blend of a drawing material which is also effective at covering area has again proven effective.

This year also saw some imaginative cut-outs and stuck-on, or applied materials. These materials were used for much more than novelty effects and the pictures really benefited.

Subject matter varied from recognisable representations of people and scenes, to very effective abstract pattern-making, derived from direct observation.

Outside the ranks of the commended it was interesting to see younger participants making very good and happy copies of works by Joan Miro and Henri Matisse. I'm sure these pupils enjoyed making the pictures and learned a lot by going through the process.

Along with the circus clowns and fashion catwalks there were very many images of sadness and oppression which were quite obviously deeply felt. The inner eye can sometimes say in paint or pencil that which is inexpressible

in verbal language. Some pupils found themselves faced with the paradox: "How can I make a plea for peace using the image of a gun". This task is well-nigh impossible – even for seasoned painters and I admire the evidence of maturity shown by these young people in grappling with the problem.

I think that my biggest surprise came when I was judging the entrants from the First and Second-year, Post-primary section. I found it hard to get over the subtleties in paint, the gradations of tone, the clever use of composition and the sheer range of accomplishments in such a young group.

Its terms of reference mean that a competition has winners, but I would like to assure the participants that they have **all** made this year's event significant.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to bear witness to their achievements and I look forward to seeing the works displayed around the windows of Kanturk.



John Philip Murray, Lissardagh, Co. Cork

9th February 2011

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Overall winner 2011

Category E (1st and 2nd Year Post-primary): 'Aiming for Hope'



Heraldas Vaivada, has produced an outstanding painting with immediate visual impact.

It has been cleverly constructed using architectural devices to create a blank horizontal plane, more or less at the centre of the painting. This space is further enclosed, however, by the containers of an industrial landscape, not pretty in any conventional sense. Paradoxically, this area of harsh construction is lined with a row of trees in leaf.

The depth of the enclosed space is heightened by the assured use of perspective, further enhanced by the car, which looks tiny under the circumstances, positioned deep in the left hand background, under a canopy.

.....Then we see him, crouched against a wall, holding an assault rifle....What is going on here? The title indicates an attempt to grapple with some kind of optimism in the face of what? We can only surmise, but it certainly is not pretty.

This is an assured piece of painting. The colours chosen are just right. See the blue and yellow of the container/portacabin buildings with the mesh windows, or the rich creamy wall on the left. Look at the treatment of the grey colours, for example, the concrete plane in the mid-foreground produced by a complex mix of colours placed on top of an area of mid-brown. Or see the diamond of grassy vegetation on which the gunman is perched. We feel the

texture of the plants. The manner in which the factory walls are described using corrugated lines made of varied tones is masterful.

I hope that this painter will continue to explore and study the surrounding world and examine pictures of the masters in order to further understand what it is that makes great pictures great.

Category A: 1st and 2nd Class Primary

Category Winner: 'The Best Show Ever'



Eva Dunlea has produced a fresh picture brimming with vitality. It is a lovely balance of strong spatial organisation and free, painterly brushstrokes. The colours are harmonious, particularly the yellow/blue combination which projects the singer towards the viewer.

Very Highly Commended from Category A: Andy Bourke-Ott - 'The Everything Monster'; Patrick Allen - 'The Gold Sunset'.

Category B: 3rd and 4th Class Primary

Category Winner: 'Climbing Mt. Everest'



Michael Buckley's picture is a wonderful example of crisp design and clear storytelling. There are three elements: the Mountaineer in colourful green, red, blue, yellow and brown; the Snow-Covered Mountain, charmingly described in cotton wool and the base page; and the Clear Blue Sky completing the three-dimensional essay.

There are three elements: First, the Mountaineer in colourful green, red, blue, yellow and brown; Second the Snow-Covered Mountain, charmingly described in cotton wool; and Third, on the base page, the Clear Blue Sky completing the three dimensional essay.

Very Highly Commended from Category B: Rory King - 'Blast Off'; Alice O'Regan - 'Fame!'; Aoife O'Connor - 'Winning Design'; Conor Prendeville - 'Hopes'.

