



Tualatin's Anna Lancaster takes top honors at 2015 Tualatin ArtSplash

AnnaLancaster.jpg

Anna Lancaster with her painting, "Lavender Picking Lunch Break," that won best in show at this year's Tualatin ArtSplash. (*Ginger Moshofsky*)

Special to The Oregonian By Special to The Oregonian

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ArtSplash juror Celeste Bergin: "I wish I could have given out more ribbons...There is so much good art in there."

Tualatin artist **Anna Lancaster** earned the best in show honors for **Tualatin's 2015 ArtSplash**. The show and sale, held July 24-26, is the city's annual summer art showcase.

Entries this year included works in jewelry, glass, oil painting, wood, acrylic, ceramics, pastels, fiber, mosaics, mixed media and photography.

Lancaster's painting, "Lavender Picking Lunch Break," showed knowledge of design, color, graduated color, a variety of edges and composition, according to ArtSplash juror Celeste Bergin.

"Most of all, the painting imparts 'life' with its warm color harmony and an implied enthusiasm for company and friends," said Bergin. "Concept and execution wins here."

The prizes for ArtSplash were presented during a July 25 awards celebration. Michael Mason earned first place honors, Charity Stewart earned second place and Dorothy Steele earned third. June Blout and Chad Presley took home the Honorable Mentions.

Bergin is well known in the Portland art community. She attended the **Art Institute of Chicago, Pacific Northwest College of Art** and worked for 25 years in graphic design and advertising.

"This lady (Bergin) is just a force for artists in Oregon," said Lancaster.

In choosing this year's ArtSplash winners, Bergin explained at the awards ceremony that she looked for strong composition and an unusual or original approach to the medium, subject or design. She looked for a communication of passion and enthusiasm and a sense of mystery, drama or emotion. She also looked for breathing room, meaning something left to the imagination, leaving space for the viewer to bring something to the piece.

First place winner Michael Mason is unique because the medium he uses to create his artwork is dried plants and flowers, most of which he grows in his garden. He carefully harvests and dries them to maintain as much of their natural color as possible, then attaches them to his collage mosaics using fine tweezers and glue.

Bergin said that any number of Mason's pieces could have won a prize because his body of work shows a complete understanding of values and a unity of style. She chose "Book Ends," a collage mosaic of two cats, as the first place winner. She especially noted appreciation for his originality in using exclusively plant materials and leaves, which she found to be a highly creative and original approach.

Charity Stewart's necklace from the "Rustic Rain Collection" earned second place. Bergin was impressed that Stewart was able to transform something as ethereal as rain into something tangible and permanent.

Dorothy Steele's "Suspended Ceramic Bird Bath" won third with Bergin noting, "it is meant to attract birds to the yard. It is meant to fit in with the natural world and it does, because it mirrors nature in such a sensitive and convincing way. "

Chad Presley earned an Honorable Mention with his painting "Winter Butterflies." June Blout earned an Honorable Mention for her fiber piece, "Japanese Figure Jacket."

"It was a really great experience for me. I wish I could have given out more ribbons," said Bergin. "These to me were the six most exemplary. There is so much good art in there. It is just lovely."

-- Ginger Moshofsky

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