



The Photographic Society of South Africa

JAP
Workshops



1. An Introduction to Judging
2. The pitfalls of judging
3. Getting the score right
4. How and what to say



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Hendrik Ferreira FPSSA

On Judging and Evaluation

Through his commentary,
this person is also an educator
whose comments on a specific picture
may influence the
future work of several other learning
and aspiring
photographers in the audience.





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Ken Holland ARPS, DPAGB
Looking at Photographs

In my opinion a good judge does not pass judgement. He/she should regard judging as appraisal, assessment and analysis.

In other words judging should be evaluative, not judgemental.

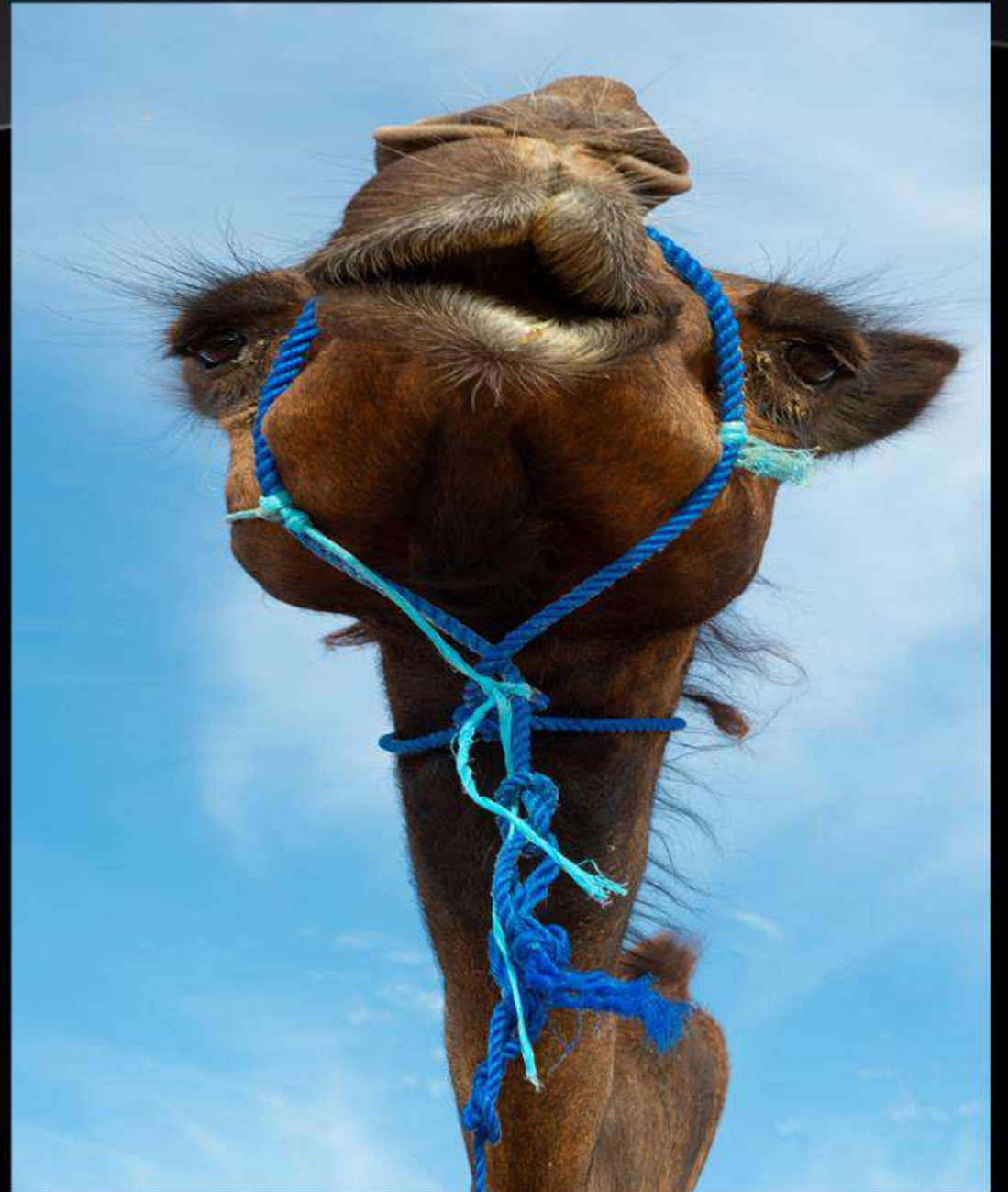




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A photograph is not GOOD
just because you like it.

Nor is it BAD
just because you don't like it.





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You judge the image,
not the person or the place
or the difficulty.

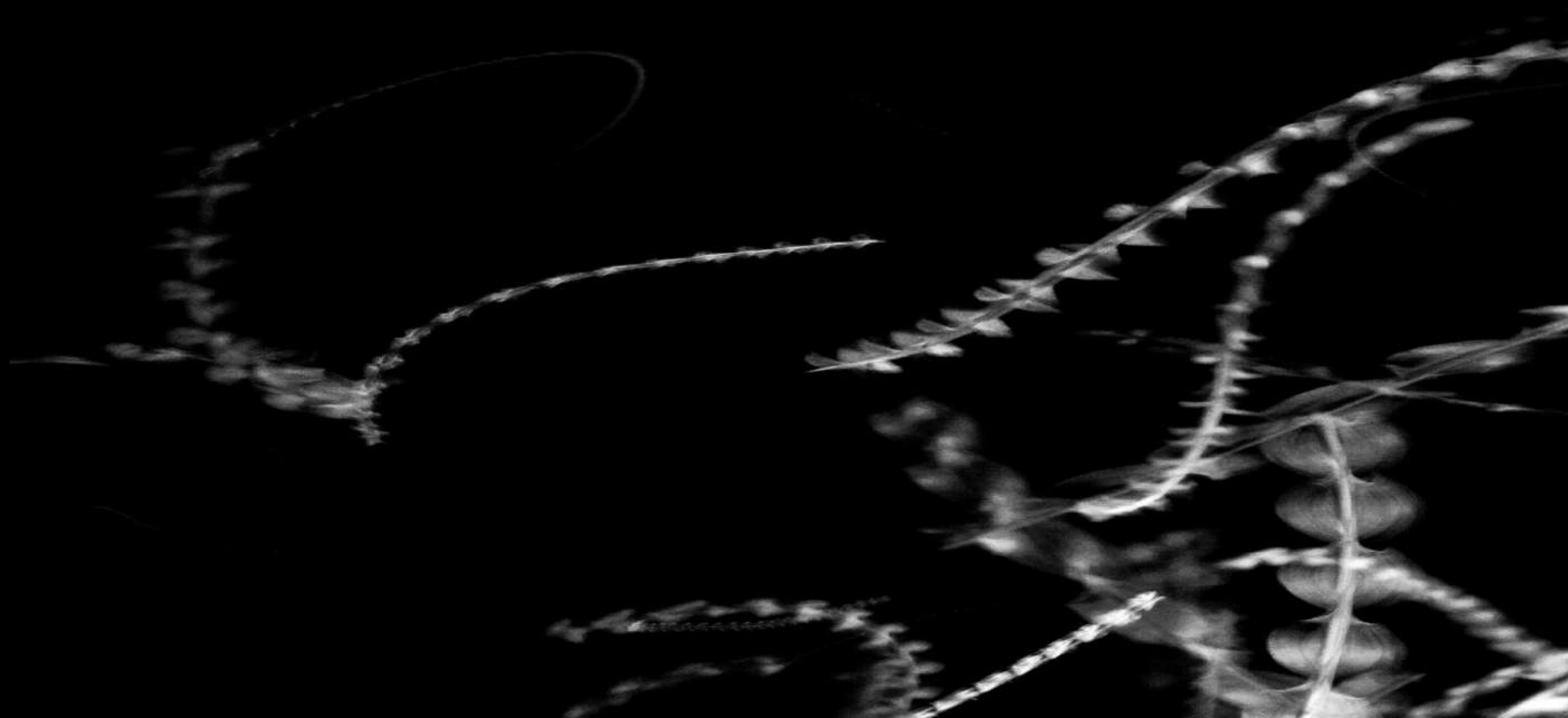
It doesn't matter what it is,
you judge the image
as presented.





