

STAR	TITLE	SCORE	AWARD	AUTHOR	COMMENT
2	Above the mist	8	Silver	Jan-Lens	The mood that you have created here is wonderful and so typical of a winter morning in the bush. There are a couple of things I'd like to mention. The animal is dead centre in the frame and that's not an ideal situation. The bright sky behind the animal has caused silhouetting and the detail on the front of the animal is not clear enough - it almost looks a little bit out of focus. The Mono conversion could have been a little bit punchier.
2	Bee haven	10	Gold	Jan-Lens	I like this idea and the colours are strong and vibrant. Even if the flower was leaning slightly to the left in its natural environment I would have preferred to see it more upright in this image and that could easily have been done in post-processing. Some of the detail on the bees is a bit lost and this could have been corrected by dropping the shadows using the Shadows and Highlights feature in post processing.
2	Fisherman	9	Silver	Mags-Vosloo	This is very dramatic and you're very lucky to have caught this so well. Unfortunately your presentation has let you down. The whole image is a little bit grey and underwhelming. By pushing up the contrasts there would have be more detail visible. Be careful of the whites on the head and on the edge of the wings because they are blown out. Once they are blown out it is almost impossible to recover them.
2	Groovy Eyes	10	Gold	Jan-Lens	By using f-14 you have managed to keep the focus constant almost throughout the image. This is great technique for a macro image. You're lucky that the worm just sat still for that half second exposure. Unfortunately because of the shape of the worm there's a lot of empty space at the bottom right quadrant. I know you couldn't get the worm to move but maybe with a more creative crop that could have been dealt with more effectively.
2	Lily and Leaf	8	Silver	Mags-Vosloo	These Lotus flowers are such beautiful subjects to photograph and here this image proves that you were in a bit of a quandary as to which part of it to depict. Having the flower and the leaf competing for the Best Actress award is not ideal. Best you would have chosen other the flower or the leaf. The flower stands on its own as a beautiful subject And if you look carefully at the leaf, it has beautiful abstract forms. I'm not saying what you have done is wrong but it would have been better if one or the other was chosen as the main event.

2	Ride like the Wind	7	Silver	Mags-Vosloo	I see the makings of an abstract image here. As presented it looks like you tried to do some abstract editing but it hasn't really worked. The image is very flat ie two-dimensional and the subject does not cry out that it is a wheel and a tyre. I think a lot more could have been done to this image and then maybe to have submitted it into the Photo Arts and Creative category.
3	BUMS UP	11	Gold	Cornelia-Appel	This is a very nicely conceived image. The use of f 2.8 has been really successful because you have managed to isolate only the ant and much of the rest of the arc of berries is out of focus. Currently the ant is on the thirds which is great but I do feel maybe some of the bright out-of-focus berries in the bottom left quadrant could have been cropped away. The bokeh adds an extra special touch
3	Blooming out of the Darkness	9	Silver	Meleney-Naik	This is a pretty mauve rose but unfortunately that's all it is. For a single flower to stand out against a black background it has to be absolutely perfectly mastered. The saturation here is a little bit high as can be seen by the bright green leaves. The background has those grey smudges in the corners and some residual artefacts. Take a little bit of time to do some cleaning up before you submit an image like this.
3	Deep Dusk	9	Silver	Jake-Alletson	Undoubtedly this is a very dramatic sunset with very strong silhouetting. All that is good. There are two other issues I'd like to draw your attention too. The very bright white stroke border is just too invasive. Yes this image does need a border but it needs to be toned down to a dark grey rather than this bright white. I'm guessing that there must be some sort of habitable structure at the bottom right-hand corner. It is not visible in this image but just the bright window is. This makes it look a bit surreal. It looks like a floating window. Maybe a little bit of light on the structure as well could have defined that structure and made it more relatable.
3	Portrait of a Buck	9	Silver	Meleney-Naik	I understand why you would have taken a picture of a lone Impala. They are vastly underrated little antelope and a very pretty subject to photograph. Unfortunately this little chap standing static and doing nothing does not grab a viewer. It appears with your vignetting that you are aware of this and try to remedy it. Unfortunately it is not the type of picture that has coped well with this technique. The animal is also not as sharp as it could be.

