

February

ARTISTIC CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Title:

'Urban Symmetrical'

Goal:

Capture an interesting image in an urban environment that is predominantly (but not necessarily 100%) a reverse from left to right or from top to bottom.

Examples:



Guidelines:

While this challenge is to be captured in an urban environment, it is not necessarily limited to architectural shots, but they can give an advantage of providing interesting straight and curved lines and textures that can make interesting patterns as they are repeated.

Both sides of the image must be captured in **one camera shot** and cannot be created by duplicating and flipping half of a shot in post-production software.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- Image to have an artistically pleasing effect
- Subject appears to be largely similar in both halves of the image in a symmetrical form
- The two symmetrical sides **not** to be created by repetition in post-production

All 2024 Photographic Challenge images must have been captured after 6-12-23

March

TECHNICAL SKILL CHALLENGE

Title:

'Action in Sport'

Goal:

Photograph a sporting moment in the heat of the action. Attempt to show the intensity of the participant demonstrating the skills of the game or sporting activity.

Examples:



Guidelines:

Capturing potentially fast-moving sports action will require a reasonable focal length depending on where it is safe and allowable to stand. A 70-200mm may be a good choice but whatever you have available should be OK if you choose the right sporting event. William Stewart gave some great tips in his presentation in August.

A fast shutter speed will be preferred to get the details of the competitor at the peak of their abilities. So dependent on the available light you may need to bump up the ISO and open up the f/stop for good light with a quickish shutter speed. Each sport and set up will be different so trial and error of settings will be required.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- a. Image capturing the action at a key moment of the sport
- b. Capture the effort that the competitor is expending in the moment
- c. Image clearly highlights the action without extraneous extra distractions

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April
ARTISTIC CREATIVE CHALLENGE

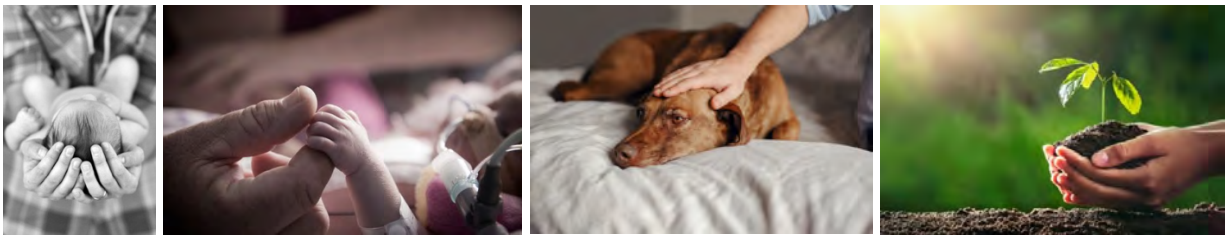
Title:

'Heartfelt Hands'

Goal:

The goal is to showcase the hands of a person(s) in a way that shows how they are helping in some way or in an emotional way.

Examples:



Guidelines:

Hands are a very expressive part of the human body and the touch of a hand can mean so much. Try to capture a true moment in someone's life by showing the detail of what the hand is doing and how it is having an effect on someone or something else.

We all know a good picture tells a story and this will be a great example of visual story telling.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- Well seen moment that focuses on the connection of the human hand
- Shows the warmth of emotion
- The hands play a prominent role in the image
- Tells a story without the use of text

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May

TECHNICAL SKILL CHALLENGE

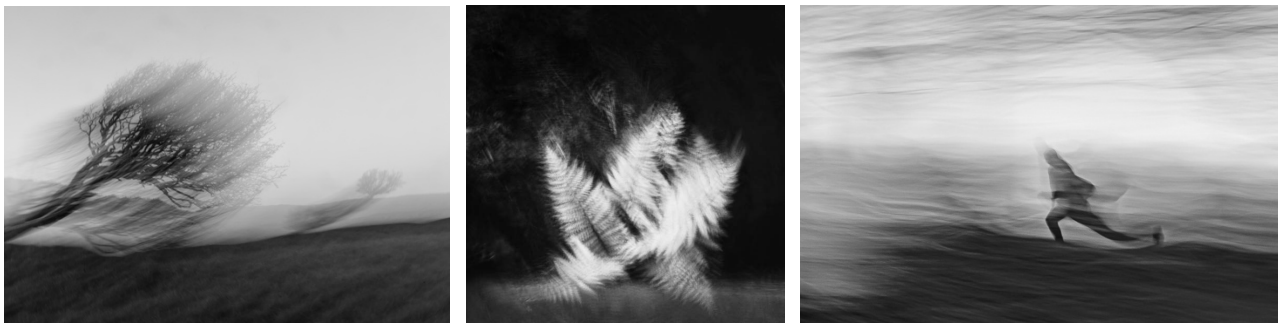
Title:

'B&W Intentional Camera Movement'

Goal:

Capture an artistic black and white Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) image.

