



## MID-NORTH COAST ARTIST WINS MAJOR REGIONAL ART PRIZE

Mid-North Coast artist Rod Spicer has won the \$3000 Peabody Wilpinjong Prize for Hanging Art at Art Unlimited which opened at Dunedoo in the Central West of NSW last Friday.

Rod's oil painting "At Strike-a-Light (Property)" was chosen from 200 works by judge Lizzy Galloway, Gallery Curator at Mudgee Art Precinct. She described the work as "a beautifully executed landscape which highlights the artist's confident use of oil paint, varnish and palette knives". She added "There is an underlying understanding and love for the Australian countryside. I was drawn to the Australian impressionist style and the nod to Tom Roberts' use of blue and golden hues."

Rod Spicer lives in the historic village of Tinonee on the Manning River near Taree. He describes his work as depicting "a romance with country life, initiated by remembrance with thoughts from my past emerging as images - images so intense that they become feelings. It is these feelings that I am urged to create".

Other works that were Highly Commended in the Hanging Art category were "Country Link" by Don Talintyre of Appin, "Approaching Storm" by Eugenia Dunlevie of Newcastle and "Isaac" by Jaymee Hyland of Dubbo.

Winner of the \$3000 RES Prize for Photography was Kate Barclay of Canowindra for her work titled "Hibiscus Ballet". Highly Commended were "Desert Illumination" by Andrew Batey of Terrigal, "Bawi-li Dhunbarrbilla-li dhuwarr" by Lorraine King of Coonamble and "Portrait in Clay" by Lise Edwards of Lithgow.

Susie McMeekin of Katoomba won the \$3000 Art Unlimited Ceramics Prize for her "Snow on basalt vase". Highly Commended in this category were Geoff Thomas of Gilgandra for "Anagama Jar", Anne Mossman of Elanora for "Raining Celebrations" and Pamela Welsh of Mudgee for "The Princess and the Glass Piano 1".

Other prizes included the ABC Western Plains Prize which was awarded to Merren Turnbull of Bourke for her painting "Run for Your Money", Deutscher Contracting Packing Room Prize won by Pauline Welfare of Portland for ceramic work "Dragonfly Pot 1" and the Janace Holmes Family Memorial Prize won by Geraldine Taylor of Peakhurst for her artwork "Dawn Guardian".

The Dunedoo Rural Hardware People's Choice Prize will be announced when votes are counted at the end of the exhibition on Sunday 29 May.

Please call Penny Stevens (02) 63751540 or Marianne Deutscher 0402 404 352 for further information.



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