

SCORESHEET FEB 2025 MONTHLY COMPETITION - LEON H

CAT	SEQ	STAR	Title	SCORE	AWARD	FIRST	LAST	COMMENT
AS	1	5S2	2024 World Cup Downhill - Mont St Anne - 0446	13	Merit	Terry	Burne	Wonderful action depicted here. The chosen shutter speed is just right to show a little bit of movement in the wheels. Pity you couldn't separate the rider from the background a little bit more, because that background is very busy but still; a great image.
NB	1	1S	Black bellied Bustard - CB	9	Silver	Craig	Backhouse	Adequate picture of this bird. As a 1 star worker you have captured the scene to show the bird in it's natural environment. The composition could be a bit more creative, but that will come in time. The image is not quite as sharp as it should be.
NB	2	1S	Catch of the day	9	Silver	Marc	Gordon	You have captured the moment well and that is great. Overall the picture is a little bit light and it could easily have been toned down slightly. The inclusion of the tiny bit of "whatever" at the bottom right corner could also easily have been cropped away. That very stark, broad, white border is a big No No! Try using a stroke border of one or two pixels in a medium to dark grey. Definitely not white, but this image does not need a border.
NB	3	1S	Cattle Egret	10	Gold	Minky	Goodbrand	A white bird in dappled light is always a big problem. You have done pretty well here making sure that the whites are not blown out. Pity you didn't leave more space on the left hand side for the bird to look into. Again, the border is a little bit dominant. Try a thin grey to dark grey border.
NB	4	1S	Eye to eye	13	Merit	Toni	Harley	Great to see the eye to eye detail. Any experienced bird photographer would tell you that this is the ideal situation. Colour and clarity are all good. I just feel a tiny bit could have been cropped off the left side. Great image for a one star worker.
NB	5	1S	Gotcha	11	Gold	Lesley	Marchant	Great moment in time captured here. The colours are great and the clarity is almost great. Yes, it is good to have your subject off centre, but I feel you have gone slightly to the extreme in this case and you could have cropped a little bit off the right side. Pity you didn't get a bit lower down to get the bird more at eye level.
NB	6	1S	I see you	9	Silver	Marc	Gordon	This is not easy subject matter. You have very dark and very light elements in your image, and that causes problems. Something has to give. The lighter areas you have handled well, but unfortunately with these red Bishop birds, that black chest is always a challenge. Here you have lost the detail completely in the blacks. Hope this is a learning curve, that those very dark black feathers are not easy to depict well. It also appears you have over done the de-noising
NB	7	1S	Little birdie told me	10	Gold	Nyasha	Godoka	Beautifully composed and presented image. The position of the bird in the frame as well as the direction that the bird is looking in, is optimal in this image. There is a little bit of digital noise in this image and that can be seen from the spotty background and the lack of clarity in the feathers. At first glance this looks like a great image, but sadly the presence of noise does bring down the score. Still a great image for a 1 star worker

NB	8	1S	Once Upon A Time At The Lily Pond	13	Merit	Jason	Johnstone	Wonderful image with beautiful action captured well. The use of the fast shutter speed has helped to freeze the movement in the fish and the bird and also in the water drops. The clarity and colour are both really really great and for 1 star image, this is an exceptional effort. Nice stroke border, but maybe a tiny bit more could have been included on the left hand side. Well done.
NB	9	1S	Peek A Boo	9	Silver	Sandra	Comrie	There is no mistaking that this is a very well captured image. Your colours, clarity, depth of field and composition are all good. The only thing that worries me is the very dominant wood panelling. In the nature category, human elements are allowed (but not encouraged), but they do have to be very inconspicuous and subtle and not as in-your-face as seen here.
NB	10	1S	Pretty in Pink	7	Silver	Lesley	Marchant	The storytelling is beautiful in this image. The composition is beautiful and the general flow of the image is great but sadly there are some problems. It appears as though you have had a denoising party and this image is completely smooth and slippery, which doesn't look natural. There are no real natural textures and that creates an artificial look.
NB	11	1S	Starling	9	Silver	Nyasha	Godoka	An adequate attempt at a very difficult subject. The reason it is so difficult is that very shiny plumage. The idea of leaving space on the right side is good, but maybe in this case just to tad too much. Sadly the whole image is a little soft and not quite crisp enough for a higher score.