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Appreciation of all art, including photography,
is an emotional exercise





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Appreciation of all art, including photography,
is an emotional exercise
which may be
pleasurable, depressing, moving ...

The importance of judging/evaluating/assessing cannot be denied.



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is an emotional exercise
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The importance of judging/evaluating/assessing cannot be denied.

And yet judges are so often the subject of criticism
and seldom of praise
so much so that you wonder why anyone is willing to judge.



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is an emotional exercise
which may be
pleasurable, depressing, moving ...

The importance of judging/evaluating/assessing cannot be denied.

And yet judges are so often the subject of criticism
and seldom of praise
so much so that you wonder why anyone is willing to judge.

The subject never fails to arouse great passion and controversy.




An Introduction to Judging

"No man has the right to dictate what other men should perceive, create or produce, but all should be encouraged to reveal themselves, their perceptions and emotions, and to build confidence in the creative spirit."

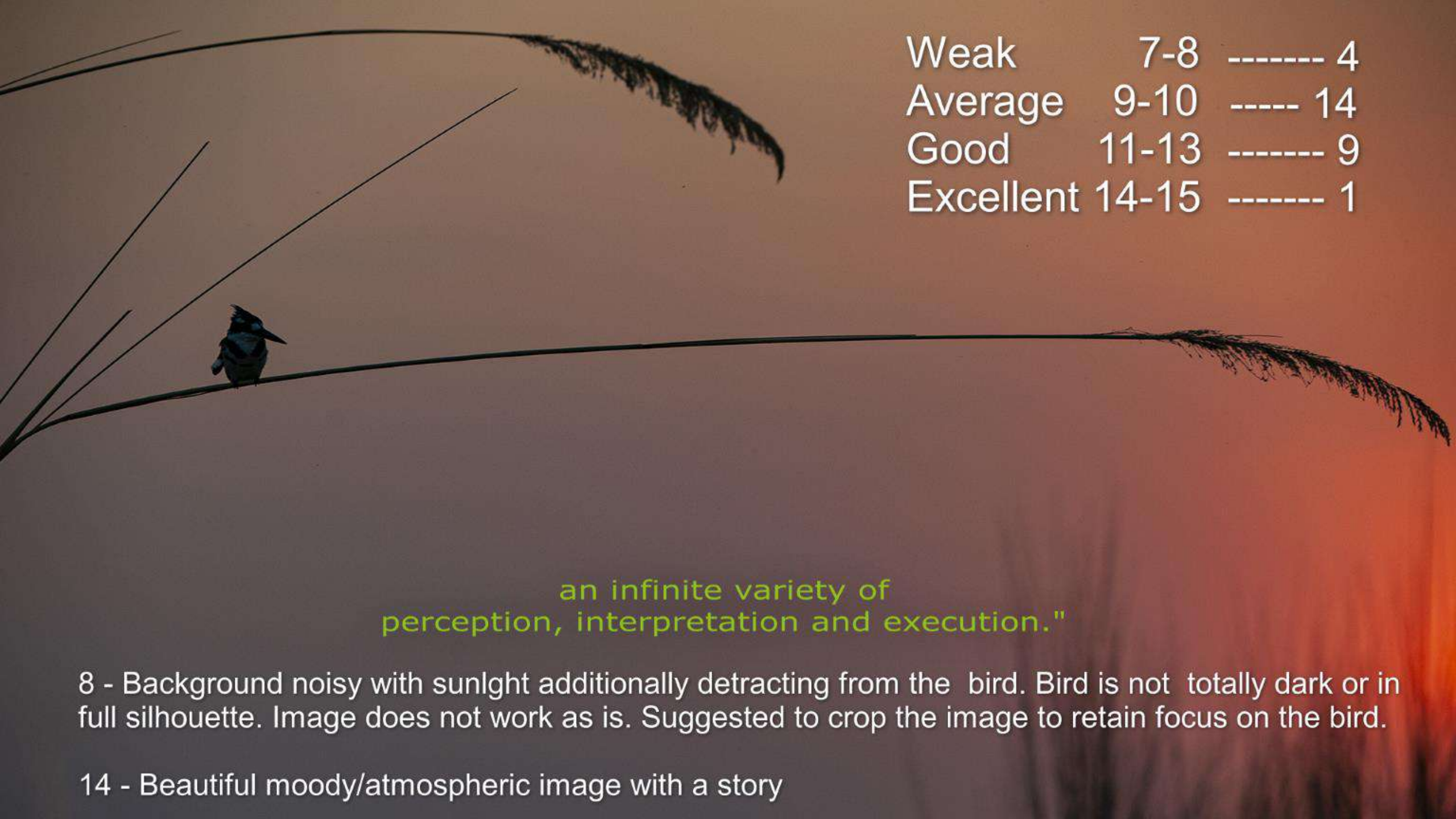
"Photography, as a powerful medium of expression and communication, offers
an infinite variety of
perception, interpretation and execution."

"There are always two people in every picture:
the photographer and the viewer."



Weak	7-8	-----	4
Average	9-10	-----	14
Good	11-13	-----	9
Excellent	14-15	-----	1

an infinite variety of
perception, interpretation and execution."



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an infinite variety of
perception, interpretation and execution."

8 - Background noisy with sunlight additionally detracting from the bird. Bird is not totally dark or in full silhouette. Image does not work as is. Suggested to crop the image to retain focus on the bird.

14 - Beautiful moody/atmospheric image with a story



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So then - WHY JUDGE?

CLUB - To Teach

A good photo is always
the one about to be taken

and it can be better from what was learned and put into practise
from comments made by the judges.



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You have scored the images

now comes the difficult part

HOW and WHAT to SAY



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IDENTIFY the GOOD



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IDENTIFY the GOOD

it is the feelings, emotions and mood that a picture conveys
which form the basis of evaluation.



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what doesn't work in the picture - art or craft -
composition, focus, exposure, post processing etc.



A close-up photograph of a zebra's skin, showing the intricate texture of the black and white stripes. The stripes are irregular and wavy, creating a complex pattern. The lighting highlights the fine details of the fur, including the individual hairs and the way the stripes curve and bend across the animal's body. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the texture of the skin.

Nice texture of the Zebra skin, not sure if we should look at the texture or the zebra, would have been nice to see the full image of the Zebra.

