

Results for May 2023 Monthly Competition Heidi

ator	Category Name	Star	Title	First	Last	Int ref	Score	Award	Comments
AS	Action And Sport	2	Determination	Mags	Vosloo	2175526	12	Gold	The title is very apt, as the entire image is a message of determination and focus. It is sharp, clear and well presented, and the action is captured excellently. (At a higher star level try not to crop off any parts of the action, such as the oar in this image.)
AS	Action And Sport	2	Going for Gold	Mags	Vosloo	2175527	12	Gold	Great action shot, from the look of concentration on his face, to the droplets frozen in the air! I think it is great that the main subject is not cropped anywhere, and stands out, clearly portrayed in the middle of the image.
AS	Action And Sport	2	This aint no joke	Mags	Vosloo	2175528	10	Gold	Interesting image, with that colourful wig! The action is well caught, with the water cascading over the canoe, as the subject must have dropped a level in the water. I also enjoy the surrounding water in the image, the water splashes around the top oar and no banks or other backgrounds to disturb the viewing. I am, however, a bit distracted with the missing part of the oar and canoe. Perhaps try zooming out when taking these type of shots to get the entire subject in the frame?
AS	Action And Sport	5	Breakaway Try	Leon	Heyes	2177457	14	Merit	Love the action, the expressions and the composition! You have caught this image at precisely the right moment, and the fact that you have cropped well, with no disturbing elements to distract from the image, as well as presenting a sharp, well-exposed image, adds to this great image!
N	Nature	1	Bee	wynand	lens	2179489	10	Gold	Well captured image, and the main subject is pin sharp. I would recommend that you run the burn tool lightly over the light pockets in the background however, as they are competing with the main subject.
N	Nature	1	Chilling - CB	Craig	Backhouse	2180048	9	Silver	Lovely bird with some action in the open, 'drying' of its feathers. However, I am not sure whether you cropped this bird closer or whether the focus is off, but the bird is not pin sharp. When photographing birds, always ensure that the eyes and beak are your focus, and they must be sharp.
N	Nature	1	Owlet 1 - CB	Craig	Backhouse	2180054	8	Silver	Unfortunately, this lovely little owl is not pin sharp - in fact, your focus where the sharpness lies is on the pole behind the bird. When photographing birds, especially caged birds (not 100% sure this image belongs strictly in the nature category) you have time to line up your shot. Focus on the eyes and beak, then take the image, and you will do this little owlet justice.
N	Nature	4	spider in web	Cornelia	Appel	2179963	11	Gold	Nice and sharp image, and your composition of placing the spider in the bottom left of the screen adds to the impact. Perhaps crop the spider a bit closer, as the very light yellow in the background does distract from the main subject.
N	Nature	4	Young Heron	Denise	Harvey	2180028	11	Gold	This is a lovely portrait shot of this heron. Your lighting works well, the background is not distracting and the composition is well thought out. I do have one criticism though, which will not count in your favour in a salon - do not oversharpen your images, as this bird has been a bit oversharpened, as indicated by the halo around the beak and neck.
N	Nature	5	Afternoon snack	Ronelle	van den Heever	2180100	12	Gold	Great action in this image, with the spider eating this insect. The composition works, but perhaps you might try and crop more off the left hand side of the image, which might remove the stalk - see if that improves the image?
N	Nature	5	Double trouble	Heidi	Taylor	2176423	11	Gold	Interesting image in monochrome, and I do think your conversion is well done, as I can see the entire gamut of shades from white straight through to black. Be aware of the highlight on the backs of the buffalo, but so far I do not think this distracts from the image. I also appreciate your composition with the two animals, not the usual one, and believe this adds to your image's impact.
N	Nature	5	Flower mantis -2459	Rob	Hart	2180192	12	Gold	These mantises are not that easy to photograph, as they are often not sharp all the way through - but you have managed this, and I commend you. Great subject, nicely muted background wall, and the flowers and leaves add to the environment this insect lives in, well done!
N	Nature	5	Natal Tree Frog	Vicki	Street	2179201	14	Merit	Beautiful image with the subject peeking over the leaf with those big beautiful brown eyes! The shades of green in this image add to the impact of this image, and I enjoy the sharpness of the main subject amidst the softness of the greens surrounding it. I wonder if cropping it closer to the bottom might not improve it slightly?