NB	12	1S	The sentry	13	Merit	Toni	Harley	Beautiful image. As mentioned before, these birds are very difficult to capture well. You have been amazingly successful in capturing detail in the black feathers. Sadly, all photographic judges look for this when judging Red Bishops. The red often tends to bleed and get a bit washed out and the black feathers are very often clogged - you have avoided this. Well done. Here the space on the right seems to be correct.
NB	13	3S	Golden Tailed Woodpecker	12	Gold	Derek	Brittain	Another beautiful image, and very well captured. The detail you have managed here is quite amazing. Your composition is also great. The only comment I have is that it could have been presented slightly darker, which would have emphasised the colours more. That would also have benefitted that red crest on it's head. (Good example of reds "bleeding")
NB	14	3S	Gray Heron Fishing - DB	10	Gold	Diane	Backhouse	Another beautiful image, and very well captured. The detail you have managed here is quite amazing. Your composition is also great. The only comment I have is that it could have been presented slightly darker, which would have emphasised the colours more.
NB	15	3S	Scarlet Chested Sunbird	9	Silver	Derek	Brittain	Gosh, you have could have hardly chosen a more difficult subject. All the aspects that I have mentioned before are playing to your disadvantage here. The black and reds are extremely difficult. This is a beautiful sighting but sadly it is not quite sharp either.
NB	16	3S	Striated Heron - DB	13	Merit	Diane	Backhouse	If one has ever watched these Greenback herons fishing you will understand the tension that builds up in their bodies as they wait to strike. Here you have captured that beautifully. The image is palpable and the anticipation of catching a fish is really evident. Nice composition. Beautifully sharp and great storytelling. I really appreciate that the reflection has been included.
NB	17	3S	The Bishop of Lotus	9	Silver	Gustav	de Wet	It is so sad that this cannot be given a higher score. The composition is great, the storytelling is good, but again, we have the same problem with the little Red Bishop. The diffused background is beautiful but in this image there's a lot of sun on that Lotus flower and it is messed a little bit with the balance of the exposure on the bird.

NB	18	4S	Catch of the day	13	Merit	Meleney	Naik	It seems that this heron is very proud to show off the catch that he has just achieved. I read that very strongly in this image. The composition and the focus are all great. Saturation is possibly a little bit high, but not overly so. A big plus is that both eyes are showing clearly. Nice image
NB	19	4S	Late Lunch	13	Merit	wynand	lens	Another little bird that is proudly showing off his catch. Your composition is great and the storytelling is strong. The colours and the focusing are all well handled considering that it looks like a dull light-less day. Well done on a great image.
NB	20	4S	Nothing to see here	11	Gold	Meleney	Naik	Photographing at the hide at Underberg can be a nightmare because of having to photograph through the glass. This can affect your focusing adversely. Here it is borderline. At this site there are sometimes so many birds that it is difficult to isolate 1 as a main subject. Here you have done well and only managed to truncate 1 bird on the left. That is quite a rare occurrence. Well done for a strong story.
NB	21	4S	Snack time	9	Silver	Avril	Janssen	You have done well to isolate the bird from the busy background. You used F8 here and that could have potentially included more focus in the background, but you have done well to avoid that. I suspect this is quite a severe crop off a larger image because the focusing is not quite as sharp as it could be. You have done fairly well in controlling the light on those bright yellow feathers.
NB	22	4S	Spotted Thick-knee defending her nest	9	Silver	Doug	Couperthwaite	Nice storytelling, and not often that one can get so close to these birds. This early morning light is very golden and very complementary to the image although I do think the saturation is possibly a little bit high. Nice composition but I think lifting the shadows a little bit would add value. The whole image is a tiny bit soft.
NB	23	5S0	Riding in the rain	9	Silver	Heidi	Taylor	This subject matter is great and the lighting conditions must have been very difficult. You have managed the focusing and the white feathers very well but sadly, there is a lot of digital noise in the background. I understand that the light is low and I also understand that it is raining. Maybe doing a little bit of de-noising might have helped. Pity we can't see more of the bird's face. Be careful of over saturating.
NB	24	5S1	Purple Crested Turaco	13	Merit	Maxi	Holder	To see a Purple Crested Toraco so clearly to be able to get a decent picture is a real treat. Well done for capturing it so well. It is so beautifully isolated against the background and the colours and the focusing or spot on.
