

Readable text below layout

e-mail address: trufhax.com.fj

Art wins again in Suva

Better living

EVERY artist was a winner at the Carlton Brewery Art Exhibition that finished off at the Holiday Inn last night. While the official winners went home with cash prizes and the recognition of their peers, other artists sold several of their pieces and gained the national exposure they deserve.

The Fiji Arts Council was very impressed with the standard of paintings this year, and say the sales of art are well up on previous exhibitions.

Kaveni Tomase scooped the top Fine Art Award, for his large and peaceful oil on board, "Waterfall". However, none could have been more excited to win than Jennifer Smart, who took out the Highly Commended Fine Art Award with her first time at the exhibition. Ms Smart took up painting for the first time a year ago, when she and her husband moved to Fiji.

"Fiji's really inspired me with all its colours and its people," Ms Smart said after learning of her win.

"We love it here, love to stay forever."

Her winning painting, "Frangipani Gold", also attracted the eye of an art lover, who didn't mind the \$1,500 price tag on the depiction of the beautiful Pacific Island.

Ms Smart's other piece was one of the favourites in the show - a painting of a sunset, which she says she painted after moving to Fiji in 2004.

Also exhibiting her work was the more experienced Manita Brodie, who has become famous for her leather collages.

"These are painstaking pieces of art, made of cut up pieces of leather with a 3D effect that sucks the observer into the frame.

"I'd much rather paint - although, with the leather you can cut out a leaf and it looks like a leaf, but to draw a leaf (can be much harder)," explained Ms Brodie.

It is Ms Brodie's third time in the Fiji Arts Council organised annual exhibition, and her collages were being snapped up by eager art lovers.

Another standout at the exhibition was Seini Walkava, winner of the Indigenous Art Award. Her paintings were all along a Pacific theme, drawing from other Pacific cultures for inspiration. However, her winning painting, Tanoa "The Vanivalu of Bau", was very much Fiji-based.

Local artist Josie Cick displayed two stellar pieces, including Monica's Wedding, acrylic on canvas that was displayed as the seat of a wosagi-oon deck chair.

Lai Naulomata did very well, winning both the Carlton Brewery Calendar Award for "Dzus", and the Highly Commended Indigenous Art Award with "Na Yadra".

The Fiji Arts Council annual exhibition continues, with the National Craft Fair opening in the Holiday Inn from 5.30pm this evening.

EVERY artist was a winner at the Carlton Brewery Art Exhibition that finished off at the Holiday Inn last night. While the official winners went home with cash prizes and the recognition of their peers, other artists sold several of their pieces and gained the national exposure they deserve.

The Fiji Arts Council was very impressed with the standard of paintings this year, and say the sales of art are well up on previous exhibitions.

Kaveni Tomuse scooped the top Fine Art Award, for his large and peaceful oil on board, "Waterfall". However, none could have been more excited to win than Jennifer Smart, who took out the Highly Commended Fine Art Award with her first time at the exhibition. Ms Smart took up painting for the first time a year ago, when she and her husband moved to Fiji.

"Fiji's really inspired me with all its colours and its people," Ms Smart said after learning of her win.

"We love it here, love to stay forever."

Her winning painting, "Frangipani Gold", also attracted the eye of an art lover - who didn't mind the \$1500 price tag on the depiction of the beautiful pacific flower.

Ms Smart's other piece was one of my favourites in the show - a glorious riot of colour, words and history that expressed the new artist's growing love for Fiji in Visions of Viti.

Also exhibiting her work was the more experienced Marita Brodie, who has become famous for her leather collages.

These are painstaking pieces of art, made of cut up pieces of leather with a 3D effect that sucks the observer into the frame.

"I'd much rather paint... although, with the leather you can cut out a leaf and it looks like a leaf, but to draw a leaf (can be much harder)," explained Ms Brodie.

It is Ms Brodie's third time in the Fiji Arts Council organised annual exhibition, and her collages were being snapped up by eager art lovers.

Another standout at the exhibition was Seini Waikava, winner of the Indigenous Art Award. Her paintings were all along a Pacific theme, drawing from other Pacific cultures for inspiration. However, her winning painting, Tanoa "The Vunivalu of Bau", was very much Fiji-based.

Local artist Josie Crick displayed two stellar pieces, including Monica's Wedding, acrylic on canvas that was displayed as the seat of a wrought-iron deck chair.

Lai Naulumatua did very well, winning both the Carlton Brewery Calendar Award for "Drua", and the Highly Commended Indigenous Art Award with "Na Yadra".

The Fiji Arts Council annual exhibition continues with the National Craft Fair opening in the Holiday Inn from 5.30pm this evening.