

FECO ARGENTINA First International Exhibition and Contest

FECO Argentina Awards: How they were granted

“The cartoon must be soulstirring to our heart or delighting to our eyes. I must balance the contradiction between the individual expression desire and the public opinion. Cartoons don't include only gags. The higher your heart, the higher your work..”

Xia,Dachuan and Jin,Hui

**Jury of the 1st FreeCartoonsWeb International Cartoonet Festival; China
2002**

A cartoon may amuse us, puzzle us or even annoy us. The only thing it cannot do is to pass unnoticed, or to leave us indifferent. This is what we learnt after naming the FECO Argentina awards. The final decision was taken by three different sources: professional cartoonists, the public attending the exhibition and remarkable cartoonists as Marlene Pohle, vice-president of FECO Internacional, resident in Germany.

The people was invited to deposit his vote in a ballot box. We have to emphasize that general public had strong roll in choosing the awards of Caricature (portrait) categories , because it is easier to define at a glance.

Every day along the four weeks of the exhibition, after each cultural event we invited all the audience to make their vote, and the votes were summing up.

The dilemma was, once again: What is more important: the idea or the technique? We decided to award those works that showed both things: good technique together with an effective and original idea.

Though graphical humor is supposed to make one laugh, we didn't awarded the funniest cartoons but the most controversial or powerful ideas, instead .

We noticed that cartoons goes much further than the mere intention of putting a smile in your face .In an exhibition of this huge dimention – more than 1000 works exposed -, only the most powerful ideas are the one that make you stop and look, and leave you thinking about them. Finally, the decision was unanimous. The chosen works were the ones that left us thinking. They did not leave us indifferent, they affected us deeply.

The First Intrenational Prize to Slawomir Luczynsky (Poland) is not funny at all, but raises a tragedy: the woman kills itself if he goes away. He sent an original that seems painted in oil, but he managed to show a static situation impossible to solve that makes the siatuiation eternbal in time, and filled with anguish.

That makes one think that for a cartoon, even more important than being funny is to make people think. Ross Thomson says that a good cartoon is like a small riddle the observer must solve or unravel . The first prize was not easy to understand at the first glance . But a minute ater people went : “ Ahhhh!” aloud, happy to understand it . That is the ultimate generous task of cartoonism: making people happy of having understand something that seems to be very difficult and hard to solve . A good cartoon make you feel good at being able to solve the inner mechanism of learning how to read the cartoon. Maybe cartoonism should be considered the first step to open the gates of the interest into education and study. Cartoons are meant to being studied one by one . They are not meant for lazy people; they demand an effort of the observer, a compromise to unveil the puzzle, very similar to a mathematic formule or a philosofal question. Neither are easily understood the works of Chinese Leng Mu, Korean Tae Kang Yong or Ucranian Yuri Kosobukin. None of them made easy jokes. They all require a deep work of observation. They are jokes that force us to stop at them, to understand them. And once you understand them, you love them because it is like a little secret you ´ve just discovered and now share with the author.

The enormous excellent amount of works made the selection very complicated, but finally we voted the works that showed a whole committment of the author to look for an original idea, a good technique and

a beautiful composition. The artistic and humoristic level of the winners stands out over the other participants. The awarded artists put their souls in their works, and that made all the difference.

Ana von Rebeur
FECO Argentina President
INTERNATIONAL PRIZES

INTERNATIONAL CARTOON CATEGORY

1st Prize: Slawomir Luczynski (Poland). A woman with the rope to the neck stopped on shoulders of a man who carries two suitcases. This scene shows a moment where times stand still before tragedy. With live colors and funny faces, the author turned a nightmarish situation into a cartoon. The static situation is impossible to solve, stopped in the time. It left us so worried, that we solved to vote it like winner so that it does not obsess us any more. The author was born in Pabianice in 1957, works in newspapers and Polish magazines, did more than 60 individual samples and 200 collective ones, received 15 national prizes and 19 international. He is member of the Association Polish of Cartoonists

2nd Prize: Leng Mu (China) A man shouts alone in a solitary beach, trapped with clamps in a wooden wall. He has two legs and the left arm clamped, but they couldn't lower his right arm, up with the fist still fighting. And he goes on shouting in solitude. The composition has an amazing balance: plank and man are two opposite trapezes cut by the horizon line. "Never surrender" seems to say.

3rd Prize: Pablo Velarde (Spain) Women of Century XX It is a collection of 24 tiny cartoons in two pages published in the Spanish humor magazine "El Jueves". Great drawing and better humor, showing as realistic situations with lots of irony.

4th Prize: Oleg Dergatchov (Ukraine) Boy and Books. Dergatchov deals on universal issues with an impeccable technique. Inks and watercolors don't have secrets for him. The boy who seems interested in the culture, but looks for only money in books is as good as anyone of the other works that he sent. He was born in Rostov (Russia) in 1961, but he lives in Lviv (Ukraine). Exposed in more than 130 international exhibitions. (See biography in www.fecoargentina.com.ar)

5th Prize: Yuriy Ochakovsky (Israel). Shooting Targets. This Russian cartoonist living in Israel does not have easy ideas. Next to the tidiest technique, he always makes works that forces to think. Each person who saw his cartoon gave it a different meaning, up to now we registered seven different interpretations. This challenging and controversial work deserved the award.

