

The Online Magazine of The Pastel Guild of Europe



The

PASTEL *Scribbler*

Dust Off 2024

Dust Off 2024

Yvonne

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where you will also find all the current news, competition entries and results.



Foreword by the editor

Welcome to the special "DUST OFF 2024" Award Winners' edition of the Scribbler.

The international response to the Pastel Guild of Europe "DUST OFF" Open Competition has been remarkable with an impressive number of entries.

The show in its entirety is now posted on the OJS website [OnlineJuriedShows.com](https://www.onlinejuriedshows.com)

Thank you to all who took part and congratulations to everyone who had their work selected for the exhibition.

We would especially like to thank the judges,

[Marc Ivan Cole](#) – Landscape

[Rita Kirkman](#) - Animals

[Jerzy Moscicki](#) - Still Life/Florals

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Their task must have been extremely difficult with so many outstanding entries in each category. It is a real eye opener to see such quality, range of technique and imagination from so many truly talented artists from around the world.

Every established and aspiring pastel artist will gain so much by viewing the exhibition in its entirety.

Jutta Maria Fleschutz



Marc Ivan Cole, US,
our judge for the Dust Off 2024 - Landscape Category

Award-winning artist Mark Ivan Cole, PSA, has lived in mountainous areas in three of Earth's four quadrants. He enjoys painting plein air and studio pieces alike.

Fluent in several media, Cole has a large catalog of works in pastel, acrylic, ink, graphite and coloured pencil. He is currently focusing on emotional landscapes based on photographs and memories from his continuing explorations around the world.

He also creates illustrations and fine art entirely from his imagination. Mark enjoys discovering new techniques and sharing them via workshops and demos.

A signature artist with the Pastel Society of America, Cole is also an accomplished composer and recording musician, and a published novelist and poet.



Visit Marc Ivan Cole's Website at:
<https://www.markivancole.com/>

Landscape Category

DUST OFF 2024 - WINNERS

FIRST PLACE

Alan Chaney,
“Winter Mood”

Marc Ivan Cole's Comments

Amazingly painterly expression of a cold, bright day. This painting puts us right on the road. We feel the snow underfoot, and the cold air all around us. The woods beyond have just enough detail and color; any more would bring them too close. Curving car tracks lead the eye down the road, and the bare branches lead it back again. Particularly well-chosen are the bits of deep rust and bright pink that appear in just the right amount in the right places. The varying weights of the final marks are commendable. Every stroke shifts in value, color and thickness, masterfully applied. Bravo!



SECOND PLACE

**Lorenzo Chavez,
“Fall River Valley”**

Marc Ivan Cole's Comments

Masterful. This painting has it all: great light, amazing atmosphere, rich color, a sweeping composition, a bit of clarity and a lot of mystery. The shift from the warm foreground to the cool background is so exciting! That grand, misty summit is flanked by shrouded details suggesting that there is more where that came from. Following the ridges and the trees, we find our way back to the melting snow and ice on the river, left to right, and back to the left, until we come to the bare patch once more and the delightful journey through the painting begins again.





THIRD PLACE

Alena Rachinger, "Rocks and Water"

Marc Ivan Cole's Comments

Marvelously evocative--a great combination of mystery and boldness! The light and shadows are supported by the lively marks that suggest texture, movement and detail. The palette strongly emphasizes the contrasting warm and cool temperatures in this dynamic image. The lost edges around the outside return the focus to the water and rocks and the obvious flow propels us downstream. The sense of motion is constant.

