



College art students win three prestigious national awards

Havering Sixth Form College art students won three out of four possible awards in a national competition where the judges said they were “blown away” by the quality of their work.

Student Matt Clark, who is studying A Levels in Art and Design (Graphics), Photography and Physics, won the Digital Still Image Award at BECTA’s Digital Arts Exhibition and annual research conference in Bristol.

Rob Stratton, who is studying for the Foundation Art and Design Diploma having achieved three A Levels, was runner up in the Digital Still Image Award, and Francis Qureshi, also working towards the Foundation Art and Design Diploma, was runner up in the Digital Moving Image Award.

Another College student, Tom Shannon, was shortlisted in the Digital Still Image category.

In the competition run by BECTA, SkillSET, and the Arts Council, 12 pieces of work by 14 to 19-year-old students from all over the UK had been shortlisted for exhibition and the prizes. The College had four pieces shortlisted – an achievement in itself - and then went on to win three of the four awards!

Chairman of the judging panel, Clive Lissaman, who is also Education Business Manager for Skillset, said: “I’ve worked with Havering Sixth Form College in the past, so I was already expecting a good standard of work from them. When the pieces arrived we were blown away by their quality.

“They showed exceptionally high levels of technical and creative ability and are excellent examples of how the barriers between different creative disciplines are fast collapsing. It is some of the most impressive work I have ever seen from 16 to 19-year-olds and the college should be very proud of the students and the work they’re producing. I’m confident that all of these students have a bright future ahead of them in the creative industries.”

And Terri Kinnison, manager of Harnessing Technology Funding and Impact for BECTA, added: “The general level of entries for this competition was very high. To have four out of the 12 shortlisted pieces is an achievement in itself.

“To then go on and win three of the four prizes really says something about the approach to teaching in the College and the students’ response to that approach.”

College Principal Paul Wakeling said: "This is fantastic news and real recognition of the new standard of work being produced by our Arts and Media students."

BECTA's research conference was a chance for delegates to talk about and learn how technology can support learning in the 21st Century. It was attended by the College's Creative Arts and Media Subject Sector Leader, Uly Lyons, who was thrilled with the success.