



Lee Kaiser photo

Art juror Doug Wills explained the judging decisions to some of the artists who submitted entries to the Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition. The judging tour occurred on Saturday afternoon, and was followed by an open house on Saturday evening.

Work of local artists recognized

(Special) – The Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition selected a dozen works for recognition.

They were “Queen” by Terri LeGear, “Happy Owls” by Melina Jacques, “Kiskatinaw” by Peter Shaw, “Second Commandment” by David Thiessen, “Geese of the Peace” by Wayne Sawchuk, “Chinook Sunset” by Wayne Sawchuk, “Blue Cat” by Patricia Markin, “String of Pearls” by Joyce Benson, “God’s Country” by Carole-May Coty, “Red Sky at Morn” by Lorraine Beggs, “Untitled” by Lorraine Beggs, and “Attitude”

by Aleta Tiefensee.

From these 12 pieces, a draw was made for the work to receive the EnCana Recognition Award, with Benson’s “String of Pearls” chosen.

As well, eight honourable mentions were also chosen: “Oval Vase” by Laurie Embree, “Johannes Factotum” by Alana Hall, “Sensuality” by Terri LeGear, “Al and Joe go Fishing” by Mary Mottishaw, “Connie Comin” by David Thiessen, “Pilgrim’s Garden” by Joyce Benson, “M’ Lady” by Donna Ony, and “Millar Road” by Lloyd Bast.

EnCana also sponsored a student award,

which was won by Elizabeth Warner for her work, “Feline Friends”.

As in previous years the event also included a People’s Choice award, this year sponsored by the hosting committee. Visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite piece at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery where the exhibit will remain on display until March 25.

The South Peace Community Arts Council, Dawson Creek Art Gallery and the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council were the co-hosts for this event, which circulates through five communities on an annual basis.

What’s involved in judging art?

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DAILY NEWS

The ideal art juror needs to be a jack of all arts.

“I think having a certain knowledge or appreciation of different media - especially when you’re looking at a show like this where there’s ink drawings, oil, acrylic, photographs, ceramic work - it’s good to have some realization of what those things do and what people can do to improve them. And that was part of our adventure today,” art juror Doug Wills said at the end of the Saturday’s Jurors Tour at Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

A dozen artists, competing as part of the Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibit, joined Wills and his wife Tina Martel, also a fellow juror, as the two critiqued some of the top entrants lining the gallery’s aisles.

Jurors are typically invited from out

of town by the local arts council so as not to have any preconceived ideas about the competing artists.

Wills is from Grande Prairie and in addition to being a practicing artist, has formal education in fine arts and an extensive background in teaching at the post-secondary level.

But often it’s the artists that have no formal training at all that bring an unconstrained perspective to the judging, he said.

“I think their decisions and discussions about art are just as valid as other artists if not more so... because we have a certain slant to it coming from a college and a certain way of speaking to the students about their work,” Wills said.

Other than having juried exhibitions at the Grande Prairie Regional College, where he teaches, the Dawson Creek exhibition is his first formal jurying.

As the couple gave their running

commentary Saturday it was obvious there are countless ways an amateur artist can go astray.

But according to Wills one of the biggest mistakes an artist can make is to let his/ her signature draw the viewer away from the work of art itself.

“It may sound minor... but at this level when people are painting they are very proud of what they accomplish and they tend to express that by signing their name quite large,” he said, adding it’s becoming common to sign the back of the work instead.

As far as the Dawson Creek exhibition he said it was refreshing to see artists deviating from the typical themes of prairie landscapes that dominate the art scene of the region.

The 105 entries, which include 12 art pieces chosen for special recognition, are on display at the art gallery until March 25. (For a list of works chosen for recognition, see page B1.)