HONOURABLE MENTION

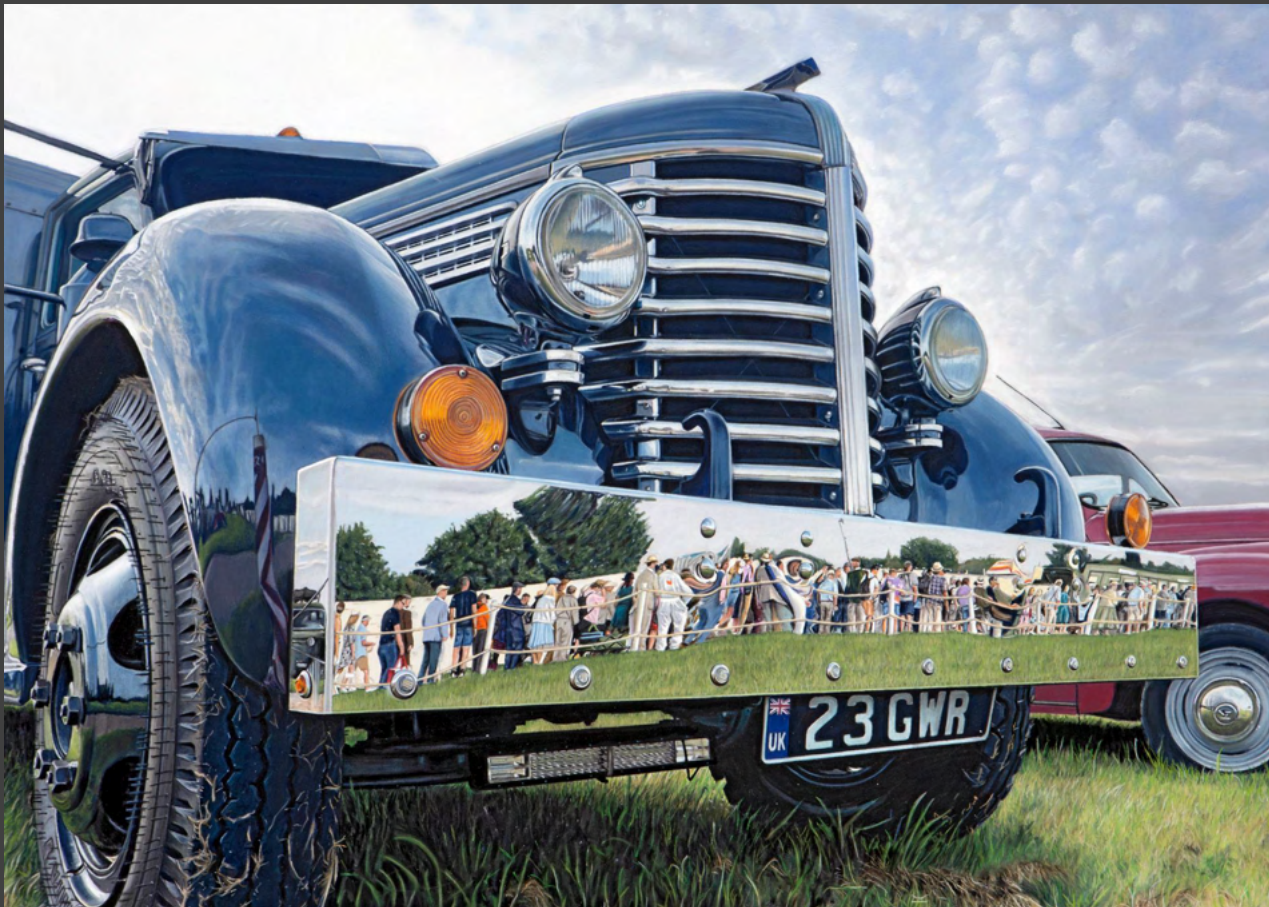


Martine Tulet, 'Light and Shadow'

Marc Ivan Cole's Comments

Poetically loose! Great atmosphere and depth. The shadows are a remarkably complex mix of color and temperature. All the sharp details are saved for the highlights. Beautiful marks.

HONOURABLE MENTION



Ray West, 'Reflecting on Goodwood'

Marc Ivan Cole's Comments

Astounding hyperrealism, especially considering the chrome bumper reflects a large group of people! The distorted reflections are entirely believable, on the large fender and even around the bumper's numerous bolt heads. The perspective is so precise that the eye questions nothing.

HONOURABLE MENTION



Charles Peer, 'Standing at the Ready'

Marc Ivan Cole's Comments

The light is the star in this painting, shining out at us from above, peeking out from behind, and reflecting off various surfaces. Further inspection reveals that no two buses are alike, nor are they all lit the same. There is just enough structural detail to set up a rhythm. The parked car on the left adds to the story, and its position leads the eye back into the painting.



Rita Kirkman, US,

*our judge for the Dust Off 2024 -
Animals Category*

Rita Kirkman has been using pastel since she was 11 years old. Since 2003 she has consistently won major awards in national and international competitions.

She is a Pastel Society of America Master Pastelist and an Eminent Pastelist with the International Association of Pastel Societies.

Her paintings have been featured in the Pastel Journal and the Pratique des Arts Spécial Pastel, and published in many others.

Her work is in public and private collections all over the world. In 2020 she created a Patreon page, full of demo videos and art tips.



