

Not just cardboard cutouts

TERRY COLLINS

PAINTINGS on cardboard panels and a black and white photograph of a face from a pornographic movie have taken the top prizes in Gosford Regional Gallery's Emerging Artists competition.

The prizes were awarded by Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation general manager Dolla Merrillees at last week's opening of an exhibition of works by nine young artists.

Gallery curator Tim Braham said the competition was designed to support and promote the work of young artists in NSW and the nine finalists

whose work was on show were chosen from scores of entries. The Friends of the Gallery Emerging Artists prize of \$2500 went to Edward Duncan, of Kempsey, who paints and draws on hand-cut cardboard panels and recycled paper.

Gosford road maintenance company Sharpe Bros sponsored the second prize awarded to photographic artist Ben Ali Ong, who won \$2000 for a work the judge found to be "fresh and intriguing".

The work will hang in the Sharpe Bros headquarters at Gosford.

Ong said the photograph was part of his new body of work, *Black Sun (the Art of Dying)*, which explored the themes of death, mortality and consciousness.

Sharpe Bros managing director Michael Sharpe said the company was delighted to be involved in the program.

"As a company in a world of grey and black, with bitumen, asphalt and roads as our canvas, we are delighted to be involved with the art world which brings so much colour into our lives," Mr Sharpe said.



Hayden Sharpe, Michael Sharpe, Richard Sharpe and Edward Duncan with some of Edward Duncan's artwork.