

## Press Release

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### **Winners of the prestigious Marie Dyson Award announced at the RGA's 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition 'Reconnected'**

The Reading Guild of Artists (RGA) has released the names of this year's recipients of the Marie Dyson Award. BBC Radio 3 presenter, Fiona Talkington said "it was a privilege to be asked to assess the works exhibited at the RGA's 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition. It was also extremely difficult: there were many contenders".

Whilst contemplating the many works on display Fiona commented that the Guild had shown, once again why art is so important, not just for those who make 'all this amazing work' but also for the effect on us as visitors who spend time with each work. She also admired the huge amount of work that goes into mounting such an exhibition including the 'painstaking work of hanging'.

She chose joint winners - 'Earth Dreaming' by Nina O'Connell, batik on paper and 'Colette' by Jenny Halstead, conté on paper. Of Nina's piece, Fiona admired the "huge swirling lines and the tiniest most intricate details, exquisite techniques, which tell of a time spent in love and care for this planet of ours. Earth Dreaming wouldn't let me go". Of 'Colette' she talked of the "compulsion to look at her, to admire her magnificent profile and that I am under her spell"! Wonderful words for these artists to hear and also for the five artists who were 'highly commended'.

All these works can be seen at the Reconnected Exhibition, along with over 150 other pieces, at the Old Fire Station Gallery in Henley until 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Further information on the Reading Guild of Artists and a full list of the Marie Dyson Award winners 2021 can be found by visiting

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

<https://www.facebook.com/ReadingGuildofArtists/>

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**Photos attached:**

**Fiona Talkington, pictures with 'Earth Dreaming' by Nina O'Connell**

**Fiona Talkington, pictured with 'Colette' by Jenny Halstead**

**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.