Rita Kirkman's words on the show and the Animal category in general:

"I'm always impressed and awed by the increasing levels of talent this PGE show gathers! I have to say the judging was extremely difficult. Kudos to all who entered, and Congratulations to all who have a piece accepted. I could have given two dozen awards if allowed! Always remember, in any show you enter, not to take any award decision personally. As part of a Judge's job, I feel responsible for "curating" a balanced show, and selecting winners that exhibit a compelling range of strength, originality, and vision. Judging this show was a challenge and a pleasure. You are all winners, and this is a fabulous show!"

Visit Rita Kirkman's Website at: <https://www.ritakirkman.com>

Animals Category

DUST OFF 2024 - WINNERS

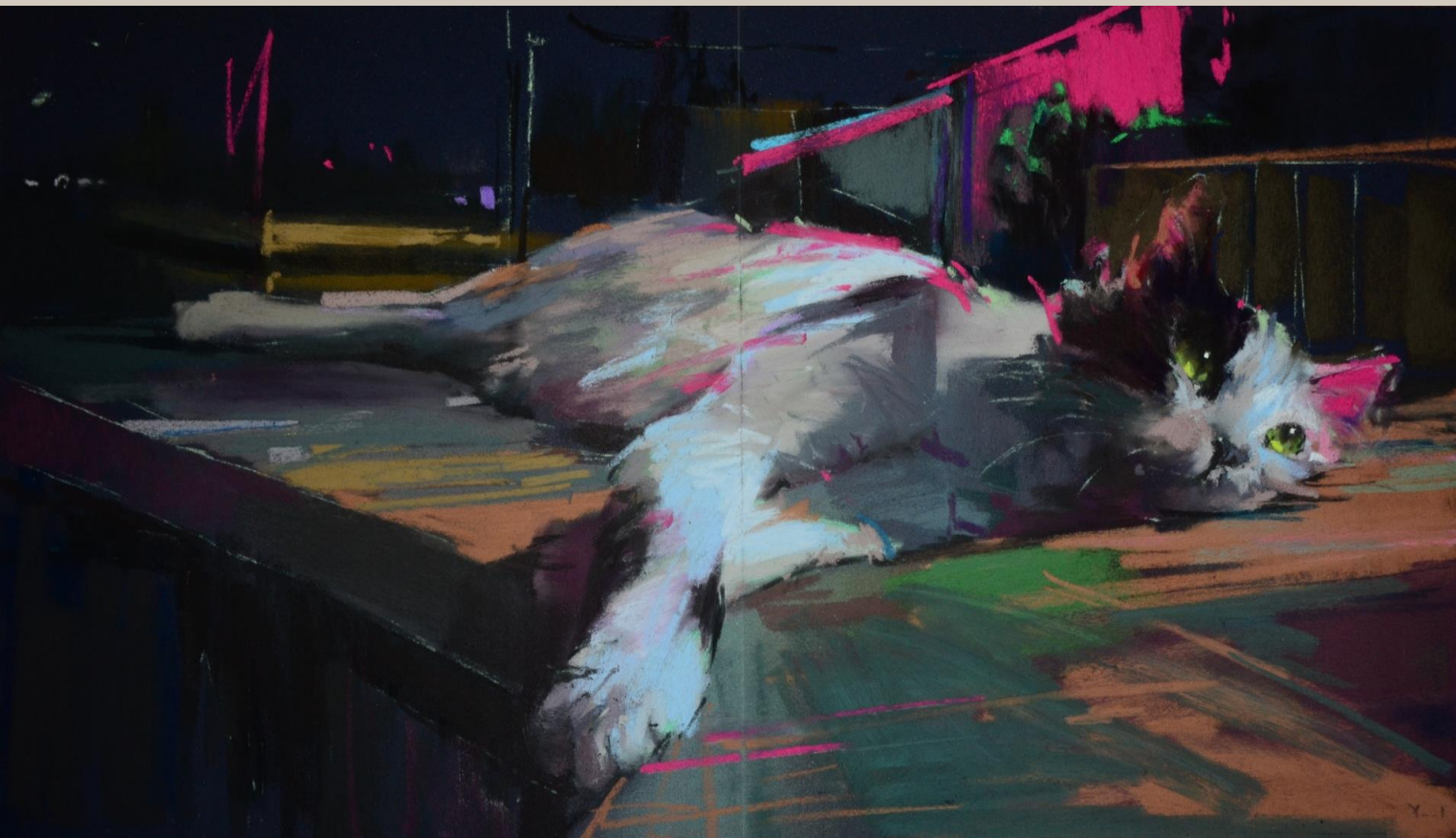
FIRST PLACE

**Molly Ann Cooley,
"Puzzled"**

Rita Kirkman's Comments

Viewpoint, composition, cuteness and light all come together in this award-worthy work. The artist's masterful handling of the light leads the eye through the image. The arrangement of angles makes a very strong composition and suggests an energy that is a delightful contrast to the sweetness of the scene.





