

RESULTS - JAN 2026 TECH CHALLENGE - NEGATIVE SPACE														
Cat	Category Name	Seq	Firstname	Lastname	Star	Title	INTREF	Shirley	Ian	Jake	Total		Assigned to	Comment
								Score	Score	Score	Score	Award		
								11.14	11.53	9.73	32.39			
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	1	Alexandra	Davey	1S	A Flaming Christmas Present	2786490	12	12	8	32	GOLD	Ian	The gloriosa superba stands out well but the background seems incorrect and the texture in the background don't work for negative space.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	2	Jason	Johnstone	1S	As above so below	2785752	11	12	9	32	GOLD	Jake	Perhaps not quite enough open space but still a very nice image. That bird is certainly a key part of it.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	3	Laura	Smit	1S	Bad Feather Day	2784358				DQ	DQ	Shirley	Outside of date range
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	4	Laura	Smit	1S	Big Red	2784362	11	12	9	32	GOLD	Ian	The open space into which the rooster is looking improves the image and keeps returning your eye back to the dominant red of the rooster's comb.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	5	Martin	Agius	1S	Corridor of Light	2779943	13	11	10	34	GOLD	Jake	The empty space is quite busy but still it meets the challenge.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	6	Martin	Agius	1S	Fragmented Shore	2779944	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Shirley	Good mono conversion showing the textures and contrast. Composition could be enhanced by repositioning yourself more to the right to have the foreground rocks running at an angle into infinity.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	7	Laura	Smit	1S	Future Bloomer	2784364	13	12	9	34	GOLD	Ian	The complementary background works in the image and keeps your eye returning to the beautiful petals of the rose. A reduction in the pinks and reds to the right of the rose will improve the image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	8	Jason	Johnstone	1S	Globetrotter	2785756	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Jake	Iwonder if you any more of that wonderful sky available in the frame. It might have drawn more attention to itself as empty space.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	9	Martin	Agius	1S	In the Architect Shadow	2779942	14	12	11	37	GOLD	Shirley	Congratulations on thinking out of the box, and capturing the subject at the exact moment in the correct light. A very strong image that suits the mono conversion, the light and shadow add to the interest
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	10	Jay	Nabbe	2S	East street bridge	2781694	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Ian	The author has put a lot of effort into the composition of the image and has produced a pleasing result. The image in this category would be slightly improved if the person was more to the right in the image or if you crop the image from the right to give you a greater negative space impact.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	11	Dylan	Evans	2S	Flying into white space	2785823	10	11	10	31	GOLD	Jake	Although the bird is quite large in the frame we see any amount of empty space ahead. Wee done.

TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	12	Jay	Nabbe	2S	Gibson Grayscales	2786225	12	12	11	35	GOLD	Shirley	A strong moody image conveying a clear story. The diagonal sweep of the pavement pulls the eye straight to the subject. The long shadow adds to the drama and impact. Pay attention to the very bright areas on pavement , try subtly pulling down curves on the pavement which would also make the subject stand out more.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	13	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Lone duck	2780188	11	12	11	34	GOLD	Ian	The open space in the image makes the observer explore the image repeatedly with you trying to find the subject or point of interest. Needs a lot more texture and contrast to give image more interest.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	14	Toni	Harley	2S	Metallic Beauty	2785980	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Jake	This s well composed and the colours and focus on the bird are very good. But that negative space is almost too empty.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	15	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Power	2780187	12	12	11	35	GOLD	Shirley	A striking image with wonderful sun rays in contrast to the moody sky , showing great negative space in the vast and expansive vista. To improve composition try cropping off a little more off the top just enough to emphasize the light rays more.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	16	Jay	Nabbe	2S	Renzo Piano Stairs	2780781	13	14	10	37	GOLD	Ian	An excellent image with tremendous contrast, the black and white conversion has been well done. The shadows from the main figures give the feeling of movement. For a two (2) star this is really an excellent image which should do well in the Salons.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	17	Toni	Harley	2S	Sentry in Red	2785976	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Jake	This does meet the challenge but unfortunately the image is soft/noisy. Could you have toned the sky patches down a bit?
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	18	Toni	Harley	2S	The Fisherman	2785978	12	12	8	32	GOLD	Shirley	Strong use of negative space , one bird on one perch with plenty of room to look into ,supports the narrative. Try some selective clarity and contrast on the Kingfisher which would help it pop against the negative space.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	19	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	A Great Tit	2786382	9	9	8	26	SILVER	Ian	The image has a few issues which has impacted on the image. The exposure is too dark, and this can be improved with changing the exposure in lightroom. The white on the bird's face and neck will be problematically if the exposure is increased too much. There are distracting branches in the background. Unfortunately, the image is not sharp.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	20	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Fall Water	2780367	10	12	7	29	SILVER	Jake	An interesting image but no real negative space.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	21	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	Finch	2786379	10	9	8	27	SILVER	Shirley	Great use of negative space, however the bird is rather underexposed and therefore lacks clarity and blends in with the background , try lifting shadows on the bird just a tad

TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	22	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Flight	2785668	9	11	9	29	SILVER	Ian	Looking at the picture, you imagine the vastness of the sky and where the rock Pidgeon is going. A reduction in the texture and contrast of the sky might improve the image. There are several dust spots in the image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	23	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Friendship	2785758	11	12	9	32	GOLD	Jake	This is a lovely picture of two young girls but I think that less grass and more sky would have been better.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	24	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	Going nuts	2786354	12	9	9	30	GOLD	Shirley	Gorgeous mono conversion of this squirrel showing all the detail which enhances a good separation from the background. Pay attention to the little bright areas on the left of the image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	25	Sandra	Comrie	3S	House on the Hill	2785767	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Ian	The position of the Hill separates the image into two separate frames and does not give you the feeling of negative space. There also seems to be an issue with the processing as the grass seems to look unnatural.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	26	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Ice cold fire	2780372	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Jake	This is a well shot image but it lacks the necessary space around the subject.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	27	Marc	Gordon	3S	its a big world out there	2783225	10	11	11	32	GOLD	Shirley	Lovely feeling of negative space with a good exposure. The duck itself lacks a little sharpness and detail. Always try waiting until the subject is facing more side on instead of looking away.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	28	Marc	Gordon	3S	Misty Hills	2783260	10	13	10	33	GOLD	Ian	A moody image well composed and edited. The open space adds interest into the area where the tree is and this gives the image the feeling of vast open spaces and inclement weather.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	29	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Misty Midlands	2785670	10	9	10	29	SILVER	Jake	The small tree is not a very strong subject but there is plenty of space to meet the challenge.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	30	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Morning quietness	2785766	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Shirley	Lovely serene setting in the late evening light. Negative space has been achieved however the paddle boarder is placed to the extreme left leaving no space for him to enter into. Try a gentle increase in brightness on the subject to strengthen the impact. Beware of chromatic aberration around the person.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	31	Marc	Gordon	3S	Nailed it	2783228	9	11	8	28	SILVER	Ian	A busy image where the poles are dominant and not the nails. The water balances the poles in attracting your attention. There needs to be more open space in the image
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	32	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Poppy fruits	2785669	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Jake	Perhaps this might have been better without the three RHS fruits so as to give more open space. But it still does well.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	33	Gustav	de Wet	3S	Seeding sysie	2786216	12	12	11	35	GOLD	Shirley	Good use of negative space and just enough depth of field to separate the subject nicely from the background. Attractive colours with the diagonal grasses leading ones eye straight to the bird

TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	34	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Twiggy	2780364	11	13	10	34	GOLD	Ian	Here the negative space focuses your attention on the positive space. The smoke and with it being lighter in colour there is also attracts the eye. A different abstract negative space image. Well done!
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	35	Doug	Couperthw	4S	Amazed	2779659	10	12	10	32	GOLD	Jake	It certainly meets the challenge but it's a pity that the person is turned so far away from us.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	36	Diane	Backhouse	4S	Catching a ride - DB	2786174	9	11	12	32	GOLD	Shirley	Soft even light, the insect is well exposed , however the head appears a little soft and could be slightly sharpened. Pay attention to the distracting spots above the leaf . Composition could be strengthened by cropping a tad more off the bottom to give a more horizontal feel.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	37	Liesl	Couperthw	4S	early morning meeting	2778942	10	11	8	29	SILVER	Ian	The details and shapes across the image makes the viewers eye move around the image and does not emphasize the positive space, the people.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	38	Diane	Backhouse	4S	Foam Nest Frog - DB	2786197	9	11	11	31	GOLD	Jake	Very nicely done with sharp focal point on the frog's eye. That border is too wide and the colour is a distraction. The image does need a frame but keep it to 1 pixel wide and a muted shade of grey. However, I did not mark you down on this.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	39	Liesl	Couperthw	4S	misty walker	2778943	11	9	11	31	GOLD	Shirley	A serene contemplative image conveying a strong story and negative space. Composition could be stronger had you placed the subject more to the left rather than so centrally.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	40	Liesl	Couperthw	4S	water lily	2778941	9	12	7	28	SILVER	Ian	A bright and busy image with highlights appearing around the lily leaves. The focus is clearly in the flower due to the colour. The image is cluttered and give you a feeling there is more going on and that you need to look further into the image
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	41	Diane	Backhouse	4S	Whimsical - DB	2786172	10	11	10	31	GOLD	Jake	Well photographed and it certainly meets the challenge. Try a horizontal flip.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	42	Paul	Naude	5S0	Late Afternoon Cedara	2786114	9	12	11	32	GOLD	Shirley	Attractive play of light on the tree leaves which stand out against the dark background . Composition feels rather tight for the subject negative space.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	43	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Left kick	2783245	12	11	11	34	GOLD	Ian	The orange marker attracts the viewers' attention and almost divide the image. The image would be far stronger in the category if these markers were removed.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	44	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Peekaboo	2783253	10	11	9	30	GOLD	Jake	I am not sure that having the dassie on the midline was a good idea. The road in front and the pavement above it are both strong elements which compete for attention. Try shifting the fram around a bit.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	45	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Wagtail	2783252	10	9	9	28	SILVER	Shirley	Negative space beautifully achieved with a correct composition , giving the bird space to look into. Image appears rather noisy which has degraded the sharpness and clarity of the subject, try denoising slightly in post processing.

TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	46	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	arable lands	2786248	13	12	11	36	GOLD	Ian	A pleasing image where both the bales and the house attract your attention. There is a lot of distractions in this image with the beautiful clouds and the brighter parts of the image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	47	Tracey	Rhodes	5S1	Dew drop	2786267	11	11	8	30	GOLD	Jake	The dew drop is so small in the frame that it is almost invisible. Instead the flower captures the attention and especially that orange patch against the RHS border. There certainly space but this secondary.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	48	Jan	Lens	5S1	Emergence	2784567	9	11	10	30	GOLD	Shirley	I appreciate all the negative space on the right, however the composition could be much stronger had you photographed the subjects further away and preferably walking towards you to create the negative space where it counts as the subjects appear rather too close close for the title negative space.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	49	Meleney	Naik	5S1	Ground Squirrel	2786286	9	12	9	30	GOLD	Ian	Here the negative space has helped the image by emphasizing the main subject. The contrast between the ground squirrel and the background also helps the image, a good example of negative space.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	50	Jan	Lens	5S1	In the waterfall	2780276	10	12	9	31	GOLD	Jake	There not really any negative space in this image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	51	wynand	lens	5S1	Lookout	2779811	13	12	10	35	GOLD	Shirley	Congrats on a very well composed, sharp and well exposed image that conveys the subject negative space
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	52	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	Moon	2780955	10	13	12	35	GOLD	Ian	Another good example of negative space, clearly focus your attention on the positive space (moon) and the interesting details on the surface of the moon.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	53	wynand	lens	5S1	Mossie	2779810	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Jake	Well photographed and with subject well separated from the background. But it would be an improvement if you could mute the background a little.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	54	Meleney	Naik	5S1	On Top	2786351	12	11	11	34	GOLD	Shirley	Excellent scale of a small human in a vast landscape conveying negative space so appropriately. The golden light shows all the beautiful textures in the rocks, well done.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	55	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	Santas Little Elf	2780224	11	12	10	33	GOLD	Ian	A well captured image using the negative space. Unfortunately, the author needs to remove the dust spots and dimples in the background on the wall.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	56	Cornelia	Appel	5S1	Standing Tall	2780218	12	12	11	35	GOLD	Jake	Well done. It certainly meets the challenge rules.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	57	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	the skeletal tree	2786253	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Shirley	A strong composition, using the tree as the subject against a vast interesting sky. The leaning branches lead ones eye into the landscape aware of the banding around the tree.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	58	wynand	lens	5S1	Tin Man	2780916	10	12	9	31	GOLD	Ian	A pleasing image which are the focus on the man fishing. The highlights need to be reduced and the twig or stick in the top right corner can be removed.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	59	Jan	Lens	5S1	Waiting for the race to start	2785694	12	11	11	34	GOLD	Jake	The empty space talks to the upcoming competition. One feels that they are going to be running some distance before the day is done.

TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	60	Maxi	Holder	5S2	Ever Watchful Blue Headed Agama	2785750	10	12	12	34	GOLD	Shirley	these lizards are so attractive and fascinating, you have captured the colours so well with a good exposure . I feel composition could be much stronger by placing your lizard on the left looking into the picture with a slightly tighter crop as such a vast cement background is rather overpowering in this instance.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	61	Terry	Burne	5S2	Kingfisher hovering - 0792	2780902	11	11	8	30	GOLD	Ian	The Pied Kingfisher is well captured but the busy background has reduced the impact the image would have had.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	62	Terry	Burne	5S2	Pied Kingfisher on branch - 0764	2780901	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Jake	The bird is the subject but there is lots of relevant space around it
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	63	Terry	Burne	5S2	Red Bishop in the Lotus Plants - 0562	2780900	12	11	8	31	GOLD	Shirley	Such beautiful colours using the green background to compliment the red Bishop with abundant negative space. I feel the image could be cropped a little more to emphasize bishop which appears very small.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	64	Maxi	Holder	5S2	Seagull On The Scrounge	2785751	13	12	11	36	GOLD	Ian	Well captured seagull, just off the centre with a strong blue sky has emphasize your attention. If the gull was moved slightly to the left image would have been stronger in this category.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	65	Maxi	Holder	5S2	Stinging Sand	2785749	10	12	10	32	GOLD	Jake	The subject looks tired but that he still has a great distance to go.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	66	Rob	Hart	5S4	Bug viewpoint	2785918	11	12	7	30	GOLD	Shirley	A strong sharp image with good exposure. The clear diagonal stems give a feeling invading the negative space, a shallower depth of field would have been more appropriate
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	67	Rob	Hart	5S4	dancing jewel on poppy 566	2785923	14	12	9	35	GOLD	Ian	The toning down of the background will pop the dragonfly and bring back the highlights on the poppy seed. This would focus your attention on the dragonfly.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	68	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Home builder	2785931	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Jake	The bird is tack sharp but the negative space is too busy to really meet the challenge.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	69	Rob	Hart	5S4	Plumbago 423	2786420	13	11	10	34	GOLD	Shirley	Well done on a most attractive image, the plumbago leans into the beautiful bokeh background creating great negative space
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	70	Des	van Tonder	5S4	The courting is about to begin	2785922	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Ian	A strong image in this category using the leading lines of the leaves to focus your eye on the frog. Try to increase the exposure on the frogs' eyes using the radial gradient in Lightroom.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	71	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Yum yum	2785930	11	12	13	36	GOLD	Jake	The bird is the subject but the space around it really well in collaboration with it. Very nicely done.
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	72	Carol	Phillips	6S1	into space	2781946	10	11	13	34	GOLD	Shirley	Definitely nailed the negative space, however the timing makes plane feel as if it is going out of the picture. Composition could be stronger if one saw the front of the plane instead of the back
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	73	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Lost In A Sea Of Green	2775807	13	12	9	34	GOLD	Ian	Well captured. The only thing the image needs is toning down the bright area in the top right part of the image.

TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	74	Leon	Heyes	6S2	On The Lookout	2775806	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Jake	The bird is well separated from the space behind it. That light patch could perhaps have been toned down a bit .
TC	Technical Challenge - Negative Space	75	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Pastel Incas	2783605	13	12	10	35	GOLD	Shirley	Such a pretty pleasing image, the shallow depth of field has complimented the composition, congratulations.
TC	Best Junior		Jay	Nabbe	2S	Renzo Piano Stairs	2780781	13	14	10	37	BJUNIOR	Ian	
TC	Best Senior		Des	van Tonder	5S4	Yum yum	2785930	11	12	13	36	BSENIOR	Jake	