

Alan Farrell



Judge Alan Farrell At Work

Alan Farrell is an Engineer who has always had a keen interest in painting, which was initially mainly large works in oil but gradually changed to watercolour and then miniatures. He lived for several years on the Thames Estuary in England and was a member of a small group of artists (several of whom were well known in the UK) where he gained much practical/helpful advice and guidance.

He started exhibiting seriously in 1981 in the UK and abroad and for several years exhibited regularly with the Royal Society of Marine Artists (RSMA), The Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour (RI) and several other major UK Art Societies. While exhibiting with the RSMA in 1983 he visited the Annual Exhibition of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers (RMS) in an adjoining Gallery. He was immediately smitten with the incredible detail and variety of the work and the following year submitted work to the RMS, all of which were accepted for exhibition.

Alan now only paints miniatures and is a Member of the RMS, Miniature Artists of America (MAA), Miniature

Art Society of Florida (MASF), Miniature Art Society of Painters, Sculptors and Gravers of Washington (MPSGS) and exhibits widely in the UK and abroad. He has received many awards including two Honourable Mentions for the RMS Gold Bowl, first place in the RMS for larger work and a Best of Show with the MPSGS. He also exhibited in the Royal Academy 2006 Summer Exhibition.

Alan's work is included in several publications including the RMS 100 Years Commemorative Book, the MASF 25 year Catalogue of works in their Permanent Collection, the MAA book *Modern Masters of Miniature Art in America* and is listed in the UK Who's Who in Art.

Judge's Statement

I felt honoured and privileged when asked to be the Judge for the 2014 MASF Exhibition but afterwards the responsibility dawned on me. This Exhibition attracts more entries than any other Miniature Society throughout the world, and I would be judging over 800 works in about 20 media and subject classes for about 60 awards.

The work selected for exhibition was truly outstanding, and I never cease to be amazed at the variety of subjects, interpretations, and techniques, etc. that are used. In miniature art, in addition to the normal criteria of composition, perspective, tonal quality and originality, attention to detail is critical. When viewing a miniature you get drawn closer and closer to see the work and see the most minute detail. There is no scope for error.

After detailed viewing of all the work and going through several "filtering stages", I eventually finished up with what I considered to be the most outstanding in each class. The final choice to put them in order of merit was virtually impossible. I hope you agree with my final decisions or at least see the merit in them; but we all see things through our own eyes so I am sure there are many works other than those that I selected that are, in your eyes, winners.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the MASF members and helpers involved in the organization and management of the Exhibition, those that made my judging a pleasure and also all artists who submitted work. Even if your work was not selected for exhibition, sitting in front of a "blank canvas" and producing a work that previously did not exist is a real achievement.