

**RESULTS for MAR 2025 TECH CHALLENGE - SHAPES and/or TEXTURES Lynne Kruger-Haye**

Seq	Sar	TITLE	Firstname	Lastname	SCORE	AWARD	COMMENT
1	1S	Almost got away with it	Jay	Nabbe	11	G	Good entry for this challenge!! Unexpected composition with the subject moving out of the frame (while still on the 3rd) makes this very successful. Juxtaposition of the shapes in the shirt/jacket layered over the wooden doors is well seen. Lighting a bit flat, could bump up exposure a bit. Watch out for the blow out on the back of the collar
2	1S	Cables	Lesley	Marchant	11	G	Great use of symmetry to enhance the shapes in this image. Could bring up the shadows slightly as some dark areas missing details. White splotch on left side of the frame distracting - can remove. Good submission for this challenge
3	1S	Ceramic	Marc	Gordon	6	B	Good use of 3rds in this composition, with the "odd one out" being placed there. The lighting is not even across the tiles so we have a hot spot in the centre of the image. Focus is slightly off causing us to lose some of the details in the surface of the tiles. While the shapes in the image are consistent with the category, the image lacks impact and dynamism, thereby affecting the score
4	1S	Chinese New Year	Sandra	Comrie	10	G	Cleverly seen with regard to the shapes on shapes (Red ovals of lanterns over the rectangular windows, walls and brickwork). A somewhat symmetrical composition with flat even lighting, and sharp throughout. The uneven placing of the lanterns has resulted in cropped ones on the left of the frame without the same being seen on the right, causing one to relook the symmetry initially observed. Watch the bottom right corner for the dark triangle that distracts there
5	1S	Clouds	Nicholas	Deysel	6	B	Clever subject matter to present for textures! Unfortunately, the image lacks impact and needs something more to elevate it. While texture in and of itself can be presented as an abstract image, the subject matter is clear and therefore doesn't fully sit in the abstract category. Watch out for your lighting as you have some blown out areas on the right hand side of the frame.
6	1S	Common Dandelion.	Minky	Goodbrand	DQ no .xif data		
7	1S	cotton sky	Debbie	Kleu	9	S	An interesting choice to present a seascape for this challenge! This image is all about texture :-). Perhaps bumping up the exposure to help bring out the colours a little more and to help enhance the textures - particularly in the water. Your horizon runs down towards the right slightly so a quick adjust will fix that. Watch out for the burnout created by the setting sun
8	1S	Disappearing wall	Nicholas	Deysel	8	S	Great subject matter showing both texture and shapes! Compositionally, the strong lines of the grout work leading to a vanishing point doesn't give us anything at the end. It is this end that is deep in shadow and appears to have a large amount of noise which reduces the image quality. Your depth of field is rather narrow and throws the greater part of the image out of focus.
9	1S	Driftwood	Sandra	Comrie	8	S	This image is filled with "perceived" texture and some shapes as the subject matter (driftwood) is not close up. We get a sense of texture from the pebbles and rocks, but the driftwood itself is a lost opportunity to show texture. The lighting is fairly flat and could do with some enhancement. Compositionally, one could crop tight to the rocks behind the driftwood to bring the viewer closer to the texture
10	1S	Elephant kiss	Nyasha	Godoka	9	S	Elephant skin makes for excellent texture! The crop into the top of the head is slightly bothersome, but if you were to crop off a 3rd of the frame from the left (up until the start of the cropped head along the top) it would make for a stronger composition. Some bump in contrast and a nudge up on exposure should bring some more of the skin texture into play. Some levels adjustment to deepen the black slightly may give it a more "fine art" feel
11	1S	Green Bottle Curves	Dylan	Evans	8	S	Cleverly seen for the challenge! With the strong green shapes of the bottles enhanced by the silver caps, I would recommend a much deeper depth of field to pull the sharpness throughout the subject matter. The reflections in the bottles and refractions of light along their edges are very distracting, so an intentionally diffused lighting setup would help here. Great use of symmetrical composition
12	1S	Lakeside Resort	Sandra	Comrie	11	G	Loads of shapes and curves with some texture provided by the green plants. Great study in symmetry and a good idea to anchor the image by including the horizontal railing. The lighting is a bit flat and would be improved with some exposure adjustment - or attempt bracketing to assist if you were using a tripod. The green exit signs are distracting and I would remove those. The same with the light reflections in the glass below the railings.
