

RESULTS - JUNE 2026 TECHNICAL CHALLENGE - LAYERS in POST-PROCESSING							All judges to Score ALL Images					Please Comment where assigned	
Cat	Seq	Firstname	Lastname	Star	Title	INTREF	Conrad	Gert	Paul	Total		Assigned to	Comment
							Score	Score	Score	Score	Award		
						Ave Min Max	10.74 9 13	10.54 8 13	10.23 7 14				
TC	1	Liezel	de Kock	1S	Accordion Apple	2900005	12	12	14	38	GOLD	Gert	This is a very good interpretation of the brief, and the goal of the image has been achieved clearly and effectively. The concept is easy to understand and the execution supports the idea well. The only area I would refine is the light on the cut faces of the apple, which feels a little low and could benefit from a touch more brightness. Overall, this is a superb effort.
TC	2	Deana	Adams	1S	African Dream	2905604	9	9	8	26	SILVER	Paul	Well done in achieving the aim of working with layers. The second layer of the sunset is a good photograph on its own but does not gel with the base photo.
TC	3	Liezel	de Kock	1S	Amelias Kaleidoscope	2900006	10	10	9	29	SILVER	Conrad	Love the effect surrounding the model. The colours work well. The models eyes are a bit soft.
TC	4	Deana	Adams	1S	Born to be wild	2905605	11	11	12	34	GOLD	Gert	It looks as though you must have had great fun creating this image, and that sense of playfulness comes through strongly. The interpretation of the theme is good, and the image also shows some solid technique. The eggshell below the rider needs a little attention so that it blends more convincingly, but otherwise this is an imaginative and enjoyable effort.
TC	5	Liezel	de Kock	1S	Chain Reaction	2898378	11	11	9	31	GOLD	Paul	The framing is good and the shadows need to be lifted, there is minimal detail in the blacks and no facial features are visible.
TC	6	Deana	Adams	1S	Flying squad	2905630	10	12	11	33	GOLD	Conrad	I like the fact that you have four different riders in the montage. They are all nice and sharp. Just watch out for the difference in colour in the wheels of the bikes compared to the colour of the sky.
TC	7	Martin	Agius	2S	Project Double Exposure 112	2905258	12	12	11	35	GOLD	Gert	The concept is excellent, and the execution supports it very well. The image feels considered, creative, and confidently handled. I would only caution against the very light area on the main character's head, as it may be a little too strong and could draw attention away from the rest of the composition. With that small adjustment, this is a very good image.
TC	8	Martin	Agius	2S	Project Double Exposure 114	2905259	12	13	12	37	GOLD	Paul	Well handled mono with good layering and blending.
TC	9	Martin	Agius	2S	Project Double Exposure 117	2905260	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Conrad	Love the different textures and patterns in the composite. The figure facing away from you works well and adds mystery to the image.

