

Castra 2023

5. mednarodni festival akvarela

5th International Watercolour Festival



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26. 8. – 7. 10. 2023

Lokarjeva galerija

Ajdovščina, Slovenija

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Akvarel je ena izmed najstarejših slikarskih tehnik, na videz lahkotna, izvajalsko pa zelo zahtevna. Ostalim slikarskim zvrstem je enakovredna, čeprav v preteklosti po krivici zapostavljena. Akvarel je primeren zlasti za študije, skice, za beleženje vtisov in za intimno slikarstvo. Njegovo področje je predvsem krajina, veduta, scenska skica in miniatūra, redkeje kompozicija in portret. Umetniki so pogosto v akvarelni tehniki kolorirali grafične liste in risbe, lahko pa je akvarel tudi samostojno izrazno sredstvo brez vsake podložne risbe, ki bi služila kot okostje. V primerjavi z oljnim ali akrilnim slikarstvom je prednost akvarela v tem, da ne zahteva dolgotrajnih priprav, sredstva so lahko dostopna ter lahko prenosljiva. Prav ta mobilnost omogoča slikanje v naravi, ne da bi slikar moral s sabo nositi cel atelje. Barve za ustvarjanje te zvrsti so vodene, hitro se sušijo, popravljanje pa je zaradi lazurnega nanašanja skoraj nemogoče. Akvarel lahko prenese subtilne barvne prehode, nasičenost prostora z zrakom, bogastvo vsakega tona.

Nekaterim akvarelistom je dovolj, da naslikajo le hitri zapis dogodka, opravila, pozabljenega običaja, navad, drugi hočejo, in nekateri tudi zmorejo, vdihniti akvarelu nekaj več. Velikokrat smo v dilemi, ko se sprašujemo, ali naj bo akvarel v službi motiva ali motiv v službi akvarela. Lahko zatrdimo da oboje, če je prisotna ustvarjalna poštenost. Nenavadnost ali všečnost, ki sta sami sebi namen, ne bi smeli najti poti do gledalca, ki mu je vodilo humanizem in uravnotežen občutek do lepote.

Strokovna komisija, ki so jo sestavljali Dejan Mehmedovič, predsednik žirije, ter člani Vladimir Bačič, Lucijan Bratuš, Azad Karim in Bogdan Vrčon, je pregledala prispela dela in naredila izbor avtorjev ter izbrala nagrade in diplome.

Vladimir Bačič, predsednik DLUSP

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Watercolour is one of the oldest painting techniques, seemingly easy, but very demanding in execution. It is equal to other painting genres, although it has been unfairly neglected in the past. Watercolour is especially suitable for studies, sketches, recording impressions, and intimate painting. Its field is mainly landscape, veduta, scenic sketch, and miniature, less often composition, and portrait. Artists often colour graphic sheets and drawings in the watercolour technique, but watercolour can also be an independent means of expression without any underlying drawing that would serve as a skeleton. Compared to oil or acrylic painting, the advantage of watercolour is that it does not require lengthy preparations, and the means are easily accessible and easily portable. It is this mobility that makes it possible to paint outdoors, without the painter having to carry an entire studio with him or her. The colours for creating this genre are water-based and dry quickly. Correction is almost impossible due to the glaze application. Watercolour can withstand subtle colour transitions, the saturation of space with air, and the richness of each tone.

For some watercolour artists, it is enough to paint only a quick record of an event, task, forgotten custom, or habit; others want, and some are even able, to breathe something more into the watercolour. We are often in a dilemma when we wonder whether the watercolour should serve the motif or the motif should serve the watercolour. We can say yes to both if there is creative honesty. Quirkiness or likeability, which are ends in themselves, should not find their way to a viewer guided by humanism and a balanced sense of beauty.

The professional committee consisting of Dejan Mehmedovič, President of the committee, and members Vladimir Bačič, Lucijan Bratuš, Azad Karim and Bogdan Vrčon, reviewed the submitted artworks and made a selection of artists and chose awards and honourable mention certificates.