Category C: 5th and 6th Class Primary

Winner: 'Fireworks'



This abstracted pattern by **Gearóid Lynes** is taken from a vision of the sparkling colours made by an exploding firework. The clever design shows a succession of colourful shapes arranged onto a dark background. The arrangement into lines suggests the rhythmic explosions of the firework. It shows an ordered pattern, rendered with the spontaneous rush of his subject.

Very Highly Commended from Category C: Christian Walsh - 'Dreaming of Peace'; Niamh Guiney - 'Reach for the Sky'

Category E (1st and 2nd Year Post-primary):

Overall Winner: 'Aiming for Hope' by Heraldas Vaivada

Very Highly Commended Category E: Rachel O'Sullivan - 'Spreading Joy'; Arron McSweeney - 'Nightmare at Sea'; Aimee O'Callaghan - 'Beginning of the End'; Tomás O'Neill - 'Cry of Hope'; Jordan O'Callaghan - 'Drowning in Sorrows'.

Category F: 1st and 2nd Year Post-primary

Winner: 'Daydreaming Through a Window'



This is a great example of the use of pencil by **Áine Singleton**. Confident line describes shape, smudged tones transmit soft flesh and dense lines gather for the mass of hair. Drawing is an essential skill for anyone involved in any kind of visual communication. It is seemingly a most simple medium, but in the right hands it is capable of transmitting the most complex images. This picture is complex, but so well-crafted that it is easily read. The picture has been vertically divided in two by the window frame, but really we are looking at three divisions: *first*, the face; *next*, the hand and its own reflection, *finally*, in colour, we see some dream world beyond the glass. The wide-eyed dream state is perfectly realised, but the mood of the daydreamer is impossible to gauge. We are trapped in this nether-world along with the daydreamer.

Very Highly Commended Category F: Mary O'Leary - 'Sorrow'; Michelle Neville - 'Dreams'

Category G: Leaving Certificate Cycle Post-primary

Winner: 'Broken Hearted'



Lukasz Komonski has produced a fine visual narrative which can be easily read, but which still leaves unanswered questions in the viewer's mind. This picture displays good drawing skills allied to a nicely judged compositional balance between the size of the protagonist and his surroundings. Although the scoreline is stated, it is probably unnecessary to the plot given the strength of the drawing. The expression on the man's face is guarded and further trapped by his hand, which covers his mouth, but it is apparent that this is not a happy man. The empty pitch, though surrounded by a crowd, looks forlorn. We cannot tell if this is a player, watching vainly from the sideline as his team is defeated, or an equally glum fan.

Very Highly Commended Category G: Shannon Moynihan - 'Coming Home'; Una Twohig – 'Dreaming of a Lighter Day'.

Appendix: Summary of Results and Commended Works 2011

(Total Entries - 526; Very Highly Commended Works - 17; Especially Commended Works - 63)

Category A: 1st and 2nd Class Primary	
<i>Category Winner</i>	
Eva Dunlea: 'Best Show Ever'	
<i>Very Highly Commended</i>	
Andy Bourke-Ott: 'The Everything Monster'	Patrick Allen: 'The Gold Sunset'
<i>Especially Commended</i>	
Aoidhe Sheill: 'Clowning Around'	Sean McMahon: 'Happy Picasso Head'
Lukasz Loniewski: 'Never Give Up'	Luis O Mahoney: 'The Alien'
Thomas Sheehan: 'V 16 Engine'	Niamh O'Keefe: 'Dreaming of Fairies and Unicorns'
Jessica Buckley: 'Happy Hearts'	Áine Martin: 'No Ordinary Family'
Kelly O'Dwyer: 'The Model'	Liam Fitzmauric: 'Horse Racing'
Roisin Cussen: 'Happy Face'	Callum O'Donoghue: 'Dangerous'
Leah Cronin: 'Mad Style'	Brian Healy: 'When the World Ends'
Amy Lehane: 'The Secret Garden'	Jamie Finn: 'My Island'
Liam Boyle: 'The Battle'	Lisa O'Donoghue: 'The Swans Family'
Mantas Orantas: 'Fun For All'	Sebastian Sarna: 'Sea Ship'
Rory Sheahan: 'My Fish'	Joachim O'Driscoll: 'Dragon-Land'
Oisín O Connor: 'The Boss of the Lion Kingdom'	Ciara Geaney: 'Superstar'
Aaron O'Keefe: 'The Busy Farm'	Katy Feehan: 'My Veterinary Clinic'

