

PORTFOLIO SPECIAL

The Artists & Illustrators Artist of the Year 2009

In association with 

The wait is over! O3 Gallery manager Sophie Egleton and BP Portrait award-winner Craig Wylie joined our editorial judging panel to help select the *Artists & Illustrators Artist of the Year 2009*. Read on to find out the winners and runners-up in each of the three categories...

Landscapes



The O3 Gallery in Oxford is an official partner of the Artist of the Year Competition 2009. www.o3gallery.co.uk



Runner-up
MAGGIE TREDWELL
Old Nick's, acrylics, 60x70cm

"I paint a lot of urban landscapes, especially ordinary buildings like shops, and I love perspective and creating the illusion of three-dimensional space.

"The places I paint do exist – *Old Nick's* is down the road from where I live. I tend to leave out things like cars, satellite dishes and figures. I want to create paintings with a nostalgic, lonely feel. A lot of my paintings have that feeling of desolation."



Runner-up
JANETTE SUMMERFIELD
Vitalism II, pastel, 33x23cm

"I love the vibrancy of pastels and the colour that is just there – for me a box of pastels is like a box of sweets. I'm painting more in the abstract, becoming increasingly expressive. I used to paint much more literally; I was a watercolourist mainly drawn to botanical painting and have a degree in 3D design. As well as this award, I've also become a full member of the Society of Women Artists this year."

Category winner



Category Winner
DEREK DOHREN

The Fossil Hunters, acrylics, 40x50cm

"I was in Whitby, Yorkshire, with my family and I was struck by the layers and bands in the cliffs. It's a place where a lot of fossil-hunting goes on. It was such an eye-catching scene and I just felt I needed to paint it.

"I took a few days to think about it and then the actual painting took very little time. I painted quickly and instinctively, working from reference photographs and what was in my head. This is the first competition I've entered. I liked what I'd painted but only had the courage to send it off because of the response I had from other people."

"We were all struck by the strangeness of this landscape – what's going on? What's the story? At first, you are not sure what you are looking at, and then the figures in the foreground suddenly appear. I like pictures that make you think a little to understand them."

LYNN PARR, EDITOR



Still lifes

Runner-up

ILARIA ROSSELLI DEL TURCO

Mangetout,
oil on canvas, 26x44cm

"*Mangetout* was done for a culinary themed show in Milan called *The Studio and Kitchen*. My main occupation is feeding my children and in that sense it is a personal theme. Cooking and the kitchen are central in my life, and also in Italian culture – I love kitchen utensils and I am always buying the odd pot or plate.

"I have never won any prizes but I have exhibited at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters three times, at the Chelsea Arts Society twice, and have had two solo shows in Italy."



Runner-up

ANTHONY S JONES

The Linen Cupboard,
oil on canvas, 100x100cm

"This piece is part of a series of interior still lifes I began painting about 16 months ago. Before that I painted a lot of abstract work, but this series has been painted with traditional glazes and methods of squaring up from a preliminary drawing.

"I have recently become interested in Victorian art, which is heavily focused on interiors and rich in narrative. *The Linen Cupboard* is supposed to convey that feeling of stillness, when a room is left in a hurry, or a person is about to return. It describes the atmosphere of an empty room, where the state of the décor and furniture are left to tell the story."



Category winner



Category Winner

DAVID MITCHELL

Purple DMs, oil on canvas, 100x100cm

"If you go back, some of the Old Masters painted shoes. I recently I saw a picture of a pair of brown leather shoes by Paul Wright, who normally does portraits. It inspired me.

"My wife has had a pair of purple Dr. Marten boots for years that were her pride and joy. I wanted to emphasise the scale to create a whimsical but still somehow powerful image. DMs are a symbol of an era for so many of us, from the oxblood boots worn by skinheads to the brown shoes worn by school kids."

"David Mitchell's still life clearly stood out. The original composition and skilful handling of the paint made this my favourite. Still life is a difficult genre to create new ground in but I think this painting achieves that."

SOPHIE EGLETON, O3 GALLERY MANAGER

Portraits

Runner-up

EDWARD OFOSU

Charlotte, oil on canvas, 56x66cm

"This is a portrait of my mother I did for the BP award, where I got through to the second stage. I asked her to sit for me but after a couple of sittings could see she was growing tired, so I finished the painting from reference photographs. It took me about five weeks.

"I'm a self-taught artist. From the age of eight I wanted to paint but my father wanted me to do science. By 1997 I could no longer ignore the voice in my head so I started doing it on my own, learning from magazines and other painters' work. I feel it is a gift to love and be able to paint, and all I can do is commit to it."



