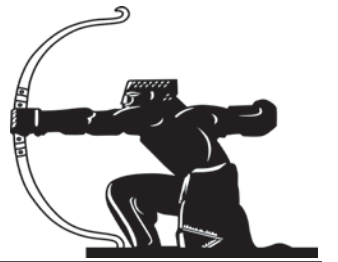


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Reluctant artist wins over the Royal Academy

By Lynn Winton

An eight-year-old boy's vivid artwork with an uncompromising message has won the hearts of the judges at the Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Show.

Nico Ogden is in Year 3 at Tetherdown School, Muswell Hill. When he heard about the opportunity to create a painting to be submitted for possible inclusion at the summer exhibition, he didn't find the prospect very appealing.

He said: "I really didn't want to do it but my mum kind of forced me. So I wrote these words and made them 3D and coloured it in. Then I realised I did want to do it. Art is fun when you put your mind to it."

The painting says: 'I don't want to enter the Royal Academy art competition.' The judges obviously got the joke and chose his work from more than 21,000 entries to be part of the Young Artists Summer Show until 13 August. Admission to the exhibition at the Academy in Burlington Gardens, central London, is free. Find out more at www.royalacademy.org.uk.



He's been framed: Nico Ogden at the summer exhibition and, left, his chosen art work in close-up

Aileen has two works selected for summer show

By Lynn Winton

Artist Aileen Jampel is no stranger to The Royal Academy, where her artworks have been selected to hang in their Summer Exhibition no less than five times. This year visitors can spot two of her colourful works, and both have sold within days of the opening.



Artist: Aileen Jampel

Aileen, who has lived in East Finchley since 1958 and continuously created art since her teens, originally studied at Hornsey School of Art and now attends a weekly art and printmaking class at The Working Men's College in Kentish Town. She's particularly inspired by David Hockney and Matisse and their daring colours.

We met in Amic on the High Road, N2, her favourite cafe, accompanied by her daughter Melanie Coates, who acts as her agent and facilitator,



Hillside scene: One of Aileen's two works chosen by the Royal Academy

and who also lives in East Finchley. Growing up with such a creative mother, it is hardly a surprise that Melanie also has links to The Royal Academy, where she has led their primary school workshops.

Whilst art has been a huge part of her life, Aileen's interests are not confined to that alone. She regularly attends concerts, theatre and Wimbledon, plays bridge and keeps fit with weekly pilates sessions. At home in Edmund's

Walk she's happy to spend the day drawing in the garden. "And once I get started I just can't stop".

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition runs till August 20th. Find out more at royalacademy.co.uk