

OPEN



Boulders: An intriguing look into a beech forest (at least I think It is a beech forest). I feel you have shown the nature of the this kind of forest well with all the mosses, the foliage, the forest floor covering and the soft light filtering through the canopy of the trees. In my opinion, the image would have a stronger emotive

element if the contrast were increased.

14 pts



Hobbit Hole: Somebody must be at home - the chimney is smoking and there is washing on the line. I wonder what those hobbits are up to. I like the way you have added texture to the sky to give a surreal effect that goes with the surreal nature of the novel. For me, the image feels a little underexposed and gives a

feeling that something bad is about to happen. I am not sure this fits with the story of a hobbit at home.

14 pts



Textures in Nature: What an interesting way to show the variety that nature gives us in its creation. Beautifully lit and a very clear story. The image feels like a documentary style of image and for me it tells a nice story.

16 pts



Unveiling: An interesting curve takes me through the image to reveal a remote windswept beach judging by the amount of spray in the air. I like the way you have used darker tones on

the background hills to keep my eye from wandering up to the sky and out of the image. A well composed story about a rugged bay.

15 pts



Vintage 78 Catches the Light: For me, the title and the image appear to be in contradiction, as the light doesn't seem to reveal the label (the story) - rather it tends to stop me from clearly seeing the label. If the light on the label was made a little brighter I could see the year, the wine name and the delicacy of the wine in the glass in a way that would capture my

attention

13 pts



A Tree: Having made attempts recently to photograph that Wanaka tree, this image brings back some recent learning's. For me, the image would have a strong dramatic pull, if the trunk and the background hills had separation as the tones and shapes tend to merge. This might be achieved with a slightly different perspective such as lowering the camera body to the ground and pinpointing a background that can give less tension with the subject's trunk. 13 pts



Container Ship Sailing Through the Sea: Wow - this is a dramatic moment, well seen and well composed and the tonality selected really fits the emotive feel. Great job. 17 pts



Enjoying the Tranquility: The bird looks really interesting. The placement of the bird puts the tones of the neck and head across similar tones in the background tree. It is often useful to be really aware of the tone and position of the background elements in your image to ensure that secondary elements always support your story. 10 pts



Hint of Copper: My father-in-law had one of these and he used it when taking picnics out into some of our reserves. I like the way the kettle has been placed at an angle as it gives me a feeling of age. I found the treatment of the handle interesting although its placement overlaps the handle, which for me detracts a little from the story as a whole 16pts



Look who's Coming to Dinner: This image reminds of all of those situations when we are sitting down to eat somewhere and the local pests start arriving - sand flies, sparrows, mosquitoes, beggars, magpies, - everywhere we go we can be interrupted by something. But this is something else - I hope the elephant is a bit tame.

Amazing moment in time

14 pts



Mirrored Grasses Noosa Everglades: Nicely seen, well composed and the light on the grasses really created a sense of composure and relaxation for me. I wondered if there might be something lying in wait in the trees behind. 14 pts



Reflections Noosa Everglades: I enjoyed the way the tree branch and its reflection take my eye into the image and along the river. I feel the line through the image tended to take my eye on and out to the right. I wondered if the darkening the debris on the right edge slightly would have held my eye in the frame more? 14 pts



Seen Better Days: The eyes of the lion give me an impression he has had a few fights - there appears to be a scar running down from his right eye. I am not sure what the oval shape on the bottom left is, and I couldn't understand how it helped emphasize the story. Perhaps it could be removed by cloning in some background. For me this would have given me a better connection with the lion. 11 pts



Hihi Beach: I enjoyed the creative use of the tree to highlight the setting sun so that it gives a rich colour within the frame selected. I also thought the composition has cleverly used the flow of the tree to support the story with the curves of the tree providing repetition of the curves around the sun point. I am not sure how the young person adds to the story of the sunset, or whether this is a separate story that needs its own composition.. 11 pts



Forth Rail Bridge from Queensbury: Wow -this is a pretty impressive structure. I liked the way you have put the yacht into the image to show that the design of the structure with the height above river level makes room for shipping traffic. The image also gives me a sense of the days that fitters and welders were a key part of infrastructure development. Very nice image 15 pts



