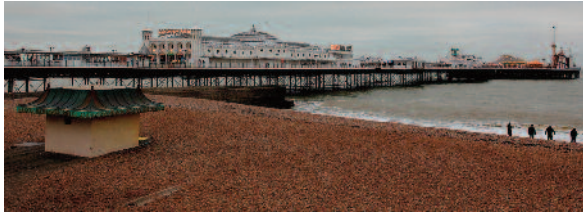


Matamata September Open Competition



Brighton

Despite the dull light this image has good detail and sharpness throughout. Nice texture in the foreground and the structure on left creates a feeling of depth. A pity the figures on right appear to be looking out of the picture area but they do add interest to an otherwise empty area and are not large enough to become dominant. Well exposed and the viewer can spend a lot of time exploring the pier. I did wonder if sharpening had been pushed too far.

Accepted

Tracey



Gotcha!

Two heads creates the inevitable competition for the viewer's attention. Fortunately they are close together so it is not so bad switching from one face to the other. Interesting contrast of expressions. I thought the image was a little too pink. You could tone this down using the colour/hue controls in Photoshop or just move the vibrance slider a little. The bright lights in the background are distracting and could be reduced by adding a vignette.

Not accepted

Liz



Horopito

Plenty of good material here but you have not been selective enough. The whole image lacks sharpness which might be a problem with the original or a product of the post processing. The flat lighting here does nothing to bring out the textures or colours in the subject. It also leaves you with a bright bald sky which is very distracting. Better to go back when there is a dramatic or deep blue sky or better still select a smaller area to photograph and eliminate the sky altogether.

Not accepted

Cassandra



Purple Flower

Lovely colour here. I think the image could do with a trim off the bottom to remove the two lowest outside leaves. This would give the image better balance. I am wondering why this was taken at 1/800 second at F5. Why not use F11 or 16 and really make those purple stamens look crisp front to back. Given the soft light this is a good effort.

Accepted

Cushla



Rotted and rusted Waimiha

Dull light seems to be a feature of this group of images but here it works well to create a mood. Really earthy atmosphere. If it was my image I would crop some of the dark green foliage off the top and in from the right to the first vertical post to retain the panoramic effect. A very nice image.

Honours

Helena



Trouble

Sarah

Gorgeous expression and nice colour. The image is really sharp in the foreground and soft in the background. One would normally suggest that the image needs tilting up from the right, but in this case I think that all adds to the driver's dilemma. The good expression, sharpness and bright colours keep the viewer concentrating on the centre of interest.

Highly Commended



Hitch it to the horse

Caron

I am surprised at the depth of focus here considering the soft light and an aperture of F4.8. Do you really need 1/640 sec to photograph Clydesdales at work? Frame is very well filled but the image would be improved by getting some more detail into the dark areas. Best to select the area and work on it in Levels or Brightness controls. The Shadows and Highlights controls in Photoshop can be a bit crude. If you are shooting raw, then there are better controls in Adobe Camera Raw to adjust shadows and highlights.

Merit



A House for a Hobbit

Amanda

Once again quite soft lighting. This has enabled you to get good detail through the whole picture area which is good from an information point of view but means that the image lacks impact. Good use of the fence and tree at left to provide depth and framing. However the red picture on the right hand side tends to pull the eye away from the scene. Either get it further into the image or eliminate or tone it down.

Accepted



Theme Song Title

A room with a view

Tracey

I found this image just too confusing. It appears there may be some reflections but really I just find myself wondering what the construction in the foreground is for. The image does not convey the romantic idea of the song.

Not accepted



The apple of my eye

Cassandra

Well some one has certainly put some effort in here to interpret a song title. I do wonder why only the apple was reproduced in colour. This makes it a real bulls eye. I think having the skin in natural colour would have given a more subtle image but I admire the effort here.

Highly commended.



Innocent Eyes

Cushla

A nice tight portrait with appropriate soft light. There are no strong highlights or colours so your eyes remain in contact with the sitter. I wonder if those eyes are really innocent or calculating the reward for having her picture taken. Nice work. **Highly commended.**



In the doghouse

Sarah

I would prefer to have seen this taken as a vertical shot so you did not have to amputate the dog's feet. Overall the image could do with some lightening to bring out more detail in the coat which is nice and glossy. Depth of field is very good so the nose is nice and sharp as well as those colourful eyes. A nice study.

Accepted.



Low Tide

Sarah

I can see how you are trying to illustrate low tide with the posts of the jetty. However the light is not striking the elements that tell your story. I do not think that you could do much with post processing to help this. It needs more planning at the taking stage.. I do not think the subject makes a sufficiently interesting composition in this light or from this viewpoint.

Not accepted.



Remember the days of the old school yard Liz

Obviously good memories for this photographer. The expressions of the children suggest they will have good memories in the future. Thoughtful use of monochrome to enhance the idea of looking back. Unfortunate that two of the children are on the edges of the frame and partly amputated. Did you have any more image to work with? If you did it would be nice to straighten up the verticals as well as restoring the lost limbs.

