

2023 COMP 1 - A DIGITAL - JUDGE COMMENTS – ROBYN CARTER

Image	Comment	Award
1. A Pineapple Flower	Lovely composition of the Pineapple flower against the black background which makes this stand out. The composition is strong with the vase on the hard right and the flower curling around towards you. My eyes travel up the vase and round to the tip of the flower. In my view the back flower needs more separation from the one in front which would strengthen the image further. Lots of detail in the flower.	Acceptance
2. And so the Day Begins...	Very strong minimalistic image with the Shag in the bottom corner swimming into your day. Colour palette is beautiful. The image has a calm feel to it with the smooth water and sky. The ripples of water around the shag reminds me that my actions during the day can have a ripple effect, that what I do or say, can affect others around me. Although the shag adds tension to the image, it is not sharp and has a halo around it. I wonder if you may have tried push the sharpening too far in post-production. Strong composition with the boulder bank on the third.	Merit Malcom Carlaw
3.	Double entry cancelled	
4. Attention seeker	Great concept and lots of arm movement with hands waving as if trying to gain your attention so the title helps strengthen the storytelling. Composition is strong with the subject on the right third and the plain black background helps makes your subject stand out. Having an askew frame inside with the repeating shape gives the image interest. In my view the skull is too sharp against the rest of the body which makes it look too superimposed with the rest of the image. A bit of movement would help authenticate the story. Great lighting	Merit Graeme Skinner
5. Beach Walking	Great silhouette and you've caught the walker midstride giving the image a sense of movement and added interest. Composition is strong with the walker on the right with room to move into the left. In my view I feel you've pushed the post-production a little far as there is white rimming all around the bike and man. I like the minimalistic feel to this image.	Accepted
6. Bee On Camelia	The bee is lovely and sharp and the lighting great. Nice complementary colours with the red and yellows. Composition is very strong with the bees eyes on the top third. The softening of the petals towards the edge of the image draws your eyes to the bee making it a strong focal point.	Honours Barry Doig

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7. Breaking Cover	This image tells a strong story and the title helps convey this as well. Great colour and the rider in his red jacket makes a strong focal point, and makes a strong composition with him off centre. The colour palette is great, all toning in overall in the scene. It makes me feel I'm right there in that organised chaos of the hunt. Depth of field is good with the background trees slightly out of focus and all the other elements sharp. Perfectly timed with the rider coming out from the trees.	Honours Caroline Foster
8. Bullseye	Strong shapes of squares, triangles and circles. I feel like I've landed in a James Bond movie with that martini in the bullseye. The bullseye placement on the right third gives the image a strong composition. The martini glass stands out on a plain muted background with the waterdrops also on the third within the bullseye. The colour palette is simple with just 4 colours used further strengthens the image. The less is more approach which can really make an image stand out.	Honours Jon Coe
9.	Double entry cancelled	
10. Canal life	You've captured a strong story of the canal boat going through the lock which is very much part of canal life as per your title. The perspective is great – I never realised how narrow those boats really are. My eyes are led immediately to the beginning of the boat and up to the end over to the girl walking towards us and back to the lovely pompom hat! There's lots to explore further in the image – and it's all in focus and sharp. In my opinion, the lighting is a bit flat, probably because it's a cold wintry day, but you could try and lift that a bit in post-production. It sometimes pays to be patient and look at what you are taking through the viewfinder. The person on the left has his head cut off – could you have waited until they had gone? Composition is strong and the pompom hat wearer on the right 3 rd gives a great start and end point.	Merit Caroline Foster
11. Dahlia Washbourne gardens	Beautiful Dahlia. I'm always amazed how perfect the petals are with these types of dahlias. The dahlia is nice and sharp throughout, and there's a great depth of field with the background suitably blurred which creates a lovely contrast. Composition is strong with the flowers bud on the upper third. There's also an ant on one of the petals which gives the image great perspective in showing just how big the flower is.	Honours Jean Willis
12. Dancing with the Stars	You must have had fun doing this. The concept is interesting and well thought out. It does make me	Acceptance

