



DOWNING COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Twining Egginton Prize in Fine Arts 2021

Exhibition Catalogue

Entry 1 – Invincible Summer

"The tenacity of humans will never cease to amaze me. Even here, on a gloomy Cambridge street in the middle of a pandemic, your siren call beckons me. Your exuberance is contagious. Your music twists around us, illuminating everyone it touches, and turning us, for just a moment, from strangers to the closest of friends. There is something so innately human about refusing to yield in adversity. In the face of disease marked by isolation, you find a way to form community. This is the art of living. Here, in this moment, I am reminded of Albert Camus's words, and fall in love with humans just a little bit more. 'In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me there is something stronger, something better, pushing right back.' Albert Camus."

Entry 2 – My Brother

"This is a painting of my brother George. Having been separated by distance due to Covid for over nine months, I decided to paint a portrait of him at Easter. This work was influenced by the style of Van Gogh, George's favourite artist."

Entry 3 – One

"This close up of a primrose from my garden reminds me of the striking symmetry and order of the universe. All life follows similar patterns of growth and has the same will to live. Due to the cold, no bees were seen visiting the primrose but flower after flower kept coming up, representative of the struggle for survival that all lifeforms undergo. The oneness of life - despite its diversity - should foster in all of us an understanding of how connected we are on this planet, and thus bring forth in us nothing but compassion and love for all life."

Entry 4 – Viñales at Sunrise

"I based this artwork on a photo I took on my Year Abroad in Cuba. It depicts a tree standing on the hillside in Viñales, a beautiful UNSECO World Heritage Site in the West of Cuba, which has very distinctive orange soil and dramatic rock formations called mogotes (steep-sided limestone hills). I had the opportunity to go on a walk at sunrise during my short weekend visit, which is when I took the picture that inspired me to make this piece, capturing the moment shortly after the sun had risen when the light was just catching an enormous tree on the hillside and casting shadows over the ridges in the soil. A short time after this trip my Year Abroad was cut short by the pandemic and I had to leave Cuba earlier than planned, so this image is for me an evocative reminder of the beauty of the Cuban countryside and a special memento of my time there."

Entry 5 – Trust

"After putting her kits to bed the mother fox found a comfy spot in the sun and napped not five metres from me. With how cruelly humans can treat the natural world, it is such a privilege to have a wild animal feel so safe in my presence. This moment stays with me and reminds me to make kind choices."

Entry 6, – Lao Ye

"A memory of my grandad (translated to 'lao ye' in mandarin)."

Entry 7 – Autumn in London

"This is a photograph I took during a walk in lockdown in the autumn, when I really started to notice the beauty in the ordinary amidst the boredom. I wanted to capture the warmth of the evening light in the ochre tones of October."

Entry 8 – Mathurin

"Acrylic painting titled 'Mathurin' after Breton painter Mathurin Méheut."

Entry 9 – Mother

"Mother Fox bathing in the sun on the Master's Lawn."

Entry 10 – Who Am I?

"A thought on external validation and insecurity."

Entry 11 – Downing Shadows

“I took this photo at the end of Michaelmas term, a very unusual term for everyone in Downing and at the University. Throughout the term I found renewed appreciation for the beauty of the college and outdoor spaces in Cambridge. When I took this photo, I was struck by the dramatic long shadow cast by the low winter sun, producing this image of one of Downing's iconic ionic columns stretching across the grass from the hall towards the library. The college at this time, like the trees, was lacking in life, so I have exaggerated this by adding a monochrome filter to the image. Even in the winter, Downing remains an incredibly beautiful and tranquil space, an atmosphere that I feel is captured by this photograph.”

Entry 12 – Milkweed

“Photography of seeding milkweed from Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.”