

# **Kanturk Arts Festival 2018**

## **Schools Art Competition**

**Theme: PRIDE OF PLACE**

Categories:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Class 65 entries
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Class 67 entries
3. 4<sup>th</sup> Class 51 entries
4. Senior 77 entries – divided into two groups: a).13 years & b). 14years

## **Adjudicator's Report**

Adjudicating this competition is always a privilege and a pleasure for a variety of reasons. There is always a great team working with me, dealing with the considerable mountain of entries, which they must sort into categories and make accessible to me for viewing. We usually discuss my choices after I have made the final decisions and we share a cuppa.

Without exception, I am always delighted with the entries. Some of them rise above the limitations of medium or chosen subject matter and show that extra injection of ingenuity and a wish to tell a story that usually separates good entries from great or even exceptional ones. Over many years, a pattern has become apparent. Usually the works by the youngest age categories show the kind of bravery and boldness that comes from the authentic voice of the child. Entries from senior primary school students start to display some conservatism and their previously unbridled inventiveness seems to diminish, somewhat. Generally, there are fewer entries from the more senior students. Some second-level students may have already marked art as a possible career and may display sophisticated technical skills. Often though, the younger students surpass the older ones, not just in their boldness and strength of design, but even the technical level of their drawing.

This year's competition, however, turned things around. As is my usual practice, I started by adjudicating the entries from the younger age categories. While there were significantly good paintings, overall, I was left feeling that this year, the students had not grappled with their work with their usual aplomb and bravado.

When it came to the entries from the older pupils, any feeling of complacency left me abruptly. The first picture immediately made me pay attention, as did the next, and so on.....here was a wave of fresh picture-making that was extraordinary. These works ranged across various media and treatments.

One picture that particularly attracted my attention was a carefully-composed and worked drawing in coloured pencil. (I have remarked in previous years, on how

difficult and time-consuming it is to cover a whole sheet evenly using coloured pencil). Also, there were beautiful studies where the page was divided vertically in two and a particular image was explored using two different media. This approach, (obviously led by a forward-thinking teacher) demonstrated that variety of means available to students simply by changing their materials, while maintaining the same image.

This category had marvellous examples of works in paint, pencil, and applied paper.

For me, the central part played by the imaginative use of materials the image and its message, was amply demonstrated by the most delightful picture of this year's competition and which I deemed to be the overall winner. Hand torn, coloured tissue and cut, opaque, papers, evoked the sensation of a Japanese, coloured-woodcut. By cleverly layering a middle-blue tissue over a medium-brown and allowing sections of both colours to be visible **Róisín Cussen** achieved a subtle mix of colours and brought to her picture the delicacy that has made the Japanese prints so popular. Tucked away, in the centre, she includes an aerial view of a rowing boat amongst the rocks of a shoreline. She gives us a sense of 'the near and the far', with cut out arabesques of dark, bare branches against the light of the sky. She has assembled a wonderfully clever picture that is deceptively simple.



**Overall Winner:**

**Róisín Cussen**

age 14

Scoil Mhuire Kanturk

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

### Category Winner:

**Brian O’Keeffe St. Colman’s BNS**



**Brian** has given us a wonderfully observed view of the main street in Kanturk. He shows businesses in the town, including the stone-faced building that houses the sponsors of the Schools Art Competition, namely Kanturk Credit Union. Brian has included the pedestrian crossing and parked car as well as people going about their business on the other side of the street.

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### Highly Commended:

Zoe Linehan, Kanturk GNS, Gavin Barry, St. Colman’s BNS, Liam Keane, Lismire NS,  
Fion Desmond, Banteer NS, Goda Petraityte, Kanturk GNS, Eoin Nolan O’Shea, Banteer NS,  
Emily Sheehy, Banteer NS, Holly O’Dea, Kanturk GNS, Holly McCarthy, Banteer NS.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

#### Category Winner:

**Liam Allen      St. Colman's BNS 'The King of the Pride'**



Clever interpretation of the exhibition theme allows **Liam** to give a masterful display of wildlife study at its best. His pastel is laid down in a single layer, confidently showing his grasp of the medium. A fine piece.