Mentions of Honour:

Yurij Kosobukin (Ukraine). Another controversial work: the poor man who watches the cutted loaf of bread like the scenery of a small theater has a strong composition with a poetic treatment. Bread is the only performance in the life of a poor man? Do we all cut bread watching it like a small surprise, a daily miracle? Is food Humanity greatest entertainment? The questions arised by this drawing make it deserve the prize.

Miroslav Gerencer (Croatia) The subject of the bodyguards seems a classic one that tends to invade all exhibitions. But it means how funny it is for everybody to see people who surround themselves by people as weak as themselves to feel protected: total absurd. In real life, bodyguards always tend to end up in the bed of the protected (Princess Stephanie of Monaco's case), or of the protected's wife or daughter. Of all the hundreds of "bodyguards", this is the funniest idea. The Capomaffia in squatting position on the side of the road surrounded by bodyguards who passes him up the toilet paper. The essence of the joke is the solemnity in which they cover him in the toilet scene.

.Paolo Dalponte (Italy) Dalponte is much more an humoristic illustrator than a cartoonist. This Italian artist hits with a skillful style made with sharpened pencils. We awarded it by the quality of his masterpieces .

Tae-Yong Kang (Korea) Another controversial joke: a clumsy Moses opens miracoullously the waters of the Red Sea, but along the sea, instead of cross-sectionally. It speaks about the human stupidity, that is the essence of the humoristic issues . The exact composition, the obtained proportions and the elegant drawing were worth the mention.

INTERNATIONAL CARICATURE CATEGORY

1 er Prize: Achille Superbi (Italy)

Impressive preciosa technique in a work that hit to all.

2nd Prize: Alberto Jaime Rodriguez Perez - Kiko (Cuba)

All the work of Kiko is excellent, and all their cartoons seemed to us amazing. But eset Cuban resident in Ecuador enamored to all with this Celia so outlandish and proud Cruiz, as the lady of the sauce is it. ér prize

3rd Prize: Florin Balaban (Luxembourg)

This Rumanian artists living in Luxembourg is a master of the technique of pastels, with which he makes very personal cartoons, obtaining an intimist and mysterious queliety that captivated us.

4th Prize: Damien Glez (Burkina Faso)

The loose and agile line of this impressive French cartoonist living in Africa gave us the pleasure to see a great version of Duhalde, Argentine's president, as a little opulent man, with the side- fallen bland mouth that characterizes him.

5th Prize: Miroslav Gerencer " Gero" (Croatia)

Gero was a surprise for us all: he is as good a cartoonist as caricaturist. All his cartoons are ingenious and acute, and their caricatures are highly reconocibles, like this Tom Hanks that everyone noticed and applauded. He took a Mention in cartoon.

NATIONAL PRIZES (ARGENTINA)

CARTOON CATEGORY:

1 er Prize: Shared by Sergio Chait (Grocer's Nursery) and Pepe Angonoa (Clown's Tomb)

Sergio Chait was always a great fan of humor magazines, that dedicated himself to create a style different from all. He got to a style of angular and strong contours. But the strong thing of Chait are his captions . Chait does not have a single bad joke, all are acute and effective.

Jose Angonoa is a great cratoon text writer. He is very funny himself. But this time he was awarded by two captionless cartoons, both equally good. And the controversy arose by which of both he would be awarded. Like Chait, its style is very recognizable. Angonoa is a veteran soldier of the War of Falkland Islands. No wonder he dares to make fun of death.

2nd Prize: Daniel Paz-(Bears).

Daniel Paz has the purest line, a sense of humor based on word games and a tidy technique. Though he is a master in political humor, this time he won a prize for a work that was so absurd and surrealistic as to be tender: the ripening of a teddy bear in a teddy bear tree.

3rd Prize: Mario Almaraz “Marito” (FMI)

Mario Almaraz has a drawing that makes you laugh even if one doesn't read the captions. Their characters are stocky and disheveled, unfortunate beggars and stupid people, that live up interesting ideas with a bright palette.

4th Prize: Jorge Lepera. “Jorh” (Piñata)

Jorh has the most personal and original drawing, so hard in lines that he is almost coarse. His ideas often are not based so much on the text as in the possibility of taking advantage of the drawing to make situations impossible. We awarded this drawing because people laughed at seeing this almost silly joke. The astonished boxer because the punching ball he broke was a piñata is once again the victory of the absurd over the solemn thing that, according to Freud, makes us laugh for not having to keep a useless solemnity.

5th Prize: Leo Bolzicco (Gallego in the island)

His cartoon (a desert island classic) goes to the nut of the joke in a graceful line.

Career Recognition: Cristóbal Reinoso “Crist”

Crist has decades of excellent works. In addition of being a great humorist, he is a great artist. His humor is not easy: it has philosophical points of view, requires certain level of culture and information to be enjoyed. There is a concern on human destiny that distinguishes his works and makes them deep and tender.

Prize Cartoon Revelation/New Talent: Esteban Balzano “Elmer”. He has a professional drawing, with a very graceful style that uses a grotesque but measured drawing, with an excellent use of the color.

NATIONAL CARICATURE CATEGORY:

1st Prize: Santiago Dufour Dufour's technique is very tidy, and his works are creative and lively.

2nd Prize: Mercedes Tesán Mercedes is a good graphical humorist, but her portrait of tango singer Tita Merello balances art and cartoon with style.

Revelation Prize / New Talent: Maximiliano Bagnasco- The caricatures of this young author rescue the internal essence of the portrayed one.