NB	25	5S1	Scruffy Number	12	Gold	Maxi	Holder	He is a scruffy number but he is beautiful in his own right. They are such characters and are very difficult to photograph well. You have captured his cheekiness and his gregarious nature beautifully. He is a real "booga mina"
NB	26	5S3	Its a big world	12	Gold	Des	van Tonder	Yes it is a big world and a very little bird that has to find it's place in that big world. This is exactly the story that I'm getting. Most people will say there's too much space, but I think that space has a certain tension that accommodates a place for that little bird. Beautiful background here and the bird is nicely isolated from that background. Very nice colours and well presented for competition.
NB	27	5S3	Spikey	14	Merit	Ronelle	van den Heever	What strikes me first when looking at this image is the masterful composition. This could hardly have been any better. All the focus is on the thirds on the left side and that is ideal. Beautiful focusing. Great colours and very well presented for competition.

NB	28	6S1	French Cuisine	9	Silver	Leon	Heyes	<p>What a great sighting.</p> <p>This is what most wildlife and birding photographers hope for, that every time the hornbills long beak goes down into the grass, and generally we know that these distractions in the background is just about the type of environment that we're gonna find them in. But we hope that they come up with something and often they're good for these kind of surprises. So here, this immature hornbill, we can see that by its neck gobble. I think that's what it's called and the mottling over the eye it's not yet at full maturity. It has come up and it's found this frog and thrown it up in the air and it will do that several times before it eats it. So good spotting, well seen and now let's talk about the capture. The horizontal crop works very nicely. I don't need to see all the bird because you've actually just given us the the part where the action is all located.</p> <p>strong third. You can also flip this image should you wish to because all the action is happening in the front 15-20% of your image and then it just falls off with a little bit of information about the predator. So if it were my image I would flip it and have it the other way around. Unfortunately on this image I'm finding that it's missed focus. the focus is on the back end of the bird. The eye is sharp, but the feather detail is sharper. And then we go into the beak. The whites have been handled very nicely, but where the action is, is actually where I really want it to be tack, tack, tack sharp. And so that has brought your score down a little. I'm sorry about that. It's a nine.</p>
NN	1	1S	Dwarf Lookout	13	Merit	Jason	Johnstone	<p>A beautiful depiction of a little character in a big, wide African world. The composition is Superb and all other technical details or spot on. This is a great image. I'm particularly impressed with the focusing. This is the way you do a stroke border. Very small and very insignificant, but just enough to be there.</p>
NN	2	1S	Poker face	8	Silver	Toni	Harley	<p>Doing macro photography is always a huge challenge. The challenges is to keep the exposure triangle in very tight check. Ideally it is a good idea to use a very small aperture. If you do this, then your shutter speeds have to be slower or your ISO has to be higher. In this instance, an aperture of 4.5 was used and unfortunately this has rendered the whole image soft. This has also introduced quite a bit of digital noise into the image.</p>
NN	3	3S	BB is watching	10	Gold	Gustav	de Wet	<p>Hippos are usually quite difficult to photograph because their dark skin, which is usually wet, reflects the blue sky above. This is a prime example, although you have managed to control that reflection quite adequately. The central placement of the subject in this image works well and the colours and textures in the water are beautiful. The smudgy bits on the left side could have been cropped away but that would have affected the composition adversely.</p>
NN	4	3S	Lioness on the prowl	10	Gold	Derek	Brittain	<p>A perfectly adequate portrait of a lioness that is obviously hunting. The look on her face is where the story is at. The focus is strong and the composition is good. I feel that you could have left a bit more space at the top and the bottom of the image. I'm also intrigued by the pink whiskers on her left side.... maybe it's blood.</p>
NN	5	3S	Webbed crown	8	Silver	Gustav	de Wet	<p>I see where you were going with this but as this image is presented, it is very busy. The title suits the image well but if I suggest the crop, then the title might not fit. I suggest cropping much closer to a smaller part of the web and that will place stronger emphasis the drops. Here the eye tends to go round and round in circles and has no place to settle.</p>

NN	6	4S	Dragon	14	Merit	wynand	lens	This image just hits you in the face. It really is WOW! The clarity that you have managed to achieve here, is amazing. This is extremely difficult subject matter, and it appears it was taken in low light with a flash, hence the visible shadows. Very well done.
