

# School coursework wins National Open Art competition



A piece of A-level coursework has won top prize in a national open art competition. Kaye Song's oil painting *Asleep*, of a close friend at rest in her bedroom, beat hundreds of artworks by professional and amateur artists in a public vote.



The winning entry by Kate Song titled *Asleep*

Kaye's schoolwork will now be exhibited at National Open Art's prestigious Winter Exhibition at the Royal College of Art next month, after winning the lion's share of 11,000 votes cast. It's the first time the pupil has entered an art competition.

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I wanted to capture the quiet intimacy of someone asleep, wrapped in their duvet, and asked my friend to pose for me

Unsurprisingly, she got an A\* in the exam and will now go on to study Architecture at the University of Cambridge.

She said: “I never thought I would get this far. The main thing spurring me on was the idea of exhibiting at the Royal College of Art, it's such an amazing opportunity. I would definitely encourage others to enter next year, you've got nothing to lose and you might just end up surprising yourself.”

The 18-year-old from London created *Asleep* for her final art A-level project, which asked students to create art under the theme 'wrapped'.

Kaye said: “I wanted to capture the quiet intimacy of someone asleep, wrapped in their duvet, and asked my friend to pose for me. I took a lot of photos of her then spent two or three days painting. I love the process of painting so much, I can spend ages doing it.”

It will appear alongside 134 artworks that have been selected from the competition's 500-strong longlist by the competition's expert judging panel.

*After Gericault: the journey from Romanticism to Classicism*, a painting by Patrick Blower, a political cartoonist for the Guardian, the Sunday Times and Private Eye amongst others, came second in the World Vote.

*Empire State of Mind*, a pen drawing of the New York cityscape by 18-year-old student Phoebe Atkey from Dorset, came third.



Patrick Blower's painting took second place

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Phoebe Atkey took third place with her drawing of the Manhattan skyline

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### **Jean Samtula**

One of a handful of aspiring artists whose painting was chosen for the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition

### **David Martin**

A retired designer who painted a Canaletto-style painting, replacing the buildings with those of his home town

### **Robert Burns**

A retired decorator gave his home a Renaissance make-over

### **Maria Lyon**

A crafter who loves creative challenges of all shapes and sizes

### **Rachel Blunden**

A spinner who takes her spindles wherever she goes, including an FA Cup Semi-Final

### **Kenneth Small**

A retired tool-maker who painted a life-size Canaletto replica

### **Bev Cain**

A crafter who didn't think drawing would be her forte but had a go anyway

**David Colbert**

A former teacher who went looking for a hobby and found the ukulele

**Emily Auger**

A jewellery designer who discovered a love for digital printing and uses it as a way to relax and to cure jet-lag

**Cheryl Lloyd**

A dedicated mum and knitter who makes retro tank tops for her rugby- mad son and his friends to add a splash of style to the stands

**Rachel Orchard**

A stitcher who joined a sewing group to meet like-minded people. She's made tea cosies and draught excluders as gifts and hopes to move to dressmaking

**Peter Egriega**

A stroke survivor who has used painting, music and writing to rehabilitate. He shared his first self-portrait using his affected hand with Get Creative

**Sally Taft**

A keen cross stitcher and crafter who uses it as a way to relax and wind down after a day content producing for Get Creative