



Art Awards

The Maleny Art Awards

have been held annually since 1994 in the St George's Anglican Church Hall. The Awards are well-supported by local businesses and art lovers, with a significant cash prize pool. A diverse range of sections, from traditional to contemporary and abstract attracts entries from all over Australia. It is held over three days on the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend in June each year.

www.malenyartawards.com

The Maleny Apex Hinterland Young Artists' Awards have been started up to foster the talents of young people in the Sunshine Coast area. It includes categories such as sculpture, photography and manual arts.

A rising star in Australian art, Maleny artist and musician, Peter Hudson, won the Maleny Art Award – open section – and then the painting section in two successive years. He went on to win first prize (open) in the Caloundra Art Festival; first prize in the Westpac Mount Olivet Reflections of Life Art Prize and the Mayor's prize in the Kenilworth Arts Festival. Peter's portrait of singer Paul Kelly was a finalist in the prestigious Archibald Prize. Also a finalist in the Sunshine Coast Art Prize in 2006, 2007 and 2008, Peter won first prize in 2009 against a field of artists from all around Australia.

Peter Hudson

These paintings are part of a new series of work painted 'plein air' on site at Kintore near Papunya (Western Desert). The painting along with other work from Galiwinku (North-east Arnhem Land and Uluru) is featured in two new books based on iconic Australian songs: *My Island Home* by Neil Murray and *Solid Rock* by Shane Howard. The books are published by One Day Hill Publishing. The project is part of the Ian Thorpe Fountain for Youth Foundation, designed to assist literacy and learning for children and families in remote Indigenous communities.

www.peterhudsonart.com



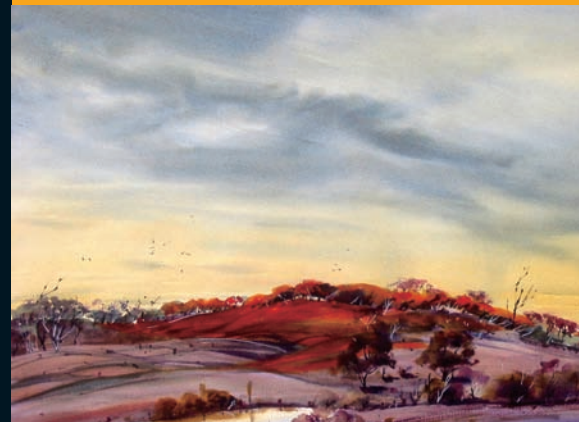
Diane Somers-Cook

Watercolour is such a moving and exciting medium. As an artist, I create the mood and the poetry through minimal strokes of the brush. I paint the essential simplified form to portray what I want to say. Less is more. I am really enjoying the journey.

Through mastery of her chosen medium and impressionistic style, Diane creates mystery and intrigue that invites speculation about the subject matter.

Diane has won many awards, including the St George's Award (Champion) 2008 and First in Watercolour 2009, Maleny Art Awards. The success of her classes and workshops in Maleny has encouraged Diane to broaden her horizons by offering tutored painting workshops in Australia and overseas.

www.dianesomerscook.com



Michele Retschlag

My formal training equipped me with a solid grounding in the elements and principles of art and rudimentary training in 'fine art'. Decorating our first home revealed an undiscovered passion for painting.

Bushwalking and an interest in environmental issues were the catalysts for my serene subject choices, and fulfilled a need for balance against the frenetic energies of our three small children at the time. Landscape is still my favourite subject choice.

After teaching watercolour classes for over twenty years in Brisbane, I am enjoying retirement in Maleny and now concentrate on the further development of my art.

www.micheleretschlag.com



A work of art which did not begin in emotion is not art.

Paul Cezanne

Other annual art awards in the Blackall Range area include the Zonta Women in Art and the Kenilworth Art Prize, which is a national acquisitive prize with a considerable cash prize to support artists in their endeavours.

Many of the artists featured in *Earth Dreams Magic* are award winners although some have chosen not to mention their awards. In the art world it is recognition that can make a career and instil the necessary confidence to devote the time to develop as an artist. Becoming an artist is a journey that requires faith in oneself as well as talent, and appreciation by others is an important part of that journey.

Being an artist
means not reckoning and counting
but ripening like the tree
which does not force its sap
and stands confident
in the storms of spring
without the fear that after them
may come no summer

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875 – 1926)



Elsie Brimblecombe

I have been painting for over fifty years. My style is somewhat naïve relying on pattern and colour for effect.

The paintings reproduced here are from a series of fifty-seven painted in 2009, inspired by Italo Calvino's book 'Invisible Cities.' I enjoyed the challenge of imagining what these cities might be like.

The possibility of 'chaotic enumeration' provided by Calvino and the fantastic fabulist flavour of the text allowed me to play with the repetition of shapes. This provided the opportunity to be irrational with the placing of buildings and other images.

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