



What our judges had to say Category: Open Arts

In the Open Arts Category, there were several excellent pieces of work showing considerable skill and creativity. The major challenge was that once I had created a list of the best in each medium – painting, graphic illustration, collage, textile, print, I needed to select *the best of the best*, making choices between very different media. I needed to compare very good prints with a very good painting, with a very good collage, with a very good textile piece.

After much consideration, I selected Jean Therapy as Winner for the creative use of recycled materials at a time when the creator couldn't shop for resources; for the concept of diary and workmanship embedded in the making; and for the metaphor of thread and of the passage of time revealed in the process.

The metaphor of time passing was apparent too in the work selected as Highly Commended, *From My Yard, 2020*. This is a skilled and aesthetically pleasing series which follows a set process but reveals experimentation. I moved back and forth between the two pieces of work in selecting winner and highly commended entries.

I'd like to mention too the high quality of collaged photographs assembled as archive and the artists who submitted paintings illustrating aspects of the pandemic in one case and as a form of botanical study in another.

Congratulations to all who entered and in particular of course to the artists who created Jean Therapy and *From My Yard, 2020*.

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Artist, Poet, Art Historian and Tutor

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