Wodonga Albury Camera Club

Subject: Digital Projected Images – Open - Month: February 2024 Definition: Open

ADVANCED - Open EDPI Colour

No.	Print Title	Comments	Score	AWARD
1.	Azure Kingfisher	A striking image of a colourful subject that is well separated from the background and centrally placed within the frame. A shallow depth appears to have been chosen creating good background bokeh and you have managed a catchlight in the bird's eye. The image is a little under exposed although it appears acceptable on a non-calibrated monitor. There is very little noise in the image which I suspect has been removed but care must be taken when doing this as the subject's feathers have a blurred appearance and the tip of the branch is blurred but other sections of the branch on the same focal plane are not.	11	A
2.	Eurobin Falls	This I believe is the Lady bath Falls, however you have taken them from a good perspective providing a strong leading line into the image on what appears to be an overcast day with soft light which is good for waterfalls. It appears that you have used a shallow DoF as the foreground rocks and the foliage deep in the image are not sharp. You have also lost detail in the moving water which you may be able to recover if the image was taken in RAW. When taking waterfalls, the moving water usually reflects a lot of light is requires HDR techniques to ensure a well exposed image.	10	A
3.	Colour in Life	A beautiful flora image where a large DoF has been used ensuring the image is sharp from front to back. The lighting has been well controlled so that the image is exposed correctly. The complimentary colours of the dahlia, lily and the leaves ensure the viewer is attracted to the subject with the black background ensuring our attention remains on the subject. Some judges may recommend the small blemishes are removed from the petals, but I would recommend a study in Wabi Sabi and recommend that you consider highlighting these imperfections.	14	M
4.	Morning Outing	A cute image where the subject has been placed on the thirds line leaving plenty of nose room in front of the animals. You have used a shallow DoF with the image band around the kangaroo being sharp. The plain background isolates the roo allowing it to standout, however the light background is tending to draw the viewers eye especially with the two faces being slightly under exposed. Consider lifting the luminance of the faces and burning the background to bring the attention onto the subjects.	13	M

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No.	Print Title	Comments	Score	AWARD
5.	Here there be Dragons	A beautiful early morning scene where the long exposure has created virtual lines leading the viewer to the sun. The sun is over exposed, but this is not important in this image although it can be remedied by using ND filters at the time of shooting. The tree trunk silhouette stands out against the warm palette of the sky being placed on the thirds line for maximum effect. When converting your images to jpg, which has a very limited colour range, creating a lack of smooth colour transition creating a banding effect, noticeable here in the warm colours of the sky. This can be rectified by opening the image in an editing program, converting it to a 16-bit image and using a Gaussian blur eliminate the banding.	13	M
6.	Lake Hume, Mitta arm	A pleasant country scene containing many layers creating depth in the image. The foreground is not sharp suggesting that you focused on the distant hills; consider using the hyperfocal distance to ensure the foreground is sharp. This can be done using an aperture of around F8 or 9 and focusing on the tree in the left foreground. The image is showing signs of being over sharpened, the halo along the hills. When sharpening an image do not sharpen globally, here only the foreground needs sharpening.	11	A
7.	Vantage Point	A good wildlife image of a coalition of cheetah which has been placed centrally and in the upper half of the image. The lower half of the image is important for the story of the image. The image is well exposed with the shallow DoF isolating the subjects. You have a good connection especially to the dominant animal. Consider burning the background to make the subject standout even more.	14	M
8.	Tickle and Tuck	A pleasant portrait of two horses taken in the shade of a tree in difficult lighting conditions. You have a very good connection with the horses which comes across in the image. Exposure in these conditions has been well control without the background being too severely over exposed. Without the metadata it is difficult to be sure but I think you have used a fairly wide lens as the horse on the right has a distorted face and over large head with both horses being slightly out of focus. Consider using a focal length of between 100 to 200mm to maintain the correct proportions.	11	A
9.	Lerderderg River Blackwood	You have a very good leading line, created by the river, into the image. The grass mounds also provide a good line due to the law of similarity into the image. The image has no definite focal point and is flat, meaning that the luminance levels or brightness is the same value across the image. Consider selecting an area to be the focal point and dodge and burn to highlight this point, also consider using an Orton effect on the image to make this image pop.	10	A

