

RESULTS - APRIL 2026 TECHNICAL CHALLENGE - PORTRAITS						All judges to Score ALL Images					Please Comment where assigned	
Cat	Seq	Firstname	Lastname	Star	Title	Herman	Tilla	Peter	Total		Assigned to	Comment
						Score	Score	Score	Score	Award		
						9 14 11.33	9 14 10.85	7 14 10.40				
TC	1	Deana	Adams	1S	Amelia	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Peter	Lovely portrait, excellent lighting, subtle shadows for dimension and wonderful catch light in the eyes. I'm being really harsh, sorry, and marking you down because the eyes are not tack sharp, which is very important in a portrait.
TC	2	Laura	Smit	1S	Bling	10	9	9	28	SILVER	Herman	Good lighting on the model, but the combination of glasses as well as the hand in front of the face is overdoing it.
TC	3	Deana	Adams	1S	Connor	11	10	9	30	GOLD	Tilla	The one sided light is effective.Crop rather in a portrait crop for a stronger composition.The black on black let your subject dissappear in the background.Reduce the noise
TC	4	Laura	Smit	1S	connor	12	10	9	31	GOLD	Peter	Nice use of model and good lighting. But the image is not tack sharp and, this may be just my personal issue, but dark images with dark background, to my eye, need a border so that I don't have an image floating in the air on my screen. A border delineates and anchors the image.
TC	5	Deana	Adams	1S	Karabo	11	12	11	34	GOLD	Herman	Lovely light on a very colourful subject, the black and white put a lot of emphasis on the colour beads and skirt at the bottom
TC	6	Jason	Johnstone	1S	on the road	10	10	12	32	GOLD	Tilla	Not sure if the bike handle contributes to the photo,except for the title..Careful to shoot a model from a low vantage point,it makes her appear big,and idealy you want a light above the pupil,and you won't get that if shooting from below
TC	7	Liezel	de Kock	1S	Sapphire in the Sun	9	10	13	32	GOLD	Peter	Creative posing and the models hair and earrings colours are picked up in the cloth. Nicely done.

TC	8	Laura	Smit	1S	Waiting	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Herman	lovely picture with good lighting overall and a good bokeh in the background
TC	9	Jason	Johnstone	1S	warrior	10	10	10	30	GOLD	Tilla	Good backlight photo, but there is excessive noise that ruins the photo
TC	10	Martin	Agius	2S	A Gilded Devotion	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Peter	Very colourful and an interesting image. However, it has a very shallow depth of field and the arms are sharp, but everything behind that is fairly soft. A smaller aperture may have helped, or single point focusing on the eyes.
TC	11	Martin	Agius	2S	Gaze of the Wild	13	11	9	33	GOLD	Herman	Stunning photo of the model with some colourful bokeh in the background. The image is sharp and vibrant with colours, well done
TC	12	Lesley	Marchant	2S	Me and mum	11	10	7	28	SILVER	Tilla	cute concept, but the post processing let you down. Lift the shadows, you cannot see detail on the foal's ear and nose. Rework this photo to try and better this image
TC	13	Lesley	Marchant	2S	One of a kind	12	11	10	33	GOLD	Peter	Cute, sharp image which holds one's attention. But my usual feedback holds true about images floating in the air when they have a dark background that is, essentially, black. A border would make the world of difference.
TC	14	Toni	Harley	2S	Quack	10	10	11	31	GOLD	Herman	the light on the duck is a bit dark and as a result it does not look that sharp, the bokeh in the background let your subject stand out more but is also full of noise, try this type of shot in a bit more light or try using a fill light
TC	15	Dylan	Evans	2S	Splash	11	10	10	31	GOLD	Tilla	Because this is a portrait, it would be wise to isolate the person from the background, otherwise it is more of a Journalism photo. The face is in the shadow and needs light on it, one would like to see detail on the face
TC	16	Martin	Agius	2S	Stilled Momentum	12	11	10	33	GOLD	Peter	My comment is the same as the other similar image of this same subject. The very shallow depth of field makes sharp focus difficult. However, this image the focus was more accurately placed.