N	Nature	5	Red dragonfly 2	Des	van Tonder	2179958	12	Gold	Nice capture, and it is sharp where it needs to be, viz the head, eyes and main body. I can even almost count the single hairs on its head. The red pops against the muted green background, which gives this image impact, and your lighting is well handled.
N	Nature	5	Red Dragonfly	Ronelle	van den Heever	2180099	13	Merit	Beautiful image, and the position the dragonfly is in with its wings pointing forward, adds to the impact. I enjoy the crisp sharpness on the head and body, and for the most part - on the wings. The image is slightly on the bright side, so perhaps consider a smaller f-stop when photographing insects?
N	Nature	5	The End of the Line	Paul	Naude	2176242	13	Merit	Very interesting image, and it works well with the title you have chosen - not only the end of the line literally with the stick the insect is on, but with it starting to spin a cocoon. This image ticks all the boxes, from composition, good lighting, to sharpness and dramatic background - well seen and taken!
N	Nature	5	Wooly necked stork on Pelican Bay	Rob	Hart	2180187	13	Merit	I really commend you on this image - you have captured this bird very well, and I particularly enjoy the muted but pretty colours of its plumage. The bird is pin sharp, which adds to the appeal of this image, and the grass it is 'storking' around in, does not distract from the main subject.
OP	Open	1	Offerings	wynand	lens	2179490	12	Gold	I find this a very intriguing subject, as it is not something I have seen before - so well spotted. I also like the storytelling aspect contained within the image. Perhaps try and use a much slower shutter speed when taking another such an image, it will blur the smoke and perhaps create a more interesting effect?
OP	Open	1	Peekaboo	Marisan	Victor	2179838	10	Gold	I like the fact that you have focussed only on the eyes, and beautiful blue eyes they are! I would however, crop more away from the bottom as that big dark part does not add to your image. I would also be very careful with your lighting, as the left-hand side of this image is totally over-exposed, and this does distract from the image. Try using a higher F-stop to compensate for over-exposure, alternatively - you can also increase your shutter speed to compensate as well.
OP	Open	1	Stuck on you	Marisan	Victor	2179862	9	Silver	well taken image, as the two butterflies are intriguing. However, you need to focus on your exposure in camera, or focus on the post-processing and use the burn tool - there are many light pockets that distract in this image.
OP	Open	1	The last drop	Marisan	Victor	2179854	11	Gold	I like this image - it is something that I often look at, but never photograph - and you have! Use a bit of the burn tool in post-processing to eliminate the highlights on the tap, but apart from that, this is a well taken, and very moody image. Nice!
OP	Open	3	Landing Plane	Andrew	van den Berg	2180063	12	Gold	Lovely image, beautiful sunrise/sunset makes an awesome background, and the entire image is sharp! Well done!
OP	Open	4	beach taxi	Liesl	Couperthwaite	2178730	9	Silver	Unusual transport, that you have taken here, but very interesting. Be aware of your composition and crop - as that bit of sunset in the top right hand corner distracts, so you either crop it away or have it across the whole length of the image. I would have taken this image from a lower angle, to focus on it.
OP	Open	4	little adventures	Cornelia	Appel	2179953	11	Gold	This is a lovely image with the little girl playing in the rivulet. It ticks many boxes -as everything is sharp, she is on the left hand third, the colours are complementary - my only criticism is that the majority of her face is in darkness. I know that it adds to the image that she is not looking posed, at the camera, but you could have lifted her head a bit more, and I think that would have improved this very cute image.
OP	Open	4	minimalism	Liesl	Couperthwaite	2178729	13	Merit	Great angle, and quite original taking it from that height. It makes one aware of other things surrounding us - and in this case we are also focussing on the textures, the shadows and light interplay and even the rubbish in the gutter at the side. And even though you have over-exposed in this image, I love the juxtaposition of what is going on around the main subject, whilst the main subject itself is so focussed on the cell device, that she is definitely not aware of her surroundings. This makes for a great social commentary!
OP	Open	4	thai gardener	Liesl	Couperthwaite	2178736	9	Silver	This is reminiscent of a record shot. Although this is not a garden we commonly see, as it is a Thai garden, this is an image that needs work - the background is intriguing with that specific Thai building, but too dark for the viewer to see anything. Also, you should not have cropped off the blue steel crate, as that distracts from the overall image.

OP	Open	5	African Goshawk	Stephen	Pryke	2177897	12	Gold	Lovely image of an African Goshawk, but you have cropped the tail very, very closely, and this detracts from the overall impact. Apart from that, it ticks all the boxes with its sharpness, the composition and the muted background.