Runner-up

SAM WALKER

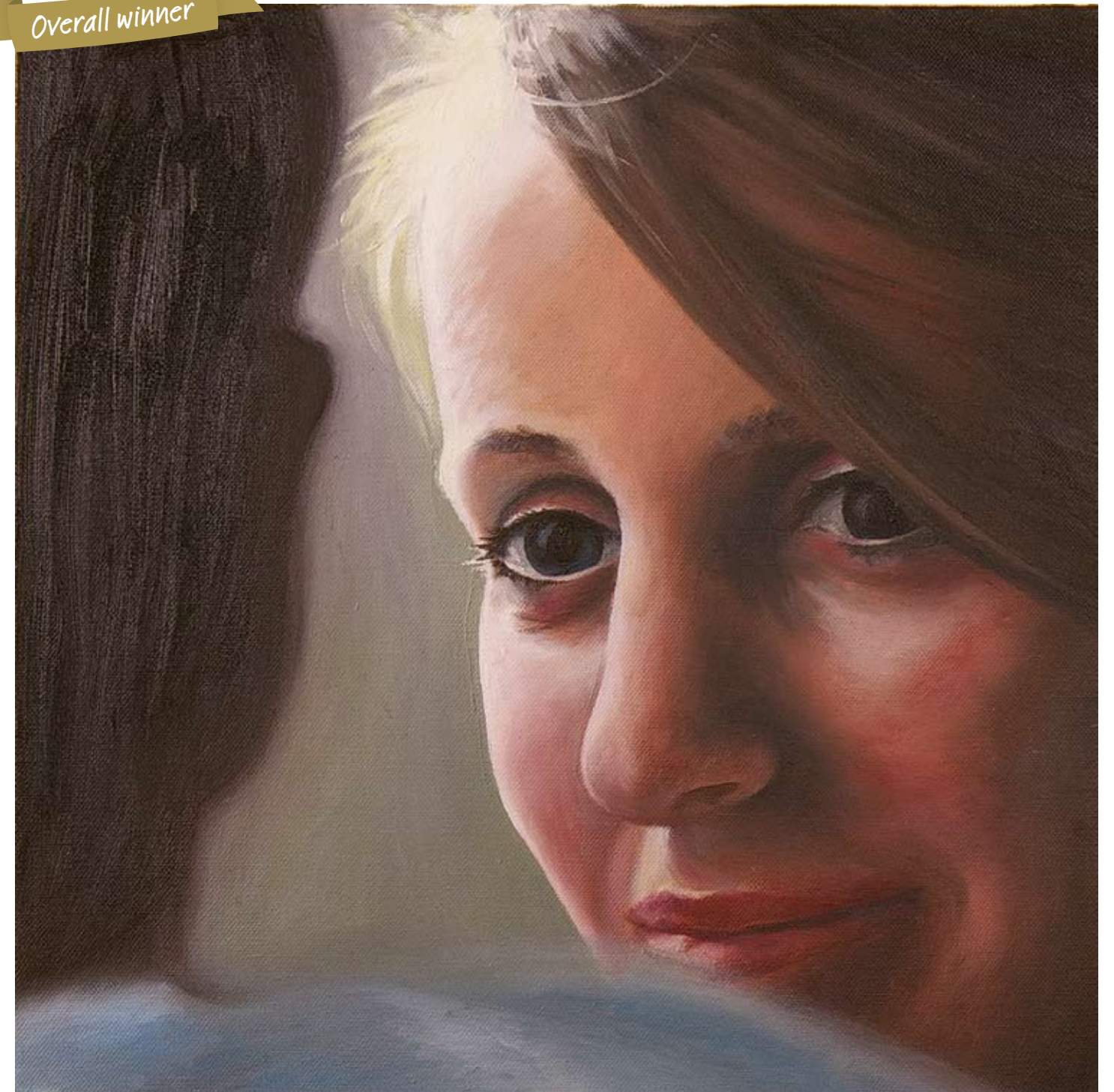
Ay! Chihuahua, acrylic on canvas, 81x81cm

"I was living in Los Angeles when I painted this. It's part of a series called 'The Dog Yearbook.' Everyone in LA is very isolated and they all have these toy dogs, which they treat better than the Mexican waiters or people they meet in the street.

"The dogs are very pampered. I wanted to paint them like they were snapshots or Polaroid pictures to get the sense of something slightly sinister. I collect postcards and calendars and things, which I then manipulate and use to compose work. I will be an artist-in-residence at Epsom College starting in August."



Overall winner



Overall & Category Winner

ALAN STRATFORD

That Certain Smile, oil on canvas, 40x40cm

"This was painted from an image I captured last year in Barcelona – a girl with this enigmatic look on her face, this very subtle, suggestive smile. It said so much to me what could be going through her head. That's where it stemmed from; it says so much without saying anything.

"This is the first portrait I've done, other than the illustrative work I did at college. I mainly paint seascapes and landscapes. I own and run a gallery now and am a member of the Somerset Art Works organisation."

"I found this work the most complex amongst the submissions – a moment stretched in time, at once intimate and distanced. The brushwork is open and simple, flattening the picture plane and giving the work a contemporary feel."

CRAIG WYLIE, BP PORTRAIT AWARD-WINNER