Category B: 3rd and 4th Class Primary	
<i>Category Winner</i>	
Michael Buckley: 'Climbing Mt. Everest'	
<i>Very Highly Commended</i>	
Rory King: 'Blast Off'	Aoife O'Connor: 'Winning Design'
Alice O'Regan: 'Fame!'	Conor Prendeville: 'Hopes'
<i>Especially Commended</i>	
David Moore: 'Ferrari'	Rory O'Connor: 'Dreaming'
Marcella O'Connor: 'Pony Dreams'	Aileen O Mahony Boyd: 'Gloom House'
Edel Sheehan: 'Dreaming'	Dominika Stepowska: 'Meeting Miley Cyrus'
Vivienne O'Keefe: 'Imaginaria'	Roisín Foley: 'Dream'
Róisín Kavanagh: 'Dreaming'	Andrew Buckley: 'Jesus Loves Us'
Dayna Shanahan: 'Perfect Princess'	

Category C: 5th and 6th Class Primary	
<i>Category Winner</i>	
Gearóid Lynes: 'Firework'	
<i>Very Highly Commended</i>	
Christian Walsh: 'Dreaming of Peace'	Niamh Guiney: 'Reach for the Sky'
<i>Especially Commended</i>	
Cliona McCrory: 'Dreaming'	Darragh O'Keefe: 'The Taj Mahal'

Maciek Dettlaff: 'Just Relax'	Nicola Collins: 'Dreamer'
Sean O'Brien: 'Christ the Redeemer'	William Mullane: 'Stairway to Heaven'
Caoimhe Collins: 'Dreams'	Becca: 'Joy'
Niamh O'Keefe: 'Dreaming of a Greener Future'	Rebecca Eustace: 'Beach House Sunset'
Michael O'Callaghan: 'My House'	

Category E: 1st and 2nd Year Post-primary	
<i>Category and Overall Winner</i>	
Heraldas Vaivada: 'Aiming for Hope'	
<i>Very Highly Commended</i>	
Rachel O'Sullivan: 'Spreading Joy'	Tomás O'Neill: 'Cry of Hope'
Arron McSweeney: 'Nightmare at Sea'	Jordan O'Callaghan: 'Drowning in Sorrows'
Aimee O'Callaghan: 'Beginning of the End'	
<i>Especially Commended</i>	
Mary Healy: 'River of Hope'	Khadijha Soliman: 'Sad Story'
Aoife Crean: 'My Hopes for the Future'	Gemma O'Regan 'Joy'
Sarah Hickey: 'Fashion Display'	Megan Culloty: 'Dream Holiday'
Siobhán Gillies: 'A Dream of Heaven and Hell'	Diarmuid O'Connor: 'Childhood'
Orna Guerin: 'Crossing Sorrow'	

Category F: 3rd and Transition Years Post-primary	
<i>Category Winner</i>	
Áine Singleton: 'Day Dreaming Through a Window'	
<i>Very Highly Commended</i>	
Mary O'Leary: 'Sorrow'	Michelle Neville: 'Dreams'
<i>Especially Commended</i>	
Nicole Blake: 'Dream View'	Orla Kelleher: 'High Peace at a Sorrowful Funeral'
Anthony Murphy: 'Circus Glee'	

Category G: Leaving Certificate Cycle Post-primary	
<i>Category Winner</i>	
Lukasz Komonski: 'Broken Hearted'	
<i>Very Highly Commended</i>	
Shannon Moynihan: 'Coming Home'	Una Twohig: 'Dreaming of a Lighter Day'
<i>Especially Commended</i>	
Emer Forde: 'Bad Dream'	Aoife Hosey: 'Unwanted'
Alex Bourke: 'Agony'	