13	1S	Lifa after Phala Phala	Nyasha	Godoka	12	G	Great idea to convert this buffalo image to monochrome! The textures in the coat and horns are beautifully shown through the appropriate use of depth of field. A bit tight compositionally on the left of the frame so a little shift of the lens (if it were possible) would help. As this is not a nature category, I would recommend removing the bright piece of bush up the left of the frame, as well as the little bit along the edge there.

14	1S	Lumps n bumps	Marc	Gordon	6	B	This mosaic work lends itself to the challenge with regard to shapes! Reposition for lighting so that the shadows are not as flat and dark so we are able to see a little more details there (even though some of the shadows themselves can be construed as shapes!) The areas of focus are confined to the lower left side of the image, thereby missing the opportunity to showcase the shapes in the rest of the image. I would also encourage diffused lighting to minimise the blown out hot spots spread throughout the image
15	1S	Mosaic Madness	Marc	Gordon	6	B	Whilst the subject matter is opportune for the challenge, the technical aspects of the image lets it down. Pay attention to focus so that the definition of shapes in the mosaic work is highlighted. As it is, the entire photograph appears out of focus. Watch the lighting as the dark areas have no details on the top left of the image. The white ceramic bits are blown out as well
16	1S	Peanut Cactus.	Minky	Goodbrand	DQ no .xif data		
17	1S	Pine bark	Lesley	Marchant	8	S	Also an excellent subject for the challenge! Great decision to use a close up view with a good depth of field to highlight all the textures! The lighting in this photograph however is problematic, leading to many blown out edges.
18	1S	Pumba the early years	Nyasha	Godoka	11	G	Excellent subject to showcase texture! Nicely handled colour and lighting, with appropriate sharpness where needed. The composition is very central with a static subject, so is not very dynamic. Great image!
19	1S	Shells	Lesley	Marchant	8	S	Shapes and repetition are showcased in this image. The fall off of focus in the top half of the image gives the feeling of the image having two halves. Perhaps consider tilting the image to level out the horizontal lines and then cropping below the string of white beads bringing the rest of the image into focus. As it is, the blown out bokeh along the top also draws the eye up and out of the frame.
20	1S	Wall	Nicholas	Deyssel	7	S	A clever angle from which to showcase texture. I would recommend using a deeper depth of field to take the sharpness all the way from the corner of the wall to the rest of the image. Place the focal point on the corner as this is the part of the wall that is closest to the viewer and needs to be sharpest. Also consider placing the edge/corner in the very centre of the frame so that the composition is fully symmetrical and balanced. Consider being creative with the lighting - perhaps experiment with split lighting for a more dramatic effect.
21	1S	Weathered	Toni	Harley	10	G	A well considered angle for capturing the texture and shape of the railing spike! Good use of DoField to isolate just the one spike for a more creative presentation. Good composition with the diagonal line and place the base of the focal spike along the 3rd. Potentially attempt a monochrome conversion??
22	1S	Wild Mushrooms.	Minky	Goodbrand	DQ no .xif data		
23	2S	A rainbow of flow	Marisan	Victor	10	G	Interesting submission for shapes and textures. Well lit and appropriately sharp where needed. Well done on controlling the reflections on the beading. Well composed to capture the flow and movement of the fabric.
24	3S	Woven waves	Gustav	de Wet	DQ No .xif data		
25	4S	Beads	wynand	lens	8	S	A bright and colourful entry that fits the challenge of shapes and texture. I find the exposure a bit harsh with the lighting resulting in not only sharp dark shadows that clash with the colourful beads but also blowing out the greens of the background fabric and the mid-shade green beads. The composition - while wrapping the woven beads in an L-shape along the left and bottom - is still flat and static giving very little impact despite the colour.