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	<p>feel happy and I can almost feel the beat of the music! In my view there are a few aspects that could improve the image. The face in the helmet – the helmet being glass should have some reflections of the surroundings to look more authentic. Study what faces in spacesuits look like and try and replicate. The face of the man in the suit is very dark and could be lightened in post-production. The planets in the foreground are quite dull compared to the smaller ones further away – you could try and lighten these slightly to give more interest. Keep trying</p>	
13. Delaware Bay	<p>Lovely interesting foreground with the tidal flats and the channels of water leading you into the island or hill outcrop. I feel the composition could be strengthened by not having that outcrop so central in the image. My eye keeps ending up on the white building as it's lighter. You could try cropping from the right edge to just removing the building. This would keep your eye in the image more and put the island/outcrop on the third. I feel the real story is in the patterns and textures of the tidal flats. Watch out for the white rimming around the edges of the hills – you may have pushed your post-production slightly too far. Lovely soft light .</p>	Acceptance
14. Earthquake Boulder	<p>Strong composition with the boulder dominantly on the right third and a panorama format which helps cut out distractions – a less is more approach. Lovely lighting on the boulder and grass. Your title of Earthquake Boulder gives this image context and I feel that the shadow cast by the boulder is the shadow that hangs over us in our shaky isles, never knowing when or where the next one will be. The shadows in front of the boulder gives the image depth. Lovely colour palette.</p>	Merit Margaret Harris
15. EILEAN DONAN CASTLE	<p>Beautiful lighting on the castle and a very strong composition with the castle and reflection on the 3rd. It really stands out against the dark hills in the background. The foreground has detail and lovely soft light. It makes me want to get out and explore the castle and surrounds myself. Lovely moody sky.</p>	Honours Ron Willems
16. Full Bloom	<p>Stunning. This image has the wow factor. Great detail and colour against a dark background which makes it really stand out. The angle of the flower makes for a strong composition. I hope you print this and put it on your wall!</p>	Honours Irene Callaghan
17. GANNET IN FLIGHT	<p>Strong composition of the gannet in flight with the bird on the third and plenty of room for it to fly into on the right. Lighting has been handled really well as there is detail in all the feathers – both in</p>	Merit Ron Willems

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	the blacks and whites. Great depth of field with the background blurred. The bird really stands out against this. With Bird Photography, the eye is all important. In my view I'd like to see a bit more of the birds eye. However, it's a great image.	
18. Geese on Hooker Lake	The lighting on these two Canada Geese is great – you can see the eyes, and the detail in both the blacks and the lighter feathers. There are no blown out whites. In my view the space between the birds head and the top of the image is a little cramped. The composition is strong with a bit of space on either side – which works because each bird is looking a different way.	Acceptance
19. Gladiola	Stunning detailed image of the gladioli against the black background which makes it stand out. Detail and lighting is superb. I like the angles of both the flower and the bud which gives added interest. Colour palette is lovely.	Honours Irene Callaghan
20. Havelock Road	I've driven this road many times but never this high, so it's an interesting perspective. Great leading lines leading you through the image –, the river, and the main highway. In my view the composition could be improved by cropping below the mountain in the centre so the sliver of the sky is taken out. The left hand side could also be cropped to the start of the tree hedge along the side of the road which would make the image more balanced. My eyes end up on the sky and the river as they are the brightest part of the image – try toning those down in post-production. Keep trying.	Not Accepted
21. Heads or Tails	Often the most simple image is the strongest. Nature and minimalism at its best! Amazing detail on the monarch caterpillar – It makes me feel like it could go in either direction. Great depth of field with blurred background and the curved leaf its on makes a strong composition.	Honours John Miles
22. Hikurere Stream II, Nelson Lakes	Beautiful colours of green and gold. The long exposure is lovely with the smooth water. You've handled the exposure really well. Strong composition with the waterfall at the top right and your eyes get led down through the swirl of the water. In my view, I wonder if you've pushed the post-production a little too far as there is white rimming along the top of the rocks. The sky adds interest.	Merit Roger Ball
23. Hydranga	Lovely complimentary colours of blue against the dark green background. The background makes the hydrangea stand out. In my view the lighting is very flat. You could try increasing the exposure in post-production. Not all of the hydrangea is in	Not Accepted

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	focus – try increasing your F-stop slightly so the back petals are sharp as well. The second flower on the right is cut off which makes the image feel incomplete. Keep trying.	
24. Industrial Flow	Great moody skies that really match with the industrial backdrop. It makes me feel like it's a warning not to pollute the river. Nice lighting around the water. The colour palette is uniform with the browns and greys, and is what you expect from an industrial area. In my view the red building on the right stands out a little too strong because the colour is stronger than the rest of the image. Because it's not the main subject, I suggest toning the reds down slightly in the bricks to keep the colours uniform through-out so your eye doesn't keep going there. The red brick building does balance the image making the composition strong.	Merit Dianna Hambleton
25. Jackson Bay	My eyes travel down the leading line of the wharf into the distance then over to the hill on the right. Nice separation of the wharf and horizon. Lighting is good with nothing overexposed and the clouds give interest to the image. Composition is nicely balanced from the sky to the foreground with the jetty creating a sense of space, leading the viewer through the image. Lovely serene image..	Honours Dianna Hambleton
26. Lake Matheson	I can never get bored with this view. Lovely soft lighting and calm water and the reflections are great. In my view the peaks with snow are overexposed – try toning down the highlights in post-production. When shooting white, always bring your exposure compensation down half a stop to avoid this. Lovely colours throughout .	Acceptance
27. Oyster catcher nest	This tells a strong story of the Oyster Catcher habitat and where they lay their eggs. In my view the foreground and front egg is slightly out of focus – the focus point seems to be on the 2 nd egg. Try increasing your F-stop to enable both eggs to be sharp. Composition is strong with the eggs on the right third. Lighting is nice and even.	Acceptance
28. Playful happiness	Good concept showing an interaction between man and baby. Even though the man is not in focus, you can see the playful happy emotion in his face and this tells a strong story. The placement of the baby's arm holding the rattle leads you into the story. In my view there is a bright light area on top of the baby's head which my eyes keep going to, as well as a brighter area just below the baby's shoulder. These could be toned down slightly in post-production. A fun image. The photographer has dared to be different and it has worked.	Merit Rami Riachi

