

JUNE 2014

Open

Can't See Brie

This is a well captured image. The cropping is good but I would have cropped the left off by about a third. This I feel would have added tension to the image. I would also have brightened the image by a half stop just to give some punch to the whites. Otherwise it is a great image.

Highly Commended



Frozen Waterfall at Oxarafoss Iceland Helena

This is a dramatic image. The cool blue really makes the viewer feel cold. I like the composition and there is plenty for the viewer to look at. However I think you could have done with a bit more depth of field. The cliff at the left seems to me to be just off focus as if it was at the limit of DoF. Because the waterfall has movement it draws the eye and then the eye moves along that bluff. Maybe a little more sharpening would help that. It is worth taking this image back into Photoshop and seeing if a bit of Unsharp Masking can help with this.

Merit



A Long Way Down Liz

There is too much space to the right of the subject in this image. Because the space to the right is light the eye is drawn to it and away from the subject.

I would crop this image so about a third was taken off the left-hand side with a bit more than a third off the right and about the same off the bottom as off the right side. Also I would crop the top off to just above the white house. This I think will make the subject more dominant without taking away from the subject.

Not Accepted



Memories Cassandra

This image is nicely framed with the trees around the edge. The exposure is good as is the light. I would have moved around a bit so the tree on the right didn't overlap the house. I am not sure if the file size is too small or if you have applied some texture to the image but the roof almost looks over sharpened. The image works well in Black and White, but would also work well with a tone in keeping with the fact that it is old. Have a play with this image.

Highly Commended





Relics in the Attic Carl

I suggest that this image needs about 1.5 to 2 stops more brightness as the blacks are over powering. There is good detail in the blacks so use it. I like the composition of the image if you brighten it. The placement of the chair is good. At the brightness you have set while there is some detail in the blacks it's not enough in my opinion and for the image to work you need to crop the image severely.

Again go back and have another play on the computer.

Not Accepted



So Cute Cushla

A nice portrait of a baby. However I would have got down lower to the girls level. The expression is good but the depth of field is too much with the back of the dress almost all in focus. This coupled with the fact that the dress is shiny dominates the image.

Also you have cut off the left hand and top of the head somewhat randomly. As an A grader you should know better by now!

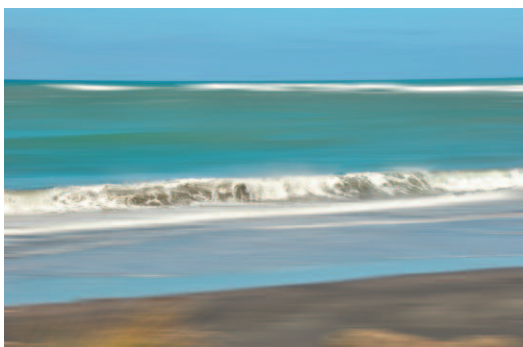
Not Accepted.



Morning Jewels Sue

A nice try but unfortunately there is not enough depth of field in this image. The viewer is drawn to the flower but it isn't all in focus. Also the droplets are very bright and distracting. They need to be toned down a bit. It is a nice try but you could have another go and see if you can improve.

Not Accepted



Wave Break Geoff

I like the movement in the sea in this image. I would add quite some contrast to this image to give it some punch. Also I would crop the top off at the horizon line. This would have the effect of making the breaking wave more dominant. As the image is there are several lines that break the image and to me it becomes too disjointed. However this image is worth playing with.

Accepted

Theme – Consumption



As much as she can eat Helena

The idea behind this image is good. However I would have liked to see the image taken from a little higher and shown the top of the head and the ears of the cow. Also I would have centred the face in the frame. My eye went to the left side of the image because there is more space there. I suggest you go back and have a play with cropping this image on the computer to see if you can improve it.

Accepted



Commercial Use Cushla

I would have liked to see more detail in the shadows as black like white tends to attract the eye and the black shadow lower left tends to do this. Also watch your depth of field. There isn't enough DoF here. You needed to stop down at least another stop to get top of the pile in focus. You still would have had the background out of focus. Also the lower right is out of focus.

