



## Results of the International Year of Light Audio Visual Competition

Winner-AV Makers South Africa **Gold** medallion, Cash prize R7 000 and Licence for PicturesToExe Deluxe version 9.0 sponsored by [wnsoft.com](http://wnsoft.com)

- **Lux Polaris – William (Bill) Bruce - Norway**

Second and Best South African entry-AV Makers South Africa **Silver** medallion, Cash prize R2 500 and Licence for PicturesToExe Deluxe version 9.0 sponsored by [wnsoft.com](http://wnsoft.com)

- **From Darkness into the Light – Eric Thorburn – South Africa**

Runner-up South African entries in alphabetical order-AV Makers South Africa **Bronze** medallions, Licences for PicturesToExe Deluxe version 9.0 sponsored by [wnsoft.com](http://wnsoft.com) and ¼ share of prize R2 500\*

- **Antarctic Light – Mike Tagg, Adri & Roel van Oudheusden**
- **Kgalagadi Meditation – Izak van Niekerk**
- **One Fine Day – Adri van Oudheusden**
- **The Wonder of Light - An Exhibition by Nature – Nico Jacobs**

Highly commended entries in alphabetical order

- **Empire of Lights – Jean Paul Petit & Jacques van de Weerd – France**
- **Light in Darkness- Cor Lokker – The Netherlands**
- **Painting with Light – Malcolm Imhoff – United Kingdom**
- **Winter Light at Waddesdon – Ian Bateman – United Kingdom**

Judges' choices in alphabetical order

- **Greenhouse Reflections – Marcel Batist – The Netherlands**
- **Jane – Michael Rayment - Australia**
- **Light, Sight & Colour – Jim McCormick – United Kingdom**

Competition Director's choice

- **Gloria – Sir George Pollock – United Kingdom**

**Enquiries:** Jeff Morris 082 840 5459 [avmakerssouthafrica@gmail.com](mailto:avmakerssouthafrica@gmail.com)

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\* The competition rule was that if the winner and/or runner-up were from South Africa, this prize would be awarded to the next best South African entry. Four entries tied with equal scores for this award.

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## Report on the International Year of Light Audio Visual Competition

Let me begin by saying thank you to everyone who entered. Without you there would not be a competition. Congratulations to all the winners. The entries were of a very high standard and yours stood out above the rest in the eyes of the judges. Please keep on making AVs. To those who were not so lucky, please keep trying. Practice makes perfect.

Secondly a huge thank you to our sponsors. The major ones being the Department of Science and Technology, Wits University, the National Science and Technology Forum, without whom this competition could not have taken place, and wnsoft.com, the author of Pictures to Exe. When need arose a few of our members donated generously in support of this project. They know who they are.

Another thank you is due to our excellent judges, Robert Albright, Lorenzo de Francesco and John Hodgson, who acquitted themselves admirably. They were given the mandate to be lenient in judging whether an AV fitted the theme of "LIGHT" or not. Otherwise there could have been many disqualifications (there were none). They were also asked to put more weight on an AV that interpreted the theme better when more than one was equal on other criteria, such as image quality. This was not only about beautiful images set to music but we were looking for something deeper. (Our local scientist judge regrettably withdrew as he felt he was not qualified for the job.)

Corine Ross designed the logo for our medals and made banners that will be seen on the 2016 road show. Thank you, Corine.

Although it is preferable to have all the judges in one room for the judging session so that they can confer it is just not practical, adding significantly to costs and also forcing decisions within a time-box. There are pros and cons to both ways. Being able to use remotely located judges allows an organizer to choose from the most experienced and successful current AV makers. We allowed the three judges to confer and debate the merits or otherwise of entries amongst themselves. This worked very well and consensus was reached in an amicable way. An advantage of working on their own was that they could re-play work in their own time after being part of the discussion. We recommend that this judging model be considered by controlling bodies.

There were a number of firsts in this competition. Entry was free, there were cash incentives and (for South Africa) registration was on-line.

There were entries from many corners of the world, as reflected in the list of acceptances. South Africans did enter but generally play second fiddle to the major international players. All members of AV Makers South Africa who entered will be receiving written comments on their work from the organizers.

Gloria, by [Sir George Pollock](#), was selected by the competition director for special mention. Sir George was born in 1928 and has been an artist-photographer since 1963. He has been an inspiration to generations of UK (and international) photographers and AV makers with many awards and distinctions to his name, including Hon PSSA in 1972. He considers Gloria a hymn to light, as an attribute of the Deity, and is thus entirely appropriate for our theme of "LIGHT". He wrote in 2009: "Light is the energy that maintains life on earth, through the plants' marvellous process of photosynthesis: no light, no plants; no plants, no animals, and no us. This is the secret of life, and I want to celebrate this life-giving energy in images of, about, and made by light, in other words in photographs." The sequence was made many years ago in the slide-tape era and was recently converted to the digital format.

Our postal service was a headache. Two entries from Europe failed to arrive. One could be sent by electronic transfer and was included. The other was abandoned. We recommend that in future entry by electronic transfer be the only method allowed.

Participants were invited to complete a short questionnaire after entering and the answers may give guidance to future salon and competition directors. We had over 90% participation in the survey.

- 1) To what extent did the incentive of a cash prize influence your decision to participate?
  - Not at all 54%
  - Somewhat 36%
  - Very much 11%

We conclude that prize money is not a draw card.

- 2) Was a competition without FIAP and/or PSSA patronage a concern?
  - Not at all 71%
  - Somewhat 21%
  - Don't know 7%

The purists will argue that those with concerns stayed away so the outcome is without meaning. We leave interpretation to you, the reader.

- 3) Would you consider entering a similar themed competition next year (if you found the inspiration)?
  - Yes, definitely 64%
  - Probably 29%
  - Don't know 7%

From this limited sample of enthusiasts we have a mandate to plan another competition.

- 4) Any comments or suggestions to help us plan future events?

We received positive, helpful, encouraging suggestions. Thank you.

The DVD that has been made for distribution will be sent to local Science centres and schools to keep the flame of IYL 2015 burning for another year. We hope that all who browse through it are inspired in one way or another.

Jeff Morris LRPS APSSA AFIAP – Competition Director and committee: Ria Katzke, Eric Thorburn, Dieter de Lange, Tom Bayford and Prof Andrew Forbes.  
[avmakerssouthafrica@gmail.com](mailto:avmakerssouthafrica@gmail.com)