3	SOME PAINT BRUSHES	9	Silver	Cornelia-Appel	This idea is very appealing and leaves one wondering "What was going on here?" As a still-life subject it could have worked quite well but I just feel that the composition and the camera angle have not had a conversation!. I'm not a fan of the bucket standing on top of the leaves, it throws it off balance. It appears as though this was natural lighting and that's not a problem but I feel the whole scene lacks a little bit of light so maybe using a reflector or even just a torch on the dark brown cloth would have helped a lot. The camera angle is also just a little bit low. By lifting it very slightly it may help to tell the stronger story.
3	Vintage Rose Bouquet	10	Gold	Meleney-Naik	This image has what the title says - a vintage feel. That is very pleasing. The colours are soft and muted without being oversaturated and that helps with that vintage feeling. Whether it was intentional or not I do like the vignetting around the edges particularly on the left hand side. Only problem I feel here is the composition - there are lots of roses with no one strong focal point. If one rose was a different colour or if there was a butterfly or an ornament sitting on one of the roses that would have helped to draw one's attention. It would have been great to have something <u>draw one's attention</u> .
3	Escape	10	Gold	Cornelia-Appel	In this category not everything needs to make sense and it definitely doesn't all have to be photographically perfect. It's the storytelling here that is more important than anything. In this category that does help the judge to look at the title because that might explain what is going on in the image. The image title is "Escape" and yes there are elements of a struggle to escape but I feel that that story could be a lot stronger. The escape could be from physical restraint or from the chambers of the mind but in both cases this story is not very strong in this image. If it was a physical restraint I would have liked to have seen much thicker ropes and a feeling of being tied down. If it was an escape from the chambers of the mind I would have preferred to see more agony and anguish all over the face. Interesting concept but I would have liked to seen a bit more.

3	Hilton College Tower Block	9	Silver	Jake-Alletson	I think the intention here was to make this image look like a pencil drawing. That you have achieved. The central placements of the tower in the centre of the frame really emphasizes the symmetry in the building. It's all very "proper" and considered. In a creative, arty category a little bit more would have been an advantage.
3	Dappled Waterfall	9	Silver	Jake-Alletson	This is a pretty peaceful scene. I know the title is "Dappled Waterfall" but it is in that where I think the problems lie. There are pretty light streaks across the waterfall, creating diagonal lines. This is good, but the light generally, is so dappled that it really creates a almost disjointed image. The very bright and very dark areas don't induce harmony and leaves the viewer a little bit disappointed. I would love to see this waterfall in late, but even, light with the slowish shutter speed.
4	Eye on the ball	10	Gold	Tracey-Rhodes	Nicely captured image, with almost all the details needed being visible. It would have been great to see the batsman's eyes and I find the crop at the bottom just a little bit tight. Yes I understand we want to see the detail but the story and the setting also plays a part. The white clothes in the sun can be a nightmare but you have handled these well
4	Catch of the day	13	Merit	Tracey-Rhodes	This is a beautifully captured moment and very nicely presented for competition. You can almost feel the bird's excitement. The focus is spot-on and the colours are strong and vibrant without being over saturated. Just be careful about some of the light areas especially on the top of the head where they are bordering on being over bright. If they are burnt out, they cannot be recovered but maybe try toning those brights down just a little.
4	Red Bishop	11	Gold	Denise-Harvey	This is a strong image with nice punchy colours. Although the colours are strong just be careful that you don't over saturate. The composition is great and I like the inclusion of the soft out-of-focus flower in the background. It could possibly be argued that this image is a bit contrasty so try toning the contrast down slightly and lifting the shadows a little just to include more detail in those black feathers. Otherwise it's a good attempt.

