

Artistic talent abundant at the Valley Arts Council

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From beautiful Ottawa Valley scenery to finger food where the food was fingers, the Valley Arts Council had it all on display at Festival Hall.

About 100 people gathered in the foyer gallery at the hall as the arts group announced the winners of its latest juried art show.

The gallery featured many pieces of art ranging from sculptures, photographs, to a myriad of different types and styles of paintings, sketches and drawings.

Maggie Briscoe, co-chairperson of the show, was pleased with the number of entries and the age range of the various artists.

She explained that the arts council decided to make the show more open this year by eliminating the various categories such as mixed media three dimensions, etc. Work was simply classified as art and the show open to artists from age one to whatever, as long as they resided in either Renfrew or Pontiac counties. The youngest entrant that made it into the final show was Jorah Stuart-Paul, eight years old.

"We decided to go for broke and see what wonderfully creative things artists would come up with," said Jane Levoy, arts council manager.

Ms. Briscoe added that there were 104 entries this year, which she considered very good.

The judging process began with artists photographing their work and submitting those pictures to the jurors. From those pictures, jurors Janet Moore and Kim Hanewich decided which pieces of art would move on in the show. Those pieces that were selected were then actually viewed by the jurors, who decided which pieces would make the exhibition.

The jurors then viewed those same pieces again with the idea of deciding which pieces would receive some sort of award. Those selected for awards were then judged again, this time with the jurors designating the various pieces with their specific awards.

"The jurors are trained to jury an exhibition like this. They take courses and have specific qualifications," Ms. Levoy said.

She congratulated all of the artists and told them that it was very hard to even get their work displayed in the exhibit.

The final show consists of 43 works.

Eva Gallagher was the other co-chairwoman of the show.

Receiving honourable mention from the judges was Jessica Brabant, Eva Gallagher and Nicolette Lagace.

The top four awards were as follows:

In fourth place, Barbara Blackstein; in third place, Claudette Spence; in second place, Leslie White; and in first place and awarded best of show, Alan Docherty.

The exhibition only opened this past Friday night. The 43 works will remain on display for a month, giving the public plenty of time to come in and have a look. The exhibit is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ms. Levoy said that school groups, art groups, and other specific groups are welcome to contact the Valley Arts Council to arrange a viewing of the exhibit during off-hours. The council will attempt to have at least one artist present to answer questions.

Anthony Dixon is a Daily Observer reporter

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