

RESULTS for May 2023 Marville Challenge Carol

Category	Star	Title			Score	Award	Comment	
MC	1	Faith 4	wynand	lens	9	Silver	The message in this image is explicit but impactful and gives insight into different cultures and their traditions. The angle highlights the important aspects of ritual. The subject is looking into the camera and drawing the viewer into the scene. The lighting is flat and the focus is soft. A good photographic record for this person.	
MC	1	Faith 6	wynand	lens	9	Silver	Another image with a story of a devotional ritual and is of importance to the devotees. The expression on her face appears as one of anguish. The composition is busy and bright and cropped in such a way to focus all attention on the person. The message is well conveyed to the viewer. Work on getting the eyes really sharp in portraits.	
MC	2	Blond Biker	Mags	Vosloo	9	Silver	The model is lovely. I would like to see a bit more of the bike and maybe some biker's attire like a leather jacket or helmet to strengthen the story. There is not enough light in the eyes to make them come alive.	
MC	2	Double Trouble	Mags	Vosloo	10	Gold	Two pretty girls in uniform which tells us something about them. The hand right in the centre of the composition is very dominant and distracting. If the hand was turned at a slight angle away from the camera it could be less of a distraction. Eyes need to be pin sharp.	
MC	2	Rooibaard	Jan	Lens	8	Silver	This Image, as the title suggests, is all about the beard and you have caught enough light in it to bring out the texture and colour. I like the slightly turned pose of your model. The dark glasses have hidden his eyes and together with the beard they add a bit of mystery. Does he not want to be recognized perhaps? The parts of the sky showing through the trees giving you small areas that are blown out could be edited out.	
MC	2	Wakker ogies	Jan	Lens	11	Gold	Lovely bright eyed little girl! A nice natural shot with eyes sharply in focus. Catch light brings the eyes to life. Could do with some light falling on the top and back of the head to separate it from the background. I feel the image a bit and too constrasty. Try bringing contrast down and see what you think.	
MC	3	Falling Flower	Andrew	van den Berg	DQ		Not Portraiture	
MC	3	Gatherer	Andrew	van den Berg	DQ		Not Portraiture	
MC	3	Lighting Up	Meleney	Naik	13	Merit	The shadows and deep blacks have created a great mood. Flame is well handled - not blown out. The smoke completes the picture. Good story. Good use of lighting.	Junior Winner
MC	3	Mischief - DB	Diane	Backhouse	12	Gold	It's good that you have gone down to his eye level to photograph this little mischief. I like the soft light in a natural environment. Eyes are sharp and bright. Left hand position just behind his head is slightly distracting but that's a minor thing.	
MC	3	Mommy Angel	Meleney	Naik	9	Silver	You have captured the baby bump well and I like the positioning of her arms to draw attention to her belly. The composition with the flowing train is creative but, in my opinion, draws the eye away from where you want the attention to be. Had the dress train been left draping down to it could have created a nice flow and hidden where the dress appears to be hooked up under the feet. Backlight is nice.	
MC	3	Two front teeth - DB	Diane	Backhouse	12	Gold	Another lovely portrait of this child and his two front teeth. The soft light is perfect for a child. Dark background makes the boy stand out. Sharpness of focus is appropriate.	
MC	4	meditation	Liesl	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	I love the flowers in the foreground to blend with his robe. The lettering behind the subject is a busy distraction in a scene of calm and meditation but could be toned down so as not to draw the eye away from the monk.	
MC	4	twitter girl	Liesl	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	I am not sure what a twitter girl is or does but this image sends a message of someone who pensive and sad. Is she waiting for someone who did not show up? The focus is soft and dreamy and adds to the mood. I feel that cropping the feet off is too abrupt a cut-off for this gentle image.	
MC	5	A Lady In Provence	Vicki	Street	14	Merit	A fine art portrait. The dark background adds depth to make your model stand out. A carefully planned photo with a specific concept. Beautiful lighting. Lovely pose. Well done.	
MC	5	About to laugh	Heidi	Taylor	12	Gold	The popular model! She is cute, shy and so spontaneous.. Her expression is well captured. I am not sure that the eyes are as sharp as it should be. The back of her head could have a bit more light to liven her hair.	
MC	5	Freshwater Turtle On The Lookout	Maxi	Holder	11	Gold	An intriguing, different and surprising portrait subject. The intriguing element invites the viewer into the scene allowing you to create your own story. The turtle could be in search of food or just come up for a breath of air. It stands out well from the murky unobtrusive background. There is a sun burst on the bottom lip which could be removed.	
MC	5	Hla Keeper Of The Owls	Maxi	Holder	9	Silver	The skin tones are well rendered and Hla has a lovely friendly smile. I feel that the crop is too tight. I would like to see where she is and even some owls to make the story complete.	
MC	5	Its So Complicated	Leon	Heyes	14	Merit	By looking straight into the camera this child is communicating and drawing the viewer into the scene. She is lively and uninhibited. This is not a faked emotion and it shows she is having fun. I love the expression, pose (and the camera). Great photo!	Senior Winner
MC	5	Kirsty Top-Gun 9474	Terry	Burne	11	Gold	Good story telling and your model has acted the part well. She is comfortable and natural in front of the camera. The image is sharp. Her eyes maybe be a tad too tight in the corner. The broad strip of white cutting through the top worries me. A different angle could have resolved that.	
MC	5	Leon in colour	Tracey	Rhodes	13	Merit	This low key portrait with great lighting has captured the serious mood and mystery well. Those piercing eyes engage the viewer. A slight high spot on the tip of the nose could be toned down.	
MC	5	Looking Great in Green	Leon	Heyes	11	Gold	I think this is a what is called a classic portrait as it is all about the face and facial expression. The model has a beautiful smile. The green scarf creates a freshness but is maybe just too much around her face.	
MC	5	Looking up	Tracey	Rhodes	13	Merit	The Rembrandt lighting is well done here to create the upside down triangle on the cheek of the model. It is natural yet dramatic and the blue eyes are beautifully captured. Well done.	

MC	5	Lorraine	Ronelle	van den Heever	12	Gold	A glamorous model now. You have captured Lorraine's beauty and confidence well. The earrings (jewelry) are usually a no no in portraiture because it takes attention away from the face, but I think in this case, they add the glamour to the story. I like the conversion to black and white. The few shiny areas on her face caused by the lights could be retouched in post processing. A some texture in the hair would be good.
MC	5	Luke	Vicki	Street	14	Merit	Love the freckles on this confident young man. Beautiful lighting. Nice composition. . Without taking anything away from this excellent image and to bring all the elements together - a pair of grubby pants to match his grubby shirt could have fitted well into the story. This one is for the gallery wall! Well one.
MC	5	Pretty Pilot	Heidi	Taylor	13	Merit	Nicely posed pilot in uniform and wearing appropriate head gear to support the story. I like the conversion to black and white . Technical aspects i.e.. composition, exposure, sharpness well handled.
MC	5	Sunelle 4521	Terry	Burne	11	Gold	Another great expression from Sunelle. I feel that the arms are too dominant in this pose. Those eyes are bright and shining. Eyes don't lie - they are the window to her soul. What a delightful child!
MC	5	Vervet Pose	Ronelle	van den Heever	12	Gold	There is no monkey business about this portrait. The image is pin sharp and the shallow depth of field with bokeh, has isolated interest to the subject. The few bright areas need a bit of attention to tone them down. A great capture.

Junior : Lighting up - Meleney Naik

Senior: Its so complicated - Leon Heyes