

Artlink awards for three young talents

THREE TALENTED young artists from Buncrana have been chosen as the first recipients of a unique bursary scheme set up to celebrate the 10th anniversary of community arts group, Artlink.

The bursary awards, sponsored by Buncrana Credit Union, are worth about 400 euro each and are designed to help young people who've shown exceptional dedication, ability and interest in pursuing a career in art.

The inaugural bursary recipients for 2002 are: Sebastian McLaughlin, Red Row (fine art); Kate Boucher-Hayes, Porthaw (photography) and Orla McNelis, Slavery (ceramics).

The judges chose Sebastian for his "exceptional dedication and ability in painting" while

Kate received the award for the same qualities demonstrated in her photography.

Sebastian and Kate, both 17, are Leaving Certificate students at Scoil Mhuire, who hope to continue their studies at third level.

"They both agree the experience offered by Artlink in conjunction with the Credit Union will enhance their chances of achieving their goal and their appreciation of their chosen medium," an Artlink spokesperson said.

The youngest recipient is 10-year old Orla McNelis, a primary pupil at St. Oran's National

School, Cockhill, who attended a number of ceramic classes with Artlink.

Her teachers said she demonstrated exceptional "ability and dedication" beyond her years in ceramics.

It is hoped the bursary will enable her to develop her skills far beyond that of her peers.

Unlimited access

All three award winners will get unlimited access to Artlink's courses for one year and access to all the facilities and equipment at the organisation's studios at Tullyarvan Mill.

A selection of materials, expert guidance and career advice from experienced and qualified teaching artists is also part of the programme.

"For the initial year of these awards Artlink

has selected three local young people who they believe have significant potential and who have demonstrated tremendous dedication through their art work to date," the spokesperson added.

"It is the organisation's belief that these bursaries will serve to encourage these young talents and enable them to pursue art as a career."

The awards will be presented on Monday at the Artlink studios by Credit Union representative, John McLaughlin.

Meanwhile, Artlink creative director, Lisa Spillane-Doherty said:

"We at Artlink are delighted to be able to offer an opportunity like this to these young artists and are grateful to the Credit Union for making it possible for us to do so.