A close-up photograph of a zebra's body, showing the intricate black and white striped pattern of its skin. The stripes are thick and irregular, creating a complex, wavy texture. The lighting is soft, highlighting the fine details of the fur.

Nice texture of the Zebra skin, not sure if we should look at the texture or the zebra, would have been nice to see the full image of the Zebra.

I like the patterns of the zebra. The image itself seems incomplete and my mind wants to see either a tail or head. My eyes do not know where to rest. Tighter crop could solve this by showing only patterns instead of half limbs.



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IDENTIFY the GOOD

it is the feelings, emotions and mood that a picture conveys
which form the basis of evaluation.

IDENTIFY the BAD

what doesn't work in the picture - art or craft -
composition, focus, exposure, post processing etc.

and the UGLY



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what doesn't work in the picture - art or craft -
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and the BETTER



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and how to make it **BETTER**



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what doesn't work in the picture - art or craft -
composition, focus, exposure, post processing etc.

and how to make it **BETTER**

Constructive advice on how to improve the picture.



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Be careful in what you say and how you say it

Just as images are interpreted so too are our comments





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I am a little concerned about your comments regarding the white lily, as I don't recall sharpening it at all (I try not to with flowers and animals). The final image is a stack of about 8 RAW files, and those all get my standard 15% texture and 15% clarify adjustment when I import into Lightroom. When I look at the image on my monitor it looks fine, so maybe it's time for another calibration!

Anyway, even though I like it too, I won't use it - it's not worth the risk!



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and how you say it
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Be careful in what you say and how you say it

Just as images are interpreted so too are our comments

Remember that an image belongs to someone and he or she has feelings about that image and for most of us a criticism of an image feels like a criticism of ourselves.



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The important point about judging is that you need to have the knowledge and understanding of photography to have confidence in yourself.

Provided you are clear and confident in your judgement, and are able to support it, then you are on the right track.



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Provided you are clear and confident in your judgement, and are able to support it, then you are on the right track.

BUT

Don't try to show how much you know!



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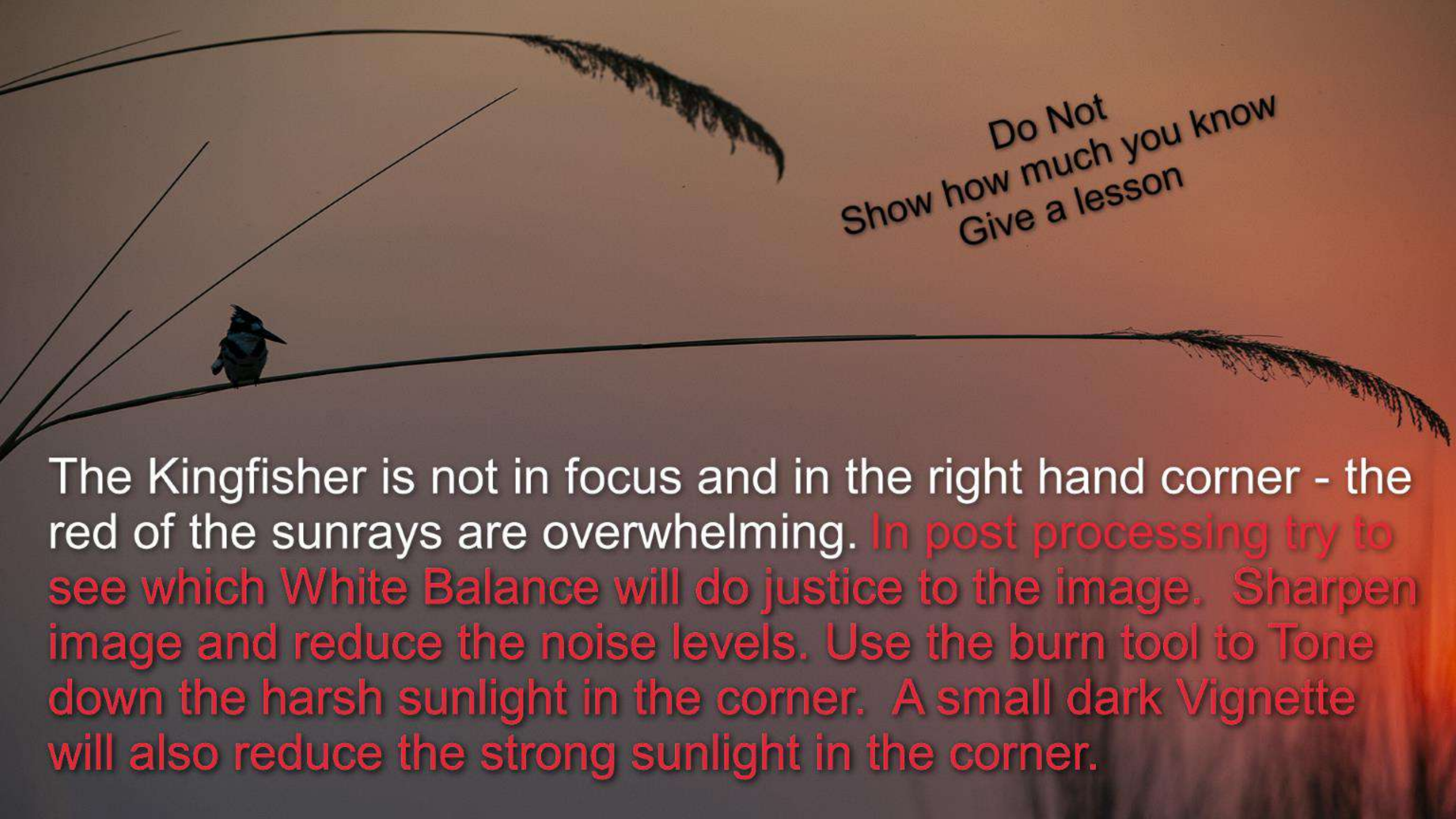
Ken Holland ARPS, DPAGB Looking at Photographs

"Don't produce weighty criticism's based on your own personal opinion: we all work in different ways, and, because a picture is very different from the sort of approach which you, personally, would use, you should not criticise it.

If you cannot appreciate another photographer's work do not assume that it is his/her fault. It may just be that you missed the point of the photograph. And all judges can be guilty of this."



The Kingfisher is not in focus and in the right hand corner - the red of the sunrays are overwhelming. In post processing try to see which White Balance will do justice to the image. Sharpen image and reduce the noise levels. Use the burn tool to Tone down the harsh sunlight in the corner. A small dark Vignette will also reduce the strong sunlight in the corner.

A photograph of a Kingfisher perched on a reed against a sunset sky. The bird is in silhouette, perched on a thin reed that curves across the frame. The sky is a mix of orange and red, with a bright sun in the bottom right corner. In the top right corner, there is a quote in black text.

Do Not
Show how much you know
Give a lesson

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Do NOT

Describe the scene

Use cliches

Nit pick

Show how much you know

Give a lesson





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Do

Be
Positive
Honest
Confident





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Do

Be
Positive
Honest
Confident

If you don't know - say so.
None of us know everything.

Look before you leap - think before you comment



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Do NOT

Describe the scene

Use cliches

Nit pick

Show how much you know

Give a lesson

Criticise the author

Make a whole new picture

Suggest changes that couldn't be done

Make assumptions



Picture is soft on the eyes, could be enhanced if the exposure on the bird was a bit darker to form a silhouette.