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10.	Azure Kingfishers	A colourful image of the two birds connected via a virtual line between them. The tree branch acts as a very good base for the image and the plain background helps to isolate the subjects. It appears that the image has been both globally processed and over processed resulting in the image sharpness being lost and artifacts being introduced into the image. Consider re-processing the image by selecting the various elements within it and processing those individually.	10	A
11.	Hancock Gorge	This is a good image with plenty of foreground interest; the rock ledge has been placed on the Baroque diagonal and the reflection within the pool add to the foreground interest. The background rock wall is juxtaposed by the bright tree trunks which form the subject. However, I suspect that this image has been processed on a non-calibrated monitor as it is too dark around the rock wall and when placed on a non-calibrated monitor the walls appear OK but the tree trunks are over exposed. Thought must be given to the media that the image is going to be displayed on.	11	A
12.	Kuang Si Waterfall	This is a difficult scene to capture as there is conflicting light levels and harsh shadows plus mist creating different zones within the image. Compositionally you have placed the left hand trees either side of the thirds line and you have a strong diagonal through the image. The image appears flat but I think this is caused by the mist in the air, so consider using some dehaze and a touch of contrast to improve the clarity ion the image. Consider cropping the bottom of the image as the branches are a distraction and does not assist the image; this will also place the diagonal in a stronger position.	11	A
13.	Behind closed doors	A well-balanced architectural image using the vanishing perspective lines to draw us into the image and the Gestalt patterns creates a compelling image. The walls are slightly under exposed while the distant ceiling is slightly over exposed suggesting that an averaging exposure mode was used. Consider dodging and burning the image to create mood; also, this image may work well as a B&W	12	A
14.	Predawn tree	A fine early morning minimalist image where you have placed the tree and its reflection on the thirds line with the large negative space which would cause the image to be unbalanced being negated by the flock of birds. The soft muted colour palette generates a relaxed calm image. The image has a fair bit of noise, possibly exacerbated by sharpening, which this image does not need. Consider reducing any sharpness and applying it only to the tree, otherwise use the dehaze slider or the denoise function to minimise the noise. The jpg conversion has also introduced some banding to the image.	13	M

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No.	Print Title	Comments	Score	AWARD
15.	Ready for work	An image that has a very strong story element. The shallow DoF creates a sense of depth and the two people have a connection to each other. The foreground person his quite sharp, commanding the attention of the viewer with the plain wall helping to isolate the subjects. This is a good PJ image, but the image is underexposed suggesting that it was edited on a non-calibrated monitor; if this was printed the print would be very dark. Consider editing this image on a calibrated monitor.	12	A
16.	Rock Hopper	A good nature shot with a Baroque leading line. The wallaby is sharp with an isolating bokeh and foreground interest. There is a good connection between the animal and photographer. The subject has been placed on the thirds line, the body oin the Baroque diagonal, the tail on a minor diagonal and the from paws a reciprocating diagonal. There is a subtle vignette on the image that may be assumed to have been placed on the image and while this is good in an open competition be aware many nature comps ban the use of vignettes.	15	2nd Place
17.	Yellow footed Antechinus	What a privilege to see one of these little critters. The image is well exposed and well composed giving us an insight into its environment. The strong light has created some nice shadows creating depth and a 3D appearance to the image. The extreme shallow DoF has caused the eyes and nose to be soft while the background timber is sharp. Consider using an aperture of around F8 to ensure a good DoF; in this instance consider using an enhancement program to restore the sharpness to the image.	12	A
18.	Tangled	A very creative conceptual image where the use of light, shadow and texture has created a sense of mood and depth to the image. The subject has been placed around the centreline creating a well-balanced image. The Gestalt principle of symmetry is evident in the parallel lines of the branches and face with the hyper sharpened eyes framed by the bright hair compelling the viewer attention.	15	1st Place
19.	Are we there yet	The road is both a leading line and the focal point of this image with the sun acting to draw the viewers' attention vertically through the image. The sun burst provide a good art element and interest in the upper half of the image creating balance between the upper and lower halves of the image. While the image foreground is reasonable sharp consider adding some graduated sharpening to the road an road side to draw the viewer through the image. Also consider adding an Orton effect to make this image pop.	12	A

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Photographer - Open EDPI Colour