Vladimir Bačič, President of the Northern Primorska Fine Artists Association

Strokovna komisija

Na letošnjo razstavo 5. mednarodnega festivala akvarela Castra 2023 je bilo sprejetih 160 avtorjev iz 36 držav. Dela so raznovrstna, izgotovljena v različnih slogovnih načinih, večinoma v celoti v tehniki akvarela, nekatera v mešani tehniki s prevlado akvarelnega pristopa. Izrazno se prispeli artefakti ravno tako precej razlikujejo med seboj in se vsebinsko lotevajo različnih tematik. Vsekakor prevladujejo figuralna dela s krajinsko motiviko, temu sledijo tihožitja, žanrske slike, nekatera dela prestopajo v polje abstraktne podobe.

Akvarel je starodavna in zelo hvaležna slikarska tehnika, ki s specifično prelivnostjo, mehkobo in transparentnostjo kolorita, lahko tudi ostrino linije, omogoča obsežno likovno izraznost. Dela, ki jih razstavljamo, so večinoma visoke oziroma ustrezne likovne kvalitete, tako da je imela žirija pri ocenjevanju precej težko delo.

Strokovna žirija je pri svojem delu upoštevala splošne kriterije kakovosti, ki veljajo za likovno umetnost oziroma specifično za akvarel. Pri izboru žirija ni imela drugih omejitev. V obravnavo so bile zajete vse tehnike, motivi in koncepti akvarela, upoštevana je bila izvirnost ideje ter pristop k reševanju likovnih problemov. Skozi to prizmo je žirija sprejela odločitev in izbrala dela, ki izstopajo, in podelila nagrade oziroma diplome.

Žirija je sprejela sklep, da nagrade 5. mednarodnega festivala akvarela Castra 2023 prejmejo naslednji avtorji: Ana Undurraga, Luka Popič, Ivan Miloushev, David Hrvatini in Damir Facan Grdiša.

Diplome pa prejmejo: Efer Aguilar, Manhal Aldabbagh, Marta Frei, Tanja Hočvar, Silva Karim, Stanko Kolbezen, Marina Legovini, Klavdija Marušič, Anna Pogrzebacz in Raimonda Raulus.

Dejan Mehmedović, predsednik žirije

Professional committee

A total of 160 artists from 36 countries were admitted to the exhibition of the 5th International Watercolour Festival Castra 2023. The artworks are diverse, created in different stylistic ways, mostly entirely in the watercolour technique, some in a mixed technique with a predominance of the watercolour approach. The artworks are also quite different from each other and deal with different topics in terms of content. Figurative works with landscape motifs prevail, followed by still life and genre paintings, while some artworks move into the field of abstract imagery.

Watercolour is an ancient and very graceful painting technique, which with its specific iridescence, softness, and transparency of colour, as well as the sharpness of the line, enables extensive artistic expression. The works that are exhibited are mostly of high or adequate artistic quality, so the committee had a rather difficult job in evaluating them.

In its work, the professional committee took into account the general quality criteria that apply to fine art and specifically to watercolour. The committee had no other restrictions with their selection. All watercolour techniques, motifs and concepts were taken into consideration, as well as the originality of the idea and the approach to solving artistic problems. Through this prism, the committee made a decision and selected artworks that stand out, and awarded prizes or honourable mention certificates.

The committee decided that the prizes of the 5th International Watercolour Festival Castra 2023 will be awarded to the following authors: Ana Undurraga, Luka Popič, Ivan Miloushev, David Hrvatin and Damir Facan Grdiša.

Honourable mention certificates are awarded to: Efer Aguilar, Manhal Aldabagh, Marta Frei, Tanja Hočevar, Silva Karim, Stanko Kolbezen, Marina Legovini, Klavdija Marušič, Anna Pogrzebacz and Raimonda Raulus.