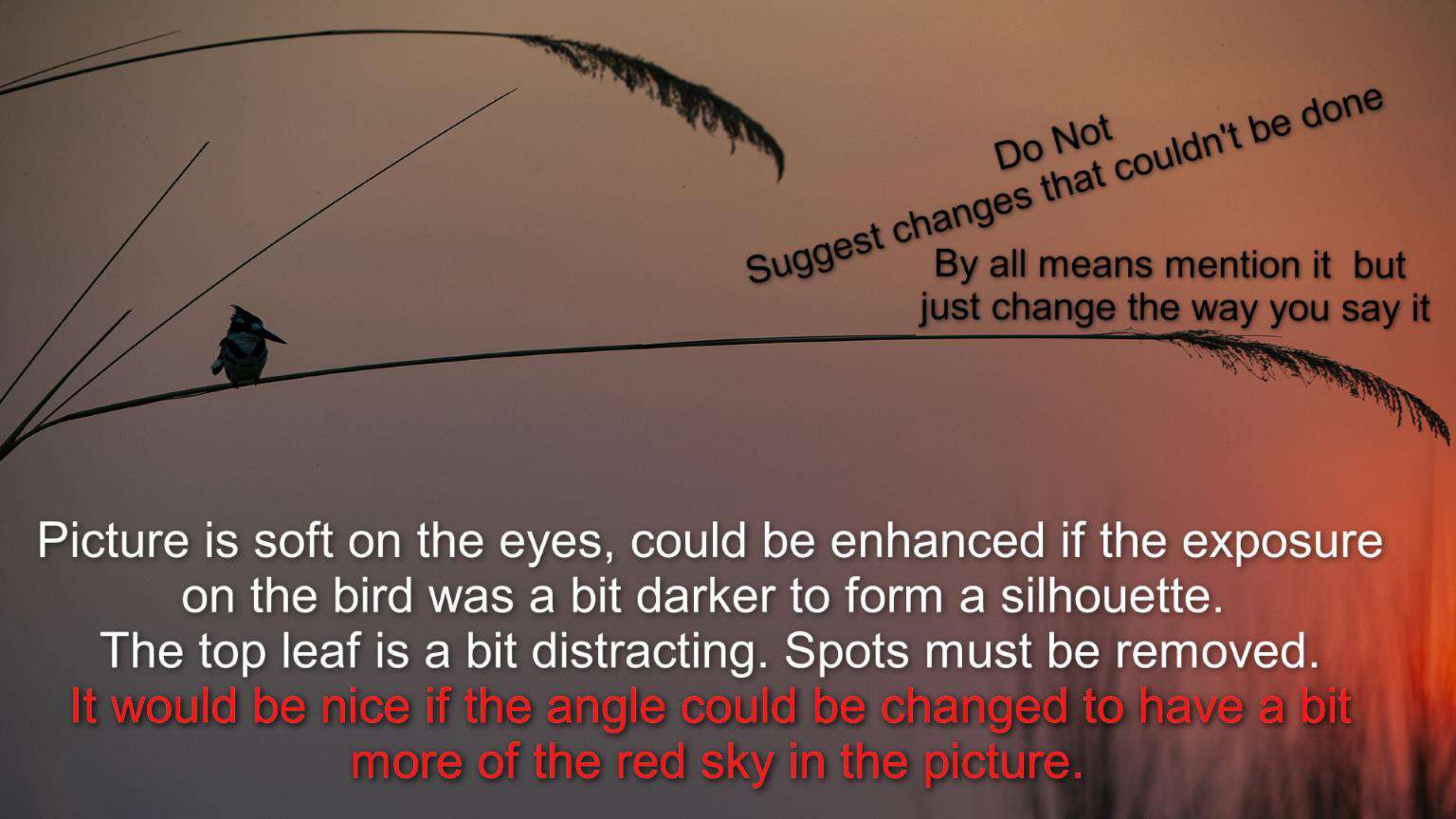
The top leaf is a bit distracting. Spots must be removed. It would be nice if the angle could be changed to have a bit more of the red sky in the picture.



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The top leaf is a bit distracting. Spots must be removed.

It would be nice if the angle could be changed to have a bit more of the red sky in the picture.



Do Not
Suggest changes that couldn't be done
By all means mention it but
just change the way you say it

Picture is soft on the eyes, could be enhanced if the exposure on the bird was a bit darker to form a silhouette.

The top leaf is a bit distracting. Spots must be removed.

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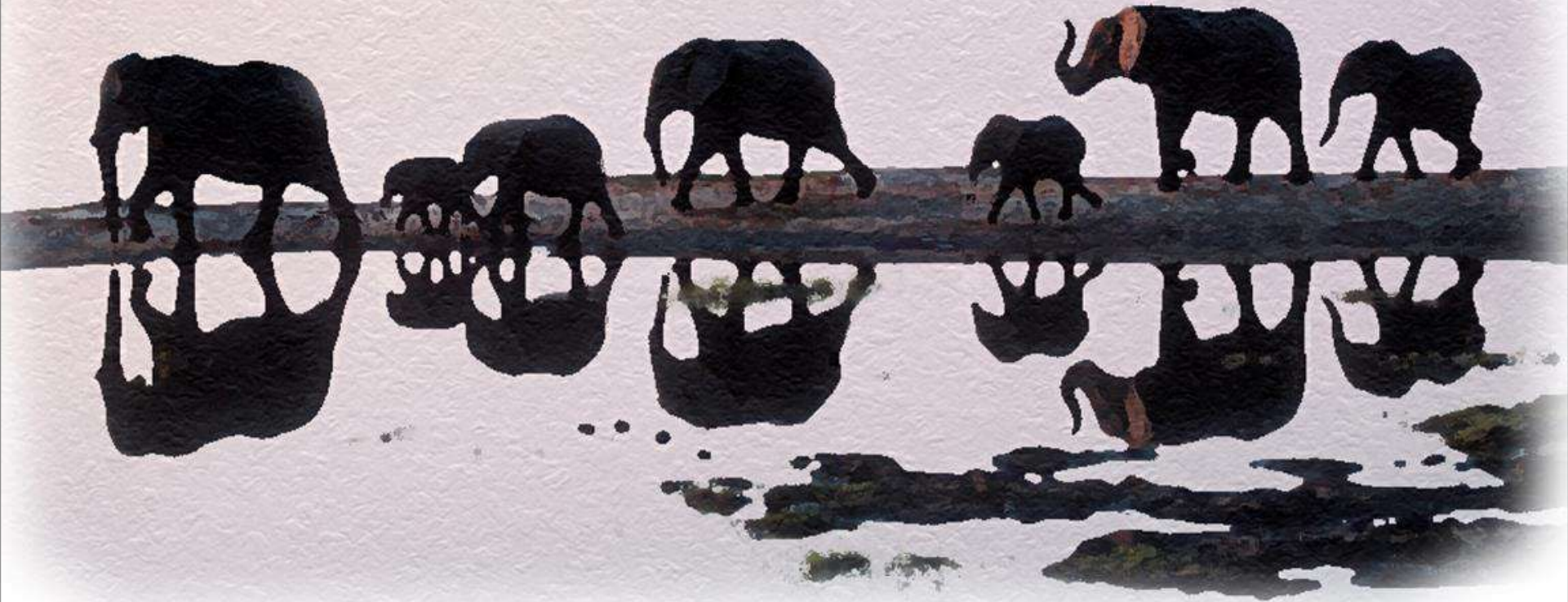


