

18th May 2011

City art gallery features Mental Health Fellowship works

The 6th annual Mental Health Fellowship Open Art Competition has now closed and all works will now be on exhibit at the Shoalhaven City Gallery until 8th June 2011.

The exhibition covers themes relating to mental health and recovery, and seeks to promote an understanding of the issue within the broader community.

The competition was open to all artists and encouraged them to explore differing and diverse perspectives.

The theme for 2011 was '**Family and Friends – Support makes a difference**', and the winning entry was "*Theatre of Life*" by Karen Alibone. Karen's painting is of a guardian angel or parental figure trying to control her unruly children and protect them from danger. The guardian figure is herself hanging by a fairly tenuous thread. The painting appealed to the judges because it spoke to the fact that the family and friends of people with mental illness are often also at risk.

Second prize went to Elizabeth Poole for her work "*United We Stand*" and equal third prizes were awarded to Shirley McDermid for "*Family Love*" and Paul Jenson's "*Man and Dog*". Highly commended prizes were awarded to Randall Sinnamon, Linda Adams and Paul Dimmer.

Shoalhaven City Art Gallery Manager Ms Tracey Glenn encourages everyone to get along to see the exhibition.

"Mental Health is an issue that affects us all in one way or another. It's wonderful to be able to see some important social issues reflected in these amazing and inspiring artworks." Ms Glenn said

"We encourage all members of the community to view the current exhibition and to consider entering the 2012 competition, the theme for which will be announced shortly. Entry forms are available from March each year". Ms Glenn said.

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