SECOND PLACE

Yael Maimon, 'Sleepless Night'

Rita Kirkman's Comments

This piece rocks with strong color and a daring composition. The viewer's eye bounces up and down and back and forth along the lines of the cat, curb and buildings. This energy is emphasized by the bold, fast strokes of pastel and almost violent colors, yet the nighttime scene and the cat's pose suggest calmness and quiet. This contrast makes the painting very intriguing, and fits the title perfectly.

THIRD PLACE

Viviane Trubey, 'Calico Cat in Pose'

The painting is 12 x 12 in. It is based on my own reference photo from Big Sur in southern California.

Rita Kirkman's Comments

The vibrant, fun Fauvistic color and a really superb composition make this piece noteworthy. Repeating curves and angles echo the graceful s-curve of the cat. The variety of patterns and textures are delightful.



HONOURABLE MENTION



Donna Finley, 'Migration Visitors'

Rita Kirkman's Comments

I love the Impressionistic "plein air" look of this piece. Detail is minimal, yet we feel the light. The gesture of the birds fishing for their lunch is so believable, we find ourselves holding our breath as we watch, so as not to disturb them on their hunt.

HONOURABLE MENTION



Angela Parr, 'Reef Raider'

Rita Kirkman's Comments

A very impressive demonstration of draftsmanship mastery. Incredible detail and handling of light and shadow. The golden beak and eye make a strong center focus in the otherwise grayscale image. The empty space to the right is a wise compositional choice, as the bird moves into the scene.

HONOURABLE MENTION

**Anthony Hedrick, 'Bear. A
Chesapeake Bay Retriever'**

Rlta Kirkman's Comments

The simplicity of this drawing is deftly contrasted by the energetic lines. It has the look of a life drawing, which is quite impressive, and equally so even if from a photo. The quick, confident strokes masterfully capture this fleeting moment of intense canine focus.



Jerzy Moscicki, Fr,
*our judge for the Dust Off 2024 - Still
Life / Flowers Category*

Born in Poland in 1957, Jerzy attended art school in Wrocław and later worked as a stage decorator for that city's puppet theatre. After moving to France in 1981 and winning awards in international competitions, he devoted himself entirely to painting from 1990, teaching as artist-in-residence at Lycée La Salle in Lyon. In 2009 he founded Atelier Espace Pastel, intended to promote and teach pastel painting to a wider public. Joint winner of the Pastellistes de France 2014 competition, he was invited to the First Suzhou International Pastel Festival in 2015 and selected as one of four international teachers for a pilot programme organised by China Pastel Network, Beijing Education Center and IAPS in 2016 to introduce Chinese teachers to pastel painting.

“Before looking at colour, I look at the light. I am drawn to this particular relationship between light and colour which rests on shadow. Shadow, which I consider a kind of ‘non-colour’, creates a dramatic effect in our eye: A part of what we are looking at disappears if the light cannot reach it... The item becomes mysterious, it takes on a life of its own.”



Visit Jerzy Moscicki's Website at:
<https://www.atelier-jerzy-m.fr/>

Still Life / Floral Category

DUST OFF 2024 - WINNERS

FIRST PLACE

**Tai Meng Lim,
"Quiet Curiosity"**

Jerzy Moscicki's Comments

This is an exceptional work in terms of its originality and the quality of execution. A moment of life combined with the sobriety of the shades. It exudes a tenderness that the painter was able to convey with great finesse and with stunning realism.



SECOND PLACE

Francis Huffman, 'My kitchen windowsill'

Jerzy Moscicki's Comments

I really like the light which becomes the main subject of the work. The execution of the aligned but not monotonous shapes conveys a feeling of purity and openness towards the outside world. Everything is perfectly suggested by the soft colours and the very skilful use of grey.



THIRD PLACE

Jo Burton, 'Beer and Blooms'

Jerzy Moscicki's Comments

A beautiful feeling of spontaneity...

The dynamic forms rendered by the very harmonious colours underline the freshness of this composition which gives a resolutely modern note to the classical character of the subject.





HONOURABLE MENTION

Toby Reid, 'Pillow Talk'

Jerzy Moscicki's Comments

It is not easy to harmonize so many colours. The work presented succeeds perfectly. We are invited to immerse ourselves in the softness of the forms and to contemplate the diversity of the motifs. It's a feast for the eyes.