4	barren beauty	9	Silver	Couperthwaite	One really gets the feeling that this is a dry and arid scene but with this wonderful ray of "sunshine." Technically there are problems. The vantage point from up above the subject is not ideal and would have been better if the image was captured from lower down. The main focal points are dead centre in the image and although that is not wrong it could have been better thought out. The main problem here though is the "bleeding" of the reds. Reds and yellows are very difficult to photograph properly, because they tend to "bleed" if they are over bright so careful exposing of these colours is vital. Thus said, if the problem wasn't too bad it could have been corrected in post-processing.
4	Lotus in bloom	13	Merit	Tracey-Rhodes	You are very lucky that I love these Lotus flowers and I guess that makes me a little bit biased. The way you have presented this image is beautiful. Yes you have probably removed leaves and other clutter in the foreground and background but with this flower standing alone as it is, it shows its true beauty. Just be careful of oversaturation - I don't think the green stems are quite as lime green as what they are shown here. Also be careful of the bright stroke border, that could have been toned down somewhat
4	rusty pliers	12	Gold	Liesl-Couperthwaite	I love the textures and shapes in this image. As a colour image I obviously need to assess it as I see it but I can't help thinking that this would do very well as contrasty, surreal mono image. This shows a hard life that the poor pliers have been subjected too. The abstract textures, juxtaposed against the straight structured lines really works well. I think if there was another element like some rusty screws or nails, it could have added more to the image as well.
4	curious youngster	8	Silver	Liesl-Couperthwaite	I think that the wildlife category is the one most difficult to succeed in, yet very often it has the most entries. Here is a case in point. Here we have a perfectly good subject but to turn that subject into a winning image is another business altogether. Here we have a subject that has been presented too dark. The detail of the face is almost completely hidden and the problem being is that the animal is standing in the shade. Here the well-lit areas become over bright and the animal is almost silhouetted. In this instance the colour saturation is also a bit high.

4	Lion	13	Merit	Denise-Harvey	Here the author has done exceptionally well to separate the subject from the background. The aperture used here was f6.3 and you have done well to produce a beautiful background. The lion's face is well-lit and the eyes are pin sharp. The composition is also great with the lion on the left-hand side looking into the open space on the right. This is always exceptionally effective when there is empty space in the direction of the stare. The crop at the top and the bottom are very close but I think it works in this instance
4	Monkey Business	11	Gold	Denise-Harvey	Again we have beautiful pin sharp eyes with lots of space for the monkey to look into. It really appears as though this monkey is up to no good. The .xif data on this image is not visible so I am not sure what the technical information is but you have succeeded well in separating the subject from the background. The late-afternoon light is really beautiful (or could it be morning light?)
5	Sycronized head on	9	Silver	Ronelle-van den Heever	I love the intensity on the front paddler's face. The fact that the boat is coming directly towards the photographer is also powerful and I like the back paddler just peering over the shoulder in front of him. The crop is a little bit awkward and very tight at the top but I assume that is because you were trying to cut out the boat at the top right-hand corner. Pity that there are not more splashes and visible action.
5	Wall of water	10	Gold	Des-van Tonder	Having space for the surfer to move into is good that is very evident here. Maybe the space is a bit too much though. The surfer feels a little bit cramped up against the top right corner. Unfortunately the surfer is looking away from the lights and therefore her face is predominantly in the shade. Nice action shown though.
5	Busy Mrs Bishop	10	Gold	Heidi-Taylor	This is a wonderful story of Mrs Bishop collecting nesting material. It is really easy to capture a birdie on a stick but having this birdie on a stick actually doing something is a lot more interesting. Although I have scored this image leniently you must be careful of focusing. The focus here is 99% but it is not 100% clear

