

Seeing the light

galleries>>lynn scott-cumming

DR Majzner likes paintings that have clarity, capture a sense of light, and are unpredictable.

These qualities swayed his decisions when judging the Townsville Art Society Awards 2004. This became obvious during his Saturday morning talk to an audience of about 40 people.

In the Open Section, sponsored by Townsville City Council, Dr Majzner said it was the sense of being there that attracted him to *Birthday Creek Paluma* by Vonnie van Bommel.

"Vonnie's painting captured the sense of heat, coolness, clarity, and more than anything else, the stillness found in a place like this," he said.

Dr Majzner also said her paint work was fantastic, as was the complexity of light and colour.

The certificate for Highly Commended in this section went to Margaret Crawford for *Sunkissed and Golden*.

He gave the BHP Billiton Award for Landscape Painting to Gay Woodworth's painting, *Tropical Walk*, because it stood out.

"Most of the other landscapes depict land, water, and sky and are therefore predictable," Dr Majzner said.

"Whereas in Gay's painting it's a landscape that is unpredictable; you don't know what is the bottom or the top, but it is the light that draws you in."

He also commented on the sense of paint construction. "The picture is unmistakably a painting. Its brushmarks have urgency and clarity."

Dr Majzner awarded Highly Commended to *Bill's Backyard* by Phil Davis. At first he was drawn to this work because it reminded him of an early Cezanne but he realised the painting was more about Australia. He said the painting was about light but a different type of light to that in Gay's painting. This light is very gentle; the approach humble. There is nothing heroic in this picture.

Dr Majzner chose *Red Cargo* by Martin Kizur as the winner of the Townsville Port Authority Award. He said the work had a sense of colour and clarity and the composition was beautifully constructed.

Every Dog has Its Day by Terri MacDonald won the Sun City Pools Award for Works on Paper.

He said this etching was fascinating because of the humour and the quality of drawing which was beautiful but not overstated. He said the use of technique and the colouring with watercolour gave the etching a sense of immediacy and credibility.

Highly Commended went to Ute Hermann for *Still Glowing*.

There were a disappointing number of entries in



Ute Hermann's *Set in Stone* NC083209

the Dynasty Restaurant Award for an acquired, framed, non abstract oil painting. Dr Majzner awarded the prize to Ruth Heiner's *Symbol of Love*.

In the Townsville Arts & Framing Award for Watercolours, Dr Majzner chose Jennifer Beaumont's *Dinghies* because the approach to the subject was different. He liked the sense of translucency, of clarity. He also thought the use of colour was interesting and the reflections were handled well.

Highly Commended went to Sally Grattidge for *Paronella Dreaming*.

Dr Majzner said of the Miniatures Award that all the works were close in quality. He said that to him a miniature "is a world within a world within a world".

He said *Family Tree III* by Michele Devezze had a sense of veiling, of overlay. The colours created the sense of drawing you in.

Ute Hermann, with her sculpture, *Set in Stone*, won the Xstrata Copper 3D Award.

Dr Majzner said that this section was difficult because every piece was so different. In Ute's work, he was attracted to the sense of "handmadeness". He liked the relationship of metal to rock, and the figure to the collar. The object looked as if it was made out of molten lava; as if the material suggested the form. Highly Commended went to Ainsley Vance for *Heart and Soul*.

The Townsville Art Society Awards 2004, which has work by 84 artists, are on until August 23 at the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery.



Jennifer Beaumont's *Dinghies* NC083017



Vonnie van Bommel's *Birthday Creek, Paluma* NC083011



Martin Kizur's *Red Cargo* NC083012