Spot the Pink: I feel confused when I look at this image - I wonder whether the image is about the change of season with leaves falling, or is it about flowers (given the title). There are a lot of lines and shapes in the image that compete for my attention. One of the most valuable pieces of advice I ever received about composition was simplify so that the story of the image has minimal elements that clearly express what you, the photographer, want to say. 9pts



Yorkshire Dales: A classic shot using a leading line to take the viewer on a journey through the image. I enjoyed the way you have balanced the trees visually against the dynamic shapes in the hillside on the right, and how the darker tones of the background hills stop my eye travelling up the animal path in the background and out of the image. I really enjoyed the composition and the look at the famous Yorkshire dales. 14 pts

BLACK & WHITE



Alien Invader: I am reminded of the novel by HG Wells - War of the Worlds, and the radio recording I listened to when I was a young fellow back in the 1960's That recording talked about 3 legged invaders as I remember it. I liked the concept and the visual strength of the shapes created. I felt that the placement of the leg bottoms cutting the edge of the frame result in my eye being drawn off the image. 10 pts



Iron Daisies: I enjoyed the imaginative composition, aided by the title, to give me a perspective of daisies pushing up. I like the way you have paralleled nature with the image. Very creative in your composition. I felt that the lack of sharpness on the 'daisy' to the left detracted from my enjoyment along with the bright tones in the clouds behind the central daisies and the foliage bottom right. If these distractions were minimized I would have rated this image very highly because of its creativity and analogy with nature. 16 pts



The Project: Wow - the busy shed - so many tools, the handyman's paradise. Like my own workbench, the things we store up get dumped on the bench and stop us getting on with projects. I found it very interesting to explore the range of tools, the number of incomplete projects - so typical of many guys I know. A nice connection with reality. 16 pts



Bull Elephant: I feel a little intimidated looking at the power and strength of this majestic animal - he seems a little agitated given the curve of the trunk. I love the way the lighting allows me to see every detail of the skin, and of the environment. For me the image is an excellent portrait of a majestic animal. 17 pts



Dawn Training: I enjoyed the way the silhouette gave me a sense of isolation from the cold looking misty background. This isolation created in me a sense of energy, coming from the motion in the image in the movement of the tail, mane and the turf being raised by the hooves.. 12 pts



Elephants Play Fighting - Botswana: I was intrigued by this image. I felt an insight into the world of what appears to be youthful elephants and the way they develop their skills in dealing with another elephant. I am assuming these two animals are youthful by the leanness of their appearance and the title. I liked the way the tones are used to draw attention to the story - even though the background is bright, the composition holds my attention on the story of the elephants. 14 pts



Focal Point: I like the use of depth of field to draw my attention to the story. In my opinion, brightening the tones on the subjects skin (e.g. through the mid-range tone curve function) would have made this image pop for me - to my eye, the tones of the background sea are very similar to the tones on the face and hands. 10 pts



Form of Nature: The light on the cactus leaves say "look at me". The crisp and clean tones within the image and the clear distinctions in the shapes of the leaves created by the brightest tones created quite an emotive effect on me. I really enjoyed this image. 18 pts



Greenpoint Ships Graveyard: I am drawn into the image by the position of the two ships and the mooring. The textures of the left ship I found particularly interesting and gave a sense of aging and lack of maintenance. I was intrigued by the lean of the two boats and couldn't decide whether that was due to a low tide or whether the boats were derelict. I enjoyed the questions the image raised in my mind. I also particularly liked the texture and tone in the cloud because they maintained my attention around the boats and the mooring.

17 pts



Jo Barus: A great mood image. It gives me a strong feeling that the song has a strong emotional context. I love the minimalist way you have used the light and the negative space (dark tones) to create what is for me a really moody feeling.

18 pts



Kiwi Balloon: A beautiful capture of a moment that probably will live with you forever. Technically you have presented the balloon beautifully with a nice balance present between the balloon shape and the oval shape of the tree. For me the vignette effect feels too strong and acts as a distraction from the story. Take care with the use of digital vignette so that it emphasizes your story in a balanced way.