TC	10	Marc	Gordon	3S	A grounded sunset	2903688	12	10	9	31	GOLD	Gert	The concept is good, and the method used to blend the layers has been handled well. The overall idea is clear, but I do not think the hand and shadow are quite strong enough against the very bright background. To improve the image, I would try a different or darker background so the important elements have more presence and the composition reads more clearly.
TC	11	Marc	Gordon	3S	Afternoon at Tala	2903696	10	11	8	29	SILVER	Paul	You met the brief wrt layers but created a mish-mash of an image that is uncomfortable to look at. EXIF Data is missing.
TC	12	Sandra	Comrie	3S	Chick Plymouth	2905698	9	9	7	25	SILVER	Conrad	A nice photo of the car and the surroundings, but the chick does not fit the narrative, unless there is some hidden meaning. Perhaps if the chicken was facing the opposite direction?
TC	13	Lesley	Marchant	3S	Colours of nature	2902219	9	9	10	28	SILVER	Gert	This is Kenmo at her finest, with beautifully saturated colours that immediately catch the eye and give the image strong visual appeal. When adding a sky, however, it is important to select and blend very carefully around the edges of trees. This can be extremely difficult and time-consuming, but it is worth the effort because any missed areas are quickly noticed. In this image, the blending has slipped slightly in those edge areas.
TC	14	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Dreamscape	2898793	10	10	10	30	GOLD	Paul	You have done well in applying different layers but I find the object proportions odd and the flower does appear out of place. Practice a bit more to perfect making lights appera to be switched on. They should be bright, even washed-out.
TC	15	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Four in one	2899925	9	10	10	29	SILVER	Conrad	Working with layers is a tricky thing. While the flowers blend fairly well, the butterfly did not work so well and because it's the focal point it does look less well blended than the rest.
TC	16	Joan	Lindegger	3S	God amidst the thorns of life	2899407	9	9	12	30	GOLD	Gert	Placing the mosaic in front of a thorn bush is a strong and interesting concept, and it creates a good visual relationship between the subject and its surroundings. To improve the composition, I would consider cropping away most of the sky so the viewer's attention remains on the mosaic and thorns. It may also help to blend in or add more thorns along the right-hand edge of the mosaic panel, where the edge currently appears abruptly cut off.
TC	17	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Imagine	2898791	10	11	10	31	GOLD	Paul	The layers and mono are well done but it is such a busy image with too many image layers. The bull does allow the eye some focus but it needs to stand out more with greater contrast. I must commend you on going at the Challenge full-steam.
TC	18	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Lotus flower and leaf	2900558	10	10	12	32	GOLD	Conrad	Blending is done quite well. The colours are nice and the flower is sharp and the exposure is done well.

TC	19	Lesley	Marchant	3S	Serenity	2902223	10	11	11	32	GOLD	Gert	This image has gorgeous colours and a very appealing idea. The moon, dead trees, and bench are all strong elements, and each contributes to the atmosphere of the scene. In my opinion, however, the bench sits too far away from the other elements to create a fully cohesive composition. Moving it closer would help achieve stronger unity, balance, and visual connection across the image.
TC	20	Minky	Goodbrand	3S	Staring Sunflower	2898792	9	10	11	30	GOLD	Paul	An interesting if somewhat disturbing image. Good detail and focus in all layers.
TC	21	Marc	Gordon	3S	Sunset at the dam	2903694	9	9	8	26	SILVER	Conrad	I like the blending of images and colours in the bottom half of the image, however the top right blend with the distinct rectangle is jarring to the rest of the image.
TC	22	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Bavaria Statue Munich	2902439	11	11	11	33	GOLD	Gert	This is a clever idea, placing the statue in front of a long-exposure night sky to create atmosphere and drama. The concept has clear potential and the combination of elements is interesting. I do find the sky a little noisy, and the blurred clouds become somewhat distracting. Reducing the noise and softening the impact of the cloud movement would make the image cleaner and more effective.
TC	23	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	diving into a rusky coffee	2902205	10	10	7	27	SILVER	Paul	The rusk is what attracts my eye and appears about to swat away the small distraction (your second layer? As is the image does not work.. It may have if you had photographed the upper part of the mug with coffee visible and your fly was bigger and appearing to jump into the coffee. The addition of the hand and rusk really messes with proportions. You met the brief in creating a layered image but there needs to be more to the image than that for a 3 star.
TC	24	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Fern Frenzy	2902438	11	8	7	26	SILVER	Conrad	I quite like the zooming effect and that all the elements in the image leads your eye to the top of the fern.
TC	25	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	fungal school	2902203	10	8	9	27	SILVER	Gert	This is a fun image with a clear sense of humour and a good use of layers. The playful idea comes across well and suits the subject matter. Unfortunately, the main mushroom is not sharp enough, which weakens the overall impact. The drawn-in eyes also compete with the “learner fungi” for attention, so simplifying that area would help the viewer focus on the main joke and story.
TC	26	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Kitty Armageddon	2902440	11	10	8	29	SILVER	Paul	Your layering is good but the image does not work. If you could have gotten the tourists to evacuate the building and have them running away, (which I know is an impossible task) it may have scored slightly better. As is, the drama is in the sky but not on the ground.

