

Scoresheet for May 2023 Technical Challenge Monochrome Bev

Cat	Star	Frist	Last	Title	Score	Award	Comment	
TC	1	Marisan	Victor	Apocalypse Air-head	13	Merit	Clear story, Uncluttered with subject matter. strong subject for B & W conversion. Great depth through the tonal range. Well done	
TC	1	wynand	lens	Fly	7	Silver	Ideal subject for B & W conversion. I like the inclusion of the little stick, it tells a story. The long landscape format is very pleasing. A little more detail in the blacks of the face would have lifted this to a gold	
TC	1	Dylan	Evans	Spiral staircase	10	Gold	Strong shapes and circles creating drama. Tonal range well handled.	
TC	1	Marisan	Victor	The shapes of my heart	10	Gold	Another uncluttered image with clear lines and shapes which always make for great B & W.	
TC	1	wynand	lens	The Stare	10	Gold	Good story telling and the model although not looking at the viewer is captivating. Image would benefit by cropping from the left. (try most of the time to stick to the conventional sizes like the ones set out in PS) This would also improve the balance of the image	
TC	1	Marisan	Victor	When Harry met Sally	8	Silver	B & W conversion is ok, just loosing some detail in the blacks. Image would be strenghtened by cropping much of the right and a bit of the left. The middle background leaf is leading the eye out the image	
TC	1	wynand	lens	Wings on a rock	6	Bronze	You've seperated your subject nicely from the background, but unfortunately your very shallow depth of field has left much of the subject out of focus.	
TC	2	Mags	Vosloo	Crowned Eagle	10	Gold	Beautiful and sharp, great eye detail is holding the viewers attention. A bit of noise is causing loss of detail but not too distracting	
TC	2	Jan	Lens	Four eyes	8	Silver	Overall darkness adds to the ominous nature of the subject. But it appears to be oversharpened	
TC	2	Jan	Lens	Shoemaker watching the elves	9	Silver	The Sepia tonal range adds to the quaintness of the story. Coming down lower so as to view more of the face would have made the viewer more engaged. Lifting your midrange tones will lift this image as tones are a bit flat.	
TC	2	Mags	Vosloo	Soaring Microlight	10	Gold	Stong shape, tick, uncluttered, tick, sharp, tick. Would have liked to see the sky in the same tones as the white in the glider as at the moment it looks cream by comparison	
TC	2	Jan	Lens	Waars die kos	9	Silver	Nice uncluttered background focuses your attention on the subject, unfortunately you are losing focus around the eye. Image is also too dark so you are losing detail in the dark areas of the bird.	
TC	2	Mags	Vosloo	Waiting for You	13	Merit	Gorgeous image. Lovely balance in the composition. Sepia adds to the "old world" story. Subtle sky detail adding interest. Well done	Junior Winner
TC	3	Andrew	van den Berg	Dark Moon	9	Silver	interesting subject for B & W conversion. Nice and sharp. Your moon somehow has taken on an egg shape rather than a round shape. Not sure if this happened when you were cropping.	
TC	3	Meleney	Naik	Dragon Breath	10	Gold	I liked your subject choice, your light was well placed. Could improve the comp by tilting the whole image slightly so the smoke is not coming straight out in a line, but more of an angle. I get the refrence to a dragon, but still think it doesn't deter from the dragon refrence by tilting.	
TC	3	Meleney	Naik	Fighter Pilot	10	Gold	Great tonal range. Nice and sharp. Enough visibility of the "Prop" to give a story. I would have prefered a crop from the left, the space on the left is not adding to the image.	
TC	3	Andrew	van den Berg	Generations	8	silver	Your adult zebra is beautiful and sharp with great eye detail. The out of focus foals are not adding to the image in fact they are distracting. Cropping them out makes a stronger image	
TC	3	Jake	Alletson	Heading for Umgeni Poort	DQ Out of date			
TC	3	Andrew	van den Berg	Intense Flight	9	Silver	Nice and sharp around the plane, don't be afraid of the midtones which need lifting and they will bring more detail in the dark areas. Not sure if the sky was added in later as it looks odd, there is also dust spots in the top right.	
TC	3	Jake	Alletson	It was a Dark and Stormy Night	9	Silver	Dark and moody it certainly is, I understand the desire to keep the image dark as that is the mood you are going for, but once again some lifting of the midtones and whites would improve the image. It is overall too dark	
TC	3	Meleney	Naik	Sonica in High Key	9	Silver	Model is nicely posing and I like the flow in the fabric behind hiding some of your busy background. Just watch posing a model in bright sunlight, it often causes squinting in the eyes.	
TC	4	Liesl	Couperthwaite	big buddha	9	Silver	A strong shape in the subject but lack of shadows on the statue has made for a flat B & W conversion	
TC	4	Denise	Harvey	Bits and Pieces	11	Gold	I enjoy the sepia tones applied here they add to the story. Removing the colour from an image like this loses the busy background and focuses your attention on the subject. Nice edit well done	
TC	4	Doug	Couperthwaite	Building vs Nature 4159	11	Gold	Architecture always make great subjects for B & W conversion. Good composition . Well done	
TC	4	Doug	Couperthwaite	Enchanted Forest 4536	9	Silver	Wonderful texture in the tree and my eye wonders to the "owl like" face at the top of the tree. But garden images can often be too busy for Mono, and that's what is letting you down here	

