

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Culzean captured in painting competition

Last weekend, art lovers came together for a special competition at the National Trust for Scotland's Culzean Castle.

On Saturday 8 September Culzean Castle hosted its first art competition: Capture Culzean – A Painting in a Day.

The competition was held in Culzean Country Park and although it was a wet and cloudy start to the day, this didn't stop the determined participants, as they started their masterpieces sheltering under several umbrellas, trees & even in the Culzean caves. In the afternoon the sun broke through, allowing participants to perfect their works of art.

Paige Campbell, Events Manager, Culzean Castle said, "Despite the rain and midgies, there were lots of laughs as artists had a great time painting our beautiful castle – one of 26 castles and houses the National Trust for Scotland cares for and protects. We're delighted that the first event of its kind was so well attended and the talent on the day was incredible.

On Sunday 9 September, participants along with their friends and family were invited back to Culzean to enjoy the exhibition and prize giving. Each painting was judged by a panel of local artists, Jim Orr, Fiona Robertson and Helen Turner. Helen Turner, the head judge for the day, designed for James Templeton, where she travelled around the world. Her designs can be viewed in the Waldorf Astoria, Turnberry Hotel, San Francisco Opera House amongst others. Helen was an elected president of the Paisley Art Institute for many years and is a member of Glasgow Society of Women Artists (GSWA).

Culzean's artists in residence kindly supported the event. Irene Walker, Elspeth Guthrie and Susan Leishman's work is displayed in their Coach House Gallery at Culzean.

Winners were announced at the prize giving with first place awarded to Margaret MacDonald who painted Swinston Pond within the grounds of Culzean Country Park. Margaret received the prize of £100, an overnight stay at Culzean Castle's Eisenhower Hotel and a free framing, kindly donated by Robert Grier. Second place was granted to Sarah Plant third place to Karen Nisbet - who also won the People's Choice Award - and fourth place to Seana Doherty.

Winning artists paintings are on display in the Coach House Gallery at Culzean Castle, and are available to purchase over the next couple of weeks.

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