













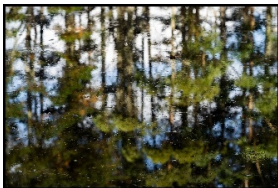





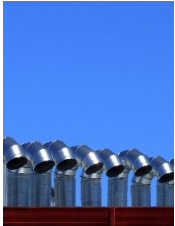

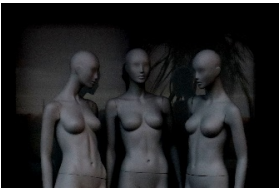
GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	AT THE END OF THE DAY	<p>I found the proportions in this image to be really well balanced, and it gave me a sense of harmony. The strong leading lines of the late day shadows caught my attention and helped guide my eye towards the gravestones, across their tops, and then comfortably to the distant hills. In my view, a little less on the top and left crops might have been even better, but I do appreciate the photographer's choice of a black and white edit, which helped me focus on the key elements without getting too distracted. Overall, I think this image has a powerful and serene atmosphere, and it's an enjoyable piece to look at.</p> <p>HIGHLY COMMENDED</p>	15	
A	BOUYS AND BIRDS IN A ROW	<p>This image instantly brought a smile to my face as I saw the birds perching on the lines of buoys, and the bright day has been captured well. I wonder if cropping the lower bottom of the image might help focus more on the row and perhaps add a bit more space to the right, if possible. I truly appreciate the photographer's skill in quietly approaching these shy birds and getting down to their level. This is a delightful and well-executed photo. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p>	16	
A	BULLETS IN A ROW	<p>I really like the colour palette and simple lighting in this image, giving me a sense of controlled order. My eye gets a bit distracted by the small dust bits along the focus plane, and the back line as well, and I believe removing them would be a good idea. Also, adding a little more space under the bullets at the lower part of the image could enhance it, in my view. Despite these minor points, the photo shows a pleasing sense of order and calm.</p> <p>HIGHLY COMMENDED</p>	16	




GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	COLOURFUL CLOWNS	This funny line of clowns with different head angles made me feel quirky and gave me a smile. I believe the photo could benefit from a bit more space under the chest of the front clown, just like the others, and perhaps reducing the saturation or removing the bright blue part on the far right, as it distracts my eye from the main subjects. In my view, the photographer captured a well-spotted, comical aspect of these not-so-human characters. HIGHLY COMMENDED	15	
A	CRUISE IN	I liked the structured order of this image and enjoyed the way the photographer used leading lines in this image, like the road stripe, the cars, and the lampposts in the background. I was curious about the colours of the cars and thought that having a bit more space on the left side might have made it even more interesting. In my opinion, the photographer did a great job with the exposure on a bright day, allowing me to see the details of the cars. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
A	DOWN IN THE WOODS	The intentional camera movement used by the photographer gives me a sense of being all in a row, creating a lovely feeling of flow and peace. I would have loved to see a little more lifting of the shadows in the darker trunks to keep my interest there, but overall, this image offers a pleasant and calming experience. The technique effectively captures the serene atmosphere and I appreciate the creativity behind it. HIGHLY COMMENDED	14	
A	FOUR ZEBRAS TOGETHER	The moment I saw this image, I felt a sense of awe at the dramatic scene with an amazing reflection, and the composition impressed me. The zebras create a stunning picture, making me think of National Geographic. I understand that if this photo is entered into a Nature competition, the distracting branch on the left couldn't be removed and at the same time does give some nice framing. Yet, I would have also loved to see a bit more space on the top and below the zebras if possible and maybe a little less over sharpening. Despite that, this image truly fills me with awe and captures the beauty of nature. This would have been an Honours with 18 points, but alas this image is just over 5 years old.		





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A	GOOSE STEP	<p>I really felt a sense of safety and protection when I first viewed this image and loved the balance of allowing the breathing space in the direction this family are heading. I did wonder if it was possible to wait a split second for the back parents foot to be separated from the back chick but realise nature doesn't always cooperate here! Maybe lifting the shadows a little so that the eyes of the parents could be seen? But the title of this image really helped me to get the sense of what the photographer is portraying in the story. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p>	15	
A	GRAPE AMONG THE GRAIN	<p>The title made me laughs, reminding me of the dangers of mixing these elements! I feel a sense of order in the photo, which helps me stay focused. In my view, softening or toning down the bright light on the right could give this well-thought-out image a stronger commercial appeal and maybe using cleaner elements in the background of the main subjects, to keep it less distracting. I appreciate the photographer's creativity and attention to detail. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p>	14	
A	LEST WE FORGET	<p>I couldn't help but feel a rightful sense of loss at this capture, especially as the lines of crosses are so random which adds to the senselessness. I wondered if the photographer could have positioned themselves to maybe another angle so as to either include the elements at the top of the image or to be able to avoid them but realise this is not an easy capture. The lovely edit of the reds and back lit shadows in the poppies helped me here to stay on the main focus. COMMENDED</p>	12	






GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	MEURA STREET MATAMATA	This image gives me the feeling that I could live in this town, as it shows a lush street scene with lots of greenery. I find myself drawn to the right side of the image, where the cars seem to be the main focus. In my view, the photo might be even stronger if the entire left part were cropped off. If including those elements was intentional, perhaps capturing the scene from the opposite direction could be considered? Nonetheless, I appreciate the orderly arrangement of cars and trees, which creates a lovely, structured street scene that's truly inviting. COMMENDED	12	
A	NATURAL STEPS IN THE BUSH	I really liked the leading lines right throughout this image and my eye did a natural progression from left to right and Back again. I would have liked to see a slight lifting of the shadows in the top right tree trunk and a slight toning down of the bright green light at the top, but overall I felt this image was just so well seen and I liked that the title gave me an absolute solid reference so that I felt an immediate connection to the photographers intent. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
A	POPPIES	I very much felt a sense of admiration in the photographers skill at placing these very well preserved but fragile poppies so that to me, the beautiful curvature of stems gives them a living feeling. The delicate nature of the subjects does seem to be a little at odds with the heavily textured surrounds and I wondered if lightening the surrounding darker textured framing would help to balance this, as the left textures are encroaching into the Poppies. The photographers beautiful use of colours and toning has kept a balanced feeling overall in my opinion HONOURS	17	








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A	RAKAIA BRIDGE	The deep chasm of the foundations of this bridge immediately drew me into the centre of that space and gave me a sense of thankfulness at the engineers of this well used bridge! In my opinion, the natural framing of the foundations are so strong, I would have loved to see both sides of the image cropped to keep the theme of all in a row, as to me, the sides of the framing are very busy and bright. The graffiti as a natural border would have delighted me. Well done in going where others fear to tread! HIGHLY COMMENDED	15	
A	REFLECTION IN A ROW	The multiple reflections in this image make me feel like I'm in a deep, watery, swampy area, and the stillness of the water adds to the sense that a storm has just passed. My eyes want to find a spot to rest, but I can't quite settle on one and there are some bright elements of the frames edges that for me, was distraction. Still, the large depth of field lets me enjoy the whole scene, and I appreciate that nothing is overexposed. I truly like seeing all the details across the image. HIGHLY COMMENDED	14	
A	ROWS OF MUSIC	I really enjoyed the clever use of the instruments strings to lead my eye to where the Title is referencing me to go, so excuse the pun but that was a good play. I would have loved to see a little more lifting of the shadows in this image as I'm sorry for the next pun, but I found the image to be just a wee bit flat. Also I thought that checking the minor details lower right is a little piece of loose cotton could be removed? Overall I found the simple set up of the two main elements quite striking to what at first looks like a quiet image and I enjoyed this. HIGHLY COMMENDED	14	
A	ROWS AND ROWS	I immediately felt that the photographer worked all these elements together very cleverly as there are so many lines frames within frames, and my eye never got confused as to where to go. The two black posts really helped to anchor the image together visually for me, and to keep that balance I would have loved to see the bright bush on the left had side toned down or darkened to help not draw my eye away. I thought that the title used really helped me to understand also just how many elements are in this scene. HIGHLY COMMENDED	15	








