

Cat	Cat Name	Star	Title	Score	Award	Firstname	Lastname	Comment
AS	Action And Sport	4S	Safe Landing	11	Gold	Jan	Lens	Good PJ shot telling a story. Image is sharp and the saturation look natural. There are several very dark areas where there is no detail. It would be good to see a bit more detail in the face. Try lifting the shadows. The face will stand out a lot more for a more striking image.
AS	Action And Sport	6S1	Hockey Action	12	Gold	Leon	Heyes	Good clean image, sharp and well exposed. The action has been captured and the expression on the player in red clear to see. Composition works. Having the ball in the shot is always a plus. Would have been nice to see more of the face of player on the right. A good portrayal of typical hockey action.
NB	Nature Birds Only	1S	Looking for my next meal	11	Gold	Sandra	Comrie	Good image of this crested eagle. Inclusion of the branch gives context to the image. The image is sharp and while the exposure is good, it would be better to see a bit more detail in the feathers of the bird. There are some areas, especially above the birds left claw where detail is almost lost. Maybe a slight lift in shadows will improve the overall exposure. The bird is relatively small in the frame. Try cropping some off the top and left to move the branch into the corner. This will make the bird larger in the image as well as create a strong diagonal line.
NB	Nature Birds Only	1S	Malachite Beauty	12	Gold	Lyzette	Gray	The exposure on the front of this malachite is very good. The eye is pin sharp as well as the beak, right to the tip. Dreamy background which compliments the colours of the bird. The angle of the light has placed the back of the bird into shadow which can be recovered in post processing to show more of the detail there. Overall, a pleasing image.
NB	Nature Birds Only	1S	The Hunter	12	Gold	Lyzette	Gray	Good portrayal of this heron. It stands out well against the dark background. Nice and sharp with plenty of detail. Even though the background is busy, it is dark enough to not be too distracting. Inclusion of the reflection adds an extra dimension. Composition works.
NB	Nature Birds Only	1S	Twisted	12	Gold	Lyzette	Gray	Excellent timing in this shot to portray the interaction. One bird having its beak open adds to the story. Detail in the whites and the blacks so well done there. Everything is sharp where it needs to be. Mottled background slightly distracting. Try darkening the background just a bit to make the birds pop more in the image.
NB	Nature Birds Only	4S	Incoming	11	Gold	Mags	Vosloo	This image makes the viewer wonder where the vulture is going to land. The action has been well captured and the exposure well handled with maybe just a bit too much shadow on the tail of main bird. It may have been nice to see more of the vultures on the ground as the crop is awkward on most of the birds. As this is a horizontal image due to the wings of the main vulture, it may create a stronger image if the image is more landscape orientation by cropping off some of the sky at the top. Some of the image comes across as over sharpened so just check that. Overall, an interesting image.
NB	Nature Birds Only	4S	Looking down	10	Gold	Jan	Lens	The bird has been captured well with lots of detail. The strong point of this image is the texture, in the bird as well as the wood of the perch. Background is clean and the tone almost creates a monotone image. Not sure if the background was tidied up in post processing, but there is a halo, especially down the front of the bird. Sort that out and you will have a very pleasing image.

NB	Nature Birds Only	4S	Maestro	11	Gold	Mags	Vosloo	High impact image of this vulture with the wings wide open. Portrays the size of the bird. Composition works well and the background is enough to not detract but still allow the viewer to see the environment. The light was quite harsh as can be seen from the bright areas on the wings. The light also, unfortunately, was coming from the wrong side which has left the bird's face in shadow. This might also be a shadow from the wing.
NB	Nature Birds Only	4S	Malachite	12	Gold	wynand	lens	A very arty shot of this malachite. Very minimalistic. The background is very unusual but compliments the image. For me, the only downside is the dappled light on the bird as this results in the bird not popping out the image as much as one would like. Some detail is lost in the wing facing the viewer, but this be due to shadow on that part of the bird.
