

**A Grade entries****Honours Merit****Accept N/Accept**

## 1 Baubles and Bangles

Acc

I thoroughly enjoyed the expression on the lady's face and the light designs in the glass components. At first glance this image is very striking, after viewing for a while though the teal-coloured fringe around the ladies face and shoulder starts feeling very noticeable and also very unnecessary. I felt there is enough colour difference between the lady's skin and your background that this aroura effect wasn't needed as she would stand out from the background anyway. In addition, I didn't feel the teal colour works well with the mauve colour and hence they don't sit well together in the frame. If this glow can be either removed or at least toned down I feel you would have an honours image here as every else in the scene works very well.

## 2 Beech Forest

N/Acc

This image has been reasonably well exposed to show up the detail of the bush and has a good degree of sharpness to it which helps reveal the textures of the tree bark. The path into the image and down to the river to me, is a little awkward due to the green leaves in the foreground blocking the path. These possibly could have been moved slightly (or trimmed off) to allow easier visual access or possibly take a lower angle with your camera if the path extended closer to you. In addition, once at the river the only way back to the foreground is down the highlights on the bark of the front two trees which then appear to be a little bit overexposed compared to the other tree trunks. I felt there needed to be a bit more thought put into how the viewer will flow around the image for the image to come together and work well.

## 3 Black lace

N/Acc

I like the concept of using the lace in conjunction with the shape of the model's body in this image, however I felt the shape of her body has disappeared too much into the background which makes it awkward to see what the image is about at first glance. There is also no one piece or part of the lace that particularly stands out or works to create a journey for the eye around the frame. The models body itself may have helped achieve this if her outline was a bit more prominent. Some subtle back lighting or angled light from the left side to reveal more of her shape would have worked well to lift the image further. Alternately using just the very upper portion of the image from her armpit to top of her head also helps the lace pattern become more of a feature and the light on her shoulder in that area works well too.

## 4 Blue Pansy

N/Acc

I really love all the intense bubble detail at the upper part of this image as it has been captured and exposed well. The very dark area of the pansy below that however is very lacking in detail and the subtle pinks at the lower edge also appear to be bleeding their way out of the frame. Overall this makes the appear very top heavy and out of balance. If you can pull some detail out of the middle of the pansy (on a computer) then a square crop of the central part of the pansy and its bubbles may work. I don't doubt this type of subject can ultimately produce an image you can feel very proud of so keep experimenting with it and think about how the viewer with travel around your frame and what their eye has to rest on during its journey.

5 Bubbles. Merit

A clever image which is making good use of the detergent/oil and the variety of textures it has created across the bubbles. The whole scene almost looks like alien planets if it weren't for the base of smaller bubbles remaining in the foreground. Although these could have been cropped off to create a different feel, I felt they are better in than out as they provide a nice base for the image. Nicely put together and plenty in the frame to keep a viewer occupied. Good use of black in the background to help accentuate the colours and lighting also helps them pop and create a sense of depth too.

6 Colours & Curves Acc

An interesting light study but I felt there is a bit too much black on both sides of the central element and cropping to a square would be beneficial. The curves and arch's both work together to create a nice visual journey into and then around the central image. The image does have a sense of there being a person underneath the light and therefore there is some degree of connection made although I felt there needed to be more for it to be awarded higher.

7 Conquered Lands Merit

The components of this image have come together to create a very old worldly look. I did wonder if the central tree may have been better placed slightly off centre but felt that there is sufficient variety of detail in this area to stop it becoming a one stop bull eye and allow the viewer to wander around the frame. Effective treatment of the text, as the soft focus works well to blend this element into the other components as does the slight zoom streaks and repetition of the central background hill. The darkening of the outer edges adds an air of mystery and keeps the viewer in the central region of the image.

