

**RESULTS NOV\_2025 TECH & MAMBA Challenge - EYES**

CAT	SEQ	Firstname	Lastname	STAR	Title	SCORE	AWARD	COMMENT
TC	1	Deana	Adams	1S	Caleb	9	SILVER	The story about the eyes is there but maybe not quite strong enough. A much closer crop would possibly help.
TC	2	Martin	Agius	1S	Eye of Osiris	DQ	DQ	Not the eyes of a living being
TC	3	Deana	Adams	1S	Gentle giant	8	SILVER	This challenge is all about eyes. Here, that eye is very insignificant in the frame and it really does not come across as an eye story.
TC	4	Martin	Agius	1S	Malta Gay Pride	7	SILVER	It might very well be a good PJ image but the emphasis is supposed to be on the eyes. Here the eyes are almost completely hidden. This image does not tell a story about eyes.
TC	5	Deana	Adams	1S	My weary world	9	SILVER	In this challenge it is really difficult to fulfil the brief. There is only so much one can do when capturing eyes. Here you have done exactly what it says on the tin. Sadly, it is not 100% sharp. The sharpest parts are the eyelashes at the bottom right.
TC	6	Martin	Agius	1S	Palestine Protest 01	10	GOLD	Another strong photojournalism picture. Here the eyes are captivating and although this subject matter covers a lot more than just the eyes, the eyes are strong in the image. Nice depth of field and composition
TC	7	Martin	Agius	1S	Palestine Protest 02	9	SILVER	I see where you were going with this and although it is a good PJ image, the eyes are not strong enough and they don't tell a strong enough story. This image would have done well in the PJ category in the monthly competition.
TC	8	Martin	Agius	1S	Protest Against The Construction Law	12	GOLD	The very cleverly conceived image. There are lots of eyes, but only one set of eyes is in focus, and that's why one's attention is drawn straight there. There are still lots of other distractions, but those eyes in the middle are captivating.
TC	9	Deana	Adams	1S	Tommy	10	GOLD	Really difficult to get a decent picture through aquarium glass. You have done fairly well here because most of the picture is in focus. Most importantly, the eye is in focus. I think a slightly closer crop would have drawn more attention to the eye and a little bit more light in the eye would have been beneficial.
TC	10	Deana	Adams	1S	Try me	9	SILVER	The story about the eyes is strong here. It would have been better to have a closer crop. Although this challenge is about the eyes your image still needs to be of high standard and here, cropping the feet is not the best option. Either crop severely to a portrait of the animal or include the feet in their entirety.

TC	11	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	A Bunch of Eyes	9	SILVER	The creativity displayed here is quite amazing. I'm not too sure that the story about the eyes is strong. Yes, the eyes are there but one has to look very carefully to decipher them. Interesting concept. I like that you have included a shadow for each element in the image. Contrasts could be upped a bit to make it POP
TC	12	Marc	Gordon	2S	A sweet for those tears	13	COM	Beautiful strong image. Here, the eyes are front and centre of the storytelling. The clarity of the image is soft, but I think that is intentional. Because it is image of a child it's sort of is acceptable and it complements the style of the image. Well done.
TC	13	Toni	Harley	2S	All eyes on takeoff	8	SILVER	A strong story about the bee. When I look at this image I don't immediately see the eyes. This is possibly because of everything that is included in the image, and also because the eyes are very dark and lack light. Focusing is also questionable.
TC	14	Marc	Gordon	2S	Behind Bars	10	GOLD	I like the way you have framed that eye and because the eye is on the yellow feathers it really does stand out. I would have just considered a closer crop. A thin stroke border would have been beneficial. Be careful of over bright head feathers.
TC	15	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Blue eyes hypnotise	9	SILVER	Amazing hypnotic blue eyes. The story is obviously very strong. Sadly, the model's left eye is slightly out of focus and it does distract. Maybe cropping closer to the right eye would have been a better option and exclude the other one completely.
TC	16	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	Chick Mix	10	GOLD	There is no denying or confusion here that the story is all about the eyes. The concept is interesting and creative but I'm just wondering whether the nine eyes was a good choice. Maybe fewer eg. 3 or 4 might have been a better option.
TC	17	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Eye wide open	10	GOLD	A strong eye image. Photographing through the magnifying glass couldn't have been easy. The focusing is borderline acceptable. A good crop that complements the subject.
TC	18	Marc	Gordon	2S	Eyelashes for days	8	SILVER	It was obviously bright and sunny when this image was taken. Using an ISO of 3200 was a bit of an overkill because it is burnt out the top of the bird's head. It is still a photo competition and all your basics still need to be good. The eye is a little bit dark and could have had some more light added in post.
TC	19	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	Fish Eye	13	COM	What a weird and scary looking creature. Obviously this is a composite and the story about the eye is strong. Great creativity.
TC	20	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Intense focus	11	GOLD	Good strong story about the eyes. There is no denying them. The inclusion of flash light has worked to your benefit here because of the dark fur of the dog.
TC	21	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	Jades Eyes	14	COM	Wonderful depiction of these eyes and there's no denying where the story lies. Beautifully processed and presented for competition. Well done.