OP	Open	5	African Sunrise	Stephen	Pryke	2177908	11	Gold	Lovely sunrise, and a sunrise with a bit of a difference, in that you have captured the entire landscape in that red hue. I would have given you a higher mark, but for the noise in the image, which detracts from the impact. As this is the open category, you can focus on this in your post-processing.
OP	Open	5	Domed Building	Heidi	Taylor	2176420	10	Gold	This is rather a stark depiction of a building, and I think the black and white conversion is well done, albeit a tad too dark. In fact, it makes the entire building appear empty, as it has a forlorn feel to it.
OP	Open	5	Flap flap	Des	van Tonder	2179957	12	Gold	Lovely image and action, but take note of your crop - it is very tight on the left hand side. I enjoy the colours, and the sharpness of this image. Well done!
OP	Open	5	Fungal Stairway	Stephen	Pryke	2177900	12	Gold	Very interesting title and image. I think this is a well taken image, but your little blue bits in the bottom right hand corner are distracting - so either crop them off, or include the sky (I presume this is?) along the length of the tree. I am not quite sure about the red tree trunk, but it adds impact and great texture to the image, so I will refrain from nitpicking here.
OP	Open	5	Once we were Chained	Paul	Naude	2178558	9	Silver	I love images of old chains... However, your depth of field interferes with this image, as the separate chain links are not all sharp, and in an image like this - that detracts from the impact. Perhaps consider Focus Stacking, which involves taking multiple photos of the same subject, each with different focus points, and then in software they all add up to one sharp image. I also feel that you need a thin 2 or 3 pixel grey border, to indicate where the image ends.
OP	Open	5	Orange Arum Lily	Maxi	Holder	2177464	14	Merit	I think you have elevated a simple Arum Lily to a great height with the droplets and the dramatic dark background - well done, all boxes are ticked!
OP	Open	5	The yolks on you	Des	van Tonder	2179954	12	Gold	This makes for a great abstract - it is pinsharp, you have all the eggs cracked and flowing all over, and this is a good example of speed photography. I would add in a border to assist with this image.
PA	Photo Art And Cr	4	Falling	Cornelia	Appel	2179961	12	Gold	Altered reality and creative art is one of my favourite genres, and when your image came up on the screen, it had a lot of impact. I think your sky with that texture you have applied is excellent, as are the muted, brown-shades portrayed here. Please be aware - in your post-processing - of small details: her hair is falling forward in a manner that does not make sense to the way she is falling. Also, be careful of the shadowing by her feet.
PA	Photo Art And Cr	5	Red Maple Tree	Vicki	Street	2179203	12	Gold	This is a lovely autumn scene, that transports me straight back to the delightful little forest at Kenmo, in Natal - or an imagined fairytale forest. I enjoy how the little tree stands out in its crispness, and the entire surrounding is muted by a slight mist. Great image.
PJ	Photo Journalism	5	DJ Rally 2023 - combined age of 175 years	Terry	Burne	2179249	13	Merit	Great title, and great panning action. I think this is a unique image, what with the driver being older, and speeding on an old motorbike - a Rudge, is it? The entire subject is sharp, and you can see the concentration on his face, while the background is muted in a blur. Well done!
PJ	Photo Journalism	5	Duzi 2023 - Mission Rapids 6939	Terry	Burne	2179248	13	Merit	This image ticks all the boxes - great composition, lighting, action well caught, and the crop works for me as well.
PO	Portrait	1	Faith	wynand	lens	2179537	12	Gold	I find it a bit scary to get pierced like that in the name of religion! However, great impact with this image, it certainly made me study this colourful portrait, and think about it.
PO	Portrait	3	Maverick	Meleney	Naik	2180158	10	Gold	Interesting image with the 'vintage' tone you have applied over this image, as well as the two different machines, and there is a good storytelling contained within. However, I do think that you should have positioned the motor bike away from the plane, as the two merge into one another, and are thus not two separate and clear aspects in this image. I would also go so far as to say that in the days that the machines come from (with the vintage tone), I am not sure that women were 'allowed' to be tattooed to such an extent - but I do stand under correction.

PO	Portrait	3	Proud Parents to be	Melenev	Naik	2180159	12	Gold	Lovely image of two proud parents, and the dreamy colour tones of the image and the flowers in front work well. I would have cropped closer to the man's shoulder on the left hand side - as that dark tree distracts from the main subject, and just ask you to be aware of the light pockets throughout this image. I do not think that they distract, but they are on the border of doing so.