26	4S	colour catchers	Liesl	Couperthwaite	10	G	A cleverly composed image giving us a study in shapes and colour. The lower third of the image has very little detail in the blacks so a little bump of exposure/raising of shadows would benefit here. Whilst scratches on CD's are inevitable, the scratch marring the top of the 3rd CD from the left keeps catching the eye, so I would suggest cleaning that up if possible
27	4S	cork ball in sand patterns	JOAN	JUNG	12	G	Beautifully composed and a very well chosen scene. The juxtaposition of the round cork ball on the curved lines in the sand is just so clever. A tweak or two could place the ball exactly on the 3rd if you wanted to do that. The only detractor from this sharp, well lit image is the "cleaning up" of the sand in the top right had portion of the frame. Unfortunately the removal/healing process applied here has also stripped away the texture in the sand that one cannot unsee once you study the image, scoring a gold instead of the merit it would have received.
28	4S	Fruit Pastilles	Meleney	Naik	11	G	A clever, well crafted image! The composition is great and the background complements the pastilles in terms of colour. Perhaps diffuse the lighting a little further as the sugar crystals along the edges of the pastilles are blown out. Watch your depth of field as the 2 left pastilles are more out of focus as they curve forward out of the focal plane.
29	4S	patterns in lillies	Liesl	Couperthwaite	7	S	While this image technically makes the challenge category, a lot of creative decisions have been overlooked to elevate the submission. While shapes and some textures are present, by presenting the full lily within it's background makes the image more of a grab shot than a considered entry. The submission could improve with some tweaking of crop and angles, as well the toning down some of the highlights in the whiter parts of the petals. The background is very distracting and detracts from our area of attention.

30	4S	Pink Pearls	wynand	lens	9	S	In order to fully appreciate the sharpness of the water droplets one need to move further away from the screen!! It is only then that the submission comes into its own. It appears as if flash was used so we get the reflection of the light in almost all the droplets. Try to diffuse and/or soften the light to minimise this. Watch the direction of your light, as the bottom and left side of the image is more in shadow. Use the light to direct our attention to where you would like us to focus.
31	4S	Ready for the wind	Jan	Lens	10	G	An excellent choice for both shape and texture! The unusual crop is successful and interesting. Consider diffusing the light somewhat and/or changing the angle as most of the highlights appear blown up leaving those areas with little to no detail.
32	4S	rounded gate	JOAN	JUNG	10	G	Well seen image with a very pleasing composition. The contrast of the half-circles of the gate against the vertical streaks on the surface behind it make for a good counterpoint. Watch your highlights as the white paint on some parts of the gate are blown out. A little bit of added contrast (levels or curves adjustments) may help enhance the textures in the paint a little more.
33	4S	Shredded Bottles 8451	Doug	Couperthwaite	8	S	This image is all about the shapes, with some texture thrown in. Watch the lighting as some blown out areas are visible where the plastic "petals" are angled towards the light source. Some of the black "flower centres" in the bottom right quarter of the image have no visible details or definition. The image itself has no obvious single subject nor any obvious composition making it more of a record shot to meet the challenge.
34	4S	Spirit God	wynand	lens	9	S	A lovely image showing good use of depth of field for sharpness and creativity. Perhaps expand the aperture just a bit more to keep the "eyes" of the subject more in focus - particularly as the one on our right is set marginally further back. The lighting is a little yellow so if this is not intentional then relook at your white balance. Compositionally, the subject appears to be floating as the background is black with nothing to anchor the object to the bottom of the frame. Check around the front base of the "spirit god" and remove the little distracting white spots there
35	4S	Stone Sculpture 8405	Doug	Couperthwaite	8	S	While recognition is given to the beautiful, and very sharp subject matter, the post-processing here lets down the rest of the image. It presents as having the background removed and replaced as black. While the intention, perhaps, is to remove the surrounding distractions and offer a greater contrast to the texture on the stone, this was not done successfully. Police the edges of the frame and ensure that your selection carries all the way through, as we can still find some evidence there. Along the (from our view) right arm we have a red ridge of whatever was there previously, as well as along the edge of the opening on the top right side within the stonework. Unfortunately, an area along the bottom of the statue was not attended to leaving behind the original background there. Tone down the brightness towards the lower half of the image to help give more detail to the texture there.