TC	22	Toni	Harley	2S	Looking forward	9	SILVER	Nice detail on the horse and the image is good and sharp. Yes, the eye is visible but the story is not about the eye and that really should be the case in this challenge.
TC	23	Toni	Harley	2S	Moment of concentration	8	SILVER	Again nice detail on the horse and the image is good and sharp. Yes, the eye is visible but the story is not about the eye and that really should be the case in this challenge. Having the eye on the shadow side also makes it a bit dark and reduces the impact.
TC	24	Jay	Nabbe	2S	Passing by	13	COM	The strength of this image lies in the way it has been processed. The eyes are bright and sharp and because of that one's attention is attracted to those eyes immediately. This is proof that the crop doesn't have to be very close, as long as one's attention can be drawn to the eyes successfully.
TC	25	Marc	Gordon	2S	Psss Psss	9	SILVER	I really do like this unconventional composition. Not everybody's cup of tea, I do realise. Sadly the whole image is soft and, the eyes, being the main subject or not sharp enough.
TC	26	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Reflections of my life	10	GOLD	Good composition in this image and the storytelling is strong. I love the reflection of the dog in this dog's eye. I would prefer to see stronger depth of field to have a bit more of the surrounding fur in focus. The said fur is also slightly overexposed and could have been toned down slightly.
TC	27	Jay	Nabbe	2S	Smok em if you got em	12	GOLD	This is a very good example of what part light plays in one's image. This would have been a good but quite ordinary image if it was not for the light in those eyes. The author has lightened that area slightly, and that immediately draws one's attention to the eyes. Good technique
TC	28	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	Smurf	9	SILVER	This odd creature is very intriguing and in my case, my attention was immediately drawn to the shapes and textures. The eyes were a secondary component. I think that if the eyes had been a bit lighter it would have caught my attention more effectively. I do realise that this image is highly manipulated and composed but the way it is presented, with the lack of moulding around the edges just makes it a little bit more unbelievable.
TC	29	Marc	Gordon	2S	Tigers eyes	10	GOLD	Very strange colour in this image, but all editing was allowed, so this is acceptable. The way the image has been presented does draw one's attention to the eyes. The whole image is a little bit degraded, but the eyes are sharp and that is where it matters.
TC	30	Jay	Nabbe	2S	Transformation	13	COM	Talk about the eyes being at the window to the soul! Those eyes seem to have trouble written all over them. This is great storytelling. The subject is disturbing but the story about the eyes is great. Mono is great for this image as I think colour would have detracted from the story.