5	Comorant in tree	13	Merit	Des-van Tonder	This is a nice sighting but that said the Cormorant does look a little bit awkward sitting in this vertical tree. That's not your fault and it is not affecting the judging - it's just an observation. The lights on this bird is beautiful and I do appreciate the extra space on the right where the bird is looking into. I know the strength of this image is in the lighting but I think the beak area could have been toned down very slightly
5	Cormorant	7	Silver	Heidi-Taylor	The idea is good and it's a nice sighting but sadly there are some errors. The lighting is very uneven which has caused bright and dark spots. The image has also been presented quite dark and could easily have been lightened slightly. This has meant that the dark areas are quite clogged, and that is not ideal . Sadly most of the image is also out of focus.
5	Intent	12	Gold	Leon-Heyes	Such lovely framing, the depth of field is great, pin sharp bird and this shows just how well these birds do in camoflague. Perhaps a little light could have been brushed into the eye? Good light on the whole bird though.
5	Karoo Butterfly	11	Gold	Ronelle-van den Heever	This butterfly is beautiful and it is a pleasure to see it. At first glance, the butterfly itself seems sharp but there is evidence that this was quite a severe crop from a larger image, which is not a problem but it has affected picture quality. The background is busy and I think with cropping away some of the bottom of the image it would have helped to reduce this effect. Good strong, punchy colours without being oversaturated.
5	Red Deer stag in Bushy Park	9	Silver	Terry-Burne	This is a fantastic sighting, and one that most of us would love to experience. Sadly the image is over exposed by about a stop, but that could easily be corrected in post-processing. The image is all about the antlers and unfortunately you have cropped the bottom very close to the animals face which is not really ideal. The bits of debris hanging from its antlers helps to add to the story.
5	A Summer Morning	10	Gold	Stephen-Pryke	There's definitely drama depicted here although I must say it looks more like a winter morning to me rather than a summer morning, There is mood. There is drama, and there is intrigue, Sadly also there are issues. The very strong dominant white border is completely out of place and should rather be toned down to a one pixel medium to dark grey stroke border. The image is very contrasty and there are also very over bright white spots in the clouds were all detail is missing.

5	Eastern Beauty	11	Gold	Leon-Heyes	A lovely full the frame image. The colours are subtle and gentle. My eye bounces off that solid middle yellow bit, I want it to be in focus. But the textures on the petals are so good - the lines and curves flow beautifully.
5	Lilac Breasted Roller	12	Gold	Stephen-Pryke	Having submitted this bird into the Open section tells me that it has been manipulated. That is not a problem in this category but this sort of image is always best in either Wildlife or Nature. Seeing that you did enter this into Open and therefore it was editable, I would have removed the vertical thorny branch to the right. Yes it does show it's environment but in the Open section, anything is allowable and I think the image would be better without that branch. In the Wildlife section this image would have scored higher.
5	Perched Owl	13	Merit	Ronelle van den Heever	I assume this image has also been manipulated. Here the manipulation has been effective and makes sense. The mood in this image befits the nature of the subject, ie all dark and moody. The bright areas on the bird could easily have been toned down slightly and that also helps to bring out more detail. As they are currently presented those bright areas have lost a bit of detail. This small medium Grey stroke border also befits the image.
5	Sunset sand patterns	10	Gold	Heidi-Taylor	These gentle repeating patterns are very pleasing on the eye. The graduated colour from Gold to Black is also very appealing. There appears to be a bit of a breakdown in the quality of the image especially in the dark areas. This makes me think that it was possibly a severe crop off a large image. Maybe doing some digital noise control on this image could help it but as it is, it does contribute towards the abstract nature of the image. Try playing with the contrasts to boost the light between bright and dark. Arguably it could have a strong point of interest but as presented it is very soothing on the eye
5	Twisted duck	13	Merit	Des-van Tonder	When one thinks of high key, one always thinks of a lack of detail in the image that is replaced by very bright areas. Here that is partially the case but the extremely strong contrast that has been applied to the duck is very appealing although it still remains a high key image. The clarity in this image is superb, the composition is great and I think it is the right sort of image for this type of hi-key presentation.



