Thursday 24 September 2020

WINNERS OF 2020 SWAP AWARDS REVEALED

A functional artwork that repurposes e-waste and household plastics has taken out the major award at the City of Ryde's tenth annual Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP).

SWAP is a unique competition in which artists who live, study, work or play in the City of Ryde produce artworks that are made from repurposed waste material. This year's competition attracted more than 130 entries which transformed waste into artworks and objects inspired by our natural environment, ocean pollution, the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and more.

'Telefishion' by City of Ryde resident Nicole Williams was awarded first prize in the open category (for 18+ years). This functional artwork has transformed an old television set, assorted e-waste and old household plastics into a creative new home for the artist's goldfish.

"The Telefishion is a statement on the wastage that occurs in households every day. Old technology, discarded toys, useless supermarket mini-figures, bread tags, plastics and lids. The constant exchange of old for new is unstoppable", Ms Williams said.

Emma Whitmore took out the Youth Environment Prize (for 14 to 17 year olds) for 'Natural Flare,' in which she used an old burlap tablecloth, plastic sheeting and recycled papers to create a stylish outfit that "symbolises the potentiality of a more sustainable fashion culture".

Stephanie Wilcock was awarded the Junior Youth Environment Prize (for 10 to 13 year olds) for turning old chip packets, netting, fishing line and hooks into an image of a turtle in 'Too late to say I'm sorry!'. Ms Wilcock said her artwork was a reflection on the "catastrophic impact that human waste is having on marine wildlife".

The Functional award – for the design object judged to have best used reclaimed material to form a functional piece – was taken out by Clover Barnard for her woven series entitled 'Plarn Products'. This year also saw the introduction of a new award for school participation, awarded to the school with the highest number of entries. The inaugural winner was Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School, Gladesville, with 18 entries.

SWAP is being held as a digital exhibition in 2020. Audiences can watch the exhibition opening and announcement of winners in our video launch, explore the virtual tour to find out more about individual artworks and then vote for their favourite artwork in the People's Choice Award via Council's website at ryde.rocks/SWAP.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, encouraged everyone to visit the virtual SWAP exhibition and see the amazing artworks on display.

"SWAP is a unique event and one our community should be proud of. Not only does it showcase the incredible talent of our local community, it teaches us about waste and how we can re-use resources to stop them ending up in landfill," Clr Laxale said.

The City of Ryde would like to acknowledge all the people who made this year's SWAP competition and exhibition possible including Meadowbank TAFE, Council staff and the expert judging panel which was comprised of artists Rox De Luca and Shane Forrest, and co-founder and Director of Good For The Hood, Jo Taranto.