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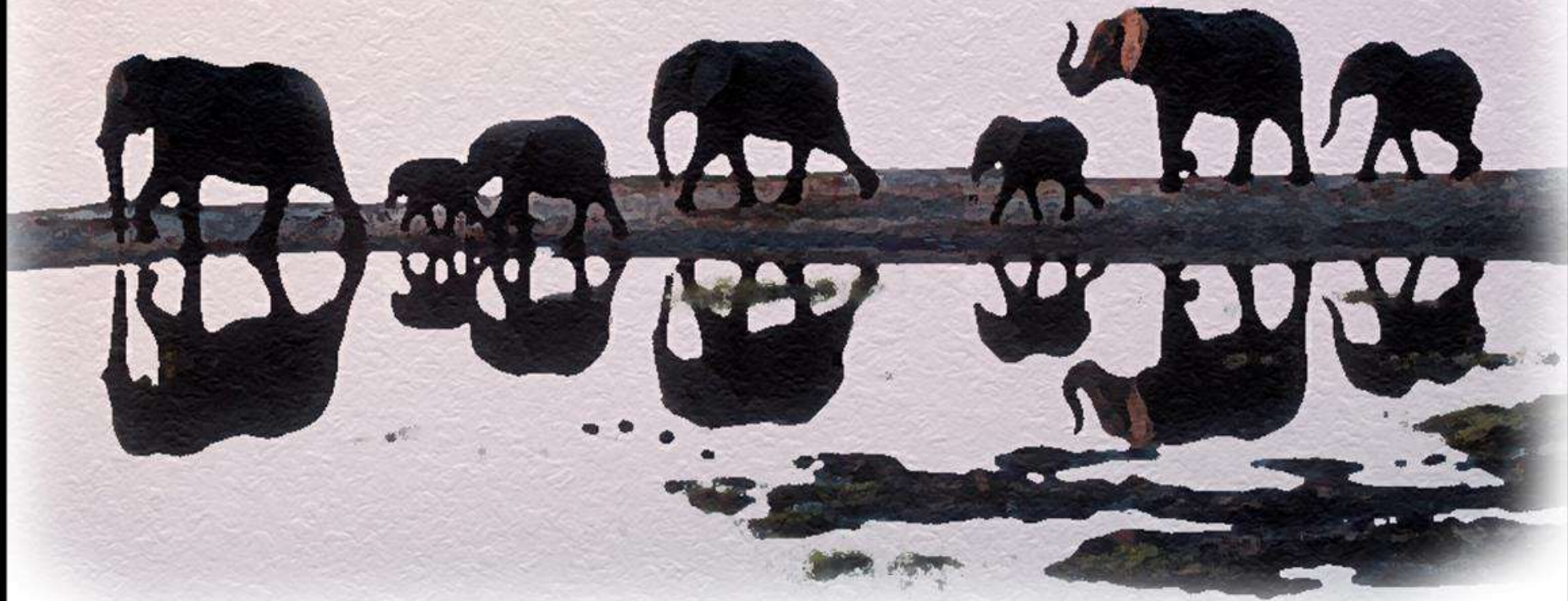
Do NOT

Make assumptions

Disqualified		-----	2
Weak	7-8	-----	10
Average	9-10	-----	9
Good	11-13	-----	5
Excellent	14-15	-----	0



Disqualified
Image of a water colour painting.
Image of another Authors work.



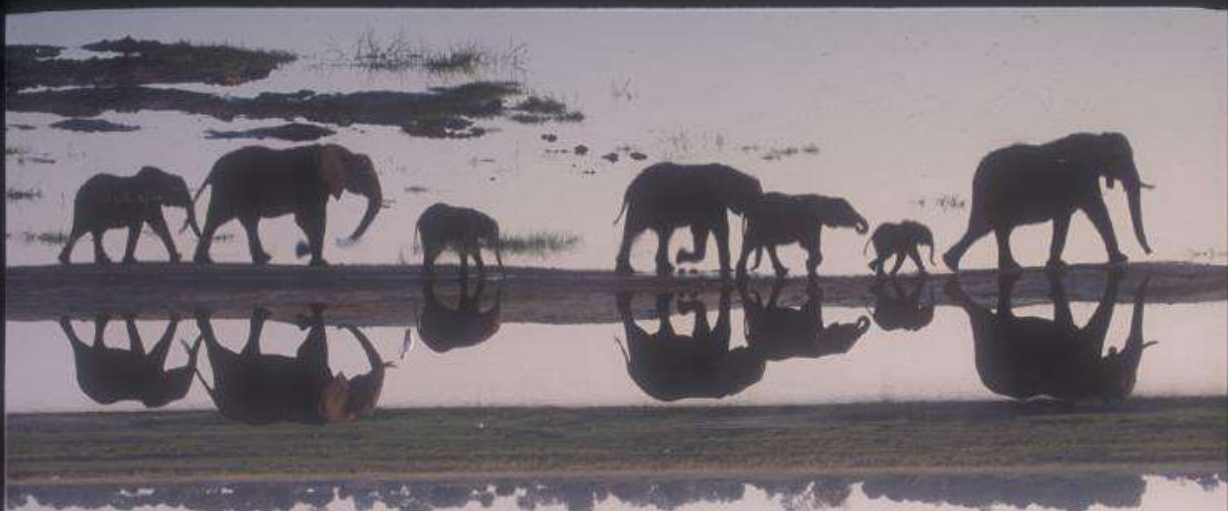


Disqualified
Image of a water colour painting.
Image of another Authors work.



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Do Not
Make assumptions
Criticise



Correcting bad picture.
This looks like an attempt to make
something out of a bad photograph.
Looks like photoshop was used to
turn it into an oil painting or similar filter.