NN	7	4S	Going for a stroll	7	Silver	Avril	Janssen	The subject matter is intriguing and your composition is great. By leaving space around the animal It shows its environment and it allows space for the animal to walk into. Unfortunately, the lion is not sharp.
NN	8	4S	Relaxed	9	Silver	Avril	Janssen	Such majestic animals and you are lucky to have seen one that is quite calm. Pity you have cropped it so close at the bottom. I just feel that a little bit more space there, would ground the animal more and it would feel more natural. I feel the is a slight blue cast to the image and applying a warming filter could make the world of difference. This is totally legal and acceptable editing in the nature category.
NN	9	5S0	Fun Guy	9	Silver	Roger	Fanner	It is great to see the detail on this mushroom and capturing it so low down to the floor is admirable. I feel the colour is very over saturated and the brown doesn't appear to be natural. The central placement of the mushroom in the frame is also possibly not the best option.
NN	10	5S3	Peeping Craglizard	12	Gold	Ronelle	van den Heever	Nice sharp detail on this lizard's eye. The nose is slightly softer but that is acceptable. I really enjoy the slanted composition. It is something different and it works well. I do feel that the colours are a little bit over saturated.
NN	11	5S3	Red poppy bee	9	Silver	Des	van Tonder	The clarity and detail here or great. It is a very interesting take on a bee image. I feel that the bee and the flower should have really been the main focus of the image. The bottom green half doesn't add value and could have been cropped away. That would have also have eliminated the occurrence of the noise.
NN	12	5S4	Bee fly with spot lit eye 9103	9	Silver	Rob	Hart	It is amazing how that drop of water magnifies the detail of the eye. Very interesting. Sadly, your image is not 100% sharp (even where it should be ie on the head and on the thorax.) There are places where the whites are blown out.
NN	13	5S4	Crab spider 9222	12	Gold	Rob	Hart	Good focus on the face of the spider and the composition is really nice. The light is good, with no bright or dark spots. Nice image.
NN	14	5S4	Pastel butterfly 8595	13	Merit	Rob	Hart	Very likable depiction of this butterfly. The focusing is very good and the composition is acceptable. The grass on the left that leads the eye in towards the butterfly is very effective. Nice colour rendition and this shows good skill as a macro photographer.
NN	15	6S1	Robber at Rest	14	Merit	Leon	Heyes	And here we have the sharp extreme details, the beautiful clarity, textures that we are looking for in a sound macro image. The subject matter is clearly defined, lots and lots of glorious detail, feather, listen to me, fine hair textures and on the on the rubber fly and also on the on the green plant matter. It's a vibrant image and it's set off on a diagonal with a nice tight crop and that earns you a 14 certificate of merit.
NN	16	1	Berrylicious	11	Gold	Lindsey	Nicolay	Nicely crafted macro shot. Yes, the points of focus, which are the red berries, are dead centre. I don't feel that it is too offensive. The dark, moody colours, to me, are quite fitting with the subject matter. It looks as though this was taken in the bush somewhere. The focus is good and the composition is acceptable for this subject matter.
NN	17	1	Golden Dragonfly	13	Merit	Lindsey	Nicolay	Beautiful image with beautiful composition and nice crisp detail. The aperture of F 5.6 has helped to blur the background somewhat and that does help to bring the dragonfly to the fore. Great focusing and great colours. Well done.

NN	18	1	Inspector	12	Gold	Spencer Mark	Roberts	A very engaging image with a very likeable little character. It is good to see that you haven't truncated the tail and this also helps to place the subject in the frame with enough space to see it's natural environment. Good focus, good colour and really good composition.
NN	19	1	The Traveller	11	Gold	Lindsey	Nicolay	A great little Caterpillar and you have captured it so well. The composition is fantastic and the colours are strong. The focusing does fall off towards the back of the Caterpillar but that face area is in focus though. Pity the chap wasn't moving in the opposite direction so that we could see him more from the front. In post processing you could have just lightened it very slightly but overall a good image.
OM	1	1S	Dragonfly	10	Gold	Lesley	Marchant	This is a very effective silhouette. The strength of this image is in it's simplicity. Your composition is great with the dragonfly being on the thirds. The focusing is also good. The branch which acts as the lead in line is very effective in drawing your attention to the main subject.