8 Duck, Duck, Fly Merit

A very pleasant high key image which avoids becoming too symmetrical by the inclusion of the water movement behind the duck. There is a lovely catch light in the duck's eye which allows the viewer to readily connect with it. You have maintained feather detail throughout despite the high key effect. Placement and proportions of all the elements is also bang on and distractions have been well and truly excluded by use of a white and plain background, you have included just enough water texture and reflection detail to avoid the image becoming overly stark.

9 Economy class Acc

An interesting overlay has been used to create a look of a gone by era. I felt it would have worked better to have kept the overlay off the top of the model's legs and outer arms as its presence in these areas makes it obvious an overlay has been used. There is good use of lighting on the models face and the darker left area works well given the environment of the image. I felt that less background would make the model far stronger in the frame and lifted the image up to a merit, i.e. a crop up the left edge to the side of the small window and across the top to just above the words "Toilet" would add importance and power to the model in the scene. Good choice of exposure and nice depth of field throughout.

10 Freedom Acc

This image appears to be of a statue or similar inanimate object. There has been nice light and you have chosen a good angle to make the most of it to create a sense of depth and capture the emotion the original sculpturer created. The clouds in the background add some more detail and

interest although I felt they haven't help convey any particular mood or story and therefore are not helpful in that regard. You have handled the technical elements well, however adding some of your own creativity or a message/concept to the scene would have lifted the image further.

11 Frost over rust. Acc

There is plenty of pretty and very interesting detail in this image. I particularly like the circle hole and pointed bottom piece making the object look like the head of a fish. Although the cobweb connected the two pieces works well, I felt there is not enough of the second piece for the two pieces to work well together. In addition, the very large area of black especially on the left side overwhelms the objects. If the volume of black is reduced the image does work slightly better however, I felt there really needed to be more of the second piece of metal in the frame. Excellent choice of exposure and good sharpness throughout which works well with the subject matter.

12 Ghost Merit

Really good use of inverse image as the negative effect definitely makes the figure look quite ghostly. Personally, I felt the jumping lady could have been slightly larger in the frame i.e. more a real life size, however as the image maker it is you telling the story not me and I felt her motion works very well to create a strong sense of her darting through the frame. The inverse effect has also transformed the floor and made it look rather unusual which adds to the overall airy sense.

13 Industrial Remnant Honours

A very interesting and effective take on the subject matter. The treatment applied is in keeping with the old world feel of the buildings and the collection of slightly different doorways works well to create plenty of interest. I did wonder if the top row was really needed as leaving the pigeons at the top would have worked equally well and avoided the white writing from pulling the eye to the upper area. Leaving this area in does however create a more up and down journey. Very well considered and put together image.

14 Into the Mist Merit

Very nice positioning of the paddle boarder and the misting bland and flat light also adds a strong sense of not only gloominess to the day but also emphasises the vast and empty area around them. The subtle cloud detail on the upper right area and the slight ripples in the foreground water stops the scene from becoming too bland and adds interesting detail for the viewer to enjoy. A nicely composed and simplistic image.

15 Kite Surfer N/Acc

Beautifully exposed for the sun and good detail and light on the edges of the kite. I felt the angle of the kite and person works very well in the frame to create balance, a sense of depth and also motion. What doesn't come together for me was the inclusion of the grasses and particularly the trees. They seem to keep the surfer very rooted to the ground and yet the kite and body angle of the surfer suggests the surfer should be somewhat in the air. If the trees were not in the frame this effect wouldn't be as strong and I personally would remove them digitally leaving only the grasses. The grass on its own becomes quite a simplistic element and doesn't argue against the surfer or his kite to the same extent. A slight trim off the top (to match the depth of grass at the lower edge) would also work well.