PO	Portrait	3	Sonica	Melenev	Naik	2180160	10	Gold	Lovely black and white portrait of a pregnant woman, and I do think you have handled the monochrome conversion well. Just note that when posing your model, be aware of everything around her - her background slopes to the left, and my eyes are drawn to this. Either straighten this image by rotating it slightly, or re-shoot, keeping all disturbing background in check.
SC	Scapes	1	Elgin Sunset	Dylan	Evans	2180149	11	Gold	Good example of a silhouette shot, which is enhanced by the reflections below. At a higher level, be aware of the light pockets in the sky and water - perhaps look at dodging and burning these light pockets slightly.
SC	Scapes	1	Lions Head night city scape	Dylan	Evans	2180153	10	Gold	This is a very interesting image - I don't think I have ever seen this view of the bay at night, so well planned image. I do think you should apply a thin grey border, to let the viewer know where the image ends/starts.
SC	Scapes	1	Sunrise Kalk Bay	Dylan	Evans	2180154	12	Gold	I think this is a lovely, peaceful landscape, although the impending clouds do hint at a big storm brewing. Your slower shutter speed is well chosen, as the water and waves at the bottom of the screen just adds to the peaceful impact of this image.
SC	Scapes	3	Edward Hopper Meets Shell	Jake	Alletson	2179301	12	Gold	Very, very interesting cityscape, and not something you often see - almost empty petrol station. You have ticked all the boxes, the thin border, the composition, and the well-handled lighting and exposure, well done!
SC	Scapes	3	Peeking through the Early Morning Mist	Jake	Alletson	2179302	12	Gold	Unusual subject, well spotted. This misty landscape has a lot of mood, which adds to the impact. I can see this image hanging in a boardroom - perhaps Eskoms, lol!
SC	Scapes	4	Alexander Bay	Denise	Harvey	2180034	9	Silver	Interesting image of the ships in the bay, and the seagulls add to the story. However, I think to add major impact to this image, you should have waited for a brilliant sunset and then take the photo again. As is, the lighting is a bit flat, although you did handle that well, but it detracts from this image.
SC	Scapes	4	Green cascade 4158	Doug	Couperthwaite	2179128	10	Gold	The repetitive patterns in the roof of this building are very appealing, and add interest to this image. It is a pity that you cut off the edge of the building, and seeing as it is the main subject, this does impact your image.
SC	Scapes	4	Tropical Adventure 4329	Doug	Couperthwaite	2179131	13	Merit	I enjoy this image, you have adhered to many rules in photography here, and it works well, such as the rule of thirds with the canoes. The different textures on the mountain add interest and perspective in this image. Well done!
SC	Scapes	4	Wat Chalong 4283	Doug	Couperthwaite	2179129	11	Gold	Great angle you have photographed this tower at, and this image can also be entered in architectural photo sections. The colours portrayed in this image have major impact, what with the intense blue sky, complemented by the gold and white of the tower. And, of course, a couple of fluffy clouds add to the image.
SC	Scapes	5	07 - Tiverton Canal - 9951	Terry	Burne	2179247	13	Merit	Lovely image, reminiscent of a European canal. I am very glad you did not crop at the top of canal, but kept it in, so that we can see where the bridge ends. This also applies to the border you put in. I must also commend you about pulling in the viewer's eye along the river, by taking it at the angle you did.
SC	Scapes	5	Bokkomlaan Morning	Leon	Heyes	2171151	14	Merit	Lovely, dreamy and misty image, that ticks all the boxes in my opinion. Love it!
SC	Scapes	5	Kamberg Grasslands	Paul	Naude	2180117	12	Gold	If you hadn't put in the Kamberg title, I would have said this is part of the Pampas, taken in Argentina, and the only thing missing here is a horseman, herd of horses racing through this scene. And no, this is not a criticism, it is a lovely image! It is sharp throughout, from the grasses in front to the mountains behind.
SC	Scapes	5	Scottburgh	Vicki	Street	2179204	14	Merit	Lovely, lovely image! The sunset colours, the composition, the lighting, and the planning thereof. My only bit of nitpicking would be to put in a thin grey border, but the rest is almost perfect in my eyes.
