

Press Release

240723
24 Jul 2023

Winners of the prestigious Marie Dyson & Pauline Mercier Awards announced at the RGA's 92nd Annual Exhibition 'Continuum'

At its 92nd Annual Exhibition, the Reading Guild of Artists (RGA) announced the winners of the Marie Dyson Award for a work in 2D and the Pauline Mercier Award for a 3D art work. Dr Hannah Lyons, Curator of Art Collections at the University of Reading, was 'delighted to be the assessor at this year's event'. The awards were presented during a packed preview party at the Old Fire Station Gallery in Henley on Thames. Dr Lyons said the number of works on show and the variety and high standard of RGA members' artistic output was quite extraordinary. She found it really hard to choose but was pleased to present Shirley Smith with the Pauline Mercier Award for her ceramics '*Skoria Oranje & Scoria Turkoois*'. Jenny Halstead won the Marie Dyson Award for her beautiful pastel painting '*Savaged Olive Grove: Sicily*'. For a full report of the award ceremony including the names of those who were highly commended please visit the RGA's website.

'Continuum – Art in the Flow' continues until Sunday 1st August, where visitors can see all the award winning work and can vote for their own favourite piece. There is also an opportunity to 'meet the artist' as each day the exhibition will be hosted by different exhibiting artists who will be happy to talk about their work and their artistic practice.

-End-

Further information on the Reading Guild of Artists, can be found by visiting <http://www.rga-artists.org.uk/>

For more information about both awards please follow the following links
<https://www.rga-artists.org.uk/marie-dyson-award.html>
<https://www.rga-artists.org.uk/pauline-mercier-award.html>

Contacts:

Jane Somner, Publicity Officer, Reading Guild of Artists

Tel: 07917 046542

Or email: publicity@rga-artists.org.uk

**Photo attached: *'Skoria Oranje & Scoria Turkoois'* by Shirley Smith
'Savaged Olive Grove: Sicily' by Jenny Halstead
Shirley Smith (left) with Dr Hannah Lyons (right)**

Note to Editors:

The Reading Guild of Artists was founded in 1930. It has a membership of 240 artists and plays an active role in the development of artists in Reading and the surrounding areas.