36	4S	Sugary Sweet	Meleney	Naik	10	G	Great composition for this version of the pastilles! A simple yet successful submission. Watch the highlights along the top of the sugar tower as the crystals there are blown out. The Darks are a little heavy perhaps so consider tweaking this just a bit.
37	4S	Textured Treasure	Jan	Lens	9	S	A worthy entry to the challenge! One could perhaps consider a more aggressive crop, eliminating the green areas which are distracting and catch the eye, and leaving us with pinks, purples, shapes and textures? Consider too a greater depth of field, or possible even focus stacking as the top of the flower is closer to the lens and falls in front of the focal plane as it was shot, rendering it soft and out of focus. The central composition directs our attention straight to the very interesting "flower"
38	4S	the iron man	JOAN	JUNG	9	S	A good composition using a symmetrical base of the arcs to showcase the shapes and textures in this scene. The image itself feels incomplete though as the feet of the "iron man" are cut off. The bright hole in the middle of the head feels unnatural, as if it (not assuming just observing) has been dodged to the point of greyness to minimise blowout. The texture of the painted metal behind the statue is not visible in this gap leading to this comment.
39	4S	Upside down	Jan	Lens	8	S	As the category is all about shapes and textures, it is my conclusion that the author has made a play on the round mushroom shape within a fairly square composition. While understanding the possible intention, it does however leave a rather distracting dark area as a background that confuses the viewer. Is the intention to have a black background to leave our focus on the subject, or is it to show some of the texture on which the mushroom has been placed? This is not clear as the lighting in the top half of the image throws the background in total darkness (black) while allowing little bit of the texture to indistinctly show in the lower half, leaving the viewer confused. The depth of field could perhaps be reconsidered - focus stacking - as the stem of the mushroom is out of focus distracting us away from the folds and textures of the subject itself.
40	5S0	Bubbles and flow	Heidi	Taylor	6	B	While I think the intention of the image is very clever in combining the falling water - almost vertical - with the softer bubbles along the base - horizontal - the technical execution lets it down. The area of sharpness to which our attention is directed is the lighter "spongy" band of bubbles in the lower third of the image, with so much movement and unsharpness in the rest of the image that it distracts away from the message. The image feels underexposed and extremely noisy in appearance.

41	5S0	Cones and circles	Heidi	Taylor	11	G	A very good monochrome presentation with a broad dynamic range. The abstractness of the angle and composition is quite effective, wonderfully showcasing the shapes and textures. The only distracting areas here are the out-of-focus point on the cone on the left of the image, the white spot at it's base, and the white little corner left at the bottom right of the frame. The image itself feels well considered.
42	5S0	Turn your face towards the sun	Heidi	Taylor	13	M	This image has very high impact due to colour, composition and lighting and successfully meets the challenge. I am in conflict about the leaf left along the left bottom edge of the frame, as well as the out of focus leaf on the right bottom side. I would however encourage the darkening of the both leaves and the removal of the bright spots along the lead edge on the left. A special mention also of the soft fine art feel in the handling of the photograph. Congratulations
43	5S1	Cheerful Daisy	Maxi	Holder	12	G	A strong central composition with the pop of colour makes this a successful submission, showing both texture and shapes, with the petals displaying a very painterly feel. The yellows in the centre feel a little fuzzy and may be due to a touch of too much light and could be subdued a bit to strengthen sharpness and definition
44	5S1	Delicious Monster	Maxi	Holder	9	S	An image that has high impact with the conderfule soft creams and yellows within the sea of greens and brown. The colour handling is slightly problematic as the greens (particularly along the left and base of the bud) lack definition with no separation between the bud and he leaves. The lower left corder on the frame a[[ears to have either clone stamp or healing brush marks detracting from the image. Watch our for the blow out along the rim of the centre "stamen" (??) as it is blown out there.