OM	2	1S	Mercury	15	Merit	Jason	Johnstone	It doesn't get any better than this. Outstanding image!
OM	3	3S	Reeds	9	Silver	Joan	Lindegger	Here the strength of the story is also in the simple lines. The patterns and shapes that are created are very interesting. You have used the reflections very well to be able to tell a strong story. Pity the right inside is so tightly cropped. It would have been nice to see a little bit more on the right.
OM	4	4S	Fly my Darling	13	Merit	Cornelia	Appel	Very strong image with a very good mono conversion. The blacks are very dark and the whites are not blown out, which makes it very appealing. The fact that there is no border really adds to this image because it gives a sense of space and freedom. Great focus, lovely subject matter. Well done.
OM	5	5S0	Dandelion sparkles	13	Merit	Heidi	Taylor	The depth of field that you have used here is very creative and effective. It gives a softness to the image without reducing the clarity and sharpness on the drops. The fact that the bottom of the image fades to black is also a way of drawing attention to the main subject. Very nice image.
OM	6	5S1	The Sentinel	9	Silver	Stephen	Pryke	Very strong and contrasty image. The mountains really stick out amongst the clouds. When metering for this image the mountains stayed slightly under exposed and the clouds, especially along the top are a bit overexposed. Thus said it is still a pleasing image and made even more so by the magical misty clouds.
OP	1	1S	Berg Milkyway	12	Gold	Nyasha	Godoka	For a 1 star worker this is an amazing image. This technique is not easy but it appears that you have managed it very well. As presented I feel the image is a little bit light and it could have been darkened. In doing so, you really bring out the drama in the sky and the result is far more pleasing. A very valiant attempt.
OP	2	1S	Cheetah - CB	8	Silver	Craig	Backhouse	It is amazing to see these animals in the wild and one tends to get any image at any opportunity. Circumstances have not been in your favour here because the background is extremely busy (which I know you have no control over) and sadly the cheetah is out of focus.
OP	3	1S	Clever recycling	9	Silver	Sandra	Comrie	I totally agree, very interesting recycling. I'm not so sure that it has produced a very successful image though. The shapes and colours are all very interesting, but there are a lot of them and one's eyes jump around all over. To make this slightly more effective. I would suggest darkening it and pushing up the contrast a little bit.
OP	4	1S	Frog chair	10	Gold	Jean	Lens	Great composition here and really easy on the eye. One can't help but wonder what this space was like? It would have been interesting to see all the mushrooms, if there were more. If you had reduced the highlights slightly, you would have been able to see more texture in the cap of the mushroom. As presented, it is slightly bright.

OP	5	1S	Mini cone	9	Silver	Jean	Lens	Another very interesting peep into life in the woods. It really appears as though you photographed through a little gap. That is not a problem. It adds to the mystique of the image. I just find the bottom blurry half is a little bit much and could have been slightly cropped. The cone is also dead centre and with a more creative crop that could have been remedied.
OP	6	1S	Tomatoes	12	Gold	Sandra	Comrie	Very nice flat lay image. The composition is great and the knife that points towards the group of tomatoes does so really effectively. Nice focus, nice colours and nice composition. I especially like the juxtaposition between the round tomatoes and the straight edges of the vessel and board.
OP	7	3S	all in a row	10	Gold	Joan	Lindegger	Nice repetition of shapes here and it's a story that makes one think. I wonder how effective this image would have been if they were only 5 flippers instead of 6? That would really have sparked the imagination. Good focus and a really well seen and interesting image.
OP	8	3S	Croc catching a barbel - DB	8	Silver	Diane	Backhouse	Gosh, this is a very dramatic picture and it's any wildlife photographer's dream to see something like this. The light is really dull here, but there is nothing you could do about that. Sadly, the image is not sharp and some of the detail is lost because it is slightly blurry. Sadly, it cannot be given a higher score just for subject matter. Photographic merit is also very important. Such a pity.
OP	9	3S	I want you to play	10	Gold	Joan	Lindegger	What a beautiful dog and one can't help but just loving it. The eyes and the expression on the face are just really so special. It is amazing that you got the clarity on the nose and in the eyes when you used an aperture of F5. The whites on the neck are slightly blown out and could probably have been recovered using Highlights and Shadows in post processing.
