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People's pick perfect prize for painting

Artist Jan Quinn has taken out the People's Choice Award at the Tresillian Arts Centre's 2018 Student and Tutor Exhibition with her work *Beachcomber*.

Celebrating its 17th year, the annual exhibition showcased the work of students who learnt new art skills over the past 18 months at the centre and also featured works from the tutors who mentored them.

The \$500 People's Choice Award, sponsored by Captain Stirling IGA, was decided by visitors to the two-week exhibition.

"I tend to use acrylic paint, charcoal and various found and painted papers to create a collage effect," Ms Quinn said.

"I think my work is abstract expressionist in style – I love playing with colour and texture and often focus on opposites.

"These include hard-edged and free-flowing forms, solid blocks of colour with heavily textured areas or a neutral palette with a warm, rich colour accent.

"My paintings just evolve – I rarely have a plan, which makes the end result more spontaneous and satisfying."

Originally training as a secondary school art and craft teacher in Melbourne, Ms Quinn taught in numerous schools in Victoria, London and Perth.

Now retired, she paints for pleasure and has exhibited in numerous joint exhibitions in the past 15 years.

Ms Quinn described her Tresillian Arts Centre tutor Mitzi Smith as an inspiration.

"As a result of her vast experience, her suggestion to add a colour here or a shape there is usually spot on," she said.

"Her wealth of knowledge is evident as she suggests several different ways to solve a problem, handle a medium or introduce a less experienced student to different techniques."

Ms Quinn also has some advice for Tresillian Arts Centre students, classes and their journeys as artists.

"I have been attending classes at Tresillian for a number of years and, apart from enjoying the classes, I have made many new like-minded friends," she said.

"Some are having their first artistic experience and some have been around for a while.

“In Mitzi’s class, we all paint very differently but are constantly learning from each other.

“And we all enjoy our morning tea from the excellent coffee shop, which is a bonus!”



Winner of the Tresillian People’s Choice Award Jan Quinn, left, with her painting *Beachcomber* with manager Blair Morgan from Captain Stirling IGA, sponsor of the prize.

For further information, please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500.