HONOURABLE MENTION

Julia Suptel, '5 days you are here'

Jerzy Moscicki's Comments

This is a work where colours plunge into a universe filled with lightness. All is light and contemplation. The classic shapes of the flowers are mirrored in the diffuse, dematerialized shadows. Spirituality rubs shoulders with reality.

HONOURABLE MENTION

Anne Bour,
“Yellow Flowers”

Jerzy Moscicki's Comments

The rendering of the textures, despite the very centralized composition, attracts our eye and makes an immediate impact. A peculiarity very appreciated especially in still lifes when the mastery of light is present. That's exactly what the painter was able to show.





Michele Ashby, UK,

PS PSA-MP IAPS-MC SWA SGFA

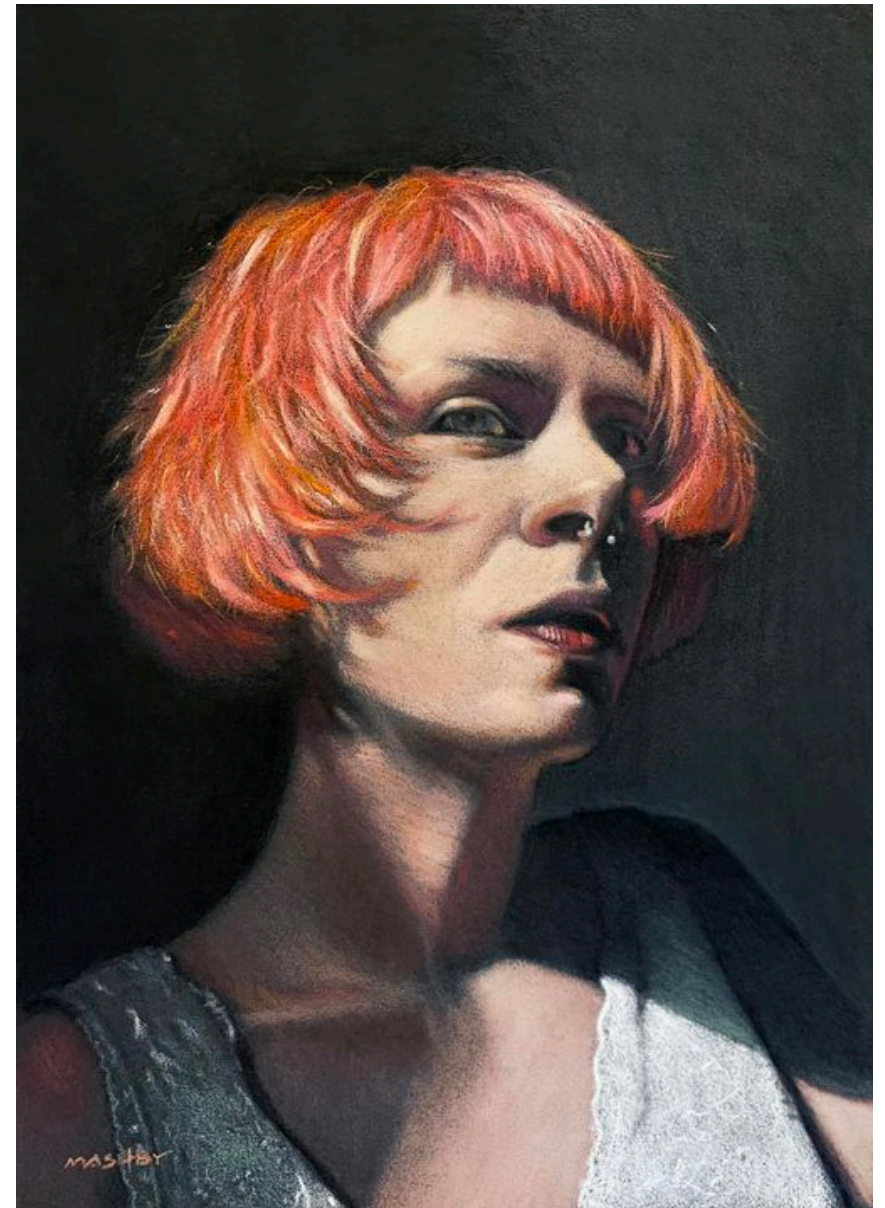
our judge for the Dust Off 2024 - Portrait / Figure Category

Having graduated with a BA (Hons) Degree in Graphic Design Michele forged a successful career running her own business in the same subject for many years. She has been a professional artist for 8 years.