OP	10	4S	Diwali Fireworks 8246	9	Silver	Doug	Couperthwaite	Great to see celebration fireworks and they usually are pretty spectacular when photographed. The three second exposure has done you well in that you can see the path of the fireworks and the explosions. Pity that the top part is chopped off but I know it is pretty difficult to follow their path and get the full effect of the explosions. With fireworks it is usually a better idea to take a much wider view and then crop closer and select your full subject matter that way. Nice strong colours.
OP	11	4S	dog rose	8	Silver	Liesl	Couperthwaite	Nice strong colour without it being over saturated. Your subject is very central which is not best possible option. When photographing flowers, try photographing them from all angles. Instead of this top down view, a slightly more side on view might have been more flattering.
OP	12	4S	fireworks forest	8	Silver	Liesl	Couperthwaite	There sure is a lot to look at here. The exuberance of the fireworks is very evident. As mentioned in the previous fireworks shot, a better idea is to take a wider view of the fireworks and then crop down to the subject that you want. As this is shown, cropping the top away is not really the best option.
OP	13	4S	just an appetizer	12	Gold	Liesl	Couperthwaite	It sure is just an appetiser. The storytelling here is very strong. Your heron is in focus and the colours are nice and saturated without being too over saturated. The textures in the water or beautiful but the black on the top of the heron's head is a little bit clogged. That it is not too overly offensive.
OP	14	4S	Mommy and Me	13	Merit	Cornelia	Appel	Hippos are usually very difficult to photograph because they shine and reflect the light. You have done a great job here in avoiding this. This is such a sweet scene showing the mother and the baby and the connection between them. Great colours and great focusing on both the animals.

OP	15	4S	old bottles and a flower	9	Silver	JOAN	JUNG	I really enjoy the concept in this picture. The old bottles really emphasis a nostalgic theme. The high key rendition of the bottles really works well. The main focus being the green bottle and flower are very central and over saturated. They really scream "bright green" and I think those could have been toned down.
OP	16	4S	Ross with his caught	12	Gold	Cornelia	Appel	Great capture with good feather detail and clarity. Trying to get more lower done to capture this would have been great. As presented here, the water does fill the whole of the background and thus eliminates other potential background clutter.
OP	17	4S	white calla lilly	8	Silver	JOAN	JUNG	This simplicity of this image is appealing. It is really my type of thing. Unfortunately they are some issues. The white Calla Lily is not white, it's pink. That is slightly off putting. It is also very bright and could have been toned down somewhat. There are also a lot of grey smudgy things on the black background. It looks as though you have done quite a lot of cleaning up and it is visible.
OP	18	5S0	Milliseconds to go	9	Silver	Paul	Naude	Interesting concept and the focus on the rocks is good. Obviously you intended to show movement and that has come across well. I feel that this is an image of two parts. It could be two separate images. As presented I don't think it really works. The fruit are actually causing a shadow on the rocks at the bottom, which is not ideal. There is a dark smudgy blob on the right side which I suspect is something you tried to remove but it is left a dark patch.
OP	19	5S0	Pink and Blue	10	Gold	Paul	Naude	A beautiful little model and this image is pin sharp. I really like the mood created here. For my licking it is very over saturated and for such a sweet little model it would have been better to colour it gently and not so vibrantly.
OP	20	5S0	Sacred Ibis reflection	8	Silver	Heidi	Taylor	You have chosen an extremely difficult subject here. The dark areas of the bird just seem to melt into the background. If the light had been brighter, this might not have been such a problem. The whites are very clear and visible but the blacks are very clogged and hidden. Great reflections.
OP	21	5S1	Blue sunflowers	13	Merit	Tracey	Rhodes	With the light coming in from the left as it is, it appears as though it's a new morning. This is great because it looks as though the sunflower is just about waking up. Beautiful complementary colours. Really simple but effective image. Well done.
OP	22	5S1	Mackaya Bella	9	Silver	Stephen	Pryke	Really simple image which shows great composition. Unfortunately, the saturation is very high. The white flower has now become blue, and the green buds have become lime green. With any nature type of image, whether it be entered into the nature category or the open category, it is never a good idea to oversaturate because these subjects are all too familiar with viewers as well as the judges.