W	Wildlife	1	Owlet 2 - CB	Craig	Backhouse	2180052	12	Gold	Lovely portrait of an owl, sharp throughout with a good exposure, and a lovely muted background. Well done.

W	Wildlife	2	Standing together	Jan	Lens	2176226	9	Silver	This is a great image of mushrooms, and can almost be seen as a pattern or texture shot, as these are well portrayed here. The issue with this image however, is that there are lots of mushrooms that are over-exposed, and thus no detail is found in parts of this image; furthermore, the image has no focal point for the eyes to rest on. So, when taking an image like this, choose a particularly big or beautiful mushroom and use this as your focal point.
W	Wildlife	2	Taking a break	Jan	Lens	2176215	8	Silver	You have caught a beautiful dragonfly, but unfortunately, the image seems manipulated with in Photoshop, with the different green backgrounds under the wings. This is not allowed in the wildlife category.
W	Wildlife	2	Waiting for my victim	Jan	Lens	2176214	10	Gold	Nice image of a waiting spider, hiding in plain sight in his environment. The strands of leaves he is on seem to elongate his long legs as well.
W	Wildlife	3	Angry Bird	Andrew	van den Berg	2180080	9	Silver	The bird is taken at a fascinating angle - he seems to be coming straight at you, the viewer, which lends a lot of impact to the image. However, I do think that you have over-sharpened this bird, as is evidenced by the halo around the wings. I am also questioning the very blue bits around his legs and wingtips - they do not make any sense to me, and seem to be manipulated?
W	Wildlife	3	Biscuit - DB	Diane	Backhouse	2180010	11	Gold	Lovely image of a male lion, all is sharp that should be sharp, and the rest of the image does not detract from the main subject, so well done.
W	Wildlife	3	Collector	Andrew	van den Berg	2180058	12	Gold	Lovely macro image with this bee stuck all over with pollen. Although the bee is not sharp throughout, I think it doesn't distract from the main subject, which is the bee collecting pollen all over his body. I like the close-up angle as well.
W	Wildlife	3	Madam Weaver - DB	Diane	Backhouse	2180007	12	Gold	Lovely close-up of this weaver, with all her feather details in sharp focus. Her eyes and beak are also in focus, and you have handled the lighting well. The background, in my opinion, does not detract from this image. Well done!
W	Wildlife	3	Red Dragonfly - DB	Diane	Backhouse	2180005	10	Gold	Lovely capture of this red dragonfly, and his pose is great, as it shows off those beautiful wings. I am not convinced that the entire insect is sharp enough though, so focus on this when photographing insects. Also look at focus-stacking (Which is very difficult to do with insects in the wild, I know) as an option to getting insects pin-sharp from head to tail.
W	Wildlife	4	Funny Funny	Denise	Harvey	2180036	11	Gold	The laughing Nyala, a good caption. You have a great, sharp portrait of this antelope, I can even see three flies on the horns. The background is muted enough to not be a distraction, and the crop does work well.
W	Wildlife	5	Beware The One With The Mad Eye	Maxi	Holder	2177461	12	Gold	I think this is an excellent buffalo portrait, it is pinsharp, well-lit and you have a good composition here. I enjoy the details on the horns, and his poor bloody ears, shame the flies must really get to these animals.
W	Wildlife	5	Cape Sugarbird	Heidi	Taylor	2176445	9	Silver	These birds are so fast, and so tiny, it is great to capture them. Can I advise - to elevate this bird to a higher level and rating - to wait (with lots of patience) until the bird is sitting on something before taking the image? In this way the bird does not compete with the surrounding flora.
W	Wildlife	5	Cormorant in Flight	Ronelle	van den Heever	2180095	12	Gold	This is a great capture of a bird in flight, and you have managed to get this right and have the bird pinsharp on top of it - well done! It is a pity that the background is as dark as the bird's wings, so they do tend to merge into each other a bit, but that is often out of your control.
W	Wildlife	5	Golden Light	Maxi	Holder	2177463	12	Gold	Lovely shot of a Little Bee-eater, in a lovely light - one can even see the dot in the eye with this image. I also like the crop, and although there are quite a bit of branches in this image, they do not distract from the bird itself.
W	Wildlife	5	The Rainbow Fly	Leon	Heyes	2179768	13	Merit	Lovely image of the pinsharp fly on the orange or whatever he is landed on. I like the orange background, it complements the greens and blues in the fly itself. The details of the eyes and face, and even part of the body is just amazing, excellent capture!