

Opening of the 36th Edition of the International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice 2008 and Ceremonial Presentation of the Awards to the Best Child Artists

On Wednesday 28 May more than 200 guests attended the ceremonial award presentation held within the 36th edition of the International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice 2008 in the garden of the Lidice gallery. Among the awarded children accompanied by their families and many other respectable guests there were also the First Deputy Minister of Culture of CR, JUDr. František Mikeš, the Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, doc. PhDr. Dušan Lužný, the Secretary-General of the Czech Commission for UNESCO, Ing. Pavel Škoda, the ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland and Poland and representatives of the embassies of Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Japan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Syria.

From the morning there were games organized by the Leisure-time Centre Labyrint Kladno in the garden of the Lidice Gallery and at 10. a.m. a theatre performance "Cinderella" was presented by the Dell'arte theatre.

At 11 a.m., having welcomed the audience, Naďa Rezková Přebýlová invited pupils of the music department of ZUŠ Buštěhrad onto the stage to open the ceremonial programme with three pieces. Then the youngest girls from Sportklub ČASPV Kladno presented their sporting and dancing skills. Afterwards the curator of the exhibition, Mgr. Ivona Kasalická, gave an opening speech. Having briefly summed up this year's 36th edition of International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts, the director of the Lidice Memorial JUDr Milouš Červenci gave the floor to the 1st Deputy Minister of Culture Dr. František Mikeš who, together with the Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports doc. Dušan Lužný and the director of the Lidice Memorial assumed the task of awarding the prizes to the best child artists. Thirty-eight medallists accepted the medals and the Rose of Lidice diplomas and other material prizes – books on art donated by Euromedia Group, T-shirts with the logo of the International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts and puzzles of the picture awarded in this year's edition, donated by the Lidice Memorial.

The Secretary-General of the Czech Commission for UNESCO, Ing. Pavel Škoda, and the representative of the Croatian embassy in Prague, Ms Božena Leš, awarded the prize for a foreign participant of the competition to 11-year-old Sara Cuklin from Varazdin and the president of Fotoklub Varazdin, Mr. Stanko Toth. Prominent Kladno photographer Jiří Hanke presented Sara with his book of photographs.

The ceremonial award came to its climax in bestowing the Prize of the Panel of Judges, a glass palette donated by the company Rückl Crystal a.s. The prize was awarded to the headmistress of ZUŠ Český Krumlov PaedDr. Alena Šepešová by the president of the panel of judges Dr. Josef Zedník and Dr. František Mikeš for long-term quality work with children and for the project Lords of the Rose.

In the end, all guests were invited to see the exhibition installed in the 2nd floor the Lidice Gallery, where more than 1,000 pictures and sculpted objects by children from 48 countries of the world could be seen.

The motto for this year was reflected even in the banquet for the award winners, which consisted of potato specialities.

Now we are looking forward to new pictures for the next edition!

Mgr. Ivona Kasalická

Head of the Lidice Gallery, curator of the International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice

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