

PRINT IMAGES

01 **Bee on Spring Flowers.** Honours

Barry Doig

This composition speaks volumes of your mastery in capturing nature's beauty. The bee takes centre stage, portrayed with exquisite precision and detail. The vibrancy and finesse in colour and texture extend to the flowers that cradle the subject. Placing the bee at the centre is a wise choice, balanced by the diagonal placement of the flowers. The lighting plays a crucial role, creating a seamless transition beyond the flowers. A harmony of elements that illustrates your prowess in showcasing nature's smallest wonders.

02 **Broadgreen Frost.** Merit

Jean Willis

This image of a very elegant house nestled in its grounds provides a sense of grandeur. The authors thoughts around what to include and what to leave out are evident and each element serves to add to the overall impression. The house itself is nicely framed by its surrounds and isn't crowded. The choice of perspective works well to accentuate the key aspects of the building and the inclusion of the fences and paths enhances the sense of place. While there is a lot in the image, there is nothing competing for attention and it's clear that the image itself is designed to communicate the wider property and not just the house itself.

03 **Emerald Lakes.** Accepted

The exquisite colours of these lakes is evident in this image, particularly contrasted against the barren surroundings. The depth of field has been set to maintain sharpness from front to back. I'd liked to have seen a little more on the right as the steam there draws my eye. Similarly, including the people on the left-hand side and being able to see those in the mid-ground provides context for scale but I feel they too need a little breathing space. Tonal range is well handled, and I can really sense the experience of being there through the authors portrayal of this place.

04 **Green Wave.** Honours

John Miles

This is a striking image with the wide palette of colours. The combination of their hues, luminance and saturation lends a real energy to this piece. Although it is clear that the hero of the image is the wave, the wider environmental context really adds to the picture the author has created here. Your decision to have the wave in the bottom third with all its glorious detail and then to move back through the sea to what is an interesting but not competing land mass before trailing off to the sky really works. I love the detail you have captured in the crest of the wave and the dappled light across the sea. I can see this in large format at a beachside café!

05 **Hotel Motueka.** Merit

Carolyn Hope

Great environmental portrait. The author has done a great job of capturing the essence of this character and the detail is well presented. Good tonal range throughout and the decision to present

this as a black and white image both suits the nature of the image as well as eliminating the prospect of colours competing for attention. The hero of the image is clear to see although I think I would like to see a little more of the backdrop. Given that it has been included through your choice as to depth of focus, I think the image “asks” to be seen a little wider. Being able to see the Art Deco signage in it’s entirety would add to the image, almost another contrast but I appreciate that I can’t see what else might also be included if that were to have been the authors choice and which may have introduced other elements which were distracting.

06 Kathmandu Kid – Merit

John Miles

Well-presented image of a child in front of a series of arches. The arches provide nice contrast without distracting from the subject. Your choice of aspect ratio is perfect for this image. I would suggest reducing the highlights a little on this picture, particularly on the child’s left hand and right cheek. You have successfully captured the exquisite detail in the building and its arches which has provided real depth to the image through your handling of the shadows. The effective use of complementary arches as a framing device adds an artistic dimension to the portrayal.

07 Lift Off. No Award

This image, depicting a puffin preparing to take flight, hints at a beautiful moment yet falls short in the realm of focus. While the graceful creature is discernible, the lack of detail prevents the image from reaching its potential. While the reflection inclusion is noted and appreciated, it doesn't compensate for the image's central element—the presentation of the subject. The image strives to capture a fleeting instant, yet the essential focus element is compromised. I recognize your intent, but regrettably, the image doesn't align with the desired standard.

08 Little Pine under the Snow – Accepted

A refined capture of a snow-covered tree, exuding elegance and tranquillity. The tight crop and chosen orientation accentuate the subject's delicacy. While some blue tones may obscure the snow's detail, the clear depiction of the pine fronds remains a highlight. The perspective chosen effectively conveys the tree's solitude amidst the snowfall. A contemplative portrayal that captures the essence of a serene winter landscape

09 Longstone Lighthouse. Accepted

The interplay of red and white against the backdrop of blues and greys is simply striking, making the lighthouse an undeniable focal point. While the intention behind incorporating the mast and the bird in the foreground is intriguing, I'm left pondering whether they truly enhance or distract from the image. The lighthouse's commanding presence is potent enough to warrant a broader aspect ratio, such as 16:9, allowing for a more powerful emphasis on its awe-inspiring hues. By doing so, the intrusive rocks on the right could be gracefully omitted. The intricate brickwork of the lighthouse is a testament to your attention to detail. Envisioning the lighthouse as the centrepiece within a larger frame would elevate its impact and grandeur.