13 pts



Off Key: I liked the quirky sense of humour given in the title and reflected in the run down nature of the keyboard. As a piano owner I am familiar with what is needed to keep it in tune, and I was saddened by the dilapidated nature of what was likely once a beautiful work of art. I liked the use of depth of field to emphasis the disjoint in the flow of the keys. Well composed. I would have enjoyed this image more if it had used a higher contrast of tones to make the broken key - this would have really given me a sense of wow.

15 pts



Ride it like you Stole It: I enjoyed the drama of the galloping horse and the rider interaction. I felt a strong sense of movement. My eye was distracted from the story of the horse and rider by the bright ones of the gate in front of the horse and the sparkling leaves above the gate. I would have felt a stronger connection to the story if these bright tones which I found distracting were darkened down using a brush tool

13 pts



of the zebra

Running Zebra - South Africa: I enjoyed the sense of motion I got from the blurred "off-side hooves: I can sense the dynamic power of the run of a zebra in this image. It appears the Animal might have just been startled because the bird on its back also appears to be lifting off. For me I felt that this was a nice character portrait

16 pts



Storm: I liked the moment in time that captured the contact of the wave with the rocks. I wasn't sure that the title was consistent with the story - the sky doesn't seem to be stormy and the swell doesn't seem to be particularly big, I did enjoy the story in the rocks, which in my opinion are the dominant element in the image. This left me feeling a little uncertain about whether the story was about the weather or about the sea meeting the rocks.

11 pts



Sunset on the Farm: Wow - the sunbeams coming through the trees just hit my emotions. A wow image - nicely sharp throughout, and the wow factor is helped by the hazy misty effect created by the sunbeams. Compositionally, I would have rated this more highly, had the perspective chosen, left the top of the central tree much closer to the top of the ribbon of cloud, as I felt this would have given the utmost prominence to the story.

18 pts



for me.

Sweet and Saxy: I felt the sense of a quite moody evening with a busker adding to the feel of the night. For me I would have felt a stronger connection if the exposure had been lifted and contrast added - this would have created a stronger emotional connection

16 pts



The Farmer: The character feels like a "salt of the earth" personality. The line of the tractors tended to pull my eye away from the man, and I wondered if the area around the pipe could be brightened so I could really connect with the "salty" nature of the man. 14 pts



The Mask: This kind of reminds me of that Jim Carry comedy movie - when he wondered about the effect of pulling on the mask on his personality. I loved the light on the face and on the mask. I thought you have beautifully captured a tense moment where I think the man is wondering about the use of the mask. 18 pts



The Fagotting Furnace: You can see this is a furnace, but don't know what it is used for. I can see some tools that might be used if this furnace was a potter's kiln. I feel unsure about the story and so feel disconnected from the story. Technically, the subject is nicely presented and well lit. 13 pts



Waikato Fog: An amazing panorama showing the typical river fogs that go with the Waikato river - I have experienced many such fogs driving between Auckland and Wellington and this image brings back to me all the sensations of having to deal with them while driving. I wondered if the sky had more detail would I feel a stronger connection? 14 pts



Staircase: I enjoyed the placement of the two people in the image - they tell me of a story of people coming to this place for a purpose. I liked the way you have composed the image to create a series of angles and lines that flow through the image yet still create a sense of mystery about where the people are going or what they are going to see. A distraction to my eye is the lit area in the bottom left corner. This bright area distracted my eye from following the line of the stairs and if this distraction was not present, I would have rated the image more highly. Try darkening the bright using a brush tool in digital software and see if you feel a change in the balance of the elements of the image. 15 pts



Bendigo Bakery: Truly a story of the history of the Otago area. Bendigo has such a rich history and the image brought back some great memories. I felt the brightness of the sky coming though the window had a strong visual impact which tended to dominate the structure of the adobe style building. 14 pts



Chimp Pensive: I get a sense of the chimpanzee wondering what is happening next. There is sufficient light in the eye to create in me a sense of mischievousness. However the bright tones in the right of the image compete for my attention and I wondered how necessary this area was for the portrait of the chimpanzee? 13 pts