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A	RUNNING START	As soon as I viewed this, it's almost like I could hear the roar of the engines in these boats and I can sense the excitement in the air at viewing the racing start. I noticed just a little bit of highlights a little bright in areas, however I really enjoyed that there is space left in the scene where the photographer has helped me to visualise where the clear direction is going to be. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
A	SEVEN IN A ROW	I really admired the bold use of framing in this image as I felt this is a daring thing to do and not using the rule of thirds all the times sometimes works and helped to keep my interest for longer. I would have loved to see the elements not chopped right thru the middle of them on each side, but also realised there may have been distractions on either side the photographer is avoiding? I did feel more balanced though at the inclusion of the lower red feature of the roofing or guttering as it helped to anchor me and has beautiful tones. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
A	STRIKING	The great title really helped me to understand what is happening in the context of this image and it also succeeded in making me quite expectant to hear that single strike of the chord. I wondered if, in the editing of the black and white edit, toning down the lighter elements that take my eye out of the frame, and adding a little contrast and a subtle vignette, to me may give this image even more pop. Overall I felt a good sense of order with the leading lines throughout the image has worked well with this nice close crop. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
A	THREE IN A ROW	The clever simple use of grain applied or used in this image really impressed my perception, of what would normally be a man made smooth product, to the point it was the editing of the image in this way that fully brought these mannequins to life for me. I believe that a tiny boost in exposure could reveal more detail, and there is a slight colour cast to my eye, am wondering if a straight black and white edit would help here, but overall, this simple capture gives me a sense of top designers like Nom D or Zambezi getting ready to dress them. This is amazing, especially as I don't own any designer clothes myself. Nice work in creating that feeling. HIGHLY COMMENDED	16	




GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	WILD BUNCH	the moment I saw this, I sensed the whole family's alertness to the approaching danger, showing the majestic nature of these animals. The photographer has beautifully captured the horses and tussocks in bright, harsh conditions, which is impressive. In my view, if this image is being entered into an Open competition, perhaps cloning out the top left green and replacing it with the rest of the tussocks could maintain the entire balance but at the same time there is some more green on the right as well. I really like that it looks like 3 mares each with their foal, I truly enjoyed that aspect. HONOURS	19	
A	WINE GLASSES	The moment I saw this image, I was drawn to the intriguing union of the glasses and their reflections. My head did keep upside down as I really enjoyed the details and colours in the upside down reflection more than the white blurred out whiteish reflection in the top glasses and I wonder if the photographer could experiment with lowering the luminance and saturation of the blues selectively in the top glasses? And maybe adding more space underneath the lower glasses? In the end though, the photographer has done a great job in having a clean dark background. This image also gave me a strong urge to pour a glass of wine, even though it was only 2pm – quite an effect. HIGHLY COMMENDED	14	
B	BMX CYCLISTS	I really love action explosive shots like these and with this image I felt that the exposures on a bright day have been handled well with being able to see the well balanced colours throughout the image. I felt that using a larger depth of field would have helped here to keep the subject closer to the camera, even sharper, and lowering the bright area on the lowest part of the image would really help to put attention back to the main 3 subjects. However the focus of the rider on the right has amused me as he looks his expression has really captured the competitive spirit in this image. HIGHLY COMMENDED	14	


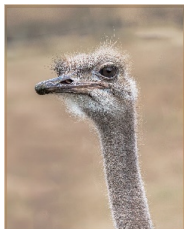
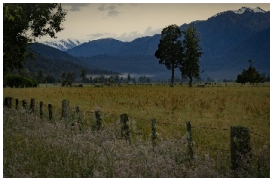

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B	BRITS TOGETHER	I found this to be a well exposed image that for me I have been able to see the detail in some of the lighter colours of the image. I felt that if there was a chance of moving position to the left to get even more of a sense of angle could make this image even stronger. The photographer has done a good job capturing the details in this scene. COMMEDED	12	
B	CHESS CHAPS	upon seeing this photo; I sensed a strong feeling of masculinity and was drawn to the rich, metallic, contrasty blacks in this image. I did notice that my eye was pulled to the small details in the upper left corner, and there were some dust spots. In my view, separating the key elements might give them individuality and create a stronger sense of rows. The choice of black and white conversion certainly adds to the impact of the photo, and I appreciate the simplicity it brings. HIGHLY COMMEDED	15	
B	KAIKOURA LINE UP	Straight away, I sensed order and lasting power in these strong poles, and the space between them made each one stand out. The natural surroundings helped me grasp the purpose of these poles. My eye got a bit sidetracked by sensor dust, mostly in the upper part of the image. I typically use a grid to check my images, and systematically go over it, to avoid missing any spots. I also enjoyed the depth of field, which ensured the main theme stayed in focus and the position of the boat has balanced the composition. This photo to me shows great attention to detail and a thoughtful composition. HIGHLY COMMEDED	15	
B	LEAF RIB ROWS	I instantly felt a sense of nature mimicking nature, with the front Bird of Paradise plant showing off its plumage. This captivating detail drew my attention away from the intended focus, the rib-like patterns in the leaf behind, as suggested by the title. Even so, I truly appreciated the good separation from the frame's edges, allowing me to enjoy the overall image. In my view, the photographer beautifully captured the essence of nature's wonders, and it's a pleasure to explore the various elements within this photo. COMMEDED	11	




GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
B	REFLECT ON HINDSIGHT	I must say, the clever title of this image made me both laugh and think about its double meaning. It really adds to the photo's charm. My curiosity got the better of me by wanting to take advantage of getting even lower to the ground, as it can be magical to get very low with puddles to get reflections, and would have helped to avoid the unwanted background elements in the side windows of the vehicles. Overall I felt that the exposing of this image is bang on and I can see details I'm born the darker & lighter areas of the image. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
B	RUAWAI JETTY	This image gives me a real sense of calmness and a feeling of a natural landscape that's framed well, in my view, with leading lines, separation, and even natural steps into the image. My head tilts slightly to the right, as the water's horizon line seems not quite level to me, but the lovely background fog on the left side might be playing tricks on my mind too. I especially like how the birds and the tops of the posts are well below the horizon, so my eye has no distractions and can appreciate the serene scene even more. HIGHLY COMMENDED	14	
B	THEOS HANDMAR	This image made me laugh, showing the fearless adventure of the young, with Theo up in the tree, not bothered at all by the height. The rows of trees create a sense of order, and I think cropping it to focus more on the middle part, without too much top or bottom, might help to centre on the main subject. In my view, this is a delightful photo that captures a heart-warming family moment. COMMENDED	11	
B	TO THE NINES	This image immediately gave me a feeling of excitement and competition all mixed in, and the powerful shallow depth of field accentuated the title. I did question the slight variation of texture and maybe dust in the surface surrounding across the centre and felt if that was blended out, and the black balls white marking number was level with the rest, this image could go into a commercially viable advertisement for a pool hall! HONOURS	17	
C	Abandoned Space Sings the Blues	Good colour and lines; let down by not being sharp and there is some noise that affects the image. COMMENDED	12	


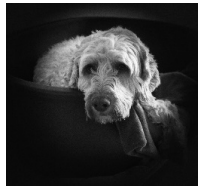

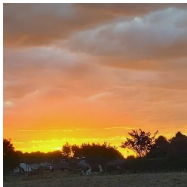

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C	around the bend	Good image with colours and focus controlled well. A touch of over exposure at the top could be cropped out. HIGHLY COMMENDED	15	
C	autumn-archway	Light and exposure handled well. Composition could be tweaked by moving to the centre to improve the lines into the image. COMMENDED	14	
C	Baileys4me	Fun and creative with good lighting. Slight softness of focus on the handles. HONOURS	17	
C	Dahlia my love	Tells a story let down by control of depth of field and harshness in some highlights. Try closing the aperture for more control. COMMENDED	13	
C	egyptian- hypostyle	Good colours and lighting is handled well. The composition could be tighter to draw in the viewer. HIGHLY COMMENDED	16	
C	in a row	Good idea for the subject but the lights are blown out. Perhaps try repositioning the camera to block the intensity of the light with the railing. COMMENDED	12	
C	Ionic_Sentinel	Well seen and composed with good light. Image enhanced with the B&W treatment. HONOURS	17	

GRADE	SET>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
C	numbers_game	Well seen and sharp throughout. Perhaps some work on the highlights in the background and the slight shade in the bottom three numbers would be helpful. COMMEDED	14	
C	Parked_up	Good composition and focus along the row. Somewhat distracted by the concrete in the bottom right which could be reduced by a full B&W treatment. HIGHLY COMMEDED	16	
C	Poles Apart	Good observation for the subject; let down by harsh lighting that can be toned down with a faster shutter speed or in post. COMMEDED	12	
C	Remembrance_Line	Impactful image that tells a story and has the rows; try some sky contrast of maybe a closer crop for impact. HIGHLY COMMEDED	15	
C	Seats_of_History	Great image, unusual and well executed; some soft focus adding to Depth of Field impact. HONOURS	17	
C	Suspenders_All	Nicely focussed and exposed; the lady is distracting and could be cropped out. HIGHLY COMMEDED	16	
C	winter-feed	Great atmosphere and leading lines in the bales and fenceline. Perhaps cropping the the bottom left and closer to the first bale would be more impactful. HIGHLY COMMEDED	16	

GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	DAHLIAS	I felt the lively energy of nature when I saw this close-up photo. My eye was drawn to the very centre of the stunning flower, and I thought that maybe a gentler softening of focus towards the outer areas, and a very gentle vignette could have made the image stronger, guiding my focus to the photographer's intended point. Still, the soft pastel colours kept me interested and engaged HIGHLY COMMENDED	14	
A	DOGS BEST FRIEND FOREVER	The moment I saw this, I felt the photographer captured a great balance between the dog and its owner, showing their special bond. I imagine they're enjoying a simple pleasure at the beach, making me want to take my dog there too. I think maybe cropping a bit off the bottom could enhance the focus on the subjects even more. In my view, it's a beautiful moment shared, and the photographer did well to convey this feeling. COMMENDED	12	
A	SNACK TIME	I immediately felt I would never want to be in the way of a hungry living being and this highlighted to me there is no escape to the intent! I really admired the technical aspects of this image capture, details in the feathers, framing, good breathing space and non distracting background and beautiful colour palette. HONOURS	18	

GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	THE STREET ARTIST	I really adore this authentic moment in this young lady's life. The background elements are quite sharp, and what could help here in editing, is using a brush that could softening the background, sometimes in Lightroom I will brush the background with a slight less clarity and sharpness to soften the background elements to help to separate the main subject and even cropping tighter to remove the left and bottom part of the image would be fun. Additionally, a subtle vignette might assist in making her the main focus. In my opinion, it's a truly lovely, quiet portrait and I really felt her thoughtfulness in this. HIGHLY COMMENDED	16	
A	WHO YOU LOOKING AT	I immediately felt the comical expression by the bird which made me smile. Even more. In my view there is good space around the bird but could do with a little more on the left for the subject to "look into". The bird is sharp and has lots of detail and I like that the catch light in the eyes has kept this image fun and engaging to me. HIGHLY COMMENDED	15	
B	ALPINE MORNING	I immediately had the feeling of venturing out on a wet cold morning and experiencing this scene in its Kiwi-unique-ness, and this was helped by the leading lines of the fence from right to left and then back into the central part of the image. I did feel that the stronger part of the image was the centred right and lifting the shadows would have kept my attention there for even longer as the ivy on the top left is a little distracting.. A real West Coast feeling here. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
B	JUST LANDED	When an image of Nature image hits the viewer with boldness like this, it made me sit up literally. My eye travelled down from the butterfly down thru the detailed flower, to keep going from left to right. I would have loved to see a tiny bit more space underneath the lowest part of the image to keep the lowest flower petals clear of the frame, however I simply love the entire tones used overall. HIGHLY COMMENDED	16	

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B	KAIATE FALLS	<p>The calming feel this long exposure gives me lasts longer than the seconds it took to capture the image. I liked the leading line up from the water in front to the top of the waterfall, and beautiful green bush to the right of that. I believe a closer crop from both sides might strengthen the overall impact, as these elements don't add much to the photo. Personally, I admire the way the photographer handled the natural force of misty droplets that usually affect the lens in such waterfall scenes, making it a difficult but impressive capture. HONOURS</p>	17	
B	KERERU	<p>The moment I saw this image, I felt a connection with the Kereru, as if I were seeing the world through its eyes. It's wonderful how the bird's eye level and the natural catchlight in the iris are captured. There's so much lovely detail in the close feathers of the bird, even though some elements can be a bit distracting. In my view, if this image was cropped tighter, it would bring out even more amazing impact. The captivating feeling and beautiful details in this photograph are truly enjoyable. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p>	15	
B	MATRIX	<p>I'm struck by the strong elements and pleasing skin tones in the three human subjects –and to me, the editing has been handled very well! I can't help but feel that the girls in the car seem to lean a bit to the left, but adjusting them might throw off the background's vertical lines which has been handled very well. It's not an easy fix, but perhaps a tight crop could help remove anything not needed in this image. Although I guess the artwork on the bonnet is also from the movie, but distracted me from the real subject of the three girls. Overall, the photo captures a fun moment and the editing enhances its impact. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p>	16	

GRADE	OPEN>TITLE	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
C	Bag End Beckans	Captured the colours well with a lot of points of interest distracting the viewer. HIGHLY COMMENDED	15	
C	Chillaxing	Wonderful composition; moody and lovely pet photo. A bit dark around the eyes and the grainy/noise adds to the mood. HIGHLY COMMENDED	16	
C	in the mist	Captured the moody light of the morning fog; no point of focus and a bit soft. HIGHLY COMMENDED	13	
C	Summer Sunset	Great sky colour but watch the highlights being blown out and the image seems not level. COMMENDED	12	
C	The common blackbird (Turdus merula)	Good Depth of field; too busy so perhaps crop out the smaller bird to square format HIGHLY COMMENDED	16	
C	Wood Wind Music	Creative composite; Impactful with great B&W treatment HONOURS	18	