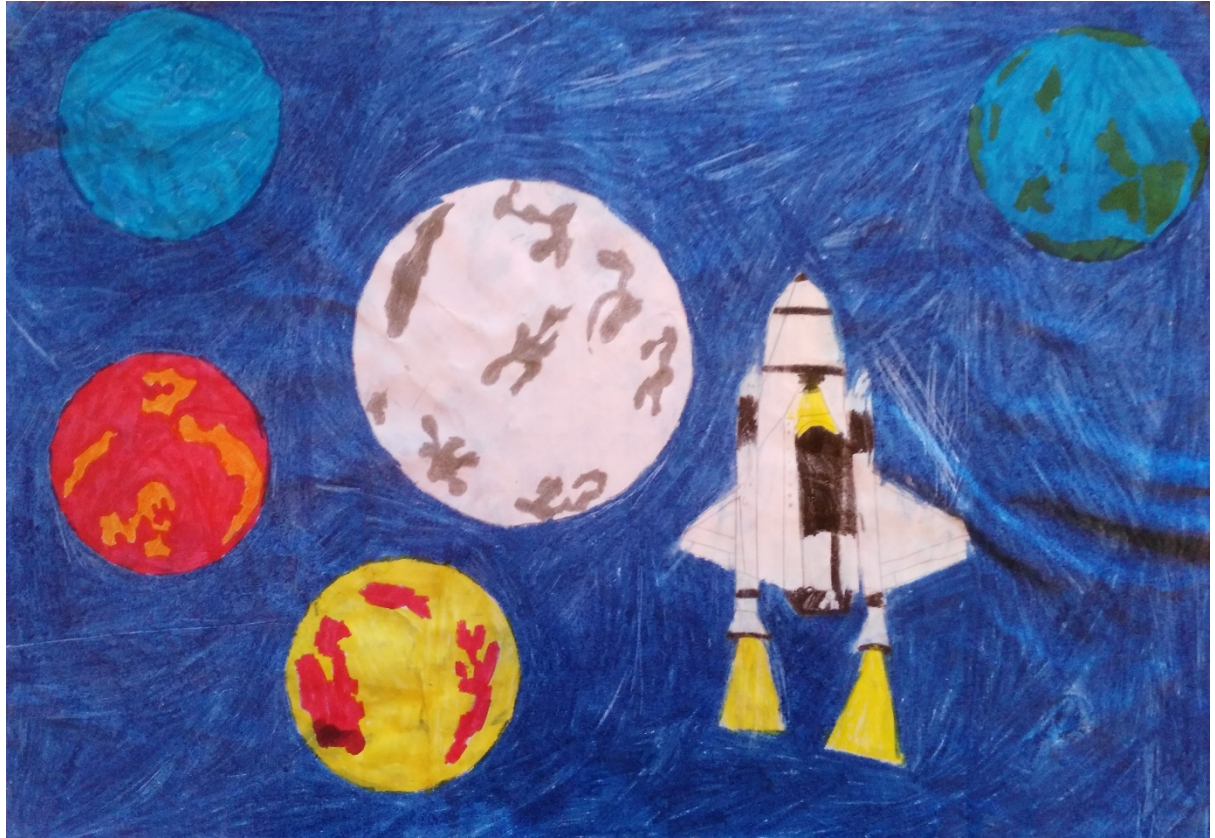
#### Highly Commended:

Alan Brosnan, Scoil Eoin Baiste, Eimear Barrett, Banteer NS, Millie Lynam, Banteer NS,  
Muiris Reidy Banteer NS, Ciarán McKeever, St Colman's BNS, Colin Sheehan, St Colman's BNS,  
Eimear O'Connor, Scoil Eoin Baiste,



## 4<sup>th</sup> Class

Category Winner:      **Wojciech Dzieczic**      **St. Colman's BNS**



There were other space themed pictures in this category, but **Wojciech** won through because of his draughtsmanship, particularly in executing the space shuttle. There is a sense of completion about this work.

### Highly Commended:

Chlöe Clifford, Scoil Eoin Baiste, Oisín Twomey, Banteer NS, Rory Sheehy, Banteer,  
Aoife Buckley Lismire, Maciej Gejzak, St Colman's BNS, Jack Finnegan, Banteer NS,  
Emilia Jarkiewicz, Kanturk GNS, Ciarán McKeever, St. Colman's BNS.

**Senior**

**Category Winner: a). Molly Kirwan (13 years) Scoil Mhuire.**

**Title: The Blackwater**



This wonderfully moody, riparian landscape, by **Molly** shows a fine blend of boldness and delicacy. Gentle, creamy blues in sky and river contrast well with the dark shapes of the trees on either bank. A bare branch in the top left-hand corner serves to frame the foreground and the golden glow of sunset behind the trees identifies the source of our light.

Highly Commended Senior category a). and b).

Noah Walsh, Coláiste Treasa, Diarmuid O'Connor, Scoil Mhuire, Ciarán Donovan. Scoil Mhuire, Kasey McMahon, Coláiste Treasa, Gemma Gunn, Coláiste Treasa, Sadhbh Neenan, Scoil Mhuire, James O'Connor, Scoil Mhuire, Ryan O'Flaherty, Coláiste Treasa, Nadia Grisoni, Scoil Mhuire, Eoin Cronin, Scoil Mhuire, Cody O'Sullivan, Scoil Mhuire.

**Senior**

**Category b).**

**Category and OVERALL WINNER:**

**Róisín Cussen (14 years)    Scoil Mhuire**



*My thoughts on this picture are at the beginning of this report.*

*John Philip Murray, Lissardagh.*

*10<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

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