45	5S1	Dew drops on grass	Stephen	Pryke	8	S	Whilst a very striking oblique composition with the intense green on the black background the image appears static with not much more to hold our attention. The very large droplet around the middle is only sharp when you move further away from the screen. The angle of the blade of grass is slightly offset to the lens, letting the left of the image fall out of focus. To the right of the large droplet the grass and droplets are more in focus but have massive reflections in them casuing a lot of distractions. The rifled edge (bottom right) of the grass also catches the light directly, causing blowouts and loss of detail. Perhaps consider a slightly different angle and where the sharpness falls in order to direct the viewer's attention.
46	5S1	Rusty Bolts	Stephen	Pryke	8	S	A very appropriate submission for the challenge, showing loads of texture and shapes. Whilst a decent depth of field has been used, the lighting here is a challenge. The white bits on the edges of the peeling paint are blown out - easily seen on the bottom and right of the frame - and the blacks/shadows below the backplate of the 2 bolts are crushed. RATHER than be concerned about high iso, perhaps use a tripod (if not done) and let the time run in order to achieve a more balanced exposure. We cannot tell whether noise reduction has been applied to the image but the ooverall feel on the blues of the paint is a bit "plasticky" rather than allowing the full texture to present itself
47	5S1	Steel Caterpillars	Stephen	Pryke	8	S	The same feedback as the previous imgae applies here. Watch out for the blowouts on the white cracked point and the feeling of "plastickyness" presents here as well
48	5S2	Autumn Leaves - 4076	Terry	Burne			DQ Out of date
49	5S3	Bark texture	Des	van Tonder	9	S	A beautiful balance of colour that showcases the texture of the bark. The composition works well and serves to draw us into the image. Whilst the depth of field shows good sharpness and detail in the bark, a chunk of the out of focus layer of bark on the right is very bright causing our eyes to keep jumping there. If that bark layer had also been in focus, perhaps it would not have been as distracting, but being both bright and out of focus lets the image down. Perhaps consider cropping a bit off the bottom to remove the very dark bit in the bottom right corner.
50	5S3	Bourkes shapes	Ronelle	van den Heever	8	S	A straightforward shot of the Bourke's Luck Potholes, showcasing all the curves, shapes and textured of the terrain. Based on the shadow at the bottow, this image was take closer to the middle of the day causing the light to flatten out rock textures that may have been brought to the fore. The whites of the rapid below are blown out and hold our eyes there rather than allowing us to look through the rest of the image. Potentially a conversion to monochrome could assist with the lighting challenge and help bring through additional textures in the rock surface.
51	5S4	Canna pod geometry	Rob	Hart	12	G	A great submission with high impact. Perhaps consider bringing down the brightness just a touch to allow the richness of the reds to elevate even further. Consider darkening the lower pod along the bottom a bit in order to keep our attention od the main one.
52	5S4	Mushroom stand	Rob	Hart	13	M	A beautifully considered and executed submission. Perhaps just darken the brighter area in the background on the top right side and add a vignette to darken the base of the image just a bit in order to keep our focus on the mushrooms. Well done!
53	5S4	Water trapping leaf texture	Rob	Hart	9	S	Whilst an interesting leaf with the added interest of the insect, we need to consider the following: The lighting is overly bright and could do with additional diffusion. This has resulted in many specular highlights pulling our attention away from the textures themselves. We have a lot of information in the image - most of which is out of focus - whilst the narrow band of focus is sharp and on point.

54	6S1	Fibonacci in Nature	Leon	Heyes	8	S	A clever title for a clever subject! I would recommend focus stacking this in order to achieve sharpness throughout, as this subject easily lends itself to that. Perhaps a bit of diffusion to reduce the brighter areas along the right side of the shell. I would encourage the author to clean up the shell as the smudges bring down the overall presentation of the image.
55	6S1	Madonna Cones	Leon	Heyes	DQ Out of Date		
56	6S1	Slinky Spirals	Leon	Heyes	8	S	A clever use of the slinky to showcase the challenge category. Unfortunately, the harsh lighting has resulted in many blowouts throughout the image and caused some fuzziness in the greens and reds that has robbed quite a bit of the detail. The depth of field is well done allowing for a more creative appreciation of the slinky.

Junior Winner	Nyasha	Godoka	Life after Phala Phala
Senior Winner	Heidi	Taylor	