Merit.

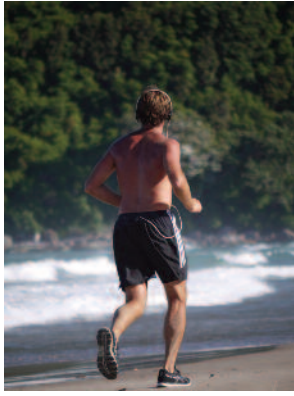


Rock around the clock

Cassandra

A very literal interpretation of the title but does not convey any of the dynamics of the Bill Haley hit. Lighting has been well chosen or handled here to avoid distracting highlights. Well photographed and presentation as a monochrome image, produces a subdued background so our attention is always focussed on the timepiece.

Merit.



Running Bear

Cushla

I looked in vain for Little White Dove. This is stretching the idea. He is neither bear or bare. While the runner has been well photographed, the rear view is rarely the best angle for any person. Unfortunately there is little else in the image to hold your attention.

Not accepted.



Sadie the cleaning lady

Helena

A very nice effort here. I presume that you used bounce flash as the light is remarkably even and the image is sharp throughout. I did wonder if there were too many elements in the photograph but on reflection think that this does give the impression of a working kitchen getting the once over. There are two distracting items on the left being the stove, brightest highlight, and the cookie can, writing always catches your attention. I think if you crop in to remove those it reduces distraction and places "Sadie" in a stronger position.

Honours.



Sailing away

Keith

You have a problem with flare and high contrast due to shooting against the light. Do use your lens hood regularly but be aware that you may need to supplement this with your hand or just a piece of paper to shade your lens. It needs some practice to avoid getting your shade in the picture. It would be nice to see more detail of the sailors.

Not accepted.



Smoke gets in your eyes

Helena

A little more work here. The expression is a bit static although the highlight in the eye does suggest it might be a bit watery. The smoke is quite red. I did wonder if there was some way you could cool that tone down which would contrast more with the figure.

Highly commended



Space Oddity

Tracey

A lot of work has gone into this but I am having difficulty trying to relate the various props used. What happened to Major Tom? Credit for effort here.

Merit.

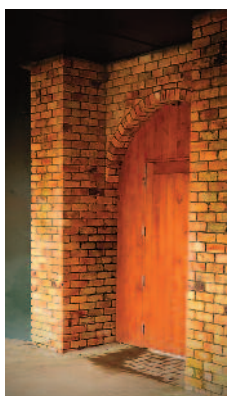


Stand by Me

Liz

This is an apt title. Wedding photographers are noted for taking pictures in the shade to ensure they get good detail and probably upset the amateurs shooting over their shoulder. However you do have to check your background and here we have strong highlights which pull your eye through and also make it harder to see all the detail in the foreground. You can do a little with post processing but much better to have used that tree behind to block out the bright sky. The hand on the shoulder is a nice touch

Accepted.



The Secret Door

Keith

This does not look too secret to me with the hinges revealed. There is not enough here to raise my curiosity about the door. Nothing wrong with the technique, maybe a different angle or the inclusion of some sort of prop would have made it more interesting.

Not accepted



Army Dreamers

Caron

A nice sunny day. You seem to have captured a quiet moment. I would have liked to see more activity to show them living their dream. At least the tin box is more positive than the one in the song.

Accepted.



Footloose

Geoff

I think a boot that had actually been worn and abandoned would be more appropriate. The lighting and dark background are well chosen to focus all our attention on the boot. With the simplicity of the subject and lack of colour I would like to see a much greater depth of field so we can appreciate the art work here

Not accepted.



Hakuna Matata

Caron

I presume this was taken at some museum or display in Africa so it would be well lit. You have certainly captured it very well except for the branch growing through the head of the figure. We just have to be so disciplined about checking backgrounds when we are taking photos. I think the figure captures the spirit of the title.

Accepted.



This little light of mine

Geoff

And yes the Seekers are still singing following a recent health scare for Judith Durham. I think this works very nicely, not too much reflection in the brass and a nice glow in the background suggesting it shines well.

Highly commended.



Your smile

Esther

I guess that title is very open to expressions. To me the smile is still on the way. This is more "I am interested, what happens next?" A nice monochrome image tending to high key with detail in all the important areas well done.

Merit.



Isn't she lovely

Amanda

What came to mind was "All I want for Christmas". Yes, she is an attractive young lady but you have not done her justice. There is too much contrast in this image. It does not appear that the light was very strong so you should have been able to show more detail in her hair and retain highlight detail in the cheeks. Go back and look at your original image and work this up again.

Acceptance.



No wheels to ride

Amanda

If the lack of wheels is the point of the picture, why not get closer and emphasize this? As presented, the red brick building dominates the image because it is the only strong colour in the picture. If you concentrated on the car you would have clipped your exposure and retained more highlight detail. A shame to see a classic car reduced to this.

Not accepted.