Choo Choo: I enjoyed the presentation of the engine and the tenders. I am asking myself whether the locomotive is powered by a coal/wood fire or by diesel. The tender suggests diesel although the smoke generated suggests it might be fired by coal or wood. I enjoyed that you invited the viewer to think about the way the engine is powered. 12 pts



Courtyard Arches Parrador: For me the lines of the arches lead me through the image and out the right. I felt that the brightness of the wall behind the arches tended to dominate my attention rather than the arches. This happens for me because the brighter tones in black and white tend to really capture the eye's attention. As there is so much bright white tone in this area, I wonder if a selection based on colour/tone could be made to reduce the brightness. The feature on the wall behind the first arch also tended to pull my eye from the flow of the arches. 10pts



Distortions: Well seen and SOOO creative. From a glass of water you have captured my attention and held it within the image - the horizontal lines on the top half of the glass really hold my eye within the image and prevented the oblique lines from taking my eye out of the image. This image gave me a strong sense of WOW. 18 pts



Gondolas: While I enjoyed the placement of the gondolas in context with the beautiful buildings in the background and the gondola in action, I felt that the multiple gondolas competed for my attention - I felt unable to rest my eye on any one of the gondolas and explore its lines, its sitting line in the water. For me it provides a nice memory of the location rather than a story about the gondolas

9 pts



Gourmet Corner: For me I am wondering - where are all the people? Everything looks shut up and yet the story is about an eating house. This leaves me a little confused as to whether the image is of the architecture or about the location as an eating venue. I really enjoyed the light and the way the stars add to the context of the story of the closed eating house.

12 pts



Haven on the Quay: The shelter looks like a nice place to escape from the weather - and the wetness of the wharf suggests quite a bit of unpleasant weather. Compositionally, I felt that the tip of the spire leading up into the clouds tended to leave my eye hanging in the cloud . I wondered how I would have felt had the tip of the spire been kept below the cloud line. Perhaps you could experiment and clone some of the hill onto the cloudy mist around the tip of the spire. The wharf light also felt distracting as it merges with the shelter and competes for attention. Beautifully sharp throughout.

11 pts



Hot Dog Stall NY: A food stall that has a customer and a hot dog in the customer's hand. Well seen and for me, a nice moment. I love the contrast of tones, which for me make the vendor and the customer and the hot dog ads on the front side of the stand really stand out. These three elements created for me a visual triangle which my eye kept moving around the image and finding all the little things that complement the main story, the drinks, the price list, the containers of fillings. I really enjoyed this image

17 pts



Last Checks: Yes we all do this from time to time The car looks amazing. I don't know what those things are sticking out the bottom but they add quite a bit of intrigue for me about the capability of this car. The tyres are slick (no tread) so I assume they are racing tyres and there is a race happening soon. I can only imagine the expense that has been gone to get the car ready. Overall, a lot to think about in this story. Nice story in my opinion. I would have felt a little more emotionally attracted if the bright background tones didn't distract my eye. 16 pts



Look Here: I enjoyed the positioning of the swans in the image and the reflections that emphasize the story. I felt the darkness around the eyes prevented me from seeing the swans' eyes and what might have captured their attention. I wondered how the image might impact me if the eyes of the two birds were visible. 12pts



Man and his Horse: I am drawn to the look on the man's face - I get an impression of a man with a strong independent character who is very happy being out there with his horse. I really enjoyed the presentation of the character of the man with his pose, his relaxed hands, the intensity of his gaze. Love the image 18 pts



Man's Best Friend: For me, a wonderful use of tone and sharpness to draw out an age connection as well as an emotional connection between the man and the dog. The silvery streaks in the hair of the man "mirror" the silvery streaks in the whiskers of the dog. I felt these two characters have a lot of stories from their past. 17 pts



On the Way to White Gold: An interesting study of what I think is a white baiter and his fishing net. The location is a bit different from my usual memories of the white baiter who locates near a river mouth and fishes the run of the shoals. To my eye there a couple of technical things which detract from the story - there appears to be a broad use of a brightening brush over the man and the net, and in the top right there are some bright streaks that pull my eye away from the man and cart. I like that you tried to brighten the dark tones of the man and the cart - I just wondered if it would have felt a stronger connection if you had used a mask to reveal just the lines of the net and the cart and the man's torso. 13 pts