No.	Print Title	Comments	Score	AWARD
1.	The Flaming Cliffs	Conceptually this minimalist image, is a great image depicting the wide-open lonely places using a single person to emphasis the loneliness. The foreground is sharp and the lighting is subdued with very good texture in the sky and the complimentary reddish texture in the foreground creating two distinct zones within this image. The person is a very important element within the image and because of the visual weight that a person carries becomes the focal point of the image. In this image the person is much too close to the edge encouraging the viewers eye to leave the image. At 1620 x 1080 pixels I suspect that you may have more width in this image, if so give the person more space.	13	M
2.	Boaty Mcboatface	A good idea eliminating the extraneous elements of the image and focusing just on a close up of the shi9ps bow. The image is well exposed and sharp with the centreline of the bow place right of the centre of the image, this causes the image to be unbalanced as the lighter area on the right is the smallest part of the image, but it is the area that we look at because it is the lightest. Consider editing the image to make the colours pop and to balance the image by cropping it to a square format.	12	A
3.	Bindaree	This panoramic image is well balanced with the hut being placed on the thirds line and the major tree and sun beams placed on the opposing thirds line. The mist adds mood to the image with the sun attracting our attention. While the sun beams are correctly exposed the hut is under exposed and loses prominence but because it is manmade carries visual weight and we therefore have a conflict between the hut and the sunbeams. Consider editing the image by dodging and burning areas, especially the hut, to raise the prominence of various elements within the image.	13	M
4.	Whales over Lavington	Hot air balloons are always fascinating to photograph and, in this instance, you have exposed the balloons nicely although thee near balloon burners are over exposed but this is acceptable. The crowd however is a distraction, and you need to use a shallow DoF such as F3 or 4 on a full frame camera to minimise this distraction. The building is currently slanted and either needs straightening or taking inspiration from Garry Winogrand, tilt the horizon more. The building also appears to have had significant blurring added to it in post; when doing this type of edit it needs to be subtly and not with harsh straight lines, use a graduated filter to apply this type of edit.	9	A

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5.	A friendly hello	In this image you have captured the swan sharply and reasonably well exposed although the tip of the bill is overexposed despite the harsh lighting. The background bokeh provides a non-distracting background isolating the subject creating a good figure-ground relationship. You have taken the image from a dominant perspective, possibly standing, creating a sense of vulnerability in the bird. You can often create a more intimate portrait of birds by photographing them from their level. Consider editing the image to lower the exposure on the beak and bring out the red.		
6.	Sticky paper daisy	This is a soft subtle peaceful floral study where you have captured the subject in sharp detail, yet the shallow DoF has created a sense of depth by blurring some of the buds. The ambient lighting has been well handled with good exposure and no blown highlights. The upper negative space balance the positive space creating a nicely proportioned image with the main stem placed centrally and the outer stem on either a minor diagonal or on the Sinister diagonal with the main subject on the upper thirds line.	15	1st Place
7.	Autumn leaves	An interesting image, centred on a colourful autumn tree that I suspect has been cropped from a larger image. The autumnal palette ensures the tree stands out in the image and its size makes it the focal point of the image, however it is the building that is sharp and in focus with the background being slightly over exposed. Consider reducing the highlights, contrast and increasing the shadows to bring out some detail in the sky and background.	11	A
8.	The bird of paradise	A well taken floral image where you have added a vignette to hold our attention on the subject. The background has sufficient blurring not to impact the subject too much and yet provides context for the image. The image is under exposed, but this adds mystery and intrigue to the background but detracts from the subject. Consider editing the image by selecting the subject increasing the exposure, highlights, shadows and saturation to make the subject pop.	12	A
9.	Twin Spark	This is a well taken weather image. The dark moody sky leads us into the image from the top left with the lightning as the focal points. The plain field provides a good base for the image. The image exhibits a fair amount of noise in the sky and I suspect that you have globally sharpened the image. Consider removing all sharpening from the sky. When photographing in areas where there is moisture such as by the sea or waterfalls or during storms always keep a cloth handy to ensure you have a clean lens, alternative ensure that you remove dirt spots during editing	14	2nd Place

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ADVANCED - Open EDPI Monochrome

No.	Print Title	Comments	Score	Place
1.	The long drop	A B&W image with good texture, control of light and sharpness. The stripped shirt is what stands out as the focal point in this image by being both brighter and a different pattern from the background. The person being a vertical element blends with the pylons to create a Gestalt pattern to move the eye through the image. Consider cropping the left to eliminate the area to the left of the second pylon as the area is a distraction.	14	2nd Place
2.	Not another Banksy	A photo of a cleaver wall mural taken from off centre and is relevant to a photographic pursuit. A vignette has been placed retaining the viewers eye in the image. The angle from the building has caused a small distracting triangle to appear at the bottom of the image and the roof line being incomplete is another distraction. Consider cropping the image to remove these distractions. Taking an image of murals is allowed under copyright but you're are only taking an image of someone else's artwork, consider adding some of your own elements such as someone looking at or interacting with the mural.	10	A
3.	Sailing away	The diagonal line of yachts leads us through this busy image at the end of a regatta. You have placed the sun in a good position so that it back lights the yachts and people on the right. Because this image is a busy image and the only clear focal point is the foreground cat and people, I'm not sure that this is a good choice for B&W as the elimination of colour has meant that to add drama to the image you have cranked up the sharpening and contrast in the sky giving it a crunchy feel.	11	A
4.	Old Linda ruin	The B&W medium enhances the texture on this under-exposed image of an old building. The cloud is well placed to add drama to the building. By taking the building from the corner you have created a two vanishing point perspective creating interest in the image and imparting a tilt to the image which I'm pleased to see has not been removed. The heavy vignette tends to hide the organic elements of this image allowing the inorganic elements to stand out. Consider reducing the strength of the vignette. This image has been edited on an uncalibrated monitor which has caused it to appear under exposed.	13	M

