











CAMBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB - LONG EXPOSURE - 1/07/2022




GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	CHURCH ROUNDAABOUT	For me, this is a nice example of long-exposure traffic trails, the colours from various functions of light streaked the full length of the image. I like the use of aperture to create starburst patterns in the lights and keep the image sharp throughout. I find the strong play of light and shadow on the church interesting. In my opinion, the composition may be more visually interesting in a square crop – removing the distracting headlamps on the right edge, perhaps coming in past the streetlamps on the right and removing some of the grass at the base. To my eye, it's oversaturated and the sky looks quite unnatural, but otherwise I think it's a technically accomplished shot. Merit	11	
A	FAST FOOD CORNER	I find this image to be quite messy, several areas of bright lights and text compete for my attention. Contrasting with the busy scene, I think the haze and blur created from the long exposure adds textural interest. For me, the white balance is too yellow, a very common issue in night photography. The photographer could consider correcting this in post processing. Personally, the choice of location doesn't appeal to me. Accepted	3	
A	FITZGERALD GLADE	I am immediately pulled into this scene which I find highly cinematic in aesthetic. It reminds me a little of 'Back to the Future' and I can imagine the cars are DeLorean's, travelling through time. I enjoy the warm tones, the use of framing, composition, and other technical choices deliberately made here. My main suggestion for improvement would have been to capture just one vehicle with trails the full length of its travel across the scene. If not using one already, an ND filter could have aided this. Honours	18	

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A	FLOWIN SILK	My first impression of this Image is that it is very dark and the highlights in the water appear quite dull. A check of the image histogram in post-processing software confirms this. The photographer could correct this by using the histogram or light meter in camera, or by tweaking exposure in post processing. I like the choice of subject and I find the length of exposure just right for showing the flow of the water whilst softening it. It appears to me like the capture was at an angle looking down on the falls, which I feel diminishes their presence somewhat. I think the view might have had more impact if the camera were lowered and angle tilted upwards. Highly Commended	13	
A	PASSING THROUGH	I find this image over exposed with lots of distracting text and bright points which make it somewhat unpleasant to view. I don't feel the traffic streaks add much in this case. To my eye, the white balance is far too yellow and could be corrected either in-camera or in post-processing. In my opinion, there is not much visual appeal in the chosen scene. The photographer can clearly perform long exposures but, for me, there are a few other areas to improve on which I would not expect to see in A grade. Accepted	2	
A	SUPPORTING LIFE	I thought this was a visually appealing image but, unfortunately, I see no evidence of long exposure photography here, regardless of how the image was captured. I imagine there was some light painting on the subject, but this is purely a guess on my part. I would normally 'pass in' an image that doesn't meet the criteria rather than award it a low mark so that the photographer can re-enter the image into another competition. Hopefully that will be the case here. Passed	0	
A	WAR NEVER ENDS	As with 'Supporting Life', unfortunately, I see no evidence of long exposure photography here. For me, this image instead falls into Night photography. I imagine the photographer needed a longer shutter speed to capture the correct exposure, but I am just guessing that is the case. The photographer could have captured the motion of someone walking across the scene or paying their respects to show me that it is a long exposure. Passed	0	

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A	WET N WILD	<p>This image reminds me of a similar scene I captured close to Milford Sound. For me, the exposure time for the water is perfect and has created some really beautiful textures which contrast pleasantly with the mossy rocks. I like the choice of composition which has allowed the path of the water to zig-zag across the entire image, creating interest. It looks to me to have been processed well without being overdone. To my eye, there are some highlights starting to lose detail in the water, middle left, which the photographer could tone down in post processing. A very well-considered scene. Honours</p>	17	
B	LIGHT TRAILS	<p>As I instinctively 'read' and image left to right, my eyes are drawn by the bright lights of the shops and their accompanying text, distracting me. For me, the image feels unbalanced with the light trails on the right side. Personally, I find the scene itself a little dull. The photographer can clearly handle long exposures and has a good grasp of night photography, so I think it's worth continuing to experiment. Accepted</p>	5	
B	PRIESTESS	<p>With the prompt of the image title, I can imagine a ghostly, veiled figure holding out a hand invitingly towards the viewer. A clever interpretation of the scene. In my opinion, the exposure has been taken just a sliver too far as we are starting to get blown out highlights in parts of the falls. The photographer may be able to rescue these in post processing by selectively pulling back highlights. Nevertheless, a very atmospheric and ethereal image with good use of focal length and framing. I think this would work well in black and white. Highly Commended</p>	16	




