

STAR RATING	First	Last	TITLE	SCORE	AWARD	COMMENT
1	wynand	lens	Floating	9	Silver	The duck almost seems to be smiling and with it moving towards the viewer creates an engaging photograph. The catchlight in the eye is a great addition and the ripples in the otherwise still water add a good softness to the image. A very high ISO was used resulting in excessive noise. By lowering the ISO and even opening your aperture you would still have all in focus and a cleaner image. Unfortunately the duck is not quite in focus.
1	wynand	lens	The Stare	8	Silver	Your idea for the image is good but the whites are washed out in places and overall the image is too bright. Have a look at the histogram. Your tonal range is otherwise good, including some deep blacks in the image. Most of the technical aspects are well handled but the image conveys little about your subject other than she is sitting in a 'plane.
2	Jan	Lens	Party girl	10	Gold	n engaging, happy portrait of a pretty girl all dressed up, and her expression is gorgeous. Fortunately for you this challenge is more about expressions etc and less about the technical as there are several issues to address at your next attempt such as lighting (avoid on-camera flash wherever possible), reducing noise through the better choice of shutter speed, ISO and aperture and learning the art of processing. These will come with time but always pay attention to them.
2	Mags	Vosloo	Ready for Take-off	10	Gold	Your technical handling of this image is really good with superb focus light etc. The blue on the left, although slightly distracting, provides balance and colour. I would suggest a minor left crop to eradicate the tiny white triangle in the blue. However, this challenge is about the model and with her looking directly at the camera the viewer is engaged. Well done.
2	Jan	Lens	Spirit of the gods	10	Gold	A stare you do not want to see if you are potential prey, but for us it is great, well done. The feathers in the lower third are a bit bright and distracting and could be tones down. Also consider lifting the shadows just a touch to give a bit more detail.
2	Mags	Vosloo	To be Blond and Beautiful	10	Gold	The technical aspects are great and you have taken a good photograph. The processing of the models face and skin is well done. Although the model has a slightly wistful look there is not enough to produce a really engaging image.
3	Cornelia	Appel	Ballerina daze	11	Gold	Your handling of the light on your subject is good, the background is however a little variable. The look on your subjects face is a combination of surprise mischief and happiness, making this an engaging image. Well done
3	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Chandre	11	Gold	A lovely studio shot with the model having a relaxed, happy expression. Well done
3	Meleney	Naik	Just a Day at the Office	8	Silver	The technical aspects are reasonably well done but that is not what this challenge is about. Both models have an expression of "Almost time to go home after a dull day at the office". There is nothing engaging in their expressions or posture. In such cases it is up to you to motivate them to show something by asking them to think of something sad, funny, naughty or whatever. It is difficult I know when you are not the sole photographer but it can be worth it to wait until the others leave and then take the opportunity to engage with the models to get the image you desire. If you do not yet have the confidence to do so, practice with family and get them to respond to your direction and you will see the rewards will be worth it.
3	Marna	Roelofse	Laying in Wait	10	Gold	A beautiful animal more on the verge of sleep than laying in wait as your title suggests. Great focus on the eye with a come hither and be eaten look in them.
3	Jake	Alletson	Lost in Thought	7	Silver	A lower ISO could have been used to reduce noise and your post processing blurring has bled onto the subject and the camera. The camera hides too much of your subject and there is little to engage the viewer.
3	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Pretty in Pink	13	Merit	Gorgeous colours used in this portrait of a happy, pregnant lady. One can feel the joy she is experiencing. A minor suggestion is to use your tool of choice to make her mouth appear fully closed.
3	Cornelia	Appel	Soft Touch	10	Gold	A good portrait of a lovely young lady which could have been improved by adjusting luminance levels. As is, it is a bit flat. The model is not engaging and needed some direction to tell the viewer a bit about herself.
3	Meleney	Naik	The Girl in the Glider	9	Silver	Most technical aspects are well handled although the wing of the glider is distracting. With such a close portrait it would be a big help if the model's eyes were visible which would tell us a bit more about her. As is it tells us very little. A pity.
4	Doug	Couperthwaite	At the Feed of the Buddha 393	6	Bronze	A good photograph of the deity but the person who should be the subject of your image is almost insignificant in the image. Framing her, with her lovely expression and posture together with the smaller statue behind her would have scored you highly.

