



## Get Painting students!

Deadline for entries to **Junior Painter** of the Year Awards fast approaching. Renowned Artist Helen Steele has teamed up with **Sightsavers** Ireland to remind Cork primary schools to get painting for the second annual **Junior Painter** of the Year Awards, the deadline of which is 10th November 2010. This year **Sightsavers** Ireland is asking children to enter their picture under the theme of this year's competition 'Seeing This Makes Me Smile'. The **Junior Painter** of The Year Awards was devised by **Sightsavers** Ireland as a fun and engaging way to help children understand the importance of their own sight.

The awards are open to all primary school children in Ireland and prizes for students and teachers include Easons Gift Cards, the unique opportunity to enjoy an art class with Helen Steele and the chance for their artwork to appear at an exhibition in Airfield, Dundrum early next year and in the Irish Times Art in the Classroom supplement.

To inspire budding artists to get painting, Helen Steele, who will be judging the competition, has provided her top three painting tips:

1. Pick a topic or theme that you really love, this shows in what you create, and it's much more fun drawing something that you're passionate about.

2. Don't be afraid to add to your painting with new mediums such as crayons, markers, or even smudging coal on paper! Sounds a bit gross but it can work out quite well.

3. I never try to tell anyone how they should paint or draw, the ideas and inspiration that you create in your own head are the very best, so believe in your own natural talent that lies within every one of you, and just relax and enjoy the process of creating your very own masterpiece.

"I am really looking forward to see-

ing all the colourful pictures from the talented children in Cork. We want every primary school in Cork to get behind the initiative. This year's theme 'Seeing This Makes Me Smile' should provide lots of inspiration as children can paint anything that puts a smile on their face, be it a giant ice cream cone, their favourite superhero, grandma and grandpa or even Jedward!" commented Helen Steele

"These awards give us an opportunity to inform children about the importance of sight and to raise awareness of **Sightsavers**' work. 75% of worldwide blindness is avoidable and **Sightsavers** Ireland works through local partners in 15 countries in the developing world to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for children and adults who are visually impaired," commented John Fleming, CEO of **Sightsavers** Ireland.

Alan Johnston, Group Marketing Manager, Easons said: "We're delighted to be able to support this competition for the second year running. I would encourage all schools to take part and support this great initiative."

The awards are supported by Easons, The Irish Times and Airfield. Information on the **Junior Painter** of the Year Awards has been sent to every primary school principal in Ireland. Further packs are available from **Sightsavers** by calling 01 663 7666; or emailing **Sightsavers** at [schools@sightsavers.ie](mailto:schools@sightsavers.ie). People can also find more information by logging onto [www.sightsavers.ie](http://www.sightsavers.ie) or [www.facebook.com/SightsaversIreland](http://www.facebook.com/SightsaversIreland)

The deadline for entries is the 10th November 2010. There are four categories; Junior and Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd Class, 3rd and 4th Class, 5th and 6th Class. Each region (Leinster, Munster, Connaught/Ulster) will have a winner in each category. All 12 regional winners will receive Gift Cards from Easons, Eason's Art Kits, passes to Airfield and have their paintings exhibited at Airfield in early 2010. All schools with winning pupils will

also receive Easons Gift Cards to put towards art supplies or books. The four national category winners will be announced at the launch of the exhibition in Airfield, from which the overall winner will be selected. Helen Steele will visit the school of the overall winner in March and provide the winner and their entire class with a wonderful art class.



A painting submitted for the competition by 11 year old Kirsty Long from Rylane NS, Rylane. Her painting is titled 'Little Things Make Me Smile'.