Examples:



Guidelines:

ICM is deliberately moving the camera during the exposure to create abstract images by blurring the subject. The challenge is controlling the amount of movement to blur the scene enough to make it interesting. The more movement, the more abstract the image becomes.

There are no correct or best settings for ICM. The amount of blur is determined by the amount of movement of the objects in the image relative to the field of view of the image. This is dependent on three factors: focal length of the lens, speed of camera movement and shutter speed. A wider-angle lens (eg 14mm) will require less movement to get the same blur effect as a narrow angle lens (eg 100mm).

Creating pleasing images is trial and error and each scene is different depending on the complexity of the subject. Often, the best images are made when you enhance or exaggerate the natural lines in the scene. The camera can be moved in any direction including, back and forth, circularly, erratically, horizontally, vertically or a combination. This is different to "panning" that produces a sharp subject with blurred/movement in the background. The most interesting subjects in B&W ICM can be those with some texture that can still be detected in the blur.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- a. Artistically blurred subject
- b. Good use of black and white tonal range
- c. Originality of subject matter

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June

ARTISTIC CREATIVE CHALLENGE

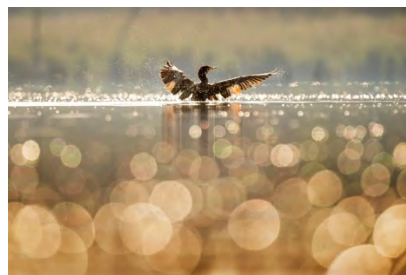
Title:

'Down Low'

Goal:

Take an image from down near ground level (or some other large base object such as a platform or table etc) aiming horizontally to capture an attractive scene from this different low angle.

Examples:



Guidelines:

A down low-angle shot is a shot in which the camera is placed well below eye level, near the ground, and aimed more or less horizontally to capture the subject (it isn't taking an image from the ground pointing up at the tree tops for example). Since these shots are taken from a different angle, they add attractive details to the setting. Low-angle shots make your subject appear larger, wider, taller, and closer. This unique perspective is also called the frog perspective.

Low-angle photography offers a unique majestic perspective that arrests your viewer's attention and forces them to look at your photo for a longer.

It is tempting to use a wide-angle lens for this but in most circumstances, it is not required and can overly distort the image.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- Image captured at a very low level (or some other predominant large base object)
- Enhances the subject from capturing it at this unique angle
- Sides are not overly distorted from wide angles

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July TECHNICAL SKILL CHALLENGE

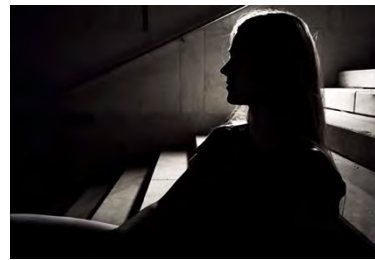
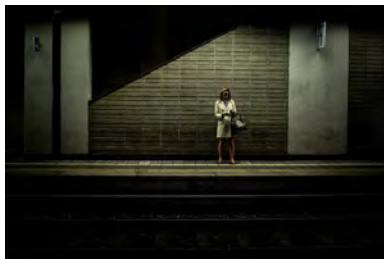
Title:

'Dark and Moody'

Goal:

Create a dark and moody image in very low light conditions by hand holding the camera (without tripods or monopods) to tell a compelling story.

Examples:



Guidelines:

Use a wide aperture (low f-number) to let in as much light as possible. Potentially use Aperture Priority mode (Av, A or other abbreviation dependant on the camera brand). The aperture setting simply tells your camera how much light to allow in. In low-light conditions, you need to let in as much light as possible to get a good exposure and capture the detail in the scene.

Increase the ISO setting for greater light sensitivity. This increases the sensor's sensitivity to light, and it's useful when shooting at night without a tripod or flash. Raising the ISO can introduce noise (or grain when printed) which can add character to the image with the right subject matter but not always.

Keep your images sharp. Avoid fast moving subject matter and possibly brace yourself against something solid to steady yourself (as you must not use a mono or tripod).

The Auto white balance setting of most cameras delivers consistently accurate results when shooting in daylight and maintains good performance during low-light photography. However, you can add stylistic flair to your low-light images by using alternative preset white balance settings to create a particular mood.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- Dark and moody quality of the scene
- Creative story telling elements
- Acceptable levels of noise if it is suitable to the subject

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August

ARTISTIC CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Title:

'Blue Hour'

Goal:

Photograph a scenic image during the Blue Hour utilising an interesting subject point to centre the viewer's eye.

Examples:



Guidelines:

Blue Hour photography is captured during the period of twilight that occurs well before the sun has risen and after the sun has set significantly below the horizon, but the sky is not fully dark. The blue colour is caused by residual, indirect sunlight in the sky.