OP	23	5S1	raindrops on rosemary plant	7	Silver	Stephen	Pryke	This is an incredibly busy image. The subject matter has been masked by all the water drops and textures. And there is very little that appears to be in focus. Although f32 was used in this instance, the depth of field is very shallow.
OP	24	5S1	Sunflower 1	10	Gold	Tracey	Rhodes	I love the concept of this image. And the concentric circles in the middle are really great to tease the eye and they are perfectly placed in the frame.. I see that f32 was used, which means most of the image should be in focus, but it is a little bit soft all over. I'm wondering whether that must be camera shake.
OP	25	5S1	Sunflowers 3	11	Gold	Tracey	Rhodes	Beautiful, strong, clear, uncluttered image. The yellow flowers really stand out beautifully against that black background. There is a very slight loss of detail on the left flower and that could have been rectified by reducing the highlights slightly. It would have been nice to see some sort of surface because as presented, it looks as though the flowers and the container are floating.

OP	26	5S2	Alone on a park bench in Autumn - 4112	14	Merit	Terry	Burne	What a spectacular scene. Kenmo has no chance in competing against this. The old balli sitting on the bench looks as though he is sleeping and what a beautiful place to do so. The colours are spectacular, the focusing is great and your composition is spot on. It also good to have 3 trees in the composition. that works well. Such a strong story. Well done.
OP	27	5S3	Pink centre	11	Gold	Des	van Tonder	Beautiful soft colours and the central placement in this image works well because of the symmetry of the flower. A little bit more light on the stamens in the centre would have added more value and more interest right in the middle.
OP	28	5S3	Pinpoint reflection	11	Gold	Ronelle	van den Heever	Caught just at the right time. Pity it doesn't have a fish in its mouth. Being in the open category, I assume that this has been edited but it would have been really great in the nature category...if it could. I see the story here being about the bird and the reflection, and that you have done well. Pity about all the clutter in the background. Being in open, that could have been rectified.
PA	1	1S	Antique Cutlery.	9	Silver	Minky	Goodbrand	Interesting composition with all this cutlery. In this category the rules can be broken, and quite extensively so, if needed. To me this image is a little bit ordinary. I would have liked to have seen a little bit more creativity. Something has gone drastically wrong with your stroke border. It only appears to be on the right and at the bottom. The left and the top are missing.
PA	2	1S	Take a break	9	Silver	Jean	Lens	Very interesting image and one that is extremely difficult to get right. Your composition is great and this subject matter is even better. In this type of image the reflection in the drop should be 100% crisp and unfortunately this is not. Such a pity. I also feel that the horizontal straw should have been more level.
PA	3	1S	The Dance.	12	Gold	Minky	Goodbrand	An interesting but very weird dance of some interesting objects. Your selective focusing on the tip of the white one is really creative. Having all the others out of focus adds to the sense of movement. I feel that the background is possibly a little bit jarring but all in all, it is nicely perceived.
PA	4	4S	ghostly trees	13	Merit	JOAN	JUNG	Very interesting and very soothing. It has a really strong effect on moving your eye from the front right through to the back of the image in both directions. ie to the left and to the right. Having the main focal point on the right thirds is a great idea. It creates a harmonious type of effect. Nice image and great for Photo Art
PA	5	6S1	Deranged	13	Merit	Leon	Heyes	It is a creative rendering. I do like the charcoal effect and in art we've got a term which is a confusion and it depicts deranged very very well. It's the textures are all over the place and then you've just got a bit of form that's popping out from all that confusion and that works very nicely. The spot of colors, the red pop on the lips and the nails does draw your eyes straight into the center of the image. I'm not entirely sure that I would have had red on the little pinky, I think it's on the pinky nail, I think it's sufficient just on the lips. Because what's happening now is my eyes looking at the red of the lips and the red of the nail. Red of the lips, red of the nail. I don't think you need that very strong colour and it's drawing Ma'adi all the time. So I would rather explore the face. The charcoal rendering and the artistic rendering all around it just supports that female figure inside. I think the title is suitably titled. It works very well to explain what we're looking at. Good use of smooth and rough textures. Your image is a 13 certificate.

PO	1	4S	Ballerina	11	Gold	Jan	Lens	Really nice action in this image. The joyful look on the ballerina's face is also engaging and adds to a great image. I'm not sure if it was intentional, but there is a bit of the texture on the background visible at the bottom right corner. By toning the whole image down, you would hide that as well as reduce the light on the dancer which is a little bit intense.