Michele is a Member of the Pastel Society, Master Pastellist and Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America, Master Circle Member of IAPS (International Association of Pastel Societies), Council Member of the Society of Women Artists, Member of the Society of Graphic Fine Artists and Unison Colour Pastels Associate Artist.

Her work has earned many awards, most recently winning The Prix de Pastel, IAPS 12th Master Circle Division 2024 IAPS PastelWorld Exhibition, and has been exhibited at such venues as The National Arts Club, New York, The Butler Institute of American Art, Ohio, The Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, Illinois as well as with several Art Societies at The Mall Galleries, London.

Visit Michele Ashby's Website at:
<https://www.micheleashby.co.uk/>



Portrait / Figure Category

DUST OFF 2024 - WINNERS

FIRST PLACE

**Tai Meng Lim,
“Idle Thinking”**

Michele Ashby's Comments

The delicacy of touch with the handling of pastel is what initially drew me into this stunning work. The light across the muse's face is exquisitely handled. I particularly like the attention to detail with the eyelash and wisp of hair shadows following the bone structure beneath the surface. His down cast gaze and wry smile, give us a feeling of calm introspection and as the title suggests, this person is very comfortable with the luxury of his idle thinking. The handling of the wrinkles of the shirt adds a gently movement to the piece, guiding our eye from his face down to his resting hands and back again. The choice of the artist's limited palette shows us their proficiency in painting his sitter so perfectly without fuss of colour, concentrating their skills within the details of this wonderful piece.





SECOND PLACE

Qing Quan Zhang, 'The warm sunshine'

Michele Ashby's Comments

This striking pastel shows a woman outside in strong sunshine, her head is slightly downcast, looking away from the glare of the sun's mighty rays. The shadows across her shoulder adding interest and movement to this piece. Her brow furrowed against the brilliance of the sun. The items worn on her head look like they could be part of her traditional dress, the white cloth over the top of another head covering is knotted in a particular way to ensure maximum protection for her head and neck. Her kind smile has been captured so well by the artist, her face full of wrinkles and character. Although it is sunny I'm guessing this old r lady is feeling the cold as she is wearing at least four layers of clothing. Her outer layer, a gilet looks serviceable and practical, possibly a borrowed item. However, in contrast she wears delicate jewellery, her earrings, necklace, rings and bracelets add a hint of glamour and softens her character. She looks at us with a demure yet confident air, as if she is happy to be painted and to have her story told by such a proficient artist.



THIRD PLACE

Jinghan Wu, 'One year after another'

Michele Ashby's Comments

I find this portrait of a young girl very interesting, I want to know more about her, to hear her story. The cloth she wears on her head is placed in a slightly haphazard way, is it for decoration or for a religious ceremony? It certainly feels like the child is dressed quite formally, the bright, white blouse with its ruffled, high collar and jewels studded evenly around the neckline giving an air of quality and wealth to the young muse's clothes. The gathering of the garment around the neck allows the pleats to guide us to her exquisite face. The face has been painted so beautifully with so much attention to detail. The gorgeous delicacy of the highlights around her eye, chin and forehead - I particularly like the ruddiness of her complexion, making me wonder whether she is more used to a life outside rather than in quiet repose like here in the painting. So, was she stopped in her tracks whilst out playing and made to stop and sit for the artist? The decision to position her very much towards the bottom half of the painting only emphasises her size and young age. The muddy background giving a feeling of quite a sombre emptiness. I really like the variety of textures used within this painting, which appears to have been painted with such ease. The detailed linen of her blouse contrasts so well with the abstract background. The classic feeling within this portrait keeps me searching to find out more.