TC	17	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Amelia	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Herman	Beautiful shot of the girl in the light with a great bokeh ,the bokeh isis good and the skin as well as the eyes are well lit
TC	18	Jay	Nabbe	3S	Beyond the horizon	10	10	13	33	GOLD	Tilla	Good lighting on the subject,and beautiful light in the eyes.The clarity is however too much.You can also tone down on the exposure.Tonal range is good.
TC	19	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Brent	11	10	12	33	GOLD	Peter	Interesting pensive pose, nice lighting and subtle shadows. The B&W conversion is done well. Eyes could be a little sharper.
TC	20	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Brent	9	9	9	27	SILVER	Herman	very good photo with great lighting but unfortunately destroyed in post processing, the skin looks unnatural both in the face as well as on the neck. Slowly with the brush
TC	21	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Connor	11	11	10	32	GOLD	Tilla	The one sided light works well in this image.The face is well lit and the colour saturation is good.Clarity is good.Reduce the background noise in post processing
TC	22	Marc	Gordon	3S	Ethnic Delight	11	11	11	33	GOLD	Peter	Nice model, nice colours, nice pose. I slightly greater depth of field may have helped make the eyes sharper. A border would have finished off this totally black background. This image is saved by the eye “finishing” the box with the white T-shirt, but the top part of image bleeds into infinity.
TC	23	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Juraysa	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Herman	great photo of the model, the focus was however not on the eyes and looks more on the teeth, the lighting was well handled.
TC	24	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Karabo	10	10	12	32	GOLD	Tilla	Good portrait.The skin is smoothed out too much, then you loose texture.She has unfortunately heavy bags under her eyes,that make this upwards look not the best pose for this spesific model.The soft light is effective
TC	25	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	Oom Len	12	11	11	34	GOLD	Peter	This man is a bit spooky. Gnarly, face, full of character. The image definitely elicits an emotional response! Good.

TC	26	Marc	Gordon	3S	Portrait of a quiet Fire	12	12	14	38	GOLD	Herman	Great studio shot , the lighting correctly done to create a seperation between the white hat and the white background, the red hair and blue eyes form a beautiful contrast with the white background.
TC	27	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	Seen too much	11	11	10	32	GOLD	Tilla	Beautiful cat.I like the engagement with the camera and the stare off.The light on the cat's eye is very good.Nice soft background let the subject stand out
TC	28	Nyasha	Godoka	3S	Still smiling	10	9	9	28	SILVER	Peter	The tricky thing about portraiture is finding that thin line between a snap-shot and an image that is posed, or deliberate, or has gravitas or oomph to what is being portrayed. This portrait is nice enough but, to my eye, leans more towards the snap-shot category. It lacks intentionality.
TC	29	Jay	Nabbe	3S	The Look of Time	9	9	12	30	GOLD	Herman	Lovely model with characterful face but unfortunately the bokeh in the face is very distracting, even disturbing. Try this shot again with a deeper depth of field.
TC	30	Marc	Gordon	3S	Tired Gogo	10	9	12	31	GOLD	Tilla	This is more a candid shot as this person doesn't engage with the photographer at all.Her face is however well lit and the colour saturation handled well.
TC	31	Jay	Nabbe	3S	Unapologetic	11	12	12	35	GOLD	Peter	Great dynamic range in the B&W conversion, wonderfully sharp. A powerful image.
TC	32	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	Chris Braveheart	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Herman	Well captured photo with a lot of detail, the eyes are pin sharp and the light as well as the saturation handled to perfection. Well done
TC	33	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	looking at you	12	11	12	35	GOLD	Tilla	Lovely pose and portrait.Light on her face is adequate.The skin colour just seem to have a red tint
TC	34	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	Pensive	11	10	10	31	GOLD	Peter	Sharp image. Impactful use of colour. Some technical issues. White spots in hair, distracting pattern in background and white at border edge that could have been burned or, if there was a border around the entire image, this would have bee mitigated.

TC	35	Paul	Naude	5S0	Jim Morrison Jnr	11	10	9	30	GOLD	Herman	Great shot with good lighting, the eyes are pinsharp and the contrast in the jacket is well handled. ` The pose is a bit hard onto his hand misforming the jaw line
TC	36	Paul	Naude	5S0	Of Royal blood	10	10	9	29	SILVER	Tilla	Good pose.Fairly good light on the face.Very soft focus on the model.You can even try a closer crop to put more focus on the face and eyes
TC	37	Paul	Naude	5S0	You called my name	11	11	13	35	GOLD	Peter	Powerful image. Great lighting and shadow, sharp eyes and catch light. Striking. Nicely done.
TC	38	Heidi	Taylor	5S1	Gorgeous Amelia	12	12	14	38	GOLD	Herman	very good shot with a good contrast between light and dark, the picture is bright, nice and clean with a good seperation between the whites . Great pose with the face just touching the hand withoiut leaning into it.
TC	39	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	A beautiful smile	11	12	12	35	GOLD	Tilla	Beautiful model with strong facial features.The mono processing is strong.The light on the model is perfect
TC	40	wynand	lens	5S1	Afternoon sun	12	12	9	33	GOLD	Peter	Nice image but, because of the lack of direct connection with the subject, or is it just their neutral facial expression, this image “feels” more like a snap shot than an intentional portrait. Note: no metadata
TC	41	Tracey	Rhodes	5S1	candid smile	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Herman	Lovely relaxed model with a great smile, the scene is well balanced and the mono effect is great, love the bokeh that seperates the model from the background
TC	42	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	dillon	11	11	12	34	GOLD	Tilla	Well lit portraiture.Clarity on the eyes and face is good.The black cap just get lost in the black background.You can lift the shaddows a little
TC	43	wynand	lens	5S1	Faith like lemons	12	12	10	34	GOLD	Peter	Similar to my comment on the woman at this same religious festival, this has has less of a neutral facial expression, so it does carry some of the gravitas of a portrait. Had the subject made eye contact with the photographer, this would have done much better in score from me. Note: no metadata

