

The Awards



Park Gallery

MONTPELLIER | CHELTENHAM

'New Life' Art Competition





Park Gallery was established in 2017 and has gone from strength to strength, gaining a reputation of selling beautiful contemporary artwork that is diverse and affordable.

"We are always on the lookout for new and emerging artists and so to run our own art competition was an easy decision to make. We are proud of what we've achieved so far, but it's only through the talent and success of artists that Park Gallery will thrive. This competition not only provides us with an opportunity to discover hidden talent, but it also allows us to give something back to the art world and the artists that live there!"

Darren Chandler, Owner, Park Gallery



"Christian Arts Festival is always looking for opportunities to encourage, what we believe to be, God given gifts to flourish. This tournament of the visual arts has not only provided the platform, it has inspired original creativity, highlighted our uniqueness and potentially opened a door to an income. At the present time, when doctors are in some cases choosing to prescribe art therapy as opposed to anti-depressants, making art has been recognised as a healing process. Often angst can be transformed into a thing of beauty given 'New Life' and bring joy not only to the creator but to a patron of the arts in the future."

Nikki Seville, Project Leader, Cheltenham Christian Arts



Congratulations

We are immensely excited to have finally arrived at the awards evening. The "New Life" art competition was launched back in July 2022 and is potentially the first of its kind, and definitely a first for Park Gallery. We have been amazed at the response, having had nearly 400 submissions to look through. This has meant a lot of work for our judge, PJ Crook, but also highlights the achievement of all those who have been chosen as a finalist from amongst so many and to have caught the attention of such a well respected artist. We want to congratulate all of the finalists and thank everyone for supporting Park Gallery to celebrate art and encourage emerging artists.

Our Partners



christianartsfestival.org

As part of the inspiration for the competition and providing ongoing support, The Christian Arts Festival has been a tremendous help. Park Gallery would especially like to thank Nikki Seville, Project Leader for the Cheltenham Christian Arts charity, for her encouragement and input.

The Christian Arts Festival offers a wide range of Christian faith-inspired arts projects annually at their festivals. Their aim is to provide an opportunity for the town's churches to come together in celebration of the artistic Christian heritage through all the contemporary and traditional arts, by holding online or live events. They also invite International Stars to perform, exhibit artwork and to lead workshops.



We would also like to give our thanks to The Queens Hotel, for providing both a beautiful venue and refreshments to make the awards evening that bit more special.



Our Judge

A competition is not a competition without a judge, and we have been blessed to have had PJ Crook, with all her experience and talent, cast her eye over all the entries. Park Gallery is very thankful for her input into this competition to make it such a success.

PJ lives and works in Gloucestershire and is an artist of international repute, having dealers in Paris, Canada and New York as well as London. PJ's work and her renown stretches abroad.



PJ's paintings combine a highly distinctive style with extraordinary technical mastery. Rather than painting from photographs or direct observation, PJ prefers to draw from a combination of remembered observation and imagination, resulting in an intuitive and resolved composition. Few contemporary artists are more accomplished at depicting perspective or depth of field, and the viewer has a sense of being invited into each painting, encouraged by the inclusion of the frame in the picture surface.

Her work features in many major private and public collections including that of Imperial War Museum London; Ha'avatz, Israel; El Mundo, Madrid; La Ville de Paris; the Department for Transport, London; the late King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; the President of Estonia; Conrad Black; Lord Bamford; the Marquess of Bath; Paul Allen; Jackie Collins; Peter Gabriel; Robert Fripp and Toyah Willcox.

PJ has received numerous awards including an honorary doctorate of art in 2010 and MBE for services to art in 2011.



Open Category Finalists

Apollo Chandresinghe

Nicola Currie

Raginie Duara

Katerina Evangelou

Vincent Louis Stokes

Jonathan Luxon

Louise Saward

Volodymyr Moldavskyi



Apollo Chandresinghe

"Burgeon"

42 x 30 cm

Acrylic paint, oil paint, pencil

For this piece, I used pencil for the figure and acrylic paint applied for the background. The piece represents a new life, a slight halo hovering over the head of the young child, accentuating innocence and purity.



Nicola Currie

"Tulipa Estella Rijnveld"

44 x 44 cm (framed)

Oil Painting on Cradled Gessoboard

Framed in a black tray frame

This tulip, so beloved by artists of the Dutch Golden Age, signals the new life of spring for me. Having grown this variety from a bulb I watched it emerge into this beautiful flower. By isolating the flower head from its background and leaves, the exquisite complexity of its unfolding shapes and colours becomes the focal point of the painting.



I am currently Artist in Residence at Spetchley Park and Gardens in Worcester and much of my current work is based on capturing the beauty of creation in the garden.

Raginie Duara

"Thanlai"

40,6 x 61 cm

Acrylic on canvas

Inspiration: In the midst of chaos and ever changing world, a child is born with a smile and eyes glittering with new possibilities.



Katerina Evangelou

"Gaia - Mother Earth"

140 cm width x 70 cm height

Mixed Media - Digital Painting on Canvas

The artwork depicts Gaia – our planet Earth. In Greek mythology, Gaia is the personification of the Earth, and she is one of the primordial deities.



Gaia is represented through abstraction. The work visualises Gaia's monumental power in a striking, vibrant, dynamic composition through colour, texture and fluctuating geological forms.

The bilateral representation of Gaia emphasises her dual nature – as both our mother and our refuge. In the centre of the artwork, the bilaterally identical shape outlines a "heart" which symbolises the heart/core of our own existence. My art helps us envision a New Life on our planet with hope and optimism. The artwork symbolises the Regenesis - Rebirth of Earth. It symbolises a New Life for Earth and for Humanity.