NB	Nature Birds Only	4S	Tongue flip	11	Gold	Jan	Lens	The glossy nature of these birds can be challenging to capture but the author has managed this well. Nice highlight in the eye and action with the meal. Some loss of detail under the bird's wing, so see if that can be lifted a bit. It would also appear as if the background as been darkened. If so, this works well to make the bird stand out but just check the area between the beak. It does appear lighter than the rest of the background.
NB	Nature Birds Only	5S0	African Harrier Hawk	10	Gold	Heidi	Taylor	Well spotted by the author. The image is sharp but could be underexposed by a third or so. Again, the bird is small in the frame. Using the branches to frame the bird works, but there are two many branches. A tighter crop will improve this image if the resolution allows for it. It appears to have been taken quite far and then cropped already. Also just watch for little things like the bit of branch in the top right corner. I can easily be cropped out.
NB	Nature Birds Only	5S3	And so the weaving begins	11	Gold	Ronelle	van den Heever	Photographing these weavers is always interesting. This is obviously at the start of nest building. The weaver is sharp, but the image comes across as dark, so lift the exposure to create more impact. The crop allows us to see the long strips of leaves which can be seen as leading lines to the bird. As these strips are vertical, it is essential that the crop stays in portrait format, so try cropping a bit off the left, some more off the right and then off the top and bottom to keep the current ratios about the same. This will make the bird larger in the frame and along with the lift in exposure should create a stronger image.
NB	Nature Birds Only	5S3	Hanging on	13	Merit	Des	van Tonder	The light falling on this weaver makes the shot. The bird grabs the eye immediately. Lovely and sharp with enough of the nest to show us what the bird is doing. Wings outstretched. Lovely muted background. Well taken,
NB	Nature Birds Only	5S3	Ibis Strut	12	Gold	Des	van Tonder	The title says it all. The ibis on a purposeful march. Muted light brings out the detail and the exposure is well handled. If the author could have waited just a bit longer to avoid the object behind the bird, it would have made for a stronger image as the bird does blend to some extent. The white areas at the top of the image are slightly distracting so try toning those down a bit. Depth of field works well in this image.

NB	Nature Birds Only	5S3	Malachite with catch	12	Gold	Ronelle	van den Heever	Having a bird with a catch always makes for a more interesting image. Here the bird is well captured with a perfect profile. Colours are true and all the detail is there. Most would like to see the bird a bit larger. The perch is the largest part of this image and does not add value. Try removing about half of the perch and then crop tighter left and right may improve this image.
NB	Nature Birds Only	5S3	Pelican fishing	10	Gold	Ronelle	van den Heever	Interesting and unusual image. The curves and shapes formed by the light create interest. The left hand side of the bird is mainly in shadow without much detail. If that can be lifted a bit it will strengthen the image. The only downside is that the head of the pelican blends into what appears to the wing at the back which makes the bird look awkward. Reflection works well and the green areas in the water add some extra interest.
NN	Nature No Birds	1S	Four-striped grass mouse	12	Gold	Dylan	Evans	Well spotted and taken by the author. These are elusive subjects. Sharp, well exposed and lots of detail in the fur. This was a challenging image exposure wise, as there are very dark areas and very bright areas. This can be improved with a tighter crop to remove some of the bright areas above the ears, some off the bottom and left to remove that white area in the bottom left corner. Darkening the bright rock at the back would balance the exposure and lessen the impact of the heavy shadow of the mouse. For a 1 star this is well captured though
NN	Nature No Birds	2S	Under the Berg	12	Gold	Noxolo	Kheswa	Landscape with a difference. Leading line taking us from the front right through to the valley between the two main mountains. What appears to be smoke adds drama to the image. What is detracting from this image are the bright areas above the two main peaks. it is most noticeable on the peak on the left. Not sure if this was due to post processing. Correct that and you will have a stronger image.
NN	Nature No Birds	4S	Pink Dragon	12	Gold	wynand	lens	These praying mantises are not easy to see and even harder to capture. The author has done well here, with the image sharp where it needs to be. A deeper depth of field, or focus stacking (if possible) would improve this image as the flower is about the size of the mantis and out of focus. It is also bright and competing with the mantis for attention. darken that a bit and see if it works for you. The muted background really complements this image.