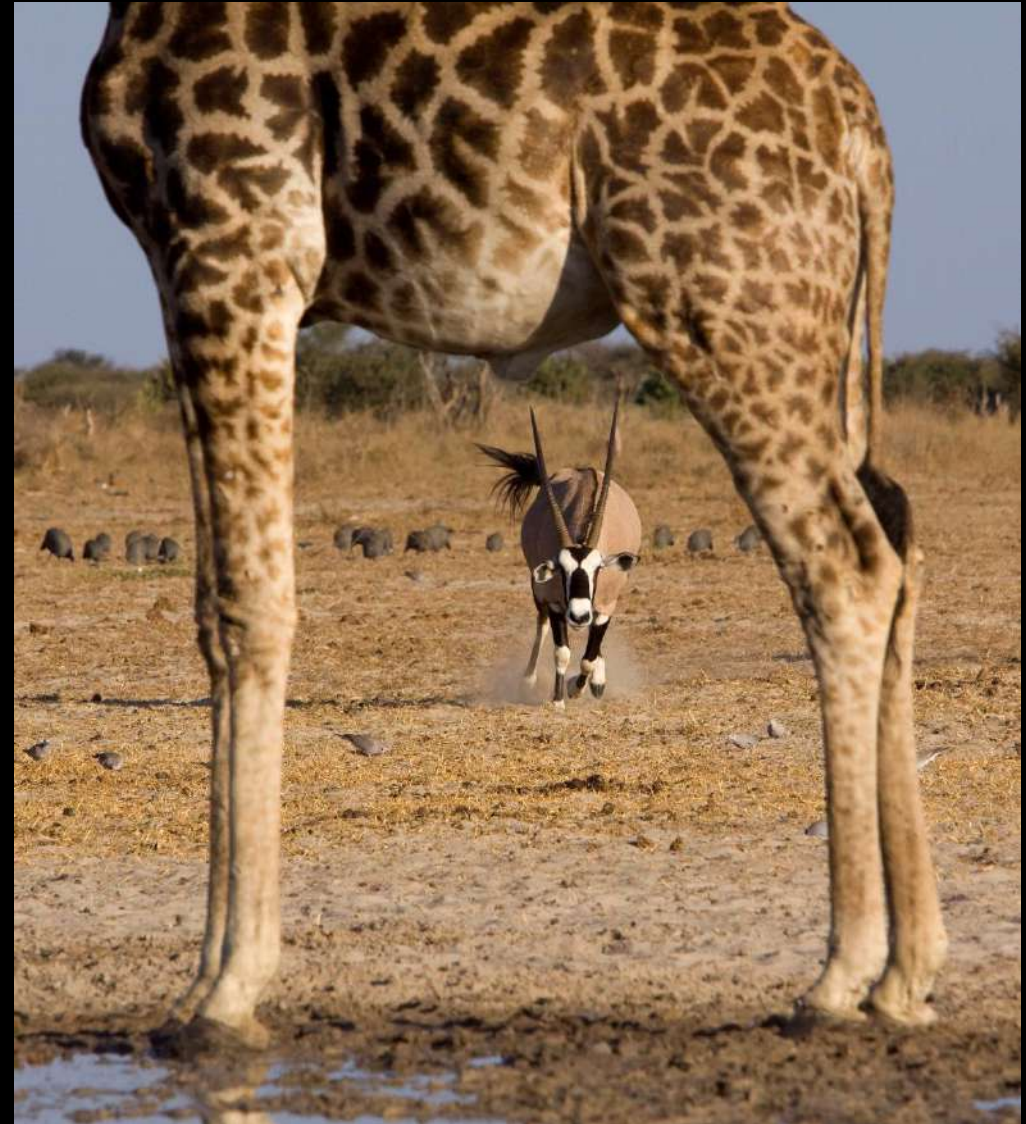




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Judge what you see and don't make assumptions

– you can always query something afterwards
privately.





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Do NOT

Make assumptions
Repeat yourself
Tell your own story
Use should



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I am struggling to keep my eyes from going to the little boat at the back every time I look at the image. For the small boat to be included the image should be cropped at the gap between the front boats otherwise the little boat should be removed to keep viewer's eyes focussed on front subjects.



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Could not Should



I am struggling to keep my eyes from going to the little boat at the back every time I look at the image. For the small boat to be included the image **should** be cropped at the gap between the front boats otherwise the little boat **should** be removed to keep viewer's eyes focussed on front subjects.



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The use of



use it in context - I like the image
but don't be dogmatic



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The use of



Say "The Image" rather than "I"

it takes out the personal opinion
and concentrates on the image rather than the judge

Halving the image to exclude the 2nd baby will make the image stronger.



Halving the image
to exclude the 2nd
baby will make the
image stronger.

Will it?



Halving the image
to exclude the 2nd
baby will make the
image stronger.

Will it?

Look before
you leap



Halving the image
to exclude the 2nd
baby ^{could} will make the
image stronger.

Will it?

Look before
you leap



Incoherent composite image.

None of subject in focus - composite doesn't work

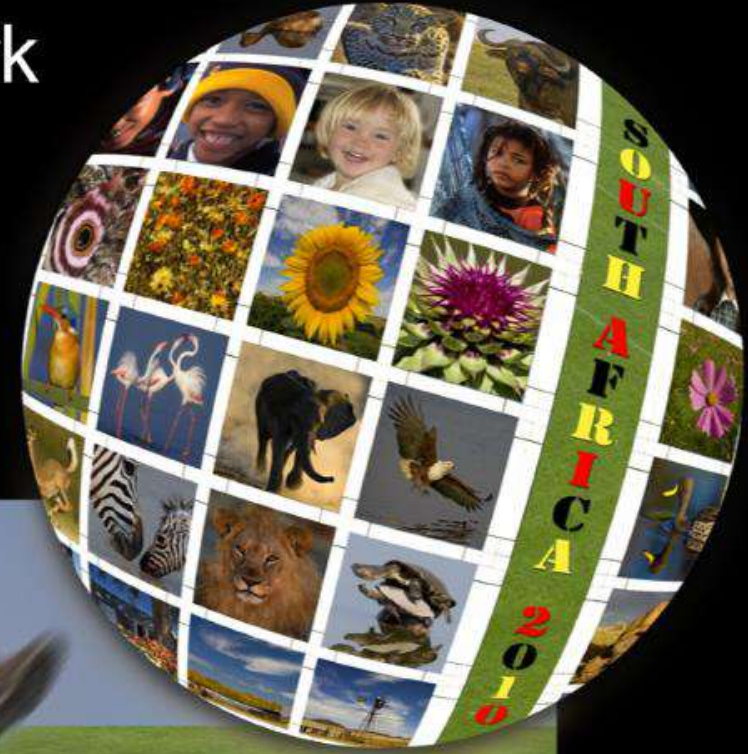


Incoherent composite image.

None of subject in focus - composite doesn't work



Are these comments teaching anyone anything?





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Do

JUDGE what you SEE

COMMENT what you KNOW



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As part of the discussion last Sunday (2nd session) we were discussing images with subjects moving into and out of frame and what constituted a good composition relating to that. Particularly, the notion that the subject always has to be looking or be perceived to be moving into space to constitute a good composition.

My view is that this is not always the case, as a composition contrary to those guidelines can still constitute a good image and be quite dynamic, depending of course on the image.

And as a judge, one should not automatically mark down unconventional composition.

Alan Nixon



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A good example where walking out of the frame works as the leading lines are very strong and support the direction that the subjects are moving in. Thus constituting a creative composition.



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With such a strong diagonal structure on the right, in this instance the subject walking out of frame on the left balances that diagonal structure on the right. The white background behind the subject also provides a good space to highlight the subject.



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Because of the slope of the walk way which is tilting away from the camera and the dynamic leading lines following the same direction, the subject is perfectly placed and is comfortably balanced with her back to the viewer.



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An extraordinary image where the subject is far right moving out of frame to the right but because she is looking back into the image it's well balanced and creates a dynamic composition



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Everything says this image is incorrectly composed, but it has an impact which compels the viewer to look longer and ponder the reason why. A great piece of art. The brickwork pattern is also very strong in the image which helps balance the composition. A good example where the placement of the couple is neither right nor wrong, it just is.