Outlook: I found the story of the aged huts in a remote rural setting to be quite stimulating - this is because I love the back country and rural areas as I find they bring a sense of emotional balance back into life that gets drained from you living in the city. I enjoyed the intensity of the clouds in the sky suggesting a storm brewing. I felt a slight sense of out of balance as the window frame on the right is on a lean, and the brightness in the clouds top left tended to draw my eye away from the structures. I would have rated this image more highly if I didn't have this sense of imbalance. 14 pts



Pianist: For me this is gorgeous, - the sharpness of the keys coupled with the blur of the hands suggest a very fast hand movement / a very fast piece is being played. For me an outstanding image. While the space in the keyboard underside below the left hand created a distraction for me, it was not strong enough to overcome the sense of flow of the music given by the composition. 18 pts



Princes Wharf: The more I looked at this, the more I felt the intrusion of man on the environment. There was once a structure here, and the remnant remains either as a blight on the area, or as a reminder of days gone by when a wharf used to be here. Perhaps the container crane in the background right speaks to the changing times. I loved the slow shutter speed used to give soft harmonizing effect of the clouds and sea. A very thought provoking image. Well seen. 17 pts



Pukeko Chick: The beak grabs my attention and drew me into the story. The light on the down feathers makes the textures really stand out for me. I loved the eye - it created a feeling in me that the bird was kind of unsure about his surroundings, as if it is looking for the mother. I wondered if the depth of field had been a little longer whether I would have been more strongly attracted to the cute little fella. 14 pts



Rua da Trinidad - Santiago: An interesting location. I am unsure what I am intended to look at and think about. The darkness of the tones in the upright columns acted as a deterrent of my viewing third textures. Equally, the angle of the subject elements creates a tension for my viewing that I felt didn't complement the story.. I liked the way the shadow is used to draw my eye to the wall

8 pts



Seal Water Whiskers: For me, you have shown an interesting story about the character of a seal - the way it breaks out of the water to investigate its surroundings. I would have felt a lot more connection with the story if there was a much greater degree of contrast in the image - try experimenting with a plug in like silverefex or move the contrast sliders in your digital software to alter the emotive feel.

13 pts



Skeletal Maze: An interesting composition which provokes questions as to the time of the year or whether a fire has been through. I felt that the image lacked sharpness and this was a significant distraction from my enjoyment of the image.

7 pts



Slowly but surely: I felt the sense of a different culture, a different technology in this image. I would have been more connected with the image if the tones on the buffalo were brightened a little by lightening the darks or shadow. A brush or mask would be a way to lighten the ones only of the buffalo.. The image felt a little underexposed and this was a distracting factor for me from the story. I felt I would have rated this image much more highly had the tonal qualities of the buffalo not been so distracting because the composition is so appealing.

14 pts



Spread those Wings: I enjoyed the composition, which leaves room for the bird to soar and glide. For me there is a insufficient contrast and light on the bird's chest and head to really hold my attention - the image could be more dramatic if it had a stronger contrasty presentation. Try playing with the brush tool and the tone curves for midtones to explore the effects of how changing the contrast can give a stronger emotive feel.

12 pts



Taking The Dogs Out: Wow this person really loves dogs - I can see in her expression the fun she has taking these boys and girls out walking. I can see that some must be very well trained (the ones without leads) and then there are ones that get a bit over-excited - the snout guard.. I like the composition because it shows me an urban context - I have

friends with many dogs, but they tend to be rural dwellers. The dogs all seem so relaxed with the walker - I really love the story. I felt that I would have got more emotional connection if the overall exposure was lifted a little and some contrast added - experiment and see if you feel a different emotional connection with a little "playing" with the exposure and contrast. The lift in the light would allow me to see a little more of the detail of the background context - like the trunk of the tree and the pale fence to the right. Overall a very well presented story 15 pts



Trinity Church New York: I like the way that the history of New York is shown in this image by the placement of the high rise buildings that seem like they are choking the beauty of the church architecture. In some respects, the image speaks to me of the trend in Western Civilization to de-emphasize the spiritual side of life in favour of

humanism and human greatness. I really liked this story because it put people into the image to make a strong connection with the old and new. 19 pts