The specific time when the strongest part of the blue hour occurs is around one hour to 50 minutes before sunrise. If you shoot after sunset, it will be 50 minutes to an hour after the sun falls below the horizon. It may vary slightly over the seasons. That's when the "magic" happens and the whole scene gets filled with those wonderful blue tones.

Use a low ISO and a tripod to capture a longer exposure to gather all the blue light.

Without the sunlight, sometimes it can be hard to find the right scene to shoot but keep in mind that cityscapes, architecture or even landscapes with contrasting artificial lights are probably some of the best scenes that you can take pictures of during that time of day.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- Capturing a strong Blue Hour light cast over the image
- Captivating subject matter to balance the blue background
- Low level of noise

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September

TECHNICAL SKILL CHALLENGE

Title:

'Long Exposure'

Goal:

Capture an in camera long exposure, of potentially several seconds, to reveal the blur of a moving subject that the human eye does not normally see.

Examples:



Guidelines:

Long exposures gather a lot more visual information than a frozen high-speed image can demonstrate. By leaving the shutter open for longer, the camera will continue to capture the information of a moving subject through the frame.

Long exposures can be taken in multiple ways, but it is always by controlling the amount of light so as to not overexpose the final result. A long shutter speed of possibly several seconds can be achieved by shooting in lower light conditions or by adding a neutral density filter to the camera lens. A tripod will almost always be required.

There are no standard settings, so trial and error will be the best guide to refining the best shot.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- Reveal a moving subject that the human eye cannot normally visualise through long exposure
- Clever use of objects/subjects to create a story
- Be an original in camera image – not a composite

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October

ARTISTIC CREATIVE CHALLENGE

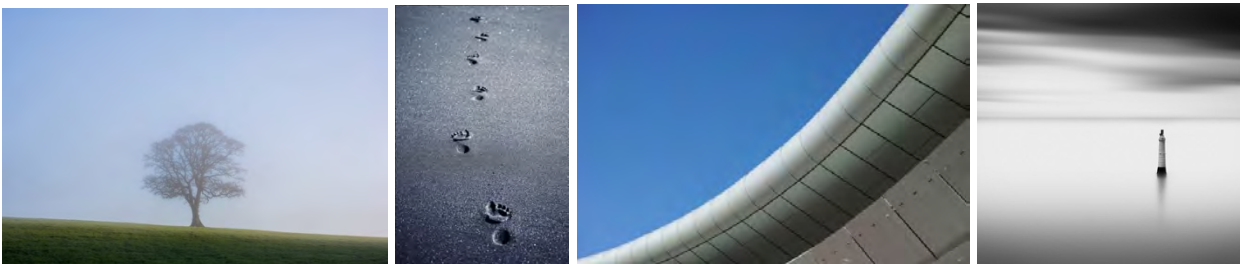
Title:

'Minimalism'

Goal:

Create a minimalism photo of simple lines, shapes, colours etc that communicates the essence of the subject.

Examples:



Guidelines:

Minimalism is not about making things look tiny, it is a form of photography that is distinguished by strict simplicity. It emphasizes sparseness and careful composition, shying away from overabundance of colour, patterns, or information. It is about not having anything in the image that does not add anything to the scene. The golden rule of Minimalism is 'Less is More'.

MPS will be having a presentation in April on Minimalism Photography.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements;

- a. Minimalism photo of simple lines, shapes, colours etc that communicates the subject simply
- b. No extraneous elements
- c. Eye catching image

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November

TECHNICAL SKILL CHALLENGE

Title:

'Contre-Jour' - Photographing into the light

Goal:

Capture an image with the light source behind the subject, without blow outs in the highlights and without excessive lens flares.

Examples:



Guidelines:

Generally, one of the first lessons we learn as photographers is how the position of the camera in relation to the light source greatly affects the exposure. We're told to ensure the light is above and behind our left or right shoulder so that the path of light falls onto our subject. In this challenge the image will be taken with the camera pointed more or less in the direction of the principal light source or with the strongest light behind the subject.

Use the default multi-zone meter on your camera for best results. This includes the Evaluative meter on Canon, Matrix meter on Nikon. Other models refer to this type of metering as multi-zone or multi-segment. Essentially, this metering mode analyses light intensity across the entire viewfinder rather than one area. This will be easier to manage than using spot metering, for example.

Use the histogram on your camera along with any highlight warning function it may have. This will help you to retain tone in the brightest areas. Using a narrow aperture will help to manage that intensity of light. To help reduce lens flare use a lens hood if you have one. A prime lens will tend to reduce the risk of lens flare.

Judging Criteria:

To include normal photographic criteria but also include these elements:

- Image taken with the main light source as directly as possible behind the subject
- Good handling of detail without blowing out the highlights
- Without oppressive amounts of lens flares

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