TC	31	Dylan	Evans	2S	Windows to the Soul	11	GOLD	Seeing that one is forced to look so intensely at this beautiful eye, I would prefer to see it slightly sharper. It is acceptable but would have been better with a slightly stronger depth of field. Using the flash has added to the value of this image. It is not over bright but just lit well enough.
TC	32	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Birds eye view	DQ	DQ	Outside Date Range
TC	33	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Old Eyes	12	GOLD	Good sharp detail in these eyes. The way you have cropped this is ideal because it shows a little bit of the character of the person. The name is therefor also appropriate.
TC	34	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	at an angle	12	GOLD	Nice and sharp where it needs to be and that is on the eye. That is where the story is. The out of focus surround doesn't worry me because one's attention is immediately drawn to the centre of the image. Could have done with a tiny bit more light on the eye itself but it's still a good image.
TC	35	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	eye at the end of the tunnel	10	GOLD	Another very interesting and creative image. The focusing is not as sharp here but the storytelling is strong and that's what needs to be.
TC	36	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Eyes in the Dark	6	BRONZE	Very interesting interpretation of the eye theme. This would do well in an open section but for this Eye challenge, it hasn't quite hit the mark. To me it is all about the filter technique that has been added and not so much about the eyes.
TC	37	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Eyes on the lookout	10	GOLD	What is good about this image is the strong yellow colour around the bird's eye. Also the light on the whole subject is good because there is nothing hidden from view. The bird's eye is very small but it still does pop and does meet the brief. The Buffalo's eye, although much bigger, tends to fade into insignificance here.
TC	38	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	glitter	8	SILVER	This storytelling is strong because the eye is front and centre in the image. It looks as though this is a severe crop off another image because the image quality has degraded somewhat and the focusing is not 100% there.
TC	39	wynand	lens	4S	Goose Stare	13	COM	Although the eye is relatively small in the image. it is so sharp and so intense that it really draws one's attention. This is proof that the eye does not have to fill the frame, but it still has to tell a strong story like this does.
TC	40	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Keeping an eye on you	8	SILVER	The first thing that hits me when I open this image is the oversaturation. That dominates the story. The eye plays second fiddle. In any nature image it is always best to use Vibrance and not Saturation. Having the eye predominantly in the shadows has reduced it 80% to a dark black hole.
TC	41	wynand	lens	4S	Look into my eyes	13	COM	Very clearly the eyes are front and centre in this image. The composition is strong and the colours are good without being excessively saturated. The focus is on those eyes, which are beautiful.

TC	42	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	looking through the shutter	14	COM	Beautiful image with very strong emphasis on the eyes. This image could have run the risk of being slightly dark in the eye department but you have done well to include a little bit more light which has really paid dividends. The composition and the focusing and the mono conversion are all great. The inclusion of a little bit of digital noise has not detracted and I feel it does actually add value.
TC	43	wynand	lens	4S	On the hunt	12	GOLD	The composition here is really what makes this image. Most people will probably disagree but I feel that the space on the right is ideal for the bird to look into. The eye is strong and in focus and although slightly in the shade, it still commands attention
TC	44	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Pastel Eyes	DQ	DQ	This image was judged before in this competition. Different look but same image. Can't be submitted twice.
TC	45	wynand	lens	4S	Race Day	14	COM	This is a WOW image and those beautiful eyes are so perfectly framed by the opening in the helmet. Yes some may argue that it is a busy image but there's no denying that one is immediately drawn to those eyes, and that is where the story is. Well done
TC	46	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Steely Eyes	9	SILVER	Yes, you have captured the eyes fairly well. It is unfortunate that this buffalo's eyes are really far apart and the story that they create is not a very convincing. The left eye that is in the shade is not very disturbing because the other eye carries the weight of the story.
TC	47	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	the heart	12	GOLD	A very unique and creative image. The fact that there is no border does add to the value of the story. There was potential that these eyes would have been dark because they were so closed in, but you have done well, probably in post processing, to have enough light on those eyes.
TC	48	wynand	lens	4S	The Look	12	GOLD	Very strong eye story seen here. The eye on the left of the image is nice and sharp. The other eye is the supporting actor in this story, but that is fine. Pity that the beak is so big and out of focus right in the middle of the image. The only way to have overcome this is to have a deeper depth of field.
TC	49	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	All made up	13	COM	Very clever storytelling here. Although there is a minimal amount of the model in the image. One can't not imagine what the rest of the scene would have been like. In this case, a little goes a long way. Beautifully focused and adequately presented. Could have done with a tiny bit more light.
TC	50	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Blue eyes	13	COM	Very strong image and the selective colouring of the iris on the right side is really very effective. It's a troubling image and it makes one think. If this was my image I would not have coloured the iris on the left of the image. That would have added more intrigue. Great storytelling.