Not Accepted



Electricity to the masses Cassandra

This image needs to be brightened about 75%. This will lift the shadows and reveal the detail in them. It is very important to calibrate your monitor so that what you are seeing on the screen is near enough to the same as what the judge sees. Also I would warm up the white balance somewhat.

When taking a picture look around the viewfinder for any distracting elements. The pole almost dead centre is distracting here. It wouldn't be very hard to remove it in Photoshop. The image would be much better had you come back at another time. As it is the lighting is flat. If you had taken this picture in the early morning or late evening you would have got a much more dramatic image. Composition is ok but to me this is a record shot that had so much potential.

Not Accepted



Market Carl

Definitely consumption here!! You could lighten the image about a stop here and not lose any highlights. Also I think the image would benefit from warming the white balance somewhat. The viewer is drawn to the left and also up the path and that is good. While the lady on the right provides something to stop the eye from moving out of the frame the fact that she is looking out of the frame is distracting. Maybe you could have waited until someone was there looking into the frame? Wait for the decisive moment!!

Again I suggest you go back and play with the image on the computer as this is the way you will learn.

Accepted



Please can I have Liz

You have got in nice and close here. Less DoF would have helped here and it would have allowed the person behind the subject to lose focus a bit. I would have toned down the sunlight on the girls arm and I feel it is distracting. However the eyes direct the viewer down to the mother's purse and so cause the viewer to look around the image. Even though the cropping is square here it is perfect.

Again go back and work on toning the highlights down on the computer.

Highly Commended



Power Consumption Cushla

I like the angle here. You have turned what would otherwise been just a boring shot of a power pole into an interesting composition. Then deep blue in the sky is good, but I would have liked to see the shadows not so black. The improvement of digital technology has meant that we are getting more dynamic range than we ever got from film and we should use it. That is not to say that an image shouldn't have some black and white in it, just that the shadows can have detail in them as never before. I would have lifted the shadow on the lower beam somewhat in Photoshop which would have given a hint of detail. As it is I feel the black there distracts the eye from the rest of the image.

Highly Commended



Spoilt for Choice Liz

The rows of jars actually work here probably because you have taken them at an angle. I can't work out if they are soaps or what? I would have toned down the top right jar as it is very bright and draws the viewer. You really can't crop it out with the angle you have taken the image on.

Also the image needs to be brightened somewhat and have about 50% more contrast applied.

Again I suggest you go back and see if you can improve it in Photoshop.

Merit



The Killing of the Pines Helena

A very dramatic image. The viewpoint is good and you have got good detail everywhere. I like the overall tone of the image. Really this is a great image that you have given some thought to.

Honours



Power Tower Sue

I like the lighting here and the placement of the tree to the left and the power pylon which is almost on a vertical third.

Unfortunately the image appears to be suffering from a little bit of camera shake. You should have either put the camera on a tripod or used a faster shutter speed. But the image is well seen and captured.

Not Accepted.



The Party's over Sue

Some thought has gone into this image. The composition is great with the shovel arm coming in from the left. The bottles fill the area providing a connection to the ground. All I would like to see is a bit more colour saturation. Otherwise this is a very well done shot.

Honours

In general I found the A graders work not at the standard I would expect from them which is reflected in the lack of Honours awarded. You need to think about what you are doing and look through the viewfinder for any distracting elements.

Also something everyone needs to do today is have your monitor calibrated. This serves two purposes: – 1 so that what you see on the screen is what gets printed, and 2 so that what a judge sees is what you saw on your screen. I see lots of images not only in your club that need to have the brightness and contrast changed to optimise the image. This is a thing that we didn't have to deal with back in the film days as we either did our own darkroom work or relied on the lab to correct for us.

Nowadays so many images never get printed but are only seen on a screen so it is different. Screens vary and therefore need to be calibrated so that you can be confident that what looks right on your screen looks the same on the judge's screen.