TC	27	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	layers of water lily	2902204	10	9	11	30	GOLD	Conrad	I like the star shape the leaves make. The blue colours are soothing and contrasts nicely with the orange of the centre of the flower. The orange part is a bit too dark and can be lightened somewhat.
TC	28	Stephen	Pryke	5S1	Autumn Morning in Soft Focus	2899743	12	9	8	29	SILVER	Gert	This is a pleasing and interesting composite, with elements that generally work well together and a theme that has been interpreted clearly. Unfortunately, some of the layer edges have not been erased enough, leaving visible signs of where elements were placed, particularly in the top right third. The human element could also use a little more definition, as it currently appears somewhat soft and indistinct. Refining these details would make the composite much more convincing.
TC	29	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	Deep in thought	2903532	13	12	13	38	GOLD	Paul	Very good layering and mono. The flowers do not overpower your subject and the whole image has been sympathetically handled. Well done.
TC	30	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	Double me	2903529	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Conrad	Well put together and the exposure and focus is spot on. The one looking away and the other at the camera works very well. The crop at the bottom by the hands is too tight though.
TC	31	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	Looking at myself	2903541	12	12	12	36	GOLD	Gert	This is a very good interpretation of the theme, and the layering has been executed well. The subtle shadows under the feet are especially effective, helping the image feel natural, grounded, and unforced. That attention to detail makes the composite more believable and gives the final result a polished quality. Overall, this is a strong and successful image.
TC	32	Rob	Hart	5S4	Readying for winter 1	2905585	11	10	8	29	SILVER	Paul	The only layering appears to be the woodpile on the right and I have yet to see real life wood that is transparent. The opacity of this layer should be at 100% and not lower for the full effect to show.
TC	33	Rob	Hart	5S4	Readying for winter 2	2905651	11	9	8	28	SILVER	Conrad	The top part of the image works well but the bottom part with the hay bales looks squashed and spoils the look of the image a bit.
TC	34	Rob	Hart	5S4	Readying for winter 3	2905805	11	10	8	29	SILVER	Gert	There are several good elements in this image, and the idea clearly has potential. Unfortunately, because every layer has been given the same level of presence, the final result has become difficult to read. Nothing stands out strongly enough to guide the viewer's eye, so each element competes with the others for dominance. Creating a clearer focal point and reducing the visual strength of supporting elements would make the image much more effective.
TC	35	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Spotlight	2902211	12	12	14	38	GOLD	Paul	Simple but perfectly executed layering and masking. A marvellous image.

TC	36	Des	van Tonder	5S4	Twins	2902209	12	11	11	34	GOLD	Conrad	The image works quite well and I like the two different looks of the model. The skin softening of the body is a bit overdone though and looks fake.
TC	37	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Mystic Mandala	2877200	13	12	12	37	GOLD	Gert	This is a beautifully executed image that is sharp, well exposed, and confidently presented. The technical handling is strong, and the clean execution allows the image to make its point clearly. There is very little to distract from the subject, which gives the final result a polished and professional feel. Very well done.
TC	38	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Tyla In Triplicate	2877204	11	12	11	34	GOLD	Paul	An interesting presentation with one image being normally exposed and the layering done with mono-converted images with reduced luminance. With the bright part of the image being on the left I find my eye tends to ignore the right side of the image. Consider increasing the luminance of the right image to 75% that of the base layer? Having said that it is a great image.
TC	39	Leon	Heyes	6S2	Zygo Cactus	2901945	11	13	13	37	GOLD	Conrad	I love the soft pastel colours in the image. The flowers are sharp enough and fits the mood of the image. The background exposure is a bit too bright and is spilling over onto the flowers a bit too much.

TC		Liezel	de Kock	1S	Accordion Apple	2900005	12	12	14	38	BJUNIOR		
TC		JOAN	JUNG	5S1	Deep in thought	2903532	13	12	13	38	BSENIOR		