Google Stairway: I enjoyed the abstraction that contrasts strong lines and shapes with curving elements. For me to have a greater attraction to the image, I wanted to see more of the triangular shape and the dark tonality left this presented as having few

discernible features and left me with a feeling the composition was a little underexposed.. Exploring the tonality offline with some selective brushing, I was able to see some interesting textural aspects to the sculpture and I would have rated the image more highly had these been revealed more. 14 pts



Gum Drops: An interesting look at the fruit/seeds of this tree. I like the way you have placed the branch with the fruit/seeds to make them contrast with the tree bough itself. I was torn between looking at the fruit/seeds and the leaves at the bottom of the image. This was due to my eye being drawn by the brighter tones of the leaf. I was also distracted by the bright tones top right as this kept pulling my eye away from the story. A compelling image generally needs all elements to work together to support the story.

8 pts



Lindis Pass: An area I am very familiar with. I enjoyed the dramatic effect you have given to the scene. In many ways I felt it was very much like being there - the location is so amazing and photogenic. I really enjoyed this image and would have rated it more highly if the sky had more detail - the sky felt overexposed and I wondered if a graduated filter would help with balancing the tones in the sky with the wonderful presentation of the Lindis Valley.

16 pts



Mischief: As a former dog owner (I remain a one dog person because nothing could replace him), the eyes the soulful look speak of mischief and the question - what will I do next. Nicely captured, and for me I would have felt a stronger connection to the dog if the dark elements of the eyes had not merged with the dark tones around the eyes. I wonder if a brush could be used to give a little separation of tones in this area.

15 pts



Over the Edge: A strong sense of drama immediately springs to my mind when I look at the image. I wonder how the dramatic effect would be if the image was made with a slightly slower shutter speed to allow the structure of the rock to show a little more.

14 pts



Red Billed Gull: I found it interesting that the title mentioned a colour. Even though the competition is black and white, I felt that making the bill red would still be acceptable. Alternatively to make the bill be more distinctive (as suggested by the title), I wonder if using a brush or a mask to adjust the tones of the bill would distinguish it from the tones of the tail and give a stronger emotive connection for the viewer.

13 pts

BLACK & WHITE PRINTS



Hamburg Canal: I enjoyed the way you have used converging lines to draw attention to the canal and the textures of the buildings themselves. I liked that the reflection in the water did not become a distraction from viewing the impressive line of buildings and the repeating pattern of the windows and wall lines between each unit.

16pts



Refraction: An amazing abstract image that explores the impact of lines and angles on the human senses lines and how light going through different surfaces can create an illusion or distortion from reality . For me a really thought provoking image.

17pts



Port Pipes: A hint of a carafe for a fortified wine. I was really drawn to this image by the mystery created by the lighting - while not entirely sure what the physical object is, the nature of the mysterious presentation is what really impacted on me. For me it is like those youthful days when we poked around the Christmas presents in the dark before our parents woke - touching and using the limited light to try to work out what might have come.

18pts



WW2 Graves: For me this speaks to the idea of the futility of war. Large number of deaths, pain and suffering, financial gain for the munitions industry. The light on the crosses really emphasizes for me these senses - so much dark, and so little light. Beautifully seen and composed, a powerful impact on me, who had relatives in both the first and second world wars, and friends in the war in Vietnam and in the Gulf wars.

19 pts



Back to the Future: I work in a sector that has recently had to address issues with hybrids, so this image appealed to my sense of drama. The issues were about the very confused nature of financial instruments that were neither one thing nor another but characteristics of multiple things. The inversion of the Y in one of the reflective setting was very creative and for me, made this image. 17 pts



Moody Retreat: I felt at peace looking into this image. I wish I could be here, was how I felt. For me there were two distractions from this peaceful feeling - the tones on the top of the jetty tended to merge with the tones of the water between the jetty and the dark background tones and the flax plant on the left of the image felt like it stopped my eye from moving along the jetty and held my attention at this point. I loved the picnic table setting. 16pts