Dejan Mehmedović, President of the Committee

Nagrade / Awards

Nagrada Občine Ajdovščina / Municipality of Ajdovščina Award

Ana Undurraga, Spain

Nagrade sponzorjev / Sponsor Award

Ivan Milushev, Bulgaria

David Hrvatin, Slovenia

Damir Facan-Grdiša, Croatia

Nagrada Lokarjeve galerije / Lokar gallery Award

Luka Popič, Slovenia



Ana Undurraga / Spain
Lanzarote dreams 1, 2023, 50 x 70 cm



Ivan Milushev / Bulgaria
Hunt, 2023, 58 x 50 cm



David Hrvatin / Slovenia
Tartini Square, 2023, 67 x 48 cm



Damir Facan-Grdiša / Croatia
Grudasto mesto, 2022, 54 x 76 cm



Luka Popič / Slovenia
Šopek 1, 2023, 100 x 70 cm

Diplome / Honourable mention certificates

Efer Aguilar, Argentina

Manhal Aldabbagh, Iraq

Marta Frei, Slovenia

Tanja Hočevár, Slovenia

Silva Karim, Slovenia

Stanko Kolbezen, Slovenia

Marina Legovini, Italy

Klavdija Marušič, Italy

Anna Pogrzebacz, Austria

Raimonda Raulus, Lithuania



Efer Aguilar / Argentina
Lumbrera, 2022, 22 x 29,7 cm



Manhal Aldabbagh / Iraq
Case of a Woman II, 2022, 38 x 56 cm



Marta Frei / Slovenia
Imaginarna krajina 2, 2023, 30 x 40 cm



Tanja Hočevar / Slovenia
Nature's Symphony, 2023, 36 x 48 cm



Silva Karim / Slovenia
Anina punčka, 2023, 70 x 50 cm



Stanko Kolbezen / Slovenia
Ladje na plitvini, 2023, 50 x 70 cm



Marina Legovini / Italy
Blak Pine, 2023, 57 x 38 cm



Klavdija Marušič / Italy
Let v naravo, 2023, 36 x 48 cm



Anna Pogrzebacz / Austria
The Pond Awakens, 2023, 28 x 38 cm



Raimonda Raulus / Lithuania
Snowing, 2023, 50 x 35 cm



Castra 2023

Razstavljalci / Exhibitors

Diana Akhmetzyanova / Russia
Giovanna Alotti / Italy
Svilena Babukchieva / Bulgaria
Roberto Arias Balarezo / Peru
Bosiljka Bakočević / Montenegro
Giuseppina Bascietto / Italy
Adriano Henrique Bastos Muniz / Brazil
Ana Baučar Miklič / Slovenia
Cezary Bednarczyk / Poland
Ilya Belousov / Russia
Olga Bezlepina / Russia
Leszek Błażewicz / Poland
Ranko Bočina / Serbia
Agata Boniakowska / Poland
Andrea Buschfort / Germany
Claude Carretta / France
Barbara Cenni / Italy
Aleksandra Ciążyńska / Poland
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Silva Copič / Slovenia
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Dajana Čok / Slovenia
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Tetyana Donets / Slovenia
Janez Dragolič / Slovenia
Leopoldo Drexler / Chile
Svetlana Dubas-Mokritskaya / Israel
Zsuzsanna Erényi / Hungary
Claudio Feldman / Belgium
Marta Ferrari / Italy
Marija Franinović / Slovenia
Gad Frenkel / Israel

Adina Ghinaci / Romania
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Larisa Golec / Croatia
Rocío González / Spain
Cesar Gordillo / Mexico
Yana Gorelik / Israel
Zdenka Grebenjak / Slovenia
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Eleonora Hodut / Romania
Michaela Iatan / Romania
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Elhanan Jacobovitch / Israel
Pavel Janouskovec / Czech Republic
Hagar Kadima / Israel
Kara Kalajžič / Slovenia
Aleks Kase / Estonia
Yair Katz / Israel
Helena Kenda / Slovenia
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Erna Kopše / Slovenia
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Cuauhtémoc Martínez Flores / Mexico
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Milan Polak / Slovenia
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