TC	51	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Gorgeous in purple	12	GOLD	Another great image that makes one wonder. Again, a little goes a long way because one cannot help but imagine what the rest of the scene is. Also again, it could have had a little bit more light.
TC	52	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Stripey eye	9	SILVER	There could not be an eyes challenge without an image of a zebra eye or eyes. This mono conversion works well and enhances the storytelling. The eye, unfortunately is it a bit of an also-ran and the severe digital noise in the background really makes the eyelashes a little bit fuzzy and unclear
TC	53	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Whose eye am I	8	SILVER	The eye is strong in the frame. I suspect this is a drastic crop off a different image because there a lot of detail that is blurred and missing. The detail within the eye itself is also very sparse and looks predominantly like a black hole.
TC	54	Meleney	Naik	5S1	Eye Colour	12	GOLD	It is very clearly strong eye story. The image itself is very ordinary. With all that paint on her face it would be nice to see something quite eclectic and way out. Something that would suit the model and continue telling that funky story. Technically a good image.
TC	55	Jan	Lens	5S1	Eye of the vulture	13	COM	Out of all the very close animal eye pictures, this one, so far, has worked the best. The main reason for this is that it is in focus and a decent aperture was used ie. f11. It is a very bright scene but you have managed well to curtail the light and not blow out any detail.
TC	56	Jan	Lens	5S1	Falcons eye	6	BRONZE	Sadly this image is very out of focus
TC	57	Jan	Lens	5S1	Fish eagle watching	6	BRONZE	Sadly this image is very out of focus
TC	58	Meleney	Naik	5S1	Forest Faerie	12	GOLD	Really strong eye contact with the camera making for a good eye story. There is just enough visible in the image to tell us something about this lady. All technical aspects are good. Pity the ring flash is visible in her pupils. This challenge allowed editing. Maybe removing those would have been a good idea.
TC	59	Meleney	Naik	5S1	Golden Eye	13	COM	Great, sharp detail on the eyes. The eyes are quite haunting and really creep into one's soul! Adding a bit of extra light to the right eye has paid dividends and added value.
TC	60	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	im beautiful its true	14	COM	What a stunning image with huge impact. The eyes are truly the strength of the story. Beautiful exposure with the lighter areas well handled and every hair visible. Well done.
TC	61	Meleney	Naik	5S1	It Was Eye Opening	12	GOLD	This whole image is creepy...and that is a great thing because it shows the strength of the story. The red blood vessels in the eye are an added feature that add to the story. Could do with a little more contrast but I'm being picky. Great concept

TC	62	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	jades brown eyes	11	GOLD	Beautiful eyes that tell a strong story fitting the brief. The ISO of 1250 is a bit excessing as it has created some noise....but this is minor. The bright areas on the forehead and on the temple could have been dulled a little. Great clarity
TC	63	Meleney	Naik	5S1	Keep Your Eyes Peeled	13	COM	Very cleverly conceived image and the final result is WOW. I think the bloodshot vessels in the eye add to the story as well. The only thing I think you could have done better was possibly tone down that bright reflection on the iris.
TC	64	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	odette	13	COM	Beautiful eyes and very well captured. The eyes really draws one in. I really like the eyes on a slant. It makes for something different
TC	65	Jan	Lens	5S1	Padda oog	8	SILVER	The eye is strong in the image and the colours are great. Unfortunately the image is not sharp enough.
TC	66	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	Peak A Booooo Milk Please	13	COM	Very strong eye contact and the eyes are very much the strength of the story here. There are supporting actors as well which all add to the story. Nicely framed and overall technically sound
TC	67	Jan	Lens	5S1	Red eye of a black shoulder kite	6	BRONZE	Sadly this image is very out of focus
TC	68	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	teddy	12	GOLD	There is no denying the story here. Those eyes are very captivating. Unfortunately, some of the white fur is quite blown out. I think including more of the bottom of the face would have been a better option.
TC	69	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	Tiana	11	GOLD	Nice clean image with good eyes detail. Would have liked something a bit more creative at 5 star level
TC	70	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	Twinkle Twinkle	14	COM	This really is a Twinkle Twinkle Little Star! There's no doubt the story is all about those beautiful eyes. The light is beautiful and the moulding is therefore wonderful. All the technicalities are well handled. The focusing is exceptional.
TC	71	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	With Stars in her eyes	14	COM	I love the creativity shown in this image with a little bit of glitter in her eye. Beautiful image with good storytelling. Well done.
TC	72	Terry	Burne	5S2	Keep your eye on the ball - 8488	12	GOLD	Some people might perceive this image to be quite busy, but as a sports image it really is acceptable. The eye is the focal point in this image, and the fact that you've managed to keep it in focus is admirable. That whole shadow area underneath the visor of the cap could be lightened very slightly.
TC	73	Terry	Burne	5S2	Keep your eyes on the ball - 9370	13	COM	Another strong eye story. I read the concentration in this swimmer's eyes therefore the story becomes more believable.
TC	74	Rob	Hart	5S4	Big eyes - all the better to see you with	13	COM	Good technique shown here. The depth of field throughout most of the image is very shallow but over the eyes it is 100% and the eyes are therefore in crisp focus. Borderline saturation???? but well done.
TC	75	Rob	Hart	5S4	Blue-eyed youngster	DQ	DQ	Outside Date Range
TC	76	Rob	Hart	5S4	Bold red-eye	9	SILVER	That eye is really red and bold and that draws one's attention immediately. Sadly the area around the face is slightly soft . There is also evidence of over processing because they are halos around the subject.