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Be
Positive
Honest
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Do

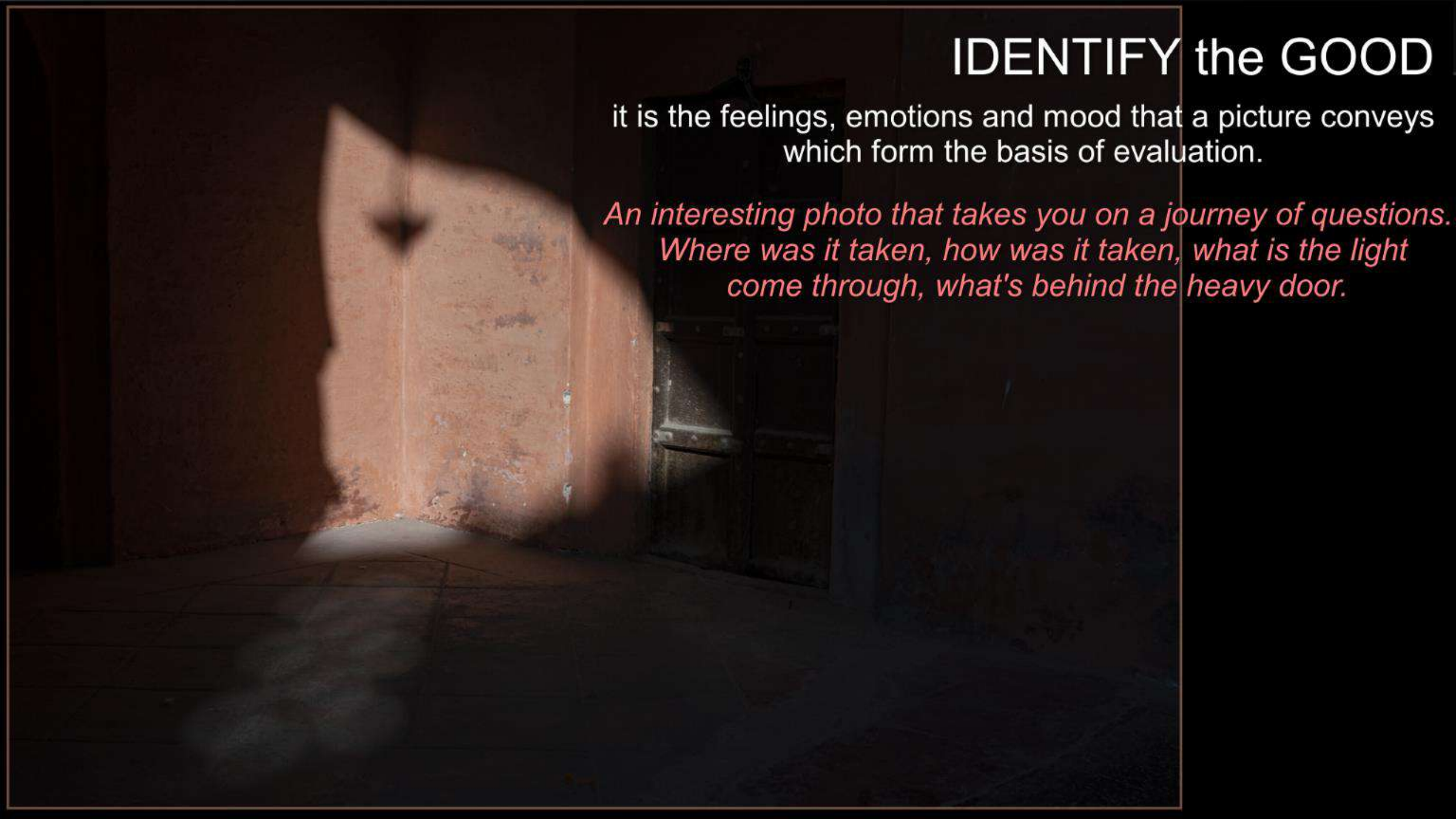
JUDGE what you SEE

COMMENT what you KNOW

IDENTIFY the GOOD

it is the feelings, emotions and mood that a picture conveys which form the basis of evaluation.

*An interesting photo that takes you on a journey of questions.
Where was it taken, how was it taken, what is the light
come through, what's behind the heavy door.*



A photograph of a dark room with a heavy door slightly ajar, casting a beam of light onto a textured wall. The light creates a strong contrast between the illuminated wall and the deep shadows of the room and the door's interior.

IDENTIFY the GOOD

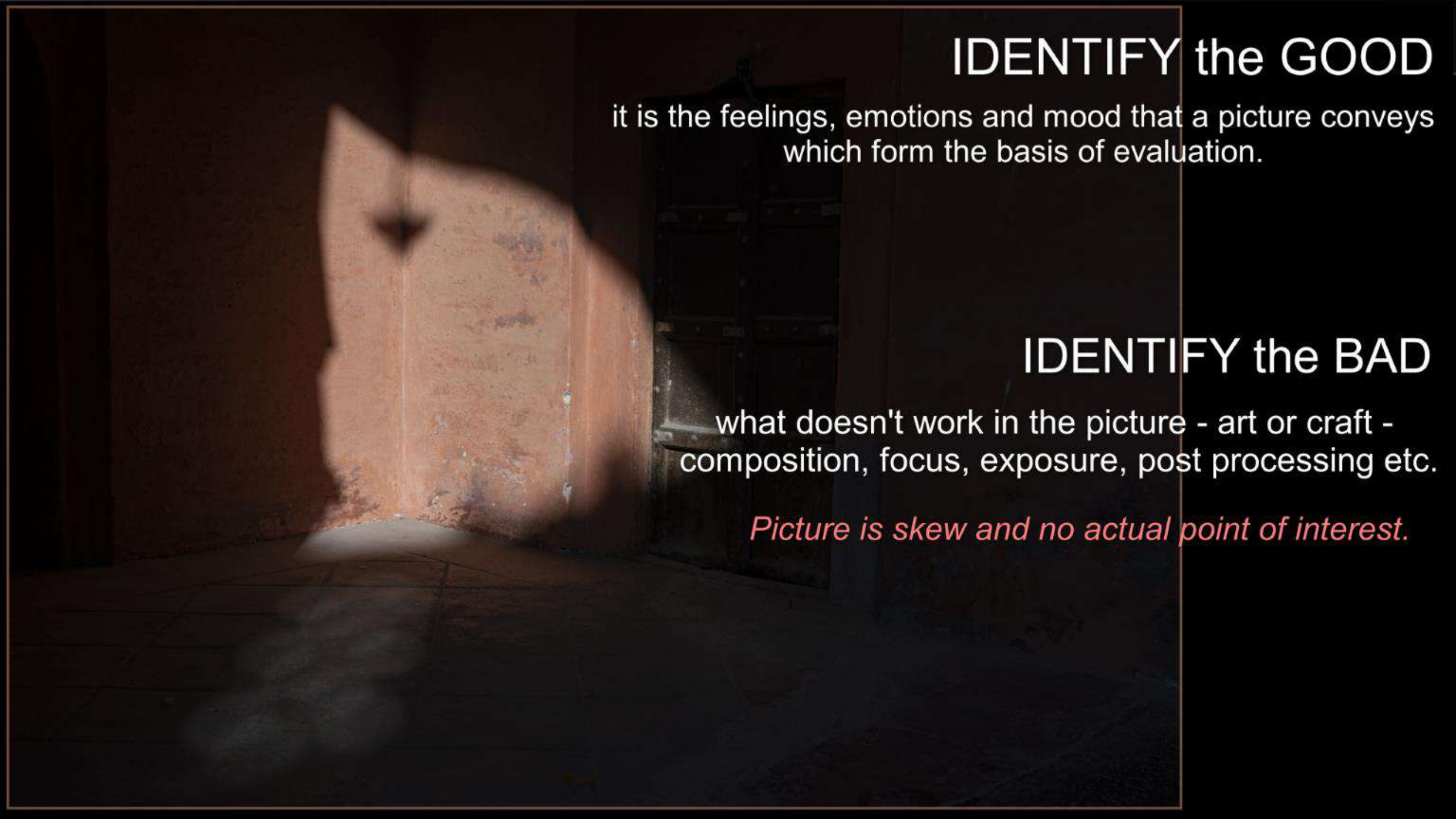
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An interesting photo that takes you on a journey of questions. Where was it taken, how was it taken, what is the light come through, what's behind the heavy door.