Vincent Louis Stokes

"Adoration of The Siblings"

Both 63 x 45.5 cm (including frame)
pencil on paper

This drawing probes the aesthetic principles and iconographical concepts of classical western art. It is an attempt to consolidate the seemingly overlooked significance of the prosaic day-to-day through the explication of iconography. This piece employs aesthetic devices

such as gesture, countenance, symbolism and allegory to articulate and amplify the quiet complexities of the domestic environment. It seeks to illuminate the unmemorable. In so doing, this drawing serves to acknowledge the ethereal nature of the commonplace and aims to reconcile the transcendental notions of self with the aesthetic of the everyday.



Jonathan Luxon

"The Meeting Place"

92cm x 76cm
Oil on Panel

A testimony of new life inspired by a dream: Entombed alive in a dark decaying church, I floated onto the altar and cried out "Jesus, Help!" Ten days later I encountered God and was born again. My heart, mind and soul were made new with a peace and joy I had never known. Later I read, " everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). Before the new can come, the old must come to an end. "The meeting place" was when all hope in myself had gone. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)



Louise Saward

"Disengaged"

59.5 x 69.5 cm

Watercolour on paper

This is a watercolour portrait of my 2 daughters (aged 4 and only 3 days old at the time), my 17 year old niece and my 83 year old mother.

The image was painted during what should have been a precious first meeting of grandmother and grandchild. Whilst most people depicted in the painting seem to be focused on the baby. Somehow, my mothers focus seems to be on other matters. Lost in a world of her own. Possibly contemplating her own mortality in the presence of new life.

One of my main aims when painting these portraits is to capture moments that will both engage, disturb, yet resonate with the viewer which will hopefully leave a lasting impression.



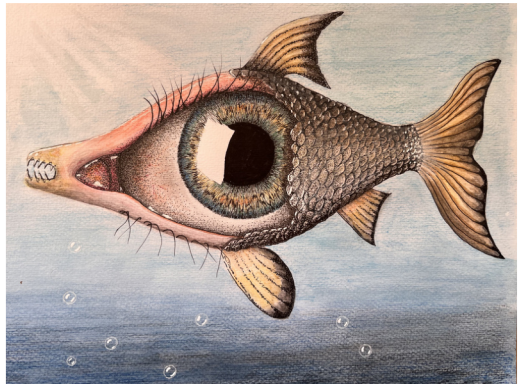
Volodymyr Moldavskiy

"Eyefish"

29.7 x 21 cm

Mixed media on paper: ink, pens, watercolours

This is an attempt to portray a window of the soul, invisible, like a fish under water



Schools Category Finalists

Haniya Fatima

Chennai

Jathushigah Kugatheesan

Costanza Pascuzzi



Haniya Fatima (year 9)

"Last one left"

10.2 x 18.1 cm

Digital

I created this artwork using digital tools to show a new life appearing in someplace that had no hope for new beginnings. I have used dull colours in the sky to

showcase sadness and darkness. I have coloured the leaves of the plant to be brighter than the background to show hope and significance for a happier change. The title of my artwork "the last one left" means to show that even though this is a new life, it is also the last one left.



Chenai (year 9)

"Generational Curse"

35 x 45 cm

Acrylic on canvas

We all live and one day we will all unfortunately pass on the cycle is forever ongoing yet inevitable. The loss of one life can be the start of many, the foolishness of one can impact generations to follow. White lotus are pure and innocent; they represent rebirth. I have the flowers withering away on the right side to show the ending of life and them flourishing on the left.

I decided to paint me and my mum to show a family dynamic. When scattering dandelions, you are creating new life: a bunch of new flowers. This whole painting is supposed to encompass the cycle of life and how as one life withers away it is up to generations to come to provide heirs to their bloodline.



Jathushigah Kugatheesan (year 9)

"Jathushigah Kugatheesan's Majestic ArtZ"

29.7 x 42 cm

Painted with acrylic paint and recyclable materials (tissue paper, foil, etc) on an A3 card.

My painting is an interpretation of how forests should be: well-looked after, clean, and a pleasant environment. Currently, the destruction of forests around the world contributes to global warming, which leads to climate change. If the forests are cleared, or even disturbed, they release carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. Furthermore, forests are also the habitats of many species. If their home gets destroyed, it makes it highly difficult for them to survive, leading to extinction. This is why it is key that we look after mother nature together. We can do this by not: polluting waters, cutting down trees, and many more. Together, we can make a vast change to the world! Ensure to make Mother Nature happy!



Costanza Pascuzzi (year 10)

"The Prayer"

40 by 60 cm

Oil paint on canvas

Every year, millions of refugees leave everything they have in search for better lives. The ocean here represents the unpredictable and harsh journey they have to go through. The facial expression is meant to portray the gratitude of being granted a new life.



Worthy Mentions



Emil Fais

"New life for nature"

30 x 40 cm
Ballpoint pen, pencil
colour on paper



Amy Isles Freeman

"Wild"

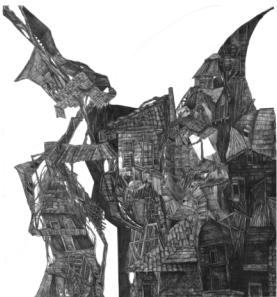
29.7 x 42.0 cm
oil pastel and colouring pencils
on black paper



Deepshikha De

"We will live!"

29.7 x 42 cm
Watercolour & poster
colour on paper



Ioanna Lamprou

"The New Rural,
Urban"

28 x 42 cm
Ballpoint pen, marker,
oil pastel



Jason Thompson

"Welcome" & "Emergence"

29.7 x 42 cm
Digital printed on paper









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