TC	77	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Brown eyes	9	SILVER	As I have discovered during this judging process, animal eyes are not that easy to photograph. Sometimes animal eyes can just be depicted as a black hole. Sadly, a horse's eyes are one of these. I like the little bit of hair hanging down in front of the eye. If you could have managed to get slightly more to your right to photograph this it might have given you a slightly more successful result with a stronger "eye" story.
TC	78	Des	van Tonder	5S4	GameSetMatch	12	GOLD	Beautiful creativity here and I like the fact that there is no border around the image. You have obviously lightened that eye. I just feel the eye is slightly too light and the rest of the face slightly too dark. I think if there was a little bit more parity between the two, it might have been a better option.
TC	79	Rob	Hart	5S4	Jasmine eyes	11	GOLD	Another beautiful cat with a strong eye story. Here a feel that the flash has flattened the light somewhat and you have lost the sense of moulding and shape. Beautifully focused and nicely presented.
TC	80	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Red alert	12	GOLD	Extremely strong red eye and one cannot deny that, that eye is front and centre. I like the fact that there is no border. And it makes one feel that the bird is really looking out of the frame. My personal taste is that I'm not mad about the positioning of the bird which is a little above the photographer's head.
TC	81	Rob	Hart	5S4	Stalk eyes 20203	9	SILVER	Those stalk eyes are amazing and it is nice to see something a little bit different. The eyes themselves are acceptably sharp but the "macro curse" has got you here because most of the rest of the body is soft...even though you used f11. There is a lot of digital noise in the background.
TC	82	Des	van Tonder	5S4	You said waht	DQ	DQ	Outside Date Range
TC	83	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Crocodile Eye	10	GOLD	That eye is quite strong in the picture, but those teeth compete for my attention. Whilst the eye is reasonably sharp there is a lot of detail around the eye that appears a bit soft. I could be wrong, but I get the feeling that this picture has been cropped in quite a lot and has lost some detail in the process.
TC	84	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Green Iguana	11	GOLD	Similar to the previous picture, I get the feeling that this picture has been cropped in quite a lot, with a resulting loss of detail. Again the eye is reasonably sharp, but the detail around the eye appears a bit soft. I love that you have placed the eye in the middle of the picture, and the subtle colours are lovely.
TC	85	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Noena	8	SILVER	What a lovely face and very nicely captured. Colours are lovely. Sadly, the focus appears to be on the nose and the mouth of the dog which draws all of the attention, and the eyes are quite soft
TC	86	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Pikkie	9	SILVER	Another lovely dog picture - with a tight crop to focus all of your attention on that face. Again, my attention is drawn to the hair around the mouth of the dog which is the sharpest part of the picture

TC	87	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Rock Monitor	10	GOLD	Another close up picture of a lizard's eye, that is quite dramatic with subtle colours, and lovely rugged scales. The pupil of the eye looks reasonably sharp, but again much of the detail around the eye looks quite soft.
TC	21	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	Jades Eyes	14	BJUNIOR	
TC	60	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	im beautiful its true	14	BSENIOR	