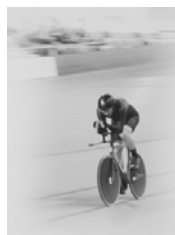
GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
B	THE CITY FROM WESHAVEN	My first impression of this image is that the city looks very dirty and is producing dark brown clouds of pollution, spreading out from the sky tower. I believe this is due to a white balance issue which the photographer could correct in post-processing. For me, there are distracting areas of overexposure in the traffic trails far right and in the bright yellow areas, bottom left. This may be too blown out to correct in post, but the photographer could try revisiting the scene and use a slightly reduced shutter speed or an ND filter. I think the composition may be improved with a 16:9 crop to remove some of the sky. Accepted	6	
B	THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH	I think this is a nice example of a long exposure seascape, the distinction between sea and sand barely discernable if it weren't for the wet sand reflecting the soft light. I find the pastel palette very pleasant and the contrasting textures, as pointed out in the title. For me, the image needs to be brightened overall as it is quite dull and missing whites/highlights. I believe the composition would be improved with a square crop in from the left so that the main rock leads the viewer out to sea. Highly Commended	12	
B	TIME SLOWS AT THE BEACH	It looks to me as if this long exposure was taken in bright sun which always makes this kind of photography more difficult. Unfortunately, I see that the highlights throughout the sea are burnt out. If the photographer were to capture a similar scene in future, use of an ND filter would allow long exposures in bright sunlight without overexposure. I feel the composition may have been more interesting if we were able to view the curve of the beach and the reach of the waves without them being cut off by the frame. In my opinion, definitely worth revisiting and refining. Accepted	4	

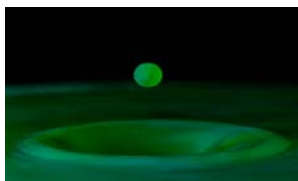


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GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
B	WATER ON THE ROCKS	To my eye, the image quality is very low, and I see a lot of pixelation and 'crunchy' image noise. It's possible this is from cropping into the image too far or file mishandling. I'm a stickler for this as it prevents me from enjoying the image. I hope the photographer will consider this feedback as encouragement to pay closer attention to image quality in future because I feel the content itself is good and deserves to be displayed in a way that it can be fully appreciated. Accepted	1	
C	EXPRESSIONS	This is an immediately appealing image to me. The atmosphere, composition, subject matter, and use of long exposure make for a beautiful photograph. I like the warm tones and complimentary styling. I can almost hear opera music. The photographer might consider bringing back the highlights a little on the subject's right shoulder in post-processing. Despite the lack of background detail, the placement of the front foot close to the edge of the frame helps to ground the subject. I am awarding this image in the hopes that this image is the photographer's own work and not captured at a workshop. Honours	18	
C	MOSSY BUSH STREAM	I think this is a pleasant scene, nicely composed to make the most of the water running through. I feel that the exposure was slightly too long as I would have preferred to see either some detail in the water or more of the pebbles underneath the water to add more interest to the scene. For me, there's a nice contrast between the textures and the colours appear accurate. In my opinion, the photographer could have considered adding some split toning or dodge and burn detail to add impact by creating more shape and depth. Highly Commended	14	




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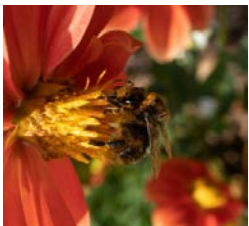
GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
C	WATER FEATURE	With a scene like this, I would like to see the photographer turn it into a 'tiny landscape' where the small details are made into big features. For example, using a wide angle lens, placing it close into the scene, angled up at the falling water may have tricked the viewer into thinking we were looking at some vast waterfall. As is, I see no technical faults but I find this image a little underwhelming. A good try though. Merit	10	
	BEST OF THE SET SUBJECT	Expressions		




GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	BUGS HEAD	<p>To my eye, this image is not sharp, possibly because of low resolution. Whilst I enjoy insect photography and frequently use image stacking to capture insects as part of my job, this specimen itself is not of good quality and appears shriveled and dirty. I don't find it very visually appealing. In future, the photographer might consider using a better quality specimen and a small brush, such as a soft paintbrush, can be used to gently remove dirt.</p> <p>Accepted</p>	3	
A	DEWDROP SPARKLER	<p>It took me a moment to recognize what I was looking at in this image - isn't nature wonderful! I find the image to be quite dark and moody, but I think this adds to the mystery of it. The dewdrops themselves have been well exposed. Unfortunately, the image quality here is quite low, perhaps from cropping in too far or file mishandling. I would have loved to see more detail.</p> <p>Accepted</p>	6	
A	EARLY START	<p>I think this is a pleasant scene with the pastel landscape and family element. For me, this would have made a lovely long exposure, smoothing out the sea and adding a haze to the people, which I believe would have greatly increased the image impact and given it a painterly feel. As is, the photographer may wish to add a vignette to darken the outer edges and help bring the viewer into the scene. Merit</p>	8	
A	GARY'S CYCLE	<p>This type of panning photography is very difficult in my experience, so well done to the photographer for doing an excellent job in this image. I love everything about this shot, the impression of speed and motion, the composition, the black and white treatment, the impression of spectators included in the background. We can even see the determination of the rider. I don't think I've ever seen good use of white vignetting until this image. Fantastic. Honours</p>	19	



GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	GREEN DROP	To me, this looks like a planet or moon being slowly sucked into a black hole-like vortex, but for some reason everything is green! I appreciate that I can't make out an obvious background, good use of aperture to blur any potential edges. The droplet appears mostly in focus, just slightly soft. For me, there's a lot of empty space, not too much of interest elsewhere in the image, and a slight crop may improve this. Droplet photography is a lot of fun, though not easy, and I hope the photographer enjoyed this shoot. Merit	8	
A	MANAROLA HILLSIDE VILLAGE	This lovely scene makes me realise how long it has been since I had an overseas vacation. I find there's a lot of visual interest here, with the houses looking as if they could slip into the sea at any moment and great use of composition. I like the use of long exposure (not sure why this is in Open?) but it may have been worth returning when the sea had a bit more movement. To me, this image appears crunchy as if it has been over sharpened. I think a thicker white border would have looked nicer. For me, overall it's technically accomplished but a little over-processed. Highly Commended	12	
A	OYSTERCATCHER ON COOKS BEACH	This image makes me smile because I can imagine the character of the bird. Though the bird isn't doing much, it appears to have been caught mid-step which gives it a jaunty feel. I believe it's an accomplished shot, well thought out and technically excellent. We can see everything we need to clearly, it's sharp, and distractions are pleasantly blurred. There's a catchlight in the eye and there is detail in the black feathers. Again, I feel a thicker white border or none at all would have worked better. Honours	17	

GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	QUEEN OF POPPIES	<p>The imaginative title invites me to see a queenly head surrounded by a large collar or ruff. This also leads me to seeing a Donald Trump-esque toupee balanced on top! I feel this image may have been improved by giving the viewer just a little more depth of field to appreciate the full flower head. In future, the photographer could consider taking their own background to place behind the flower subject which will separate it from the green of the natural background and increase the impact.</p> <p>Merit</p>	8	
A	SWEETCORN	<p>I find this image absolutely delightful, it is such a shame that the resolution is poor. I don't know what has caused this but, to my eye, the face of the child is pixelated and soft due to lack of detail. Maybe this is from cropping in too far, perhaps it was captured on an older or small image sensor, or possibly it's been over-processed. I like the composition and the use of vignette to bring the viewer in. I believe it's a really great capture, but I can't forgive poor image quality, especially at A grade. Accepted</p>	6	
A	WAITOMO MIST	<p>Views like these are always wonderful to behold. I enjoy the layers of depth across this scene up to a sea of cloud in the background. I like the shape of the land closest to us and the leading line of the fence, however, the grassy area looks a little odd to me. It's possible the photographer was a little heavy handed with some adjustment sliders and/or sharpening, and it has created a muddy, dark, crunchy look in the grass. In my opinion, if the photographer were to dial back this edit, they'd have a lovely image. Accepted</p>	6	

GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
B	BENCH WITH A VIEW	This looks like a tranquil and calm spot to sit and listen to the wind rustling leaves or lapping water. I enjoy the range of autumn tones on display, and they certainly elevate this photo. I like the composition and I don't mind the sloping ground as we are viewing on an angle. It's unfortunate that the image quality is very poor and the whole image appears of low resolution and soft, almost like it's a screenshot, and this is stopping me from fully appreciating the shot. Accepted	5	
B	CAMBRIDGE HILLS	I can feel the warmth of the sunlight in this image, and I can almost smell the freshness of the air. The directional light creates depth and shape in the landscape, drawing the viewer in. For me, the composition is good, following the traditional rule of thirds. I like that everything is sharp and there are a variety of textures to appreciate. If the photographer were to capture something similar in future, they could experiment with different focal lengths to help isolate parts of the landscape and create a bit more impact. Highly Commended	13	
B	DOTTEREL MISSED MIGRATION	For me, this is a technically excellent shot. Everything we want to see is nicely exposed, sharp and in focus with the background pleasantly blurred. I like that bird takes up a good portion of the image. I can see an odd strip of blue/grey above the bird's head which I find distracting. The photographer could attempt to adjust the colour of this strip in post processing so that it blends in. I find the pose a bit static and the image would have more impact if the bird had more action or was performing some natural behaviour. Highly Commended	14	

GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
B	EVENING AT WHANGAPOUA HARBOUR	I find this scene very tranquil and calming with pleasant warm tones. For me, this image is all about the reflection of the clouds in the water, so well done to the photographer for making the most of that feature. In my opinion, there's good use of composition and depth of field. To my eye, the highlights are starting to burn out in the clouds top-right, and it may be possible to pull these back in post processing. Highly Commended	13	
B	RUTH ON MOTHER'S DAY	I find the character presented here very interesting and I love her sense of style. For me, the pose is a little static but it works. To my eye, there needs to be more light on the face as currently her white suit is the star of the shot. Lack of background detail makes the subject look like they are floating. I feel that the image is unbalanced, and the photographer may be able to remedy this by cropping in from the right. Good work, I think it could be even better with some refinement. Highly Commended	12	
B	SPRINKLED WITH GOLDEN POLLEN	I enjoy the detail of the bee in this shot – the hair texture, the wing structure, and of course the pollen. The subject has been well considered, centrally framed and cropped nicely. My first impression was that this image may be better balanced if rotated anticlockwise 90 degrees so that the flower faces upwards. To my eye, the highlights on the yellow of the flower detract from the comparatively dark bee, and the photographer may be able to tone this down in post processing. Merit	10	

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C	DAY FOR CHORES	<p>This scene made me smile because it reminds me of Cornwall & Devon where I grew up. There's lots for the eye to explore here and the leading line of the road starts us off on a journey around the image. I don't believe the river is needed in this shot and it could be cropped out to aid the composition. In my opinion, the whole image needs a touch more brightness and some contrast which could be added in post-processing. With the addition of the person, perfectly captured mid-step, I think this is a well-considered shot which could be made even better with a few tweaks. Highly Commended</p>	14	
C	HOLLIE ON FIRE	<p>My eye is immediately drawn into the big smile on this person's face but I get the not-so-subtle impression that she might be trouble! The red hair, makeup and accessories show great character. I am a bit confused as to why she is spraying the fire other than to capture it in a photo. This image feels very unbalanced with our subject on the far right and quite low in the frame. She looks to me to be floating as her dark trousers blend into the black background. I think this is a fun image that could benefit from a crop and a bit more story. However, great work at this grade. Highly Commended</p>	13	
C	HORSE IN THE SHADOWS	<p>I can see the photographer has taken care to line up this shot perfectly - the horse's head straight and centered in the frame. I like that we can see detail in the hair and whiskers but, for me, there is a bit too much contrast. I don't see any detail in the blacks and we are starting to lose detail in the whites along the nose. The head appears to be floating in the black background but, in this shot, I don't think it's an issue. In my opinion, an image worth spending some time on in post-processing to take it to the next level. Highly commended</p>	12	

GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
C	I C RED	Red berries like this always remind me of 'the bad colour' as it is termed in 'The Village' movie. I can see why the photographer wanted to capture this mini scene with the water droplets adding an extra element. To my eye, the image is slightly soft, as if the focus was not quite perfect. I like the use of aperture to blur the background. Overall, I'm not sure there's enough here to hold my interest as a viewer. Perhaps a different perspective may have had more impact. Keep experimenting. Merit	10	
C	IT'LL BE SOMETHING SIMPLE	The title for this image adds an element of humor that made me smile. I think the photographer has done well to capture the story of what is happening here, the confusion and frustration clearly expressed on faces and in body language. For me, this shot is all about the people and I feel the right half of the image doesn't add much so, if the photographer were to crop to a square, the image might have a better impact. Merit	10	
	BEST OF OPEN	Gary's Cycle		