

The SAA Artist and Young Artist of the Year Competition 2006



Hampshire artist claims top prize, SAA Artist of the Year 2006



Congratulations to SAA Artist of the Year 2006 Barbara Rousseau who perfectly captured this vivid Galapagos Sally Lightfoot Crab in pastel. Barbara, who was also the wildlife category winner, said: “I fell in love with the vividness of the colours of the crab.” Unfortunately the crabs are somewhat camera shy. “I had to sit silent and still for over 20 minutes until I became part of the surroundings. Only then did the crabs eventually turn to face me. Once the camera clicked, that was it, all over, back view again.”

Barbara beat over 4000 other entrants from several different countries to win the top spot, and impressed judges with the colour and composition of her work.

Despite suffering from Meniere’s disease, a debilitating illness which causes deafness, tinnitus and severe loss of balance, Barbara travels around the world, finding inspiration from real life subjects. “I get the most pleasure from painting wildlife, getting my inspiration and subjects from numerous travels around the world. I always like to have seen the subject in real life learning about their habits and take my own photographs for reference. For marine wildlife, I snorkel with an underwater camera in tropical waters to observe and gain knowledge of my subject.”

Barbara, a former riding instructor and partner in a landscape gardening business, has been painting in pastel for eight years. It had always been a passion to retire to the New Forest and learn to paint, and her dreams came true when she moved to the area and joined a local artist’s class.

“I am told by my painting friends that my enthusiasm is infectious and they have often thanked me for inspiring them when they were in despair with negative thoughts about their own painting,” said Barbara. “I enjoy the tensions and pressure, the problem solving and the adrenalin rush throughout the painting which gives me sheer enjoyment and sometimes despair. The eventual achievement leaves me exhausted, so much for a relaxing hobby!”

“The SAA exists to inform, encourage & inspire all who want to paint”