

EAC Over 60's Art Awards Call for Entries

In 2008, EAC's Over 60s Art Awards attracted nearly 2000 entries, of which over 50% were from older people in residential care homes and sheltered housing or from those who attend a day centre.

The artists quoted below speak for themselves:...

'My experience is that as one ages, and one's capabilities diminish, participating in exhibitions is exhilarating, and much improves one's attitudes, which sometimes, obviously, can be subject to a mild degree of depression.'

Archibald Campbell, aged 79, resident in France and aspiring entrant

'I keep painting, and I hope I can go on painting, because it's the most important thing in my life.'

Nan Leifer, aged 88, 2008 winner of the Peverel Prize for Still Life

'Talent doesn't decrease with age, but opportunities do..... I believe your format for entering the Awards is most helpful.....your venues are good, wonderful to have your work displayed in a good London gallery.'

June Martin, entrant since 2006

'I have always found the exhibitions well-run, efficient and welcoming..... I am 93 ½ and ever-hopeful.'

Agnes Bantock, entrant since 2006

A wide range of people enter the EAC Over 60s Art Awards. There are only two stipulations; that they should be over 60 years of age, and that they should be amateur artists. It doesn't matter if they've practised their Art since childhood, or discovered a talent in retirement, whether they paint at home alone, or join in a group, or society, U3A or art as therapy group in a Care Home setting. Group collaborative entries are also welcome.

In 2008, a partially sighted 81 year-old, Edna Dray, and her son, Mick Beale, aged 61, both made it into the exhibition. Leslie Child, a 61 year-old, received the Winsor & Newton prize for watercolour, sold his picture to a gallery-owner in Milan, and later arranged for one of his Leeds pictures to be made into a jig-saw. Three people from an extra-care housing scheme in Birmingham, all over 90 years of age, entered the competition in 2008, and although none of them was shortlisted, express their intention to enter again!

EAC's Over 60s Art Awards have been running since 1995, and have an enthusiastic following. In those 14 years they have attracted over 25,000 entries from amateur artists working in all mediums; watercolour, oil, pencil, acrylic, sculpture, photography, textiles etc. There is no limit to subject matter for aspiring entrants to the competition, and EAC's gallery archives bear testimony to the scope of talent and ambition among artists whose ages range from 60 to 95 years of age. The annual exhibitions, most recently held at the Bankside Gallery, Hopton Street, next door to The Tate Modern, showcase the work of artists who have made it through the first round of judging, and whose work may also receive one of the coveted eleven prizes, awarded on the preview day.

These are the dates for the 2009 competition:

- **Deadline for entries 26th October**
- Artists informed of outcome of their entry 2nd November
- Preview Day 1st December
- **Exhibition at The Bankside Gallery 2nd to 6th December**

All details, including online and postal entry are on EAC's brand new Art Awards website, at www.eacartawards.org.uk. Please visit the website and view the gallery of over 700 exhibited works from 2003 onwards, as well as three videos highlighting creative activities within residential settings.