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5.	Honey possum hidey	The subject in this image has been placed on the thirds line and stands out because of its luminosity value is higher than the rest of the image. The foreground foliage plays an important part in the story of the image with the background bokeh removing any distraction yet maintaining context. The image having a landscape ratio creates too much negative space on the right. Consider cropping the image to a square format for better symmetry and to highlight the possum more.	15	1St Place
6.	The shearing shed	The subject, drive belt, has been placed centrally in this image where you have used a brighter value to ensure the viewers' attention is drawn here. The absence of colour draws our attention to the myriad of textures and shapes and is well suited to monochrome. The vanishing perspective draws the eye along a minor diagonal through the image and the dark areas add drama to the image. While the square format does add symmetry to an image; in this instance the image I think would be strengthened by using a landscape ratio by adding image elements to the left drawing the viewer further through the building.	13	M
7.	Marked with time	A well-balanced architectural image using the vanishing perspective lines to draw us into the image. The sign over the door becomes our focal point the lighting is subdued and even creating no shadows as a result the image appears flat because of a consistent tonal value. Consider enhancing the image by dodging and burning to create a visual differentiation in the tonal values. Have a look at Ansel Adam zone system to understand the idea of tonal range.	12	A
8.	Resplendent Quetzal	A potentially lovely portrait of a bird. The image is simplified with little in the way of distraction the bird is nicely framed by the plants either side of the bird and the bird is doing more than just sitting there. The image has been severely over processed and sharpened with the plants having a crunchie look; the bird is not as bad as the texture of the birds' feathers tends to hide so of the crunchie look but it is the background, particularly the light areas, where the sharpened noise really stands out. Consider removing all sharpening from this image, then select the bird, zoom into 100% and then increase the sharpness a little.	12	A
9.	Grey Flyer and passenger	The shallow DoF really isolates the subject ensuring it standout. You have a very good connection to the roo. The light coming from the left is giving nice illumination to the back of the roo creating a shadow for the front and the joey. Consider lifting the exposure on the face of the joey and the darker side of the adult roo, especially around the eyes,	13	M

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10.	Smoko	You have a very good connection to the subject with the lighting having been well handled and the image correctly exposed. The eyes are sharp but lost as their tonal value is the same as the rest of the face. It appears that the photographer was in two minds, to photograph the person or that lovely texture on the wall; resulting in a unbalanced image ass you have far too much negative space; the person is too close to the edge of the frame. Consider cropping the image to a square format, reducing the head room and placing the subject on the Fibonacci PowerPoint for a stronger image.	11	A
11.	Philosopher falls	A nice long exposure waterfall that is well framed by the dark foliage. The waterfall has been placed on the Baroque diagonal for strength with the lefthand fern balancing the waterfall. Two standard errors that most people make when taking long exposure waterfall shots is not taking many shots at different exposure levels as general the water will lose detail as it has done here; if this was taken in RAW then you maybe able to recover some of the detail and the other error is to globally sharpen the image which makes the water look crunchie. Consider removing the sharpening from the water.	12	A
12.	Vertigo	An interesting creative idea that is suited to the B&W format. The light bricks against the darker bricks coupled with the vary sizes of the window creates a feeling of dizziness and confusion. The dark bottom area creates a strong base for the image. Consider softening the straight lines at the top of the image as I find the allows me a sense of normalcy reducing the effect of the image.	12	A
13.	Deceased Tree	A minimal landscape in the portrait format to enhance the feeling of height coupled with the sky texture has created an image that can be a real standout image. Exposure, sharpness etc have been well handled as has the composition. In editing you need to increase the tonal range across the image as shown in Ansel Adams zone system. In the grass there are some faint lines that can be brought out, providing good leading lines to the tree. Consider doing a curves adjustment to enhance this image drama and mood.	13	M
14.	Entering the cutting	The train provides a great line through the image as well as being the focal point of the image. There is strong side lighting on the subject creating a shadowed train front. I suggest that you crop the right-hand side of the image as the wire fence is a distraction and not needed in the image. The image is exhibiting a lot of noise which may be corrected by reducing the sharpness of the image but it is the fence and bushes to the front of the train that are a concern as the branches do not look natural and the grey muddiness is an artifact from a processing issue. I suggest that you have a look at the process used to photograph and edit this image to find the cause of this issue.	9	A

