

P3 Celtic Art

Ash says: 'Using detailed abstract shapes to create and transform the everyday into the spectacular is my mission in life. If something is in my eye-line for too long it is likely to be sprayed, stapled decorated or glued! I love this composition work from P3. It has all the Celtic qualities and influences with extremely stylised and decorative shapes and figures. It is full of energy and detail and has great use of colour, pattern, spirals and knot-work typical to that of Celtic Art.'



P3 Judge - Aisling Reynolds

Ash Reynolds is a visual artist (and Forge parent) originally from county Meath but has been based in Belfast for over twenty years. With extensive experience across the community and commercial arts sector she is much sought after for her many talents including carnival arts and production management. 2014 took Ash to New York with the highly successful Baby Rave event for Young at Art Events (YAAE) where she is currently an associate artist.



P1 Guatemalan Textile Patterns

P1 Judge Kathy says: 'How wonderful are these! This is very hard choice to make, such a high standard of work. I can see the effort and attention to detail put into each one and think they are all winners. However if I had to choose the one that I would actually wear if it was made into a shawl or a scarf would be the last one because I love the warmer colours used. To me this represents the look of a traditional Mexican poncho.



Huge well done to everyone who took part in this competition!'

P1 Judge – Kathy Black

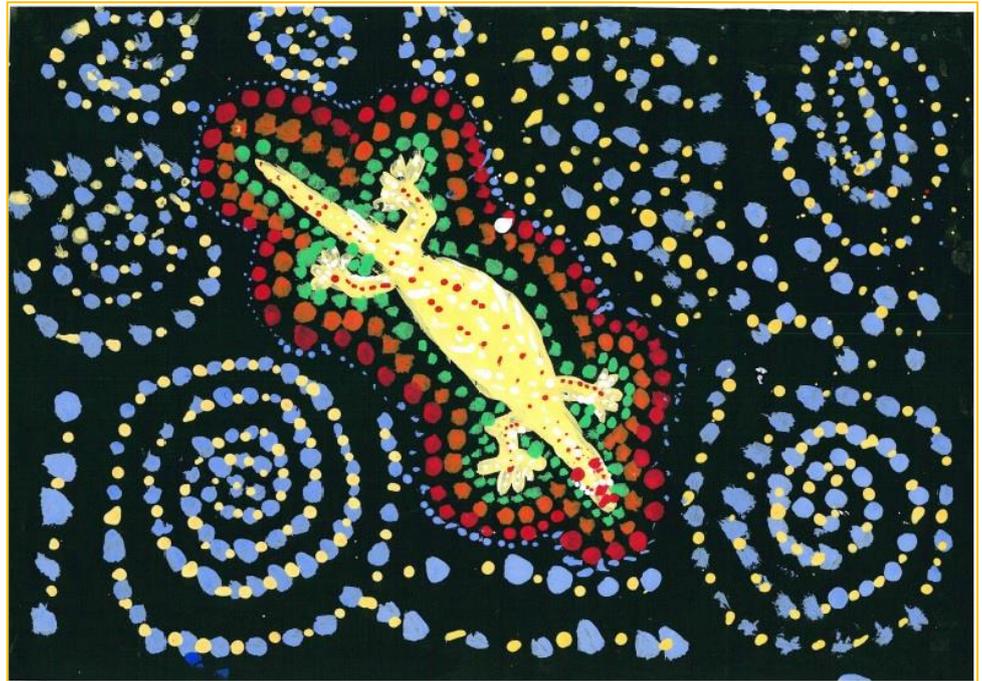
Kathy Black is an artist very much embedded in the community creating opportunities for art and expression at grass roots level. She runs 'Kids Art World' a children's art club based in Newcastle, County Down and also manages the Unit T community arts project which provides gallery space for community art and also many opportunities for art workshops in many mediums for young and old. She is a regular contributor to community festival and carnival events providing pop up art experiences for children and parents on high days and holidays in many locations.



P4 Aboriginal Art

P4 Judge Beverley Healy's Comment:

All the P4 pictures were wonderfully expressive. However, I felt that this picture most strongly captured the essence of aboriginal art and the use of a black background alongside the strong patterns and colours helped it to stand out and catch your eye.



P4 Judge - Beverley Healy

Beverley Healy is an artist (and Forge parent) who paints and exhibits her work locally and further afield. She also runs art workshops in settings such as hospitals and women's groups. As a child she loved the colour rich work of the French Impressionist painters such as Monet and Degas and the English Pre-Raphaelites, such as Millais and Holman Hunt. Today I still love the detail of the Pre-Raphaelites but am also very fond of an American painter called Andrew Wyeth whose paintings have a lovely mixture of detail and wide open space.



P6 Dutch Watercolour

P4 Judge Jeremy says: "I loved this image as it closely resembles the impressionist style of painting used in the late 1800's. The impressionist painters of that time used bright colours in dabs and dashes and squiggles of paint. This painting captures the technique and style of many famous artists of that era. The use of the 'Thirds Rule' also draws the viewer's attention to the main subject within the painting - the windmill".