HONOURABLE MENTION

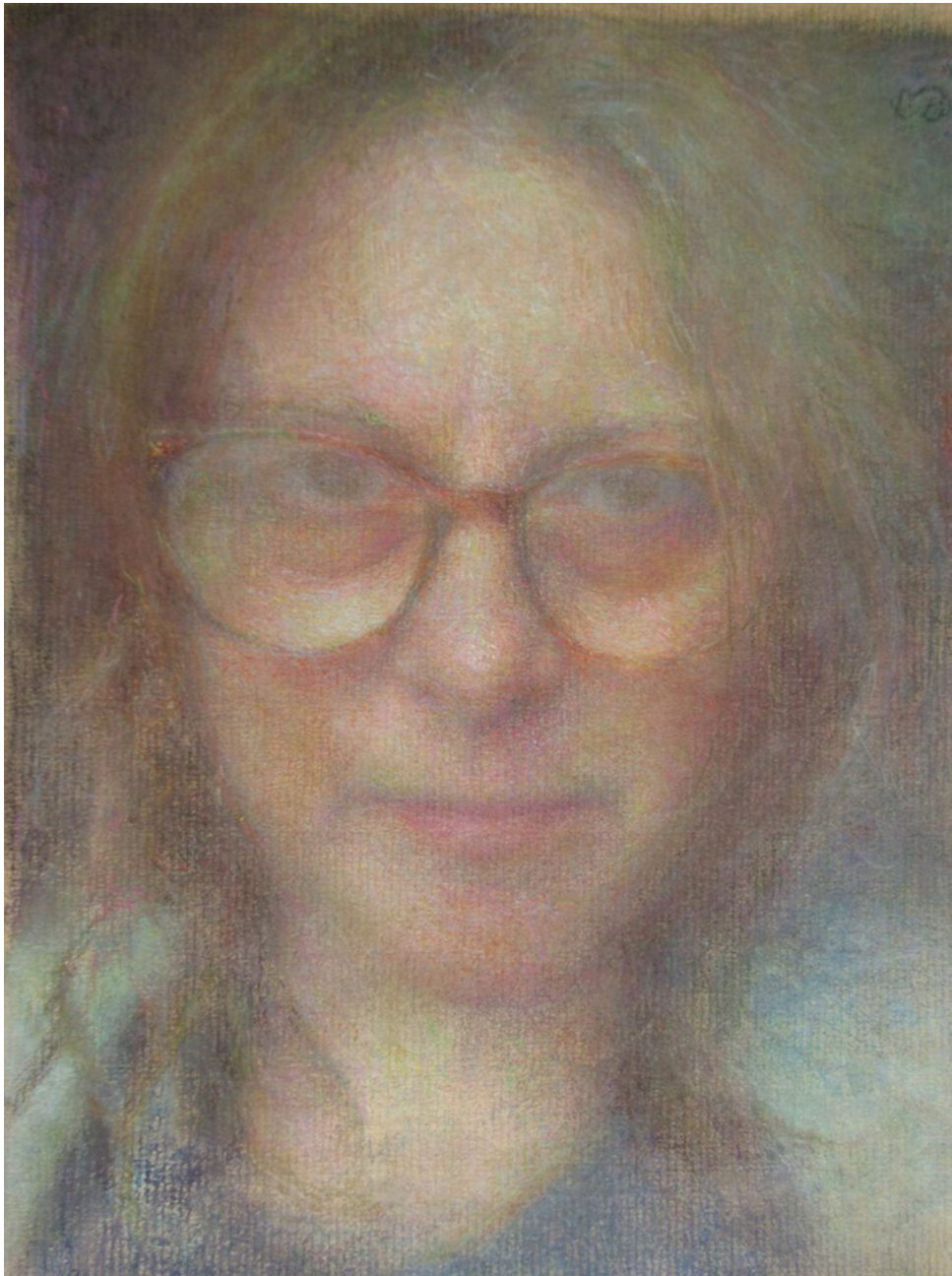
Changxian Wang, 'The girl in a colourful thread cap'

Michele Ashby's Comments

The closely crop composition in this portrait allows us, the viewer, to be drawn into this young girl's world. Her serenity is beguiling, her down cast gaze making us question what she is thinking and what is happening at this particular moment of her life. The delicate features of her face with its flawless texture and the colour of her lipstick she's carefully chosen to wear to match her outfit, gives her face an added youthful warmth. This pink is also used in the reflective light cast onto her face from her hat and scarf.

She has been painted in the shadows, with only her nose appearing in the brighter light, giving us a feeling of her shy disposition. Yet - her knitted headwear are in strong contrast to this assumption not only with the bold choices of colours but also the the chunky, oversized stitch chosen to make the cap and scarf. They both scream a boldness that there is nothing shy and retiring about our model. The detail continues throughout her sweater with horizontal stitching accentuating her delicate form. I also like the way the background has been handled, the graduation from black to a mid-grey gives the painting more interest yet doesn't detract from the main subject within this intricate portrait.



