



RUNNER-up winners of the Sasol New Signatures Art Competition 2021, including Cape Town-based artist Andrea du Plessis, winner of the Sasol New Signatures Art Competition 2021 at the Pretoria Art Museum. | THOBILE MATHONSI African News Agency (ANA)

SASOL ART COMPETITION

Lady Luck finally smiles on winner

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AFTER TRYING for four years with no luck, University of Pretoria alumna and Cape Town-based multi-disciplinary artist Andrea du Plessis finally won the Sasol New Signatures Art Competition 2021.

Du Plessis, who studied Fine Arts at Tuks and completed a postgraduate diploma in Art Therapy in the UK, won the coveted title for her mixed media work *Paloceae Lupantozoa*.

The work was inspired by Martin Johnson Heade's *Orchids and Hummingbirds* series, and consists of a painting created through the traditional oil on canvas technique, that can also be experienced as a multi-sensory animated video.

The video component of the artwork, which includes sound, is accessed via an Augmented Reality (AR) animation of the oil painting.

"By juxtaposing the 19th century Romantic tradition of painting with emerging technologies, the artwork creates a tension-filled interface, momentarily transporting the viewer into a familiar yet alien world."

"But most crucially, experienced

in its multiple modalities, the artwork offers the viewer an opportunity to reflect on their relationship with nature and our changing landscape," the artist said.

As the winner of Sasol New Signatures, Du Plessis walked away with a cash prize of R100 000 and the opportunity to have a solo exhibition at the Pretoria Art Museum next year.

Runner-up Dalli Weyers from Johannesburg won R25 000 for his work titled *Forward: A manifesto*, created in his preferred medium, plastic bags. The five Merit Award winners each received a R10 000 cash prize.

Sasol's Elton Fortuin said they remained committed to playing their part in supporting the arts through this prestigious competition because they recognised the integral role it played in mirroring and recording where and who people were as a society, both collectively as a nation and for artists' personally.

"We play our part in advancing the interests and developmental needs of artists at all levels. We are not just a sponsor, we are a partner in the development and growth of the arts."

Patrick Rulore, winner of the 2019 Sasol New Signatures Art Competition,



CAPE Town-based artist Andrea du Plessis, 40, has been announced as the winner of the 2021 Sasol New Signatures Art Competition. Du Plessis won the coveted title for her mixed media work 'Paloceae Lupantozoa'. | THOBILE MATHONSI African News Agency (ANA)

will have his first solo exhibition as part of his prize. Rulore said the paintings in his *Stage 4 moments series* capture typical moments in many South African households during load shedding. "Undeniably unwelcome, load shedding has disrupted the normal scenario. Individual family members are effectively isolated from each other, being immersed in the escapist realities offered by electronic devices like cellphones and televisions," he said.

Rulore's solo exhibition and the Sasol New Signatures Art Competition exhibition, featuring the work of the 2021 winners and finalists, takes place at the Pretoria Art Museum from November 11 until January 9.

Sasol New Signatures Art 2021 winners included Du Plessis, runner-up Dalli Weyers from Johannesburg, and Merit awards for Nico Athene from Cape Town, Michèle Deeks (Pretoria), Sibaninzi Dlatu (Umtata), Durban-based Eugene Mthobisi Hlophe and Monica Kloppe from Pretoria.



SOME of the Sasol New Signatures Art Competition 2021 artworks exhibited at the Pretoria Art Museum. | THOBILE MATHONSI African News Agency (ANA)