5	Wildebeest in the Magadigadi	10	Gold	Stephen-Pryke	I'm not sure how much editing has been done to this image to produce the sort of effect or whether it was captured like this originally. That said, it is very dramatic. I'm not sure whether the ground actually sloped from right to left but I feel that the slope in this image feels a bit abnormal. Sorry if it was like that. I feel the image could have been straightened somewhat to be more level and that would have been easier on the eye.
5	Street musician Newcastle	10	Gold	Terry-Burne	I certainly feel the passion of this Saxophonist. The selective colouring in this image does help to portray a certain feel. The background and the area don't seem to be very posh and the gold that this man has, in his ability to play the saxophone, is also reflected in the colour of the instrument. The whole image is slightly skewed to the left and I would like to see it straightened just so that the buildings are perpendicular
5	A train once ran here	14	Merit	Terry-Burne	To me this is a WOW image and has such a strong story to tell. Converting this image to mono also helps to convey that message but I'm wondering what it will look like in sepia, just because of the story in the image. The textures are beautiful which juxtapose against the bright sky. The rail track that leads the eye diagonally through the image and stops at "Nowhere" is very intriguing and begs the viewer to enquire "Why". This is a great storytelling image.
5	Crashing Onto The Rocks	9	Silver	Leon-Heyes	Good leading lines here, and lovely light on the rocks. However, the focus on the rocks is soft, and my eye is trying to get them in focus. I see your aperture is F4 - try at least an F8 to get the whole image in focus.
5	Howick Falls In Flood	9	Silver	Maxi-Holder	Howick falls as depicted here are quite spectacular. The rainbow at the bottom does add value to this image but all over it is really an image that's capturing a moment in time. The artistic, and technical values are not strong. I also see a little bit of over saturation in the greens of the grass.
5	Kruger Park Neighbourhood	13	Merit	Maxi-Holder	This image leaves me with a feeling of despair. I love the bush and all the beauty that is contained within it but to see this scene with man-made destruction so very visible is quite heartbreaking. That's said, you have captured the scene really well. The juxtaposition between the bush and the factory is very strong and it really goes a long way in telling a strong story. Presentation here is good but I think jacking up the contrast within the factory area could add more value.

5	Preen and Clean	10	Gold	Paul-Naude	It's good to see this heron actually doing something and that it hasn't just been depicted as a static standing bird. The textures in the feathers are beautiful and you have coped well with the bright white neck and head. Just be careful of those greens - they look a little bit oversaturated.
5	Um I Do Prefer Hairy Caterpillar	10	Gold	Maxi-Holder	A really special sighting and it is not easy to photograph these chaps because they're pretty busy and active birds. You have done well to capture the beautiful intimate interaction. It's just such a pity that their tete-a-tete venue is such a prickly one! I probably would have also rushed for my camera to take this image if I saw this but just be careful of composition and the very bright whites. On a personal note... it is interesting, I only saw a Diedrichs cuckoo for the first time about 2 years ago and now they just appear to be everywhere.
5	Watching and Waiting	9	Silver	Paul Naude	This is a very difficult image to assess. The Bee is bright and sharp and crisp but the rest of the image is rather scrappy and untidy. Yes I understand this is not your fault. That was where the bee was at the time but maybe a different composition or waiting for the bee to move somewhere else might have been a better option. Maybe a much tighter crop on the bee, might also have done the trick.
6	A harvest mouse	14	Merit	Vicki-Street	There is very little not to like about this image. Your composition is beautiful and the colours are soft and gentle but very complementary. I just see a tiny bit of haloing around the front of the mouse and that suggests the possibility of it being slightly over worked
6	The Last Dance	13	Merit	Vicki-Street	This is a true work of art. The whole image has a feeling of being captured on old expired film and, that time has taken it's toll on. With that in mind the all over, out of focus presentation suits the subject. Personally I would like to have seen a little bit more in focus - maybe more in the hands and the feet. That said, this is still a beautiful image but I could understand that it is not everybody's cup of tea.

6	Pennywise	12	Gold	Vicki-Street	One cannot deny the technical proficiency in creating an image like this. There are so many things to consider and most important of all is the studio setup and the lighting. One can't deny that, that has been expertly handled. I just feel the model could have been a little bit more animated and not quite so static. The space above her head is also very tightly cropped and could have done with a little bit more room to breathe.
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