TC	44	Heidi	Taylor	5S1	Juraysia with attitude	11	10	10	31	GOLD	Herman	As presented the photo is a tack dark and does not pop at all, creating lost of definition between her hair and her neck .
TC	45	Heidi	Taylor	5S1	Mini model	12	10	9	31	GOLD	Tilla	Lovely child.I would have like to see the whole face in the light,also the neckline.Focus not 100% on her eyes.Careful of your model placement,as the chair's back is cutting through her head
TC	46	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	Sisters	13	13	10	36	GOLD	Peter	Great studio shot of siblings. The colour balance distracts. Right dress is yellowed, but skin tone lacks yellow and is washed out, whereas left dress is white, and skin tone is more natural.
TC	47	wynand	lens	5S1	The Market	11	10	9	30	GOLD	Herman	great street photography shot of the old lady, the people in the front is however distracting and a closer crop would help this photo, the tonal range well handled and grea clarity
TC	48	Tracey	Rhodes	5S1	touch of red	11	10	10	31	GOLD	Tilla	I like the idea of selective colour,but in this instance something went wrong in your processing.The red bleeding onto her skin,legs and on the floor.Just rework the photo.
TC	49	Terry	Burne	5S2	Guy at the Sugar Shack - 6876	13	12	10	35	GOLD	Peter	Bright colours and sharpness make the subject interesting. Although eye contact is not a pre-requisite for a good portrait, in this instance it may have introduced a more appealing dynamic.
TC	50	Maxi	Holder	5S2	Okay So Whez The Fire	12	11	10	33	GOLD	Herman	Great shot of the dog and fitting Title, the photo is nice and sharp, the handled correctly with lots of detail. Well captured
TC	51	Vicki	Street	5S3	Desre	13	12	11	36	GOLD	Tilla	Lovely model and good lighting on her.I would also try a much closer crop to focus on her facial features
TC	52	Vicki	Street	5S3	Patrick Kelly Busking in Belfast	13	12	13	38	GOLD	Peter	Excellent street photography portrait with great lighting and conversion in to B&W. Everything that needs to be sharp, is. Nicely done.
TC	53	Vicki	Street	5S3	The Living Statue Marta	14	13	12	39	COM	Herman	Stunning shot with absolutely great light saturation, the bokeh in the background is a bit blown out that places emphis on the model. Great shot
TC	54	Rob	Hart	5S4	Naked and blind baby shrew	11	12	8	31	GOLD	Tilla	Great light on the subject.Very sharp and clarity is perfect.Background blur is effective,well done
TC	55	Rob	Hart	5S4	Bug profile	11	10	9	30	GOLD	Peter	Interesting subject, but lack clarity and sharpness.

TC	56	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Goliath in mono	DQ	DQ	DQ	DQ	DQ	Herman	Out of date range
TC	57	Rob	Hart	5S4	Jasmine the huntress	11	10	9	30	GOLD	Tilla	Lovely light on the cat.Very sharp.Tone a bit down on the exposure,and dodge and burn the background
TC	58	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Poised to strike	DQ	DQ	DQ	DQ	DQ	Peter	Out of date range
TC	59	Des	van Tonder	5S4	What me Never	14	14	11	39	COM	Herman	Stunning photo of the dog on the chair in studio, the picture is pins sharp and the light is perfect all over . The contact is there right in the eyes and the pink of the tongue rounds this exceptional photo. Well done
TC	60	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Brent	12	11	12	35	GOLD	Tilla	Well lit portrait.Focus a little soft.Body very dark and therefor there is no seperation with the background
TC	61	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Juraysa	12	11	9	32	GOLD	Peter	Nice pose, great lighting and shadow. But quite soft, especially the eyes.
TC	62	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Triplets	13	13	12	38	GOLD	Herman	Great photo, the main photo bright and clean with the sub photos place on different distances from the main photo creating a stunning effect

TC		Marc	Gordon	3S	Portrait of a quiet Fire	12	12	14	38	BJUNIOR		
TC		Des	van Tonder	5S4	What me Never	14	14	11	39	BSENIOR		