

1. Hybrid Powelliphanta Seeking Shelter

This composite image creates a most intriguing scene. Mapping the work back to the title brings the story to life. A naked, a vulnerable Powelliphanta leaves her shell to seek a safer haven in the folds of a native neighbour. The three photographic elements of the composite have been well captured and processed. They blend very well together in tone and colour and the vertical crop gives a strong sense of moving upwards.

Honours

Julia Seagar

2. Lagurus Seedhead

A simple, whimsical image which demands a closer look.

On doing so I don't see the softness and fluffiness that I was expecting. The florets and strands look hard, sharp and prickly. I wonder, did you over-sharpen, or remove / darken the Background?

Your choice of paper works well, delivering very black blacks.

Acceptance

3. Poppy Playing

The square crop with Poppy centred works really well for me. I go straight in to the mouth, then the stick, then the eyes and then up to the wagging tail. Excellent timing and composition.

The focus is nice and sharp on the dog's face with an excellent shallow depth of field. This photograph tells the story of a cheeky, playful, faithful pet. I can almost hear her asking "get this stick off me, if you can, and throw it again".

Honours

Jane Pordon

4. Smiley Jesse

I like this composition that draws my eyes in to circle round and round the face.

Good focus and depth of field. A technically very competent image. However I'm not getting much of a story and I don't really feel a smiley, happy Jesse. Maybe it's the black & white treatment, or the lack of context due to the close crop, that is holding me back from really engaging.

Accepted.

5. Space Oddity - pod trail activation.

Well, this composite photo keeps me looking. I don't know whether the title is deeply personal to the photographer, open to individual perception, or intentionally left ambiguous to spark our curiosity and imagination. I enjoyed working out my interpretation: Major Tom hits a snag, trying to escape her tin can, to join a pod trail, floating in a most peculiar way.

This as a very interesting composite of the 5 or so photographic elements that are all technically well shot and with a composition that is balanced with strong leading lines.

Honours

Julia Seagar

6. Tree Fern Frond

A lovely consistent colour palette with a beautiful range of greens. The almost square crop works well but I feel having the frond centre, dead centre of a square crop, would improve the composition. Cropping a smidge of the right hand side would achieve this with the added benefit of removing the distracting little green diagonal stalk in the bottom right corner.

I would have liked to see a little bit more detail in the centre of the frond. Some dodging here would've enabled this.

Merit

Deb Corbett

7. Autumn Frosty Morning

The panoramic aspect ratio works well with this image, and I like the layered depth. I travel down the road along the frosty fields to the autumn trees and on to the blue hills in the distance. Lovely autumn colours.

I find the lightness of the track, bottom left, to be a little bit bright and distracting. It attracts my eye to it, only to find nothing of interest.

Maybe burying this down a bit or perhaps cropping off the bottom 20% of the image just in front of the horizontal hedge line would improve our journey up and into the image.

Do look very carefully at your print as it comes off the printer. There are vertical banding lines on the left of the print probably due to a blocked print head nozzle.

Accepted

1. Clarice

I like this blurry treatment, especially to the left of this portrait. However, there are two distractions for me.

The first is the round hinge of her glasses by her right eye which could have been cloned out. The second is the 'Fingers of God' streak leading from her nose, down to the bottom right. I understand this may have been a tricky cloning job but it would have been worth a try. Without these distractions I would have had an easier time to get a feel for the subject.

Acceptance

2. De Havilland Dominie

A very sharp image of this vintage aircraft. Also well exposed for the sky, as well as for the shadow detail in the aircraft.

We are looking up at the plane and I wonder if a crop off the top, to put the plane on the third, would have given more impact to the photograph. As it stands, I only see a photo of record.

Acceptance

3. Follow the leader

A very interesting viewpoint that most of us would never see as we view the scene from a standing eye level. Well done for breaking the mould here.

The duck's head being exactly centered in the horizon V doesn't work for me.

Perhaps the title would have been more apt if you'd waited a second or two for the mother duck to move over to the right so we can see her following ducklings a little more clearly.

All together a fun, creative, timely photo that made me smile.

Merit

Robert wells

4. Fungi Hunter.

A fun image that you must have thought about before you left home for your fungi hunt. I probably would have placed the fungi a little closer to the photographer. I'm not sure he'll capture much of a macro image from that far away and my eye does tend to bounce back and forth from photographer to fungi to photographer. The harsh flash lighting is OK in this case as it adds a 'tableau' feel. Maybe upping the saturation and or vibrance would have given this even more of a Toy Story.

Merit

Robert Wells

5. Malfunction at the Stargate

I did find my eye flitting up, down, and around this image in a rather frustrating way. Actually quite an apt emotion for me to feel as I'm sure the woman is frustrated as well. Technically, I can see that that a lot of good photographic work went into this composite. A couple of niggles though. I find the way the main bar presses against her breast/chest looks very odd as do her hands that are not gripping the bar in a convincing way. These niggles get me thinking too much about how the composite was made rather than enveloping me in the mystery of the story presented.

Accepted

6. Morphing through the Clover

I like the colour palette and the texture presented in this piece. I'm happy with the woman looking/moving out of the image to the left as this is well balanced by the floating material behind her heading off top right. Your use of the transparency through the clover board on the right and at the bottom really helps emphasize morphing and movement.

A technically well-constructed composite that is thoughtful and attractive.

Merit

Julia Seagar

7. Time to find a new Shell

Well spotted to capture the moment of this crab climbing out of its shell. It took a little bit of time for me to work out what was going on due to the crab's clever camouflage. Your focus on the crab's eyes/mouth draws me into the image but then I do get a bit lost.

I also find that the sharpness of the sand in the foreground distracts me from the crab / shell somewhat. Did you try any other depth of field options / crops?

Acceptance

8. Wasp

I like the colour palette you captured here without over saturating.

Your composition leads us right in to the wasps mandibles and eyes where there is plenty of interesting detail to explore. The photos gives me much food for thought....was the wasp alive?....was it moving?...how did you get so close?...don't sting me please...

Merit

Deb Corbett

9. You OK down there Mum

What an interesting angle. Exposure and sharpness are spot on.

Unfortunately I don't seem to be able to make much of a connection with the dog as its eyes seem to be looking a little bit off to the left rather than directly at me. I feel that the photo would be greatly improved if the dog's head was turned more towards the camera so I could get to know her/him better.

Acceptance