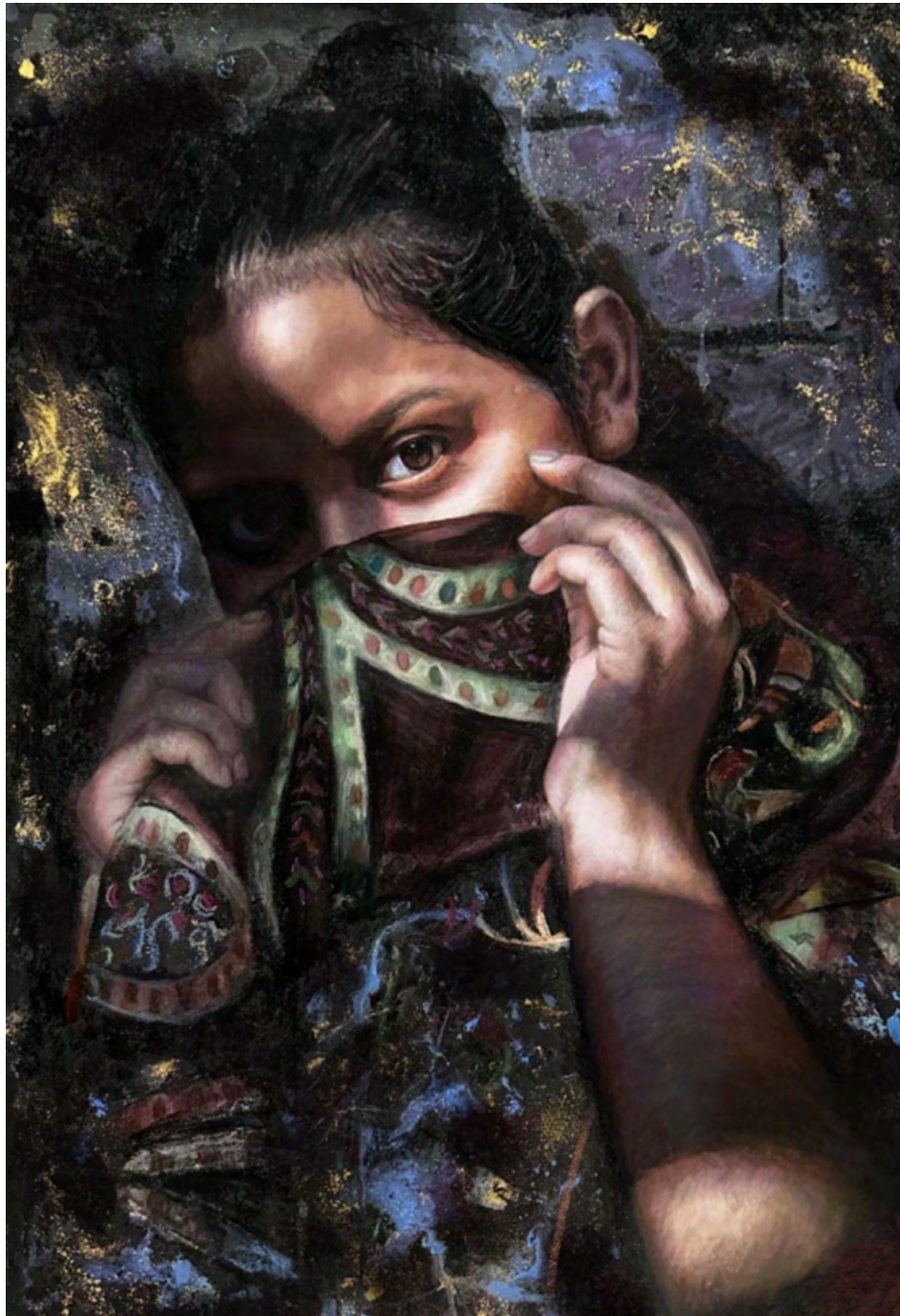


HONOURABLE MENTION

Mary Greenacre, 'Self-portrait at 57'

Michele Ashby's Comments

I particularly admire how the artist has used the most delicate touch of pastel in this self-portrait. The finesse and good observational skills have worked so well in packing a punch with this painting! The full frontal view leaves nowhere to hide, suggestive of an air of confidence within this artist being comfortable in themselves at 57. The portrait even shows the artist with the hint of a smile, as well as the titling of this piece adding credence to this fact. The glasses and the reflective light within them really help give shape to this piece. The handling of the pastel on the textured paper gives a soft, dreamy quality making us want to know more about this confident woman of 57 within this little powerful painting.



HONOURABLE MENTION

Nancy Chen, 'Another World'

Michele Ashby's Comments

This painting is full of mystery with much of the muse either covered by the cloth she's holding up to her face or by the strong shadows cast upon it. The depiction of the thin, see-through fabric seems to tell its own story as the woman holds it so lightly against her skin.

The painting is full of patterned imagery, from the scarf through her clothes to the intricacies of the background. The shadow play across her face and hands creating abstract shapes within the dappled light adds a lovely abstract element to this beautiful piece.