IDENTIFY the BAD

what doesn't work in the picture - art or craft - composition, focus, exposure, post processing etc.

But what if I don't "get it"?

A photograph of a dark interior space. A bright, circular light source, possibly a lamp, is positioned in the upper left, casting a strong, circular glow onto a textured, reddish-brown wall. The rest of the room is in deep shadow, with a dark doorway visible in the background. The floor appears to be made of dark tiles or stone.

IDENTIFY the GOOD

it is the feelings, emotions and mood that a picture conveys which form the basis of evaluation.

IDENTIFY the BAD

what doesn't work in the picture - art or craft - composition, focus, exposure, post processing etc.

Picture is skew and no actual point of interest.

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what doesn't work in the picture - art or craft - composition, focus, exposure, post processing etc.

Picture is skew and no actual point of interest.

and how to make it BETTER

The door would have been a better interest point if the author waited for the right time of day to take the photo.

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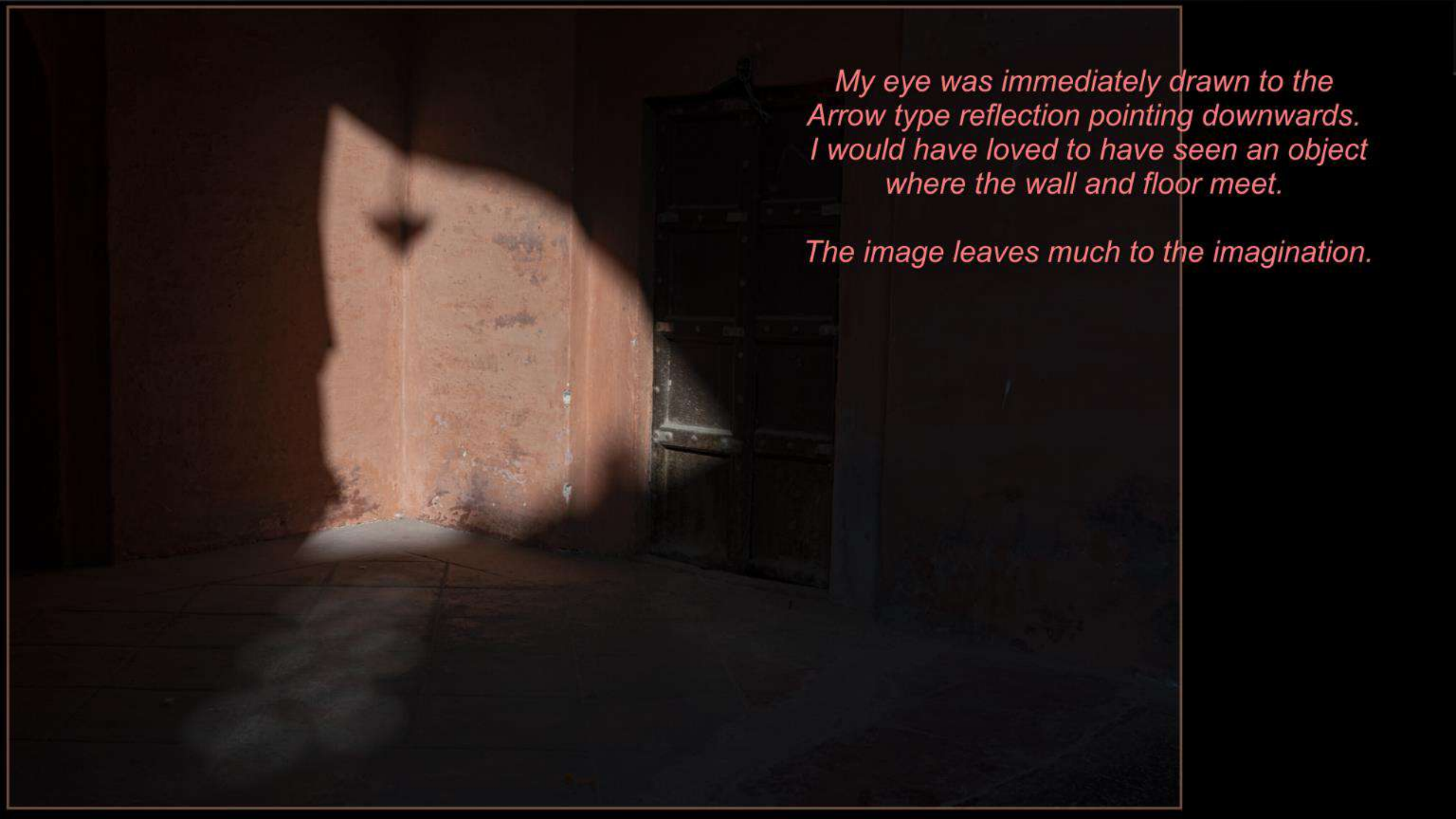
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Picture is skew and no actual point of interest.

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The door would have been a better interest point if the author waited for the right time of day to take the photo.

Do Not
make a whole new picture



*My eye was immediately drawn to the
Arrow type reflection pointing downwards.
I would have loved to have seen an object
where the wall and floor meet.*

The image leaves much to the imagination.



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So then - WHY JUDGE?

CLUB - To Teach

A good photo is always
the one about to be taken

and it can be better from what was learned and put into practise
from comments made by the judges.



I am a bit confused with the judging and the score that I received with one of my images - Save the Rhino in danger.

The judge commented that she liked the image but that the buildings were distracting in the background.

But this is a metal sculpture on the Sea Point promenade, a landmark feature. To remove the buildings will not be an accurate account of what anybody can see at any time of the day or night when they visit the promenade.

In my opinion removing the buildings will not give context to the 3D sculpture created by the artist.

Therefore, do I remove the buildings, to get a higher score, and keep the image as an open category image?

If I was to enter this image as a street or photojournalism, with the buildings removed, it will receive criticism for altering the true image? Correct?



I am a bit confused with the judging and the score that I received with one of my images - Save the Rhino in danger.

The judge commented that she liked the image but that the buildings were distracting in the background.

To improve the image I would have possibly liked to have seen the rhino itself sharper, which you could have done by using a different f stop. Of course the problem then is that the background wouldn't be as blurred and the four posts in front of the rhino would become more distracting.

The bright areas around the circle and the blur you have on the whole image except the foreground subject is distracting.



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Therefore, do I remove the buildings, to get a higher score, and keep the image as an open category image?

If I was to enter this image as a **street or photojournalism**, with the buildings removed, it will receive criticism for altering the true image? Correct?

Or

do I change the title to "**Caught in the cross hairs inner city sculpture**" which means that the buildings need to be present to complete the story the artist is trying to convey?



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