TC	4	Cornelia	Appel	Hat and Man	11	Gold	I love this style of portraiture, its always very dramatic, you would have jumped to a merit if there was just a little more detail in the shirt where the arm is holding the hat thus connecting the arm to the body and not appear "out of the dark"
TC	4	Liesl	Couperthwaite	its an eagle	10	Gold	Well presented image, can't stop looking at those claws digging into her arms. Because you've made your overall image lean to the whites you are losing detail in the feathers. Before converting to B & W pull your highlights slider in raw to the left, this should bring more detail in those areas
TC	4	Doug	Couperthwaite	New Growth 4550	7	Silver	I can see the attraction here for strong textures but when broken down to B & W it's quite busy, also you have blown out your whites, crop out the top right for a stronger composition and image.
TC	4	Denise	Harvey	Old House	10	gold	Old buildings always make great B & W conversion. The inclusion of the pillars gives good leading lines. Well spotted
TC	4	Denise	Harvey	Old Wall	13	Merit	Wonderful image. Because you've maintained a tonal range from blacks, mid tones and whites all the stones are oozing their character. The inclusion of the little window just breaks the pattern of the wall and leaves the viewer wondering what's through there? Great image well done!
TC	4	Cornelia	Appel	SilverStream	7	Silver	A nice uncluttered subject you've spotted for your B & W. Not too sure what's happening with the window, but it appears crooked, narrower at the one end and not straight. Not sure if this was edited. Tones are also flat.
TC	4	Cornelia	Appel	Small Car	10	Gold	I like your subject and the textured but reflective surface you have placed the car on. You could have easily got a merit had you brought more details out in your darks. Add a levels or curves adjustment layer will bring out more detail and because there is a mask you can paint out the area's like your background where you don't want it to take effect.
TC	5	Heidi	Taylor	Abstract Waterfall	DQ Colour		I'm so sad as this is such a nice image, but there is colour in the image
TC	5	Rob	Hart	Baboon spider 4050 in mono	10	Gold	In focus on the face with good tonal range. Just a little oversharpened.
TC	5	Vicki	Street	Bronwyn	14	Merit	Beautiful beautiful image. Lovely use of light with dark and light areas, excellent light on the subject. VWD
TC	5	Paul	Naude	Contrasts	9	Silver	Yes great contrast between the egg and the bark. However the egg is just crying out for a bit of shadow to enhance its shape, it is appearing very two dimensional.
TC	5	Heidi	Taylor	Fibre optic flowers	10	Gold	great title, I'm expecting the lights to be turned on any minute. Strong lines and form. Well done
TC	5	Stephen	Pryke	Funghal Dragon	6	Bronze	Yes you have bright whites and dark blacks, but for a good B & W you need well defined shape and line. I am struggling to make anything out here. The large dark area on the left is not helping. Image also appears oversharpened
TC	5	Heidi	Taylor	Fungi fans	10	Gold	Strong shapes with a repeating pattern, small aperture adds focus in the front. Don't be afraid to enhance your midtones to make the image pop
TC	5	Maxi	Holder	Future Supply Of Pumpkin Fritters	10	Gold	lovely edit, light coming in from the side accentuates the form. Would have been wonderful to have a bit of reflection under the pumpkin so it doesn't appear floating
TC	5	Maxi	Holder	Gooseberry Skeleton	10	Gold	Strong subject for B & W, same comment as previous image, I can just make out a reflection, but adjusting levels would help and the subject would not be floating.
TC	5	Vicki	Street	Hannah	14	Merit	Another gorgeous image. The light is just exquisite. Softness of the dress adds to the softness of the subject. This is how to convert to B & W. Well deserved Merit
TC	5	Carol	Phillips	horse power	10	Gold	Lovely strong form, whites well handles, just watch the editing of the mane it's a bit "cut off"
TC	5	Paul	Naude	It is but a Tree	10	Gold	I enjoy the abstract quality of this image, nice strong lines and you've lost no detail in the trunk. Well done
TC	5	Leon	Heyes	Juvenile Martial	10	Gold	Wow awesome eye detail, really engaging. Good B & W edit.
TC	5	Terry	Burne	Leon 4585	10	Gold	Great low key profile portrait. Enhancing your whites a tad would have really elevated this
TC	5	Terry	Burne	Lorraine 4582	10	Gold	Engaging portrait, hat gives nice curves, a tighter crop would make a stronger composition
TC	5	Tracey	Rhodes	Mono droplets	9	Silver	Droplets add another shape to the fingers of the flower, but your comp and crop are letting you down. There is just too much darkness around the flower, some bokeh would have really enhanced the delicate nature of the flower.
TC	5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Neighbourhood regular Mono	DQ Colour		Such a pity such a great image has colour around the eye and in the hair
TC	5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Ooley Owl	10	Gold	Great pic, don't be afraid of your midtones, you can still maintain darks and light, but all your detail is in the midtones. The image jumps out at you when enhanced.
TC	5	Maxi	Holder	Pharoah Duck And Ducklings	9	Silver	Good composition and nice reflection unfortunately they all appear soft
TC	5	Leon	Heyes	Pointing Skywards	10	Gold	Strong and striking almost abstract. Well done
TC	5	Vicki	Street	Prima Ballerina	13	Merit	What an exquisite model, such old world looks. Lighting excellent with great tonal range throughout
TC	5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Spider Bee	10	Gold	Exciting capture, both subjects are sharp, good story line. Well done

TC	5	Stephen	Pryke	Stairway of Rain drops	10	Gold	Strong subject, good comp coming in from the top left corner. Just losing a bit of sharpness top and bottom but not enough to detract from the overall image
TC	5	Paul	Naude	The Past in the Future	10	Gold	Old buildings are great subject matter and the brickwork adds great texture. Your whites are a bit blown out losing that definition in the brickwork.
TC	5	Tracey	Rhodes	Wheeleie	13	Merit	Excellent image, background is not intrusive, face is clearly visible, nice and sharp and not oversharpened. VWD
TC	5	Carol	Phillips	wild and free	13	Merit	Lovely strong shape and form, good cropping, excellent work
TC	5	Leon	Heyes	Wild but Wonderful	15	Merit	What a refreshing Mono edit, proving that a monochrome can be subtle. There are still darks and still whites, but the gentle handling of the greys/midtones enhances the delicate nature of flowers. Excellent work. VWD
TC	5	Rob	Hart	Zebra groupy in mono	10	Gold	The ideal subject for mono, nothing wrong with a "bum" view its made a great pic. Well done

Senior Winner

senior image Wild but Wonderful
Junior Waiting for you

Notes: A lot of images suffer from being oversharpened
Many could have been enhanced by a curves or levels adjustment (which would also show in their histogram)
the midtones suffered from harsh handling. In the process you lose a lot of detail.