15.	Spellbound	Another creative image using ICM, this time zoom. The effect is certainly spellbinding with the shapes and textures of the building creating interesting shades and tones within the image. The image for the most part is well balance although the top right is the exception. Consider adding a graduated burning of this area to balance out the white lines. Have a look at Steve Days work for editing ideas.	13	M
16.	Heading Home	A nice nature shot with the elephants being placed on the Sinister diagonal, leaving noise room with the elephants being well shot. When editing an image subtly is best so that the viewer does not even realise that the image has been edited; here the halo on the horizon indicates over sharpening; the masking at the base of the rear elephant's feet is too hash and you have missed the areas between the elephant's legs. Consider having a look at Phlearn, Pimperfect or the Photoshop café for good information on photoshop and lightroom.	9	A

Photographer - Open EDPI Monochrome

No.	Print Title	Comments	Score	Place
1.	Sunning	A nice sharp image of a cormorant centrally placed in the frame. You have captured good texture in the wings, good eye contact and the rock forms a goods base for the image. While the bright spots do form a distraction in the image you cannot clone them out in nature competitions, however the image is flat as the tonal value is limited so consider selecting the subject and brightening it and then select the background and darken it, this is allowed in nature comps and will reduce the impact of the bright spots and also increase your tonal range.	14	2nd Place
2.	Paddling along	A minimalist image that obeys the rule of odds. You have placed the subject to the left of centre giving them plenty of nose room. The light appears to be a bright day and around the middle of the day casting harsh shadows resulting in very dark neck, which is OK, but creating very dark faces. Consider lifting the shadows on the swan faces so that we can see the bird's eye.	12	
3.	Life	An image celebrating Wabi Sabi. The water drops add texture and interest to this image with the white area and the darks complimenting each other. The chewed and split areas add interest and even story to this image although some judges will mark this down. The black background isolates the flower creating a minimalist image. Consider adding blur to all of the image except the central petals for consistency.	15	1st Place

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No.	Print Title	Comments	Score	Place
4.	Still on the Wheels	The subject in this image has some great texture which you have been able to capture in this well exposed image. It is pleasing to see someone using a colour instead of plain B&W for the monochrome section. The image has a large DoF allowing the background to intrude on the image, so consider applying a lens blur in editing or using your phone in Pro mode and applying an aperture of around F4. The vignette that has been applied is much too harsh and dark; vignettes need to be more subtle so that the graduation softer.	11	
5.	Waiting for …	Thiis is a fine attempt at as street photo with the people in the image creating a possible story. The people are obviously the subject and of course carry the greatest visual weight, but they are very small in the image and very close to the bottom frame. The sun is coming from their left, making their sides and faces dark which the camera has tried to compensate for by overexposing the image. Consider selecting the subjects lifting their exposure then select the background and lower the exposure.	11	
6.	Marrakesh magic	An image that is all about the vertical lines and textures. The image is a little under exposed indicating that it has been edited on an uncalibrated monitor, consider lifting the exposure a little. The vertical lines are creating tension with the landscape format as the viewer is directed both vertically and horizontally through the image. Consider cropping this image in half as I think this image has two images within it, one highlighting the different bush on thee left and the other highlighting the little path through the plants.	12	
7.	Classic not plastic	Concep0tually this is a verry well thought out image with B7W being a good choice as it creates a sense of yesteryear. The image is well exposed using a shallow DoF further enhancing this idea of an earlier time. The near part of the image is sharp leading the viewer into the image but I think you may have been trying to have the view in the mirror being the sharp area of the image; if this is the case then consider using a spot focus on your camera to place the focus where you want.	13	M

GENERAL COMMENTS:

1. Digital images are viewed on a 32" Proart calibrated RGB photographic monitor.
2. Print images are viewed under a calibrated light source viewed individually on an easel.
3. The use of MyPhotoClub does not allow access to metadata therefore all comments are related to the aesthetic with only an indication of the technical issue that needs to be looked at and is not specific advice.
4. Many images are showing up as too dark or under exposed on a calibrated monitor indicting that they have been edited on a non-calibrated monitor. Non-calibrated monitors settings are always too bright.
5. Monochrome means one colour or single colour. Only 2 out of the 23 images showed any colour and both of these were sepia. Monochrome can have shades, tints and tones of a single colour.

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