10 Nelson Lakes National Park – Honours

Rodger Ball

A tranquil composition that demonstrates finesse in arrangement, lighting, and focus. The softness of the water complements the sharpness of the leaves and mosses on the rocks. My eye flows gently up the cascading waterfall before resting on the delightfully sharp and vivid greens of the mosses. I find the detail you have captured then helps to lead my eye back down before moving back up the waterfall. Tranquil and well balanced. Artfully captured and presented.

11 Open for Inspection. Merit

Barry Doig

A humorous take on rural decay. The positioning of the cow, gazing at the building, is a testament to your exceptional timing. Well exposed throughout the image although I think reducing the luminance of the grass in the foreground would help to keep the viewers' attention on the building and cow. Nicely composed, and although I think a bit more space on either side would just allow the image to breathe a little, it's clear to see you have made decisions as to what to include and what would be best left out.

12 Rest in Peace, Dear Planet. Honours

Caroline Foster

Another striking commentary on our environmental impact. This appears to be a meticulously crafted image with the various component images all contributing both to the theme but also to a well curated colour palette. Each image is unique but each contributes to an image where I think the whole is much more than the sum of individual parts. Beautifully incorporated with the striking black motif. I could see this image being used as part of a press release for a campaign or simply being a striking piece of art on someone's wall. I do hope the author has a large format print of this – I think printed on a metallic paper would enhance it even further but the Author should be exceptionally proud of the craft they have demonstrated in producing this image. Your technical prowess and artistic vision shine through this exceptional creation.

13 Roadside Stream. Merit

Irene Callaghan

The author of this image has taken a quite ordinary scene and through their use of a slower shutter accentuated the flow of the water but without washing it out to lose the sense of movement. There is nice layering throughout the image with the rocks in the front gently holding the image in. My eyes are drawn up through the stream and are gently teased into looking at the lichens and mosses on the rocks and branches. One suggestion I would make would be to gently reduce the luminance at the top of the image as it drags my eyes through the final part of the frame and then my eyes gently drift out of the image rather than back into it. Well seen and captured with some clear creative choices evident in its presentation.

14 The Rose. Merit

jean Willis

Beautiful image of this flower. The author has captured the delicacy and detail of the plant and successfully ensured it stands out from the background. I suggest giving some thought to granting a

touch more breathing space at the top, alleviating the slight crowding. Similarly, my sense is that the wider negative space on the right would have been better placed to the left – essentially where the head of the rose points – similar to a face having something to look into. This would create a dynamic balance, akin to offering the subject something to gaze into. A refined presentation that captures the essence of the rose's allure.

15 Three Lamps. Accepted

An interesting still life style image and given the nature of the subjects is well presented in black and white. The author has managed depth of field well and capitalised on the “Rule of three” or “Rule of odds”. To me the image would do well to have a little more breathing space on either side and to have used the wood framing as a visual guide. I find the angles of the building frame compete a little for attention given the relatively similar luminance. I’d also suggest giving some thought to potential other aspect ratios as I think either slightly wider as a narrow landscape format or taller in portrait orientation would accentuate some of the lines. Nice and sharp throughout.

16 Tui in Manuka. Honours Caroline Foster

Beautifully captured and presented picture of a Tui. The author has shown the exquisite colouring of the bird to good effect along with capturing and presenting the detail in its plumage well. The eye and beak are sharp as a tack. Lovely drop off in the depth of field. It would be nice to see a little more space around the bird to allow it to breathe, perhaps even more on the right hand side to see what’s in front of the Tui. Overall a well captured and presented image that many would be proud to have created.

17 Two Camellias. Honours Irene Callaghan

Well-presented image of the flowers. The detail is clear to see and it is complemented by the Authors decision not to completely burn out the background. The residual lines from the foliage of the plant add some lovely depth to the image without competing with the flowers themselves. Excellent reproduction of the colour palette contained within the flowers along with the gentle play of light and dark to enhance the depth of field. This is an image where I would have liked to have seen a little more space between the subjects and the edge of the frame but is a beautifully captured and presented study of camellias.

18 Waimakariri Braided River Flats – Accepted

This image exudes a moody ambiance that speaks of artistic control and intention. The intricate balance between foreground and background is well-maintained, rendering a range of tones from bright whites to deep blacks. The precision in sharpness is evident in all the right places. The monochromatic presentation enhances the scene's mood. An evocative portrayal that transports viewers to the sombre beauty of the river flats.

An impeccable monochromatic study that captures an intriguing pose of the heron. The photographer's keen eye has seized a moment of rare beauty. The skillful control of highlights and shadows results in a balanced tonal range that enhances the overall impact. While there is a slight graininess in the bottom and right portions, it does not detract from the image's essence. The inclusion of the bird's reflection lends an abstract quality, adding depth to the composition. Noteworthy is your ability to portray detail without becoming a slave to it, as evidenced by the expert handling of debris and drips in the water. A remarkable portrayal that stands as a testament to your artistry.