

NEWS

Artist honoured at Glenhyrst



By Michael Peeling, The Paris Star
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Paris artist Ralph Heather talks about his work during an artists' walk and talk at Glenhyrst Art Gallery on June 27, 2013. Heather placed third in the Arts Country Juried Art Competition. SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Paris artist has taken home a top honour from the Arts Country Juried Art Competition at Glenhyrst Art Gallery.

Ralph Heather, known for his woodblock prints, came in third place in the second annual competition for his work *The Sentinels*.

Heather, who has long dabbled in the arts, was humble about being singled out amongst the artists in the June competition.

"It is simply a real honour to be part of the amazing selection of art at this year's show," he said.

Keith Shearsby took first place, Garry Walker placed second, and Sierra Barber, Michael A. Hunter and Jim Jackson all received certificates of merit.

The work of Heather, the other honourees and artists who competed can be seen at Glenhyrst until July 7.

"The Artists Walk/Talk About was a wonderful evening of conversations with artists and people interested in art," Heather said. "We went from one room to the next enjoying all the art and got true insights into the artwork as artists stepped forward to discuss their work. Having an understanding on how the artist creates and their personal inspirations is very exciting. It was amazing how fast the night went by."

Three pieces of Heather's work were featured in the exhibition, including the award winning The Sentinels. Also featured were The Kilns and Fenced In.

All three of the works are part of a body of work called "Rural Detours," a series of original woodcut prints and etchings "that pay tribute to the rich history of our local rural landscapes."

Heather describes the series of prints as "searching nearby for the missing connections to our local heritage and rural environment, finding myself surrounded by the historic places of trees, fields, homesteads, and farmlands. These original works of art are hand-drawn, hand-carved, and hand-printed in limited editions."

Heather gave Glenhyrst high marks as a venue to enjoy local artists.

"Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant is a beautiful venue for the Art Country Juried Show, and is hung 'salon style' to accommodate the great number of pieces," he said. "It is a true reflection of our local artists, the high calibre of the art and the great depth in styles and mediums."

The show is on until July 7.

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