

Artistpublishers.com

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PRESS RELEASE

Caroline Ritson wins The Big Oxfordshire Artweeks Poll

The people of Oxfordshire have voted Caroline Ritson's work 'Greenman found on Wittenham Clumps' as the image which captures the spirit of Oxfordshire in The Big Oxfordshire Artweeks Poll run by local web publisher, Artistpublisher.com. Jane Tomlinson's work 'Towards Uffington' came second and Anna Dillon's work 'Devil's Delight' came third. More than 600 votes were placed between 2nd April and 27th May mainly online at www.artistpublishers.com and in person at The Jam Factory in Oxford. You can buy the winners wonderful pictures of Oxfordshire as well as the other 27 entrants work in greeting card or print formats from www.artistpublishers.com. The winner of the voters' prize draw was Barry Teague, who voted for Jane Tomlinson, wins a print of his choice

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of Oxfordshire Artweeks, Artistpublishers.com launched an Oxfordshire-wide public vote for a piece of work being exhibited during Artweeks which summed up living in the county.

30 artists taking part in Oxfordshire Artweeks submitted a work of their choice – not necessarily a landscape but an image that captured the spirit of the county - for this competition. There were a variety of mediums submitted including photography, paintings, wood carving and embroidery.

Caroline Ritson exhibited at Chipping Norton Theatre from 5-12 May as part of the 2012 Oxfordshire Artweeks along with two other artists. Caroline who lives in Abingdon is inspired by the myth of the

greenman and paints in rich detail the faces that she finds in hedgerows and foliage. She works mainly in Acrylic, layering and texturing her work.

Comments on her winning work from the votes submitted included:

‘This piece has mystery and lots of energy – I love it!’

‘The colour of the unique countryside found in Oxfordshire’

‘We tend to forget that Oxfordshire has a lot of countryside.’

‘Think Oxfordshire and I think of greenery.’

‘There is something really magical about Oxfordshire for those who really take the time to look.’

‘The colours of the Oxfordshire countryside are beautifully represented and echoed in her work.’

‘A real taste of Oxfordshire countryside.’

‘It brings the old (of nature) and the new (of spring) together in the same way Oxford brings history and youth together.’

‘The best bits are hidden away and quietly getting on with being.’

‘I love the local flora and fauna. This is a lovely picture of wild flowers and plants.’

As her prize, Caroline will receive £300 worth of printing from Artistpublishers.com in the form of greeting cards or prints and runners-up Anna Dillon and Jane Tomlinson will receive £100 worth of printing each as runners-up.

Artistpublishers.com is a unique virtual gallery showcasing work of a fantastic and eclectic mix of working artists from Oxfordshire and throughout Britain. It gives artists the chance to “self-publish” their work and enables art lovers, shops and galleries to buy greetings cards and prints by Oxfordshire artists and beyond at the click of a button.

Caroline Ritson said: “ I am thrilled to win The Big Oxfordshire Artweeks Poll. I love to paint the rich flora of Oxfordshire and feel that my painting sums up both the beauty of Oxfordshire’s natural areas and the underlying spirit of an older belief in Mother Nature. I am pleased that so many people enjoyed the idea of the Greenman hidden in nature. I have done a series of paintings of the image of the Green man or lady from folklore as I find them hidden in foliage.

“I am very pleased to win the prize from Artistpublishers.com and will be using it to print cards made of my paintings. I had not considered this before but was inspired by the quality of the cards and feel it will get my work to a larger audience.”

Simon Nutbrown from Artistpublishers.com said: “We were delighted with the response to and interest we had in the competition from people living in Oxfordshire. The standard of entries was extremely high and hopefully this competition has helped raise the profile of the wonderful artists and their art in Oxfordshire. I am glad Artistpublishers.com can help make this wonderful art more accessible to everyone through greeting cards and prints.”

Jane Tomlinson who lives in Eynsham and came 2nd said “I'm delighted that my painting 'Towards Uffington' was so highly regarded by the public in the Big Oxfordshire Artweeks Vote. Most of the time I work alone and it's really hard to judge your own work in the vacuum of your own studio and your own thoughts. To have my painting seen by the public and heartily approved of gives me a real boost and impetus to keep my brushes busy!

“Interestingly all three winners were pictures of the Oxfordshire countryside. My painting shows a view from White Horse Hill, a subject I repeatedly return to because it is of such significance to me personally and, it seems, many other people! It is the roof of Oxfordshire from where you can see for miles. And the chalk figure of the horse, carved more than 3,000 years ago means that it was a special place to our ancestors too. There's something about that deep-rooted continuity that gives it spirit and people can feel that.”

Anna Dillon who lives in Aston Tirrold near Didcot and came third said “I was delighted to find out that my landscape painting was one of the winning entries over the duration of Oxfordshire Artweeks. The standard of work submitted just shows how diverse and talented the county's artists are and this competition helped create some wonderful publicity for the artists involved. My painting is of The Devil's PunchBowl near Wantage and The Ridgeway. The sky, light, dramatic shapes of the land and the atmospheric nature of this painting summed up the best of an idyllic spring day in the county. Oxfordshire has some of the most unique landscapes in the south of England so I was very pleased that this has been appreciated.

“In this tough economic climate it can be hard for artists to find the time and platform to promote and market themselves. A company like Artistpublishers.com can support up and coming artists by marketing their work in unique and original ways.”

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About Artistpublishers.com

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Visit www.artistpublishers.com to buy cards or prints featuring any of these works.

About Oxfordshire Artweeks

Oxfordshire Artweeks www.artweeks.org

Artweeks was Oxfordshire’s largest visual arts festival, a three-week celebration in May each year of the county’s artistic and creative talent, and the UK’s oldest and biggest Open Studios event. Almost 1000 artists open the doors to their homes and studios and welcome the public to see their creations and watch them work. In 2010 over 107,000 people visited nearly 500 venues across the county.

All exhibitions were free

Oxfordshire Artweeks 2012 ran from Saturday 5th – 27th May 2012 and was organised into three geographical areas

North Oxfordshire Exhibitions: Saturday 5th - Sunday 13th May

City Exhibitions: Saturday 12th - Sunday 20th May

South Oxfordshire Exhibitions: Saturday 19th - Sunday 27th May

The *Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival (Artweeks)* is a non profit-making company, limited by guarantee and owned by its members. Everyone is welcome to take part and there is no selection process for artists wishing to participate.

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