NN	Nature No Birds	5S1	Natures Camo	11	Gold	Maxi	Holder	The image matches the title. One can see how the colouring of the cheetah matches the grass. Image is sharp and the muted light aids in bringing out the detail. Backgrounds comes across as busy, but that is the environment. Unfortunate for the bright strip under the front paw of the cheetah, but cannot be remove in a nature category. No marks deducted for that. Well captured. Not sure how well it would do in a salon.
NN	Nature No Birds	5S3	Resting fly	13	Merit	Des	van Tonder	Pin sharp, perfectly exposed, a prime example of a good macro. The fly stands out against the bright leaf which could perhaps be toned down ever so slightly. The large area above the leaf does not add value, but cropping that out would mean taking more off the left to avoid a "panorama" of this fly. Just play with the crop and see if you can get a stronger image. Otherwise, spot on and well taken.

NN	Nature No Birds	5S4	Armoured golden fly	12	Gold	Rob	Hart	Extreme close up of this fly with most of the detail nice and sharp. Some parts of the fly require focus stacking to really improve this shot, but not always possible. The lighting appears to be quite harsh as there are bright highlights on the body of the fly. there are also slight halos around the fly, especially around the wings. It is an image with impact. Correcting those minor points will give you a stunning image.	
NN	Nature No Birds	5S4	Long neck necking	12	Gold	Rob	Hart	Interesting image of these two giraffes. Exposure is spot on as these two jump out the frame and are well separated from the background. There are some busy areas, but in this case, portrays their habitat, the only slight distraction being the out of focus brown branches in front at the bottom. Overall a pleasing image.	
NN	Nature No Birds	6S1	The Safety of Moms Arms	13	Merit	Leon	Heyes	Impact and an "aaahhh" moment. The detail the author has captured makes this image as the eyes grab your attention immediately, especially with the texture in the eyelids. Composition works well, leaving enough of the mother to tell the story. If I had to nitpick, I would tone down the green area on left as that is the only "distraction" in an otherwise excellent image.	
OP	Open	1S	Fly away with me	11	Gold	Nyasha	Godoka	Image with a difference. Three always works well so they say. I can understand what the author wants to achieve with this image, but the separation of the balloons, especially the one at the bottom does not create a cohesive, balanced image. As this is open, it would be possible to cut and move the bottom balloon to a stronger position, creating a strong triangle of balloons. The moon is an interesting touch but is too small and is lost in the strong shapes of the balloons. Good attempt from a 1 star.	
OP	Open	1S	Heaven	12	Gold	Nyasha	Godoka	Minimalism supreme. Pretty sky, offset by a single bird. The concept does work, even though the bird is very central in the composition. Just check your processing as there are halos around the bird. Awesome concept from a 1 star.	
OP	Open	1S	Prayer for rain	12	Gold	Nyasha	Godoka	The bland sky describes the title. The mono conversion is good, but could do with a touch more contrast which will bring out the texture and shadows in the ground. Image is balanced with the two smaller tree on the left and the large one on the right. Straighten your horizon and this image will do well.	
OP	Open	1S	Too close for comfort	13	Merit	Sandra	Comrie	Hard to say if this image was taken like this or inverted in post processing but it creates an interesting image. Movement in the prop and the pilot is visible. Exposure is well handled. Would be great to see a bit more of the pilot's face, so some minor dodging there could lift those shadows a bit. Overall excellent image for a 1 star.	Junior Winner
OP	Open	1S	Tumbling in the sea	11	Gold	Sandra	Comrie	A PJ type shot. Sharp and exposed correctly. The title explains the scene but does not explain the story. The image lacks context. Are there others in the sea? Is this part of a custom? Well taken for a 1 star, but as you move up these are things you will need to consider. Taking the photo from a lower angle with create more engagement with the subject and the large rock on the foreground distracts. For future reference, also check the direction of light as it is coming from the left, highlighting the subject's back while leaving the face in shade. It has been well handled though.	

