

Abandoned Toys

Judge: Elizabeth Passuello FPSNZ FNPSNZ AAPS EFIAP

A-Grade



95 – Carl

Looks like lots of things abandoned here, so much so that the trike doesn't really stand out as the main subject. I also find the out of focus foreground wires distracting and tend to block the view. I feel there would be a better viewpoint from the other side of the fence in wish you could still include enough of the surroundings to support the feeling of abandonment while simplifying the image for visual impact.

Not Accepted



Bear in Tree – Sarah

Great idea but I feel the bear is too posed, especially with the addition of a nicely placed paper hat, for it to give the feeling of being abandoned. It's a lovely shot and the bear has certainly been well used given his worn condition. I just don't get a sense of abandonment or that he has been forgotten. I'd put him in an Open subject competition.

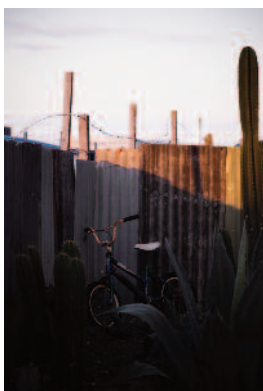
Not Accepted



Beary Sad – Tracey

Now this little bear really does portray a strong sense of being abandoned and forgotten; it instantly sets off an emotion in the viewer. The bedraggled and weathered condition of the bear makes him look lonely and sad. I get the impression this is on a grave which adds to the sadness of the story. I find this image fits the theme perfectly.

Honours



BMX – Carl

The bike does look like it's been out in the weather for some time given the rusty condition. However, I feel the fact it's in the shade and you have included a bright sky in the top half of the image lessens the impact the bike has with the viewer as the eye goes straight to the top third.

Not Accepted



Gone to the Dogs – Brie

Definitely a typical scene of toys being left out in the yard. The colours immediately draw the eye to the toys and their haphazard arrangement gives the sense of abandonment.

Highly Commended



Immobile – Elaine

The condition of the paint on the little car suggests it's been forgotten for some time, however the placement amongst the leaf litter seems more recent as the car lacks the dirt and grime and even leaves on top of it that would suggest it being left longer in this environment. I like the simplicity of the shot and the way the car is lit by patches of light through the trees. I get the feeling of a recently forgotten toy but in a sense that still fits the theme of this competition.

Merit



Once Loved – Keith

The title suits the condition of the bear and the placement of it does give a sense of being abandoned, as does the downward tilt of its head.

Accepted



Out on a Limb – Sarah

This is a fun image that has been very well taken and the bokeh in the background gives a sense of repetition to the pattern on the snake. I don't get a sense of being abandoned or forgotten however, more a sense of a fantastic set up; I'd give it a go in an open competition.

Not Accepted



Parked Up – Brie

The splash of red draws the eye to your subject and you have used good composition but I find the filter effect too much of a distraction rather than an enhancement. I feel this would have worked better in its original form.

Not Accepted



Rust Never Sleeps – Tracey

A perfect subject in just the right condition and placement to suit the theme. I like the tight composition and the contrast of metal against the wood, leather straps and laces. Having one skate on an angle adds a dynamic element to the image and the fact it is also showing the underside is a bonus. All in all a well deserved.

Honours



What Lurks Behind – Elaine

The lighting on the middle toy makes it stand apart from the background elements and the expression is so dejected. Definitely looks like it's been abandoned and with some ominous looking companions!

Accepted



Wilson – Keith

Rather than being abandoned I see this shot as toys still being in use, given the action on the water. I assume Wilson is the bear? Good technical ability shown but I don't feel it sits well with the theme of the competition.

Not Accepted



B-Grade

Abandoned Castle – Hennie

The sand castle appears to have been abandoned for at least one high tide going by the smoothness of the sand. You have placed it in a prominent position and the children in the distance appear to have moved on to other activities (assuming they built the castle).

Accepted



Children are Gone – Hennie

Similar in the effect of abandonment as the other shot but without any children close by, as suggested in the title. In some ways the inclusion of the adults strolling nearby symbolizes the abandonment even more; like a childhood abandoned for adulthood.

Accepted



Dad's Gyroscope – Cassandra

This object presents so many possibilities as a photographic subject. Unfortunately, to me, photographed in this way it does not portray an abandoned toy so I don't see this image as fitting with the theme of the competition. Sorry.

Not Accepted



Discarded (Clothes That Is) – Robbo

I guess the child that played with these toys eventually tired of them and dumped them as is in the toy car. I did have a giggle at the poses; Barbie seems to be flinging her hair back like she's having a wonderful time and the bloke (Ken maybe?) appears to be showing off the muscles! Not sure about the other doll! In a fun way this does portray abandonment so I'll let it through with an Acceptance. :)

Accepted



Fill to Over Flowing – Robbo

Lots of colour in the top portion of the image while the rest is fairly muted. I feel the top is cropped somewhat tightly and a little more headspace would have helped. I don't get the feeling of them being abandoned however, more like put away in their proper place.

Not Accepted



Hiding in the Corner – Caren

'Abandoned in the Corner' may have been a title more suited to this competition, as

'hiding' gives a different feel to the image. I almost found the pose a little contrived but

I can't assume that this is the case. I would have liked a bit more depth of field to bring the foreground foot into focus so a lesson for next time. The image suits the

monochrome processing.

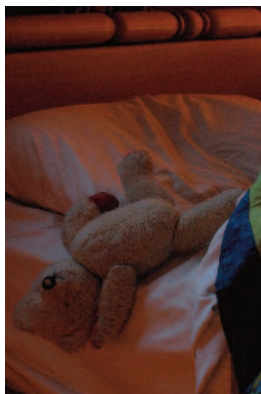
Accepted



I Once Was Loved – Cassandra

This image works well in black and white, you have good tonal range and contrast. The title is portrayed well in the image.

Merit



Left to Look After the Bed – Caren

This image portrays a more recent type of abandonment to most other images; it tells the story very well and there is just the right amount of the bedding included to support the story. The lighting is natural for the setting and the hollow in the pillow where once there was a child's head is a nice touch. There is a bit of noise apparent in the image so I'd suggest you run a bit of noise reduction software over it as this is certainly an image worth keeping.

Honours



Lost Souls – Tina

These toys do have that sense of being abandoned and the use of the foreground foliage is a nice touch. While the lighting has been well handled I'd suggest toning down the brighter areas of the pram near the centre top third.

Accepted



Old and Damaged – Cushla

That down-turned eye really grabs your attention along with the hairline. She certainly does appear old and damaged, and therefore that leads to a sense of abandonment. Good composition and excellent colour saturation.

Merit



Old Friends – Liz

Left on the 'shelf' so to speak. The little yellow truck at the back could do with being a tad sharper while both trucks grab your attention with the bright colours. The area in which they are sitting looks just as abandoned as the toys.

Accepted

On the Ledge – Cushla

This bear looks very pre-loved, his fur is so worn away. His position and state of wear does give an impression of being abandoned.

Accepted



Seen Better Days – Esther

Yes, it has certainly seen better days. I feel this image may be more successful if it wasn't so tightly cropped as all attention is really focused on the rusty bumper rather than a wider view of the toy which would give us more sense of the nature of its abandonment. The red is a good for colour impact.

Not Accepted



The Beer – Tina

The pram on its side with the bear having been tossed out portrays the theme of the competition well. Good use of angles, shapes and texture.

Highly Commended



Toys from a Bygone Era – Geoff

A good record of these two cameras but I don't get a sense of them being toys abandoned. Ironing your backdrop and a slightly lower viewpoint would lift this image.

Not Accepted



Traffic Jam – Liz

Love the title! The haphazard nature of the toys in the box do give a sense of abandonment rather than storage. Lots of interest in this image which would be improved with more depth of field to allow the toys at the bottom of the box to also be in focus.

Accepted



C-Grade

Gutted – Caron

A clever title! I'm sure the owner of this toy will be gutted when he/she finds they lost their toy in the gutter! The toy is well placed within the frame which accentuates its sense of being lost. The image appears a little soft so I'd suggest a sharpen in Photoshop as I suspect that is all that is needed in this case, rather than it being an in-camera issue.

Honours



Hangin On – Caron

Garfield certainly does appear to have been abandoned! Sadly this image is somewhat out of focus apart from the limb nearest the camera. More depth of field is needed.

Not Accepted



Old Memories – Renee

I feel this is more a story of a toy stolen by the dog rather than abandoned; unless the dog found an abandoned toy. The composition is great and it works well in black and white. I don't find anything overly sharp in the image and there appears to be a halo around the toy (perhaps it has been lightened); because of this coupled with no real sense of it fitting the theme of the competition, I'm sorry but it is...

Not Accepted