4	Denise	Harvey	Gadget	8	Silver	A potentially great image where the technical aspects are too dominating to ignore at 4 star level: soft focus and excessive colour noise. There is incomplete EXIF data which puts you on the verge of being DQ'd.
4	Tracey	Rhodes	I do bite	11	Gold	I don't think so. With that friendly expression it seems more likely one would be licked to death. Well done on the handling of noise.
4	Tracey	Rhodes	Sultry Gen	9	Silver	A beautiful model well captured. Having her eyes visible is a big plus. The background is distracting and would suggest changing its colour so it is not so close to that of the model which would create some contrast. For me the message I get is this is a beautiful lady but little of substance comes through.
5	Rob	Hart	Baboon spider frontal 4050	9	Silver	The emotion in this picture is the viewers, as the spider is showing none. I am not sure whether to pat it or run. A subject like this needs to be doing something that can trigger a certain emotion in the viewer.
5	Roger	Fanner	Chocolate Log	11	Gold	What a great capture and those eyes say please love me. Lovely.
5	Rob	Hart	Cutworm frontal 3317	7	Silver	Technically OK although focus stacking to get more of the subject in focus would help, if it was possible. The viewer gets nothing from the subject other than one's feelings for such creatures.
5	Des	van Tonder	Gen	9	Silver	A beautiful model well captured. Having her eyes visible is a big plus. The red in the background is distracting and needs to be made less obvious, possibly by making the background black. For me the message I get is this is a beautiful lady but little of substance comes through.
5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Ginnger Attitude	11	Gold	Cats can really give us humans attitude and show us disdain. Well captured.
5	Paul	Naude	I Undid Some Strings OK	8	Silver	Great mono conversion, however I am not sure that this qualifies as "showing the personality of the persons" (the caption certainly shows some psychotic tendencies) so not strictly a portraiture image, more of a Photojournalism type image.
5	Paul	Naude	Its Not All Work	13	Merit	Aaaaah, such a great moment of happiness and cuteness captured. Love it. Good light and sharpness. Perhaps some attention to the shadows around the eyes of the furry one on the right...
5	Roger	Fanner	Jabari	10	Gold	Dogs give so much back. A touch more from this lovely dog could have scored you highly.
5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Jiminy Cricket	8	Silver	It appears Jiminy is enjoying a good meal, but how does one tell? If an insect is doing something such as eating, its prey needs to be clearly visible. Insects are difficult subjects for this challenge.
5	Leon	Heyes	Leon in Black	10	Gold	A great portrait that could score highly in other competitions but where emotion is needed and the subject is showing little I cannot award a higher score.
5	Heidi	Taylor	Man in black	9	Silver	The technical aspects have not been well handled and in an image from a 5 star no comment should be required but the focus here is on the wrong eye and the image is soft. What saves it though is the subject's mischievous expression.
5	Maxi	Holder	Old Photograph	8	Silver	It's good to see some expression from the model, but not enough to lift the image to a higher score. Again, this challenge is less about the technical aspects but get rid of that border! It is fine to use plug-ins but then make the image your own and do not be dictated to by the plug-in. If you rotate an image by 180 degrees do not do so with an image that contains text. I do not follow your reasoning behind doing so.
5	Terry	Burne	Rachel 5225(3)	9	Silver	A pretty model and this image may do well in other scenarios. I would suggest a minor crop inferiorly to eliminate the line from the top of her jeans, as well as a crop on the left. Some engagement between the model and the viewer is needed which I feel is lacking.
5	Des	van Tonder	Rachel mono	9	Silver	As a general portrait this image has merit, but like so many it tells me little about the person inside. The conversion to mono works really well here and has been well done. The black lace around the models neck looks really good. It appears frequency separation (F/S) was used and if so, I applaud you for that. However the low frequency tones could have been better evened out. Unless you wanted the stray hairs in her face they could have been removed with the high frequency layer. If entered in a general portrait challenge and with some cleaning up, this image could do well.
5	Heidi	Taylor	Rachel	8	Silver	For this challenge a deadpan expression does not meet the brief. By reworking the image and reducing the contrast between bright whites and dark blacks you could do well in a monthly challenge.
5	Leon	Heyes	Shy and Demure	9	Silver	This image tells me something about your subject, well done on that. The lighting is good and if the image was sharper a gold was in the offing. You handled the noise caused by the high ISO very well.
5	Terry	Burne	Sunelle 4522	13	Merit	This is what I have been hoping for, an image that is technically good and an engaging subject. Well done.

5	Maxi	Holder	Waiting Patiently	8	Silver	Be careful of using too high an ISO where it is not needed as you have excessive noise in the shadows. Your subject gives the appearance of being at the end of a busy day. Sure, that is an emotion but it is not enough.
6	Vicki	Street	Amelia Earhart	12	Gold	What a beautiful portrait with all the technicalities perfectly executed. A smile or some emotion shown by your subject would have put you into the merits.
6	Vicki	Street	Cry Baby	15	Merit	Perfection.