

*Rosalind Pierson, RNS, MAA*

Rosalind Pierson was born in Tavistock, England and was introduced to painting, both in oils and watercolour, at a very early age. During her school years she began to paint tiny pictures and continued to do so even after she began her studies at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art at Oxford.

Her main interest was in landscape. One of her first miniatures in watercolour was accepted and hung at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition during her second term at Ruskin, and four others were accepted the following year at the Annual Exhibition of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers.

Soon she began to concentrate on watercolour, and 1977 saw another of her miniatures hung in the Royal Academy. Her submissions to the Paris Salon were rewarded in 1978 by a Silver Medal, to be followed in 1981 by a Gold Medal. By this time she had been elected to full membership in the Royal Miniature Society.

The Hilliard Society of Miniaturists was formed at the end of 1981 by Rosalind Pierson and Sue Burton and a group of artists based in England's West Country, in the historic cathedral city of Wells. Many of Rosalind's paintings depict the Devon countryside near her home, and in particular her beloved Dartmoor - Britain's "last wilderness."

*Judge's Statement*

I feel very honored and privileged to have been asked to judge this year's Show. As a regular exhibitor and visitor I was already aware of the very high standard of work, and so it was with a great sense of excitement and anticipation that I began the pleasurable, if daunting, task of selecting the award winners.

As a general rule, a miniature should invite, and stand up to, close inspection as well as holding its own from a distance. A painting should contain all the elements of a larger picture – good composition, colour, balance – as well as fine brushwork. Similarly, a sculpture or 3D work should have all the qualities of a large piece.

This exhibition is full of such works of art and choosing one over another seemed at times so impossible that it was necessary to look for the smallest point on which to make a decision. But in the end, of course, that is what miniatures are all about – the smallest details. The MASF Show is without doubt one of the finest showcases for miniature art in the world, and it is probably also the most popular with artists and buyers alike.

I applaud the tremendous dedication and work involved every year in putting on a show of this magnitude and I wish the Society and all the artists every success for the 2008 exhibition.

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