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29. Rarangi Beach	Rarangi Beach has really interesting sand patterns from the waves that come in – you can see them all the way down the beach – like scalloped shells. This is caused by the unusual currents and tides on this particular beach. After a huge storm some of the stones dumped in can dwarf us. You’ve captured this phenomena in this image. In my view I feel the image is a bit cramped – not enough sky, and too much of the ocean. You could try cropping some of the foreground out and give a stronger panorama format. On the right hand side, the pine trees are really dark with no detail. You could try lifting the shadows in post-production. Overall the lighting is flat. The best time to photograph Rarangi is early morning. There are some incredible sunrises here. Keep trying.	Not Accepted
30. Seen	I’ve looked at this image several times now, and every time it brings a smile to my face. There’s something amusing about being caught by a child!! The image has captured a fleeting moment of time. It reminds me of the photographs of Henri Cartier-Bresson who captured everyday life in Paris. The lighting on the child’s face is great. The man walks as if he has a purpose, without really noticing anything apart from what’s in front. The hallway path and walls acts as a funnel to your subjects. I think this is well thought out.. Well done.	Honours Roger Ball
31. Shirley Poppy	Poppies are always lovely to photograph as they have such delicate textures and colours which bend towards macro images. You’ve placed this poppy on the right third which makes for a strong composition. Light has been well handled as the whites have plenty of detail. The background shows the surrounding habitat and the colour contrast is lovely. Great textures.	Merit Margaret Harris
32. Sun-kissed Smile	Lovely portrait of this youngster using natural light. He has a lovely smile and you’ve caught the catch-lights in his eye. Good depth of field with the background suitably blurred. In my view the lighting is all on one side of his face. You could try toning this down by bringing the highlights down a fraction. A good idea to light up the other side is to use a reflector – this could even be an A4 white sheet of paper to throw some even lighting on the rest of the subjects face. The composition is very central. You could try cropping a little of the right hand side to bring him more off centre. Lovely detail and nice and sharp	Merit Rami Riachi
33. the beauty of lake moraine	Lake Moraine in the Banff National Park is one of the most beautiful parts of Canada, and one of the most photographed! Lovely detail in the	Merit Steve Ford

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	<p>mountains and lovely soft lighting with no blown out snow. Beautiful complementary colours of the greens, turquoises and greys. Your image makes me want to visit! My eye is led into the image and around the shoreline then up to the mountains where I rest on the second peak in from the right. The lines of on the mountains lead me to look through the other peaks, so your composition is strong and visually pleasing. I feel that there could be more space above the peak on the far left as it seems cramped. Lovely colour palette</p>	
34. The lady in the window	<p>This image gives me a feeling of time. Of time past with the old historic building and the time now. The treatment adds to that feeling, with different snapshots over time overlaid to bring you into the present with the lady in the window. So there's a strong story being told. The lady in the window makes a strong focal point with her stand out red clothing. In my view the real story is in the bottom half of the image. I feel if you concentrated on this part of the image only, you would have a much stronger composition. Love the creativity in your image.</p>	Acceptance
35. The opening act	<p>Lovely natural pose you've caught of this girl about to sing. She's nice and sharp and against the plain background she really stands out. My eyes keep going to the light sticks on the left hand side. I feel they are very distracting and need to be removed – either by cloning or cropping out. The girls face is in shadow – the light is on her hands and ear. You could try and lighten her face a little in post production. I like the angle she is on.</p>	Acceptance
36. Three Hundred Billion Stars	<p>Not only three hundred billion stars, but we are also looking at light that happened billions of years ago and is only reaching us now. It makes me feel like I'm just a miniscule dot in time. Composition is very strong in the square format with the milky way on the angle, and the strong 3rds. My eyes are led into the image by the jetty, then over to the light in the sky on the bottom left, then they move up into the milky way to rest on the lighter part. Your story is strong. Well done.</p>	Honours John Miles
37. three is not a crowd	<p>Beautiful landscape. The waterfall long exposure is superb with no blown out whites but with a lovely milky magical feel. Your perspective and getting down low is great and the foreground is interesting. Makes me want to get under the falls! A lovely natural colour palette. Lighting is nice and even. Well done</p>	Honours Steve Ford