

Judges Comments – Competition 1

Prints Judge List

	Image Name	Award	Comments
1	A – Island Bay Roger Ball	M	There's a real feeling of peace about this image, a walk along the water front, no one around and then you come across the jetty and it makes you want to take your shoes off and run along it into the sea. The detail in the wood is beautiful. The man-made structure and the lines in the sand run out into the water taking my eye to the small island on the horizon. The soft light and muted tones really make this print. Well done.
2	A- Leaping Roger Ball	M	A beautiful series of monochrome images each one could easily stand alone but you have presented them in a very different and challenging way for my eye to understand. The presentation really makes me study each image for the details contained within. Well done
3	Deserted Barry Doig	H	This subject is perfect in monochrome and the printing is excellent. There is a real feeling of desertion and how time and youth have taken its toll on this building. Beautiful light coming in through the window and door gives a ghostly appearance to the whole scene. Excellent, well done
4	A-Apple! What Apple Sue Newport	M	There is a good sense of humour with this image. I can really just imagine this goat saying just that as his mouth is full of the said apple. This really made me smile. Well captured.
5	Rain Approaching Barry Doig	M	There is such a feeling of tranquillity in this print. Beautiful calm waters lead my eye into the layers of hills and then the approaching rain. There seems to be snow on the hills and the sun which is disappearing behind the clouds provides enough light to give detail on the boat and the escaping birds which just adds to the whole beauty of this image.

6	A This is how you do it	A	For me the story here is about the lady in the front leading the way. It is obviously taken a local fare or fun day and a good feeling of movement and music. There is a good feeling of everyone having fun and all eyes are on her, however for me the image loses a little of its story as the main character has her eyes closed so there's no interaction between her and those following or her and you as the photographer. She is also placed too far to the right of the frame and I find my eye drawn to the distractions of the red and white tent.
7	A Time Marches On	A	To me the story is of the old buildings, weathered but staunch against the elements but the same could not be said for the trees which may have been cut down to make way for the buildings which makes the whole scene very sad indeed. I like how you have used the both the tree line and building to form strong leading lines into the image. My eye follows the lines to then hit the end build and the travels up to a very dull sky. To add to the whole sombre feel of the buildings and trees a dark sky would really help. I find the lower RHS very distracting and holds my eye.
8	A Blue eyed beauty	A	Quite a sombre thoughtful portrait. Beautiful lighting to compliment the mood and bring out the blue of her eyes. I like the subtle details in her neck and hand as she grips the back of the chair. Lovely highlights in her eyes. There are bright patches around the image which draw my attention away from her eyes: the background, shirt front and the upright of the chair, these could all be toned down post processing to really keep my eye on the may point of the image – her eyes.
9	Colin Caroline Foster	M	This for me this is a lovely example of an environmental portrait. The story is this great old character doing what he loves – caring for his animals. I seem him ready for work in his gum boots and battered old hat. The lines on this face show me he's seen a few seasons. The use of monochrome works well but there are a few bright highlights in the background which you could easily remove in post processing.
10	A Honey bee on Flax flower Irene Buchan	M	Wow what an amazing image. The stamens of this flower seem to just encage the bee, trying to stop it from escaping. The detail throughout his image is beautiful from the hairs on the body of the bee through to the pollen grains on the flower. I can even see the veins on the wings – stunning. I love the highlight in the bees eye and front leg. The only thing that distracts me are the stamens

			leaving the frame on the RHS – did you make a wider image? Is this something you could review?
11	A Owlette Spectacled Owl Sue Newport	M	This little character reminds me of a child that's just got out of the bath and is wrapped up in a big fluffy towel. He doesn't look very happy at all but you have managed to capture him in such amazing detail. I don't mind that you have cropped the back of his but my eye is drawn to the left side of his head, I feel as if he should be either turned more to see the other eye or a true profile. The image processing and printing are excellent. Well done.
12	Squall over Queenstown Caroline Foster	M	There is such a feeling of power in this image. The movement of the clouds and the down pouring of rain over these dark mountains really makes me feel cold and very small. Amazing detail throughout the image and beautiful layers in the background. One minor distraction is the brightness of the lake – it draws and holds my eye, this could easily be toned down a little in process. The printing is well done
13	A Sunbathing	A	A nice concept – the flower petals look like the rays from the sun on a child's drawing with the little insect taking a rest to enjoy the warmth. I find the insect a little too small and is over powered by the flower. I like the composition with the flower almost shooting across the frame but the crop is too tight on the petals at the top. I don't mind that I only see half of the flower. I wonder if you are trying to show too much and maybe a tighter crop on the insect would make more of an impact, this would make him more centre stage and the reason for the image.
14	A Welcome home Lisa Trusler	M	Another great example of an environmental portrait. I don't mind that I can't see the man's face as there is a strong feeling of concentration in his body language as he watches the sheep come down the ramp. My eye is taken into the frame by the fence on the LHS past the worker and then onto the sheep which take me down the ramp and then into the yard. The fencing stops my eye before travelling to the background which is a little distracting and could easily be toned down a little. There's a feeling of hesitation from the sheep at the top of the ramp and I like how you have captured the front sheep mid jump. A lovely action shot, full of detail and works so well in B&W. well done.