PO	2	4S	Dancer behind the veil	9	Silver	Jan	Lens	Interesting concept and the whole image is light and airy, which adds to the appeal. I'm not sure I would have known what was happening here if it wasn't for the title. The mono conversion is acceptable but could have been darkened very slightly. Maybe this image would have done well in the Photo Art category. A bit of de-noising would add value.
PO	3	4S	Daydreaming	10	Gold	wynand	lens	The light here is beautiful and the light areas are not too over bright. There is also still some detail in the darks. I feel the pose of the model is a little bit awkward. The photographer is basically looking up under his chin and I'm not so sure that that is appealing. I hope you took a whole bunch more so that a better pose and composition could be found amongst the group. The mono conversion is absolutely the right way to go with this type of image.
PO	4	4S	Graceful	12	Gold	Meleney	Naik	Almost exactly the same as the previous image but the processing is quite different. Yeah, the background is dark and the dancer is also slightly darkened, which is a better option. Maybe the contrast is a little bit high, but that does bring out the colours in the skin and the dress. I like that there is no background visible and no border around the image because it appears as though the dancer is floating in mid-air and that's what butterflies do.
PO	5	4S	Lacing up	9	Silver	Jan	Lens	Another beautiful little dancer with strong colours. With a sweet little soul like this, it is always a good idea to lighten the image and present it more as high-key. That just suits this type of image. The focusing is great and the composition is acceptable. Just a pity that you did not address all the dirty marks in the background. So many of those are distracting and could easily have been cloned away.
SC	1	1S	Big Sky	12	Gold	Marc	Gordon	The ratio of sky to land in traditional landscape photography is about correct. How it works because of the interest in the sky and the interest in the flowers at the bottom. You have done well to keep the clouds properly exposed and not blown out. The colours are strong and the focusing is good and that's all good to tell a strong story. Unfortunately, what is not good is that very strong bright white border. Try and keep your borders to a one or two pixel width and in a medium grey.
SC	2	1S	Cascade Falls Msikaba	10	Gold	Dylan	Evans	A very pretty scene and it really looks hot. It appears as though this image was taken at around 6:00 am in summer and as you can see here, the light is already very flat with little or no moulding. It would have been nice to zone in on one of the little cascades and get some movement in the water. It would be interesting to try this image again (if it's possible) when the light is a little bit kinder.
SC	3	1S	cotton sky	13	Merit	Debbie	Kleu	The ratio of sea to sky is spot on in this image. Ideally it should be about 1/3 to 2/3. Here the sky is the story, so that is what you have focused on and that is really beautifully depicted. A little bit more of a point of interest in the sea area, maybe a rock or 2 would have added extra value (only a suggestion). I must judge what I see, and what I see is good.

SC	4	4S	Approaching Storm 8168	11	Gold	Doug	Couperthwaite	It is not often that clouds form the main subject in the landscape...but I guess this is a skyscape. The clouds are very dramatic and the colours are strong without being over saturated. It is a pity you haven't added a small stroke border because the bottom of the image gets completely lost.
SC	5	5S0	Lions River	9	Silver	Paul	Naude	It is a story of the real green, green grass of KZN. The river does lead ones eye through the image. It is good to see those summer green colours. I think your saturation is a little bit high because in the centre the greens are actually starting to bleed and getting blown out. The calf looks completely out of place. I don't know whether you edited it in afterwards, but there are no other cattle anywhere nearby, and he just looks as though he's floating there. Maybe I'm wrong and I apologise if that is the case.
SC	6	5S1	Land Of Plenty	11	Gold	Maxi	Holder	In this depiction, the colours appear to be correct and not over saturated. It is a very peaceful scene and one that is easy on the eye. A little bit of a stronger focal point on one of the thirds would have been a good idea and would have added value...and given you a higher score
SC	7	5S2	Montreal in Autumn - 4145-47	10	Gold	Terry	Burne	Very intense colours that appear to be real and not over saturated. Those strong colours frame the city area well as does the bit of the tree on the right side. Very often that sort of frame can be distracting but here I feel it does add value. The city area, is it just a little bit unexciting. I guess the strength of this image is in the autumn colours in the foreground.