P6 Judge – Jeremy Purdy

Jeremy Purdy is a graphic designer who runs creative design studio, Quikfire based in County Down. He specialises in designing promotional and communicative materials in both print and digital form and clients include businesses and charities.

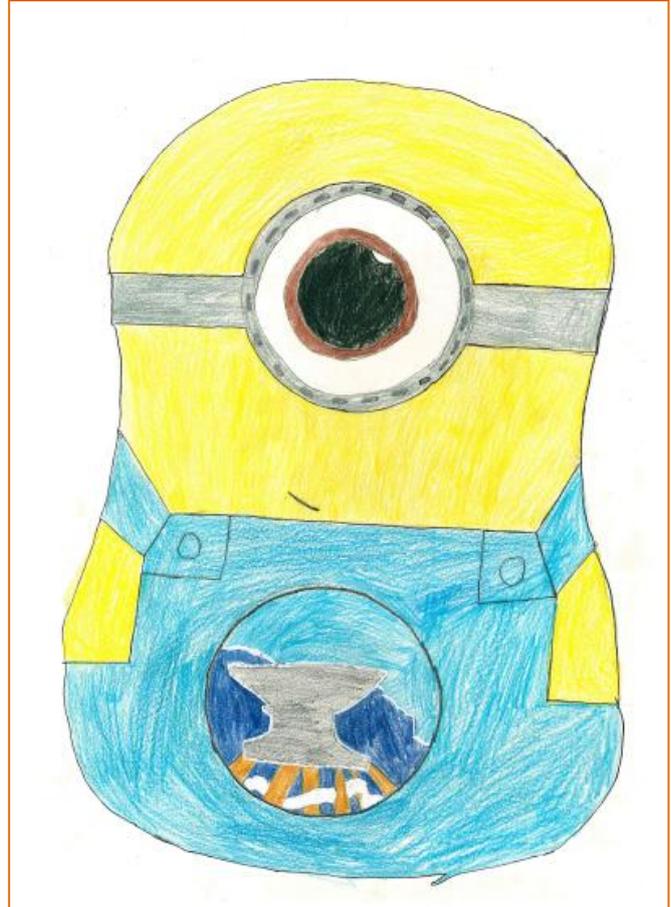


P7 Matryoshka Dolls

Cupar says: Thanks for asking me to judge one of the fantastic year group's art entries.

The standard of all the P7s work was fabulous! The piece I chose was the Minion Russian Doll.

The winning artist used an up to the minute Minion icon and is easily recognisable by all children. The artist creatively combined the Minion and Russian doll shapes. It was a simple, direct and colourful design. By including the school's crest it made it a perfect entry for Forge's Art Competition. Well done! Best wishes, Cupar Pilson.



P7 Judge - Cupar Pilson

Born in Belfast, Cupar worked for many years as a graphic artist in the Publishing business but has returned to his first love of painting in acrylics, watercolours and mixed media.

Humour and a certain naivety of style is a hallmark of his work which is exhibited in various galleries and exhibitions around Northern and his work is represented in collections throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic, the UK, USA and Canada.



P5 – Mexican Art

Neil says: I think these are great and I can see great potential in all of them. I love the bird and the images of the skulls but as a painter I am particularly drawn to the tree because of the brush work, wealth of colour and mark making not only in the central image of the tree but also the background. You really need to keep encouraging these kids; they see the world so clearly!



P5 Judge – Neil Shawcross MBE

Neil studied art in Bolton and has lived in Northern Ireland since 1962. Primarily portrait painter his subjects have included novelist Francis Stuart and former Lord Mayor of Belfast David Cook. He also paints the figure and still life, taking a self-consciously childlike approach to composition and colour. His work also includes printmaking, and he has designed stained glass for the Ulster Museum and St. Colman's Church. Some of his paintings based on Penguin Classics Novel covers will be familiar to diners in Belfast. Neil is a Patron of the charity YouthAction Northern Ireland. He has exhibited in London, Manchester, Dublin and Belfast, and internationally in Hong Kong and the United States, and his work is found in many private and corporate collections.



P2– Indian Art

Tara says: 'This is a fantastic piece of art. I Love the mix of colours, patterns and shapes. Especially the detail of the hat and the rug. The whole piece has an upbeat festival feel about it that makes me smile.'



P2 Judge – Tara Mullan

Tara is one of the founders of Doodlebugs Creative Workshops, familiar faces here at Forge and many other schools and events in the area. Tara is a graduate of the University of Ulster having studied Applied Arts. She was DAS (Digital Arts Studios) artist in resident 2009-2010 with specialisms in sculpture, video, photography, performance and installation. She works with children and young people to provide access art opportunities in a range of settings and using a wide range of materials and mediums