OP	Open	3S	A possible nest	11	Gold	Joan	Lindegger	The detail of the can with the rust makes for an interesting subject. The light is muted resulting in no shadows and highlights on the can so it comes across as flat. The large leaf in the top left has been amputated. To improve this image, either remove the large leaf or leave it in completely. Wait for, or create more dramatic light to really add impact to this image.	
OP	Open	3S	Anchors	10	Gold	Joan	Lindegger	The rust and ropes make for a different image. The image is sharp and well exposed. There is too much happening in this image and your eye scans around looking for a main subject and there isn't one. There is too much for it to be abstract. Try focusing closer on something specific, such as the rope going through the hole which will declutter the image and create a stronger focal point. This image also requires some side light to bring out the textures and create depth through shadows and highlights.	
OP	Open	3S	Rock pool	10	Gold	Joan	Lindegger	The author has captured the essence of a rock pool. We can see the seaweed and rocks, and the algae right through the water. The reflections on the surface of the water have been well handled. Again, as for the previous image, less is more. There is not strong focal point. My eye keeps going to the bright rock at the top, but that is not the most interesting part of the image. Look for something specific that grabs your attention and make that your focal point by putting on a strong point in you composition and using depth of field to make is the sharpest object in your image with the rest having enough detail to tell the story. Experiment when taking photos. Change your f stop, change your exposure and try different compositions. Take as many shots as you can and then see what works the best.	
OP	Open	4S	all the coloured pencils	14	Merit	JOAN	JUNG	Impact, impact, impact. Vibrant colours, perfectly arranges, the circle almost being hypnotic. Just proves that good images can be found anywhere. All you need is imagination. Nothing I can add here.	Senior Winner
OP	Open	4S	Blue Mushroom	13	Merit	Mags	Vosloo	Good example of water drop photography. Good timing, clean image with interesting colours. This image has impact. To improve this image, I would remove that one bright drop near the top right corner and straighten the image. It seems to be leaning to the right slightly. Excellent shot.	
OP	Open	4S	Capadocian Pottery	13	Merit	Meleney	Naik	Very unusual image and it works. Symmetry, shapes and repetition make for a strong image. Exposure is spot on. This is an image you can experiment with for a long time. Try this image as a high contract mono. It would be stunning. You could also colour one object, say red and then convert the rest to mono. As I said, this image makes an awesome playground.	
OP	Open	4S	Lightbulb Moment	13	Merit	Meleney	Naik	Very creative. Gives the illusion the subject is melting. The inclusion of the drops adds to the drama. For me, the image needs a bit more exposure as I would like to see more in the copper part of the image. Add some vibrance to make the purple and copper stars of your show.	
OP	Open	4S	little buttercup	11	Gold	Liesl	Couperthwaite	Sweet moment captured here. Subject is in a strong position and comes across as a candid shot. Depth of field is good. Nice that the clothing matches the flowers. Just watch the exposure as the areas on the shoulder of the girl are blown out. Further post processing could help this image a lot. Reduce the highlights and bump the vibrance a tad could make this image pop.	

OP	Open	4S	nostalgic moment	12	Gold	JOAN	JUNG	Well composed flay lay table top. Textures in the wood work well and the colours are all complimentary. Just keep in mind that too many elements can be overpowering. Writing will always attract the viewers attention first. The book and postcard are OK, but the large tiles spelling "Love You" seems out of context in this image. This is personal taste though. The composition is pleasing and the exposure is well handled.
OP	Open	4S	purple heart splash	12	Gold	JOAN	JUNG	The heart shaped crown makes this image. Very unusual and the inclusion of the shadow works well. The green area of the column reflects well in the water bringing another dimension. Try playing with some colour grading on the water to brighten up the greyish effect which makes up most of your image. Overall though, well shot.
OP	Open	4S	River Surfing	11	Gold	Doug	Couperthwaite	PJ/sport type shot. Even though the light looks hard, the author has controlled the exposure well. The whites in the surf might be slightly too bright, but they are not blown out. The background is dark enough to not be a distraction. The moment is captured in this image. Personally I would like to see to a bit more to the left. This will also move the subject out of the centre of the composition.