16 Lonely Acc

There are some very pleasant tones in this image which create a strong sense of mood. There is quite a bit of noise/pixilation in the cloud area especially when viewed as full screen. Although this isn't totally detrimental to the image, I felt it doesn't work with the otherwise restful mood of the image either, reducing it on a computer may help. Compositionally the image works reasonably well although I felt a little less chain in front of the boat would make the image feel a little more balanced. Alternately the image could be cropped to a square from the left edge (excluding the cliffs altogether) and it would then work with the longer chain left in i.e. the longer chain lead in combined with the cliffs being very close to the right edge create a right sided heaviness. The textures in the foreshore and the cloud type add good interest to the scene overall.

17 Mackenzie Basin Lenticularis Merit

You have to love a day when the perfect cloud turns up which allows you to avoid a bland and boring sky! You have positioned the cloud very nicely in the frame as it helps the highway post below catch the viewers eye and then leads you across to the other set of 3 posts on the left and then back up and around the hills and then back to the cloud. It has definitely worked well to use the posts this way as there is little in the grasses or foreground to act as a lead in or focal point so well done for working with them. A darker exposure or polariser may have helped the cloud pop more in the sky and added some more drama to it but the subtler tones of this image to me, work very well as is.

18 Man's Folly Honours

The title of this image didn't really make sense to me in terms of what is the "folly" however the emotive mood of the man and the very strong connection with his stare makes this image very compelling and effective. The choice of overlay has worked well to enhance the mood of the scene and add interest at the same time. The catch light in the eye also ensures the viewers full attention and the lack of other body parts in the frame keeps the viewer very connected to the subject. A lovely piece of work.

19 negative lens N/Acc

A simple concept which is easily achieved by choosing "Image>adjustment>inverse" from the edit menu in photoshop. Your original exposure and focus appears to have been good and it was a good idea to keep the lens on an angle to help lead the eye in. What let the image down to me was the slight white halo around the edge of the lens and also a small area of white on the top upper left corner of the frame. The halo appears to be edge pixels which are easy enough to remove on the computer by using "select>modify" and then "contract". The area of white (which doesn't appear to be there deliberately) should have also been straight forward to paint out. Although simple concepts at times can be visually compelling, I felt you probably needed to decide what you were trying to communicate to the viewer in this image for it to have been successful.

20 On Gentle Annie Beach Acc

The image has been handled reasonably well from the technical aspects and you have followed the rule of thumb compositionally by placing the person on the thirds and using the curve of the waves to act as a lead in. To me though this hasn't invoked any emotion or story/message and has resulted in the image becoming more of a record shot of an enjoyable day out with a friend. In addition, as the person is wearing sunglasses and is in quite strong shadow on their left side of the

face it makes it difficult to connect with them as well. Having the person at a distance also suggests they are at most, equal in importance to the location but not more so i.e. if they were larger in the frame then the image becomes more about the person than were they have been photographed. A nice shot to have for your photo album.

21 Rain drops

N/Acc

An extremely intriguing plant which would be exciting for any photographer to come across. The beautiful tentacles of the plant and all the water droplets create plenty for the viewer to examine. For this type of subject however, careful attention needs to be paid to guiding the viewers eye around the frame as otherwise the image can quickly become overwhelming which to me is what has occurred here. I felt there is something very nice going on with the left third and in particular, the lower half as the flower head in the background has some lovely soft tones to it although the flower in the foreground is awkwardly placed behind a higher placed bloom. I feel trying to zoom in on a smaller area of the plant may work best as there is a huge amount of detail otherwise. I do hope you can access this plant again as I feel it is well worth doing some more work with.

22 Red

N/Acc

You have chosen a good exposure setting for this to reveal the detail in the lady's skin. I felt you needed more light on the model on the left side of the frame, particularly on the top of her hat and hair as the exposure is feeling very out of balance. It is also usually advisable to avoid chopping off a person's fingers at the bottom of the frame, unless there is a specific story telling reason for doing so. Given the fingers have been half cropped out this also makes the space above the model's head appear to large which in turn makes the frame look out of balance space wise. The detail of your background doesn't contain too much distracting detail however its light colour does tend to draw the eye away from the model. Lovely depth of field for the subject and nice soft catch light in the eye.

23 Road Markings

N/Acc

I am not sure what the concept or communication was that you were after with this image or what it was that was originally photographed to create it. As a simple graphic shape, I thought cropping off the left and right sides but leaving the top and bottom edges uncropped is a bit awkward and feels like you ran out of space in the frame. The combination of dots and strokes also becomes quite repetitive and hard to keep looking at after a while as there is no where in particular for the eye to stop for a time and rest. The use of black and white colours only adds to the repetition, possibly including a small amount of colour even just in one of the dots or strokes may have helped the image to come together more so by giving the viewer somewhere to pause.

24 Rose

N/Acc

There is some lovely light on the upper and right hand edge of the bloom, however I felt the rest of the bloom has lost detail from the petals due to the flat light on them. Some soft light coming into frame from the left side would help balance that out and reveal some more detail. The central stripe of white in the centre of the rose captures your attention however as the white is on the back of the petal it creates a slight sense of the rose turning its back to the viewer. The dark background creates a strong contrast to the rose red, but I felt you have included a bit much of it and cropping

the image into a square frame would avoid the lack being too dominant. Good depth of field for the subject.

25 Rusty Trader Merit

I felt this image compositionally is a bit “what you see is what you get” however you have positioned the hut on the left and wheel on the far right nicely to help balance up the elements. The polariser filter has amped up the blue in the sky and in doing so made the rust seem an even stronger colour and therefore very much a feature of the image. The clouds have also helped balance up the patchy white areas on the vehicle creating a consistent feel across the frame. Cropping off of the bumper in the foreground is somewhat awkward although this may have been done to avoid distractions, if it could have been included I feel it would have lifted the image higher.

26 Sparrows In Flight N/Acc

A difficult subject to have captured given the sparrows are on two different planes of focus. Although the upper right bird is quite crisp and in focus the lower bird on the left is not and given this birds position in the frame and the clear light background behind it is the more dominant point of focus, this out of focus bird works against this image coming together. Cropping so as to leave the right bird only might have worked although the out of focus branches in the background are somewhat distracting. It may be possible to improve the focus of the left bird on a computer and I would also suggest removing the broken branch from the lower right corner as it is quite distracting. Your exposure has been well handled to reveal the feather detail of the birds.

27 Te Waikoropupu Springs Acc

There are some really lovely textures and tones in this image which create a very strong mood. I particularly like the central region of brown colours and how these take on a richness due to being surrounded by the green areas. This area is also the main lead in for the image which works well until you get to the top of the brown stalks. The large area of darker blue/green works fine but I felt that there are then too many smaller areas of this colour scattered across the entire left side but nothing strong enough in the lower region to pull you through them. The large bluish area on the top right edge also tends to drag you eye away from the central area and leads the eye out of the frame. I feel a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> crop off the left vertical edge and small vertical crop off the right to exclude the top bluish corner piece helps make the image stronger by keeping the eye focused on the lovely textures and tones of the browner area. Good choice of exposure and depth of field for the subject.

28 Tui 's In the Banksia N/Acc

This image has the appearance of having had full frontal flash used to capture the Tui. Unfortunately, with Tui's as they have luminescent feathers a flash gun destroys their lovely plumage colours. It also prevents subtle shadow in the birds' feathers and in the foliage around the bird which in turn removes a sense of depth from the frame. Given the foliage has a silver back, the bush is more prominent and grabs the viewers' attention than the Tui does. If at all possible it would be preferable to use a higher ISO setting or look for a location where there is more available natural light. The image does appear to be sharp throughout so good choice of F stop.

29 Whio Swimming Downstream Acc

A nice image of the two ducks which has been beautifully exposed and is pin sharp. The brightness of yellow in the ducks' eyes also gives a sense of a catch light in their eyes even though there isn't one. I didn't award this image higher as I felt you have picked a moment when the ducks

