

## Press Release

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### **Winners of the prestigious Marie Dyson & Pauline Mercier Awards announced at the RGA's 91st Annual Exhibition 'Art Works'**

The Reading Guild of Artists (RGA) has released the names of this year's recipients of the Marie Dyson Award (for a work in 2D) and the inaugural Pauline Mercier Award – awarded for a 3D art work. Shiplake sculptor and past President of the RGA Clive Duncan chose the winners from a 'pool of great talent'.

For the **Marie Dyson Award** winner, Clive chose two watercolours by Henley resident Belinda Fitzwilliams, *I Love My Cello* and *Nude at Dusk* saying "Belinda has captured the essence of her subjects. These are understated but visually strong images". Belinda, who is a long-standing active member of the RGA, was stunned, later saying she was "over the moon". Clive also awarded Second prize to Mick McNicholas for his oil painting *The Living Embodiment of Frida Kahlo* "A remarkable front-on portrait which has been handled with sensitivity". Third prize was presented to Linda Saul for *The Sheer Cliff Crumble* "Clever use of mixed media: collage, watercolour, print & text - a composite story board".

This year saw the introduction of the **Pauline Mercier Award** a new award for work in 3D. Clive chose a piece by Paul Whitehouse *Lobed Form* saying of it "Spare, strong form and well executed". Emma Major received a Special Mention for her tactile 3D piece.

All these works can be seen at the *Art Works* Exhibition, along with over 150 other pieces, at the Old Fire Station Gallery in Henley until 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022.

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Further information on the Reading Guild of Artists and a full list of the Marie Dyson Award and Pauline Mercier Award winners 2022 can be found by visiting:

<http://www.rga-artists.org.uk/>

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**Photos attached: Belinda Fitzwilliams  
Paul Whitehouse**

**Note to Editors:**

The Reading Guild of Artists was founded in 1930. It has a membership of nearly 200 artists and plays an active role in the development of artists in Reading and the surrounding areas.