OP	Open	4S	the girl on the train	11	Gold	Liesl	Couperthwaite	This image is all about the lady on the train. She is the main focal point so the images works in that respect. The light on her is very bright resulting in some bright white areas on her top. I understand the author included the number and logos on the left to give context, but as they are also in the light tend to be distracting. The top part of the window frame is not level. The warp tool in post processing can correct this to strengthen the image. Reduce the highlights, straighten the frame and see if you have a stronger image.
OP	Open	4S	up and up and up	12	Gold	Liesl	Couperthwaite	It took me a while to realise what I was looking at and then my eye was taken right up to the top, from the light area, through the dark area and back to the light at the top. The inclusion of the two people, in a strong position works well. Exposure and depth of field are well handled. Remove the strip of light on the bottom left right against the edge to improve this image.
OP	Open	4S	Yellow Shadows	11	Gold	wynand	lens	Unusual and moody shot of a weaver. Good use of negative space adds to the mood here, so the composition works well. In the context of the image the shadows behind the bird do not bother me, but I would like to see a bit more detail in the blacks on the face. There is also a strange area across the middle of the bird where it looks like some highlights were burnt but resulted in loss of detail and a colour that does not match the rest of the bird. Rework those areas and you can have a striking image.
OP	Open	5S0	White wildflowers	10	Gold	Heidi	Taylor	Good mono conversion on these flowers. There is detail in the whites and while there is some detail in the dark centres of the flowers, lifting those areas would benefit this image. My main concern regarding this image is that it is two images. I am not sure which one to look at, so I keep moving from one to the other. The grey objects in the background do not detract. Having all the flowers in focus would also improve this image as the front unsharp petals do detract from the image.

OP	Open	5S1	Braving the Waves	10	Gold	Stephen	Pryke	Very unusual image. Using a slow shutter speed to show the movement in the water while keeping the subject sharp is well done. The image though, cannot decide if the subject and rocks are silhouettes or if there should be detail. I would like to see a bit more detail in the rocks. Also, look at the fishing rod. It is breaking up into sections. There is also a magenta area at the top in the clouds which does seem to match the rest of the image. This can all be easily sorted in post processing to create a stunning image.
OP	Open	5S1	Heron InFlight	9	Silver	Stephen	Pryke	Birds in flight are not easy and the author has captured a typical bird in flight image. While the bird is relatively sharp, there is no detail in the feathers under the wings. This might be due to noise reduction or an extreme crop. There are also lighter areas around the head, between the feathers of the back wing, around the talons and between the legs where they join the bird. This can be corrected in post, but the lack of detail brings this image down.
OP	Open	5S1	Hey What Happened To The Brake Pedal	10	Gold	Maxi	Holder	A comical moment captured here. Image is well captured, exposed correctly with the shutter speed capturing the movement in the water. This is a PJ type shot and although technically OK, lacks impact as shot. I am sure the rower would be happy with this image.
OP	Open	5S1	Private dancer	12	Gold	Tracey	Rhodes	Precise moment captured with the one leg perfectly horizontal. Flowing fabric is interesting and the lighting is good in this image. You can see the concentration on the dancer's face and all the detail in the hair. While the background is clean, there is no context regarding the dancer so the image is a study of form and shape, more than a story telling image.
OP	Open	5S1	Rays of Morning Light	11	Gold	Stephen	Pryke	An image with mood and drama as the rays come through from the back. The light hitting the mist adds to the drama. The inclusion of the trees hanging into the image gives context as to where the photographer was standing, but clutter the image a bit. For me, the hero of this image is the light hitting the edge of the light green area in the middle, lower part of the image. The image would also benefit if the plant in the left front foreground was not there. Push the contrast, lower the highlights and lift the shadows to emphasise the strong points in this image.
OP	Open	5S5	bottle and ball	13	Merit	Carol	Phillips	Striking image. The greens and blues working well together and brought out stronger in the circle of the lid. Almost an abstract but with a strong focal point. One for the purists. Well thought out and well captured.
OP	Open	6S1	Orchid Spray	12	Gold	Leon	Heyes	The lighting used here is nice and soft which shows the details in the petals. The image is sharp throughout. The few drops present do not really contribute to the image. Slightly more dramatic lighting to create harder shadows would create depth to this image. Also try flipping the image so it flows left to right, which is a more natural flow.
PJ	Photo Journalism	4S	The First Lady	11	Gold	Meleney	Naik	Interesting PJ host having a runner and a cyclist, but I would assume the cyclist is for support of the runner. The image tells the story but the story is about the runner who is quite small in the image and not the main focal point. Crop the image just after the person in the background with the orange bib and remove most of the trees at the top as that is not adding anything to your image. Although this puts the main subject in the centre of the image, she does become the main focal point.

PO	Portrait	5S0	Xavier	12	Gold	Paul	Naude	Very high key image and the white vignette does enhance the centre of the image. They say that high key forces us to look at the darks while low key forces us to look at the highlights. For me, the darks are not dark enough in this image. Just add a bit more black to this image to make those eyes pop and this could be a winner.
PO	Portrait	5S4	Serious security	11	Gold	Rob	Hart	Unusual profile portrait, lovely and sharp, with all the required detail. The mono conversion, however, needs more processing as it comes across as a grey image. Using the B&W sliders in camera raw, one could darken the hat or shirt to create more range in the image. I cannot say for certain without seeing the original colour image. Also, just remove the "smudge" at the end of the nose to tidy up the image.
SC	Scapes	1S	Matjiesfontein Rooftop	13	Merit	Dylan	Evans	Well seen and well captured. The single point is well framed by the two doubles. Exposure is good, showing the detail in the whites and the darks. Enough cloud in the sky to alleviate the plain blue. Reduce the highlights ever so slightly to bring back some details in the sides below the double points and remove the small sensor spot to the left of the left double stack. You can also try this as a mono. For a 1 star, excellent image.
SC	Scapes	2S	City sCape	12	Gold	Noxolo	Kheswa	Pleasing view of this city, taken from a high vantage point and also unusual in portrait format. Mono conversion is good but it would be good to see more drama in the sky. If that is not possible, then less sky would also work. Straighten the horizon to improve the image.
SC	Scapes	2S	North Pier	12	Gold	Noxolo	Kheswa	Waves from the side always works well in images. Plenty of detail in the water, offset by the pier coming in from the left with the arch in the far distance. Pleasing colours in the sky. Horizon is almost dead centre in the image so try changing the composition to create a stronger image. Personally, I think there is more interest in the water than the sky, so you can drop the sky to just above where the orange starts and see if you prefer the crop. This will also result in more of a landscape orientation. Push the vibrance just tad for a bit more pop.
SC	Scapes	4S	Amanzimtoti Sunrise	11	Gold	Doug	Couperthwaite	Interesting clouds and the beach goes add to this image. The inclusion of the buildings adds context and location. The light hitting the main building is very bright with some small hot spots, so toning that down would benefit this image. The area of vegetation is very dark. Lifting that area on post could strengthen this image. Also just watch for the small halos where the roofs touch the sky. Tweaking the camera raw sliders and some dodging and burning could bring this image to life.
SC	Scapes	4S	Roof Cascade	12	Gold	Doug	Couperthwaite	The patterns in the roof are what this image is all about. The pattern is broken with the windmill which adds a needed focal point. The bright path on the left is a leading line but goes nowhere and being in the sun, creates a distraction. Try cropping it out so the image starts with the grey shed on the left where the hedge ends. You could then crop some off the bottom to return to the traditional landscape orientation.
SC	Scapes	5S0	Evidence of arson	12	Gold	Heidi	Taylor	I would say pleasing landscape but the smoke creates an unpleasant story. It does, however, tell a story. The author has captured the essence of this scape well, even though the smoke is creating a haze which obscures some of the details of the mountains. This might also be seen as PJ as well as a scape. Composition and exposure are good. Earlier or later lighting could create a totally different view of this scene.