

WINDSOR WOMAN WINS LONDON ART AWARD

Last Tuesday, a local Windsor resident was recognised by one of the artistic centres of the world. Mrs. Sally Amooore, 52, was awarded the Sculpture Prize at The Armed Forces Art Society's 72nd annual exhibition, held at the Mall Gallery in London.

Mrs. Amooore, who has sculpted professionally for the past eight years, was delighted with the prize. "I feel honoured in receiving this award. Artistic creation is a lonely process and, although I sculpt out of personal passion, it is fantastic to know that my work has been recognised by people in the art world", she said.

The Windsorian was awarded the Best Sculpture prize at the exhibition for her piece entitled 'Panther'. Initially made out of clay, the resin sculpture depicts a panther stretched out on a fallen tree trunk. The competition's judges said that they had selected Mrs. Amooore's work because of its ability to depict a pose that combined outward relaxation with latent power.

The award ceremony, which commemorated the 72nd exhibition held by the Armed Forces Art Society, began with the shocking announcement that a painting had been stolen hours before the opening of the gallery. Unfortunately, the offender had not been caught at the time, despite being chased down the Mall by a priest who happened to see the thief run away with the artwork.

Luckily, Mrs. Amooore's sculpture had been kept safe and was later bought by athlete Charlie Holmes for two hundred pounds. The ex-England rower was also attracted to Mrs. Amooore's work of art by the contradictory combination of power and relaxation that he believes it contains. 'There is tremendous power that lies dormant in the muscular shoulders of the beast, and yet he appears to be in a state of repose, sharpening his claws on the bark of a tree,' he said, describing his first ever purchase in the art world. When asked about her award winning work, the artist stated that she felt the panther looked constantly alert despite its restful pose. "Animals are constantly under threat. In much of my art I try to capture the sense that animals are never off duty, never quite at rest". Mrs. Amooore, whose art focuses predominantly on wildlife, was awarded her prize by the famous war correspondent Kate Adie,

who congratulated the Windsor artist on her notable achievement. When asked what it meant to have an award presented by such a prestigious female figure, Mrs. Amooore said that she has always admired Kate Adie for her "bravery and sense of adventure". Mrs. Amooore, who has resided in Windsor for the last 22 years, is a committed sculptor. In 2002, she designed and sculpted two stone statuettes for the entrance to Dorney Court. Although she is commissioned regularly and exhibits in London at least once a year, Mrs. Amooore has never won a major prize before. On the final day of the exhibition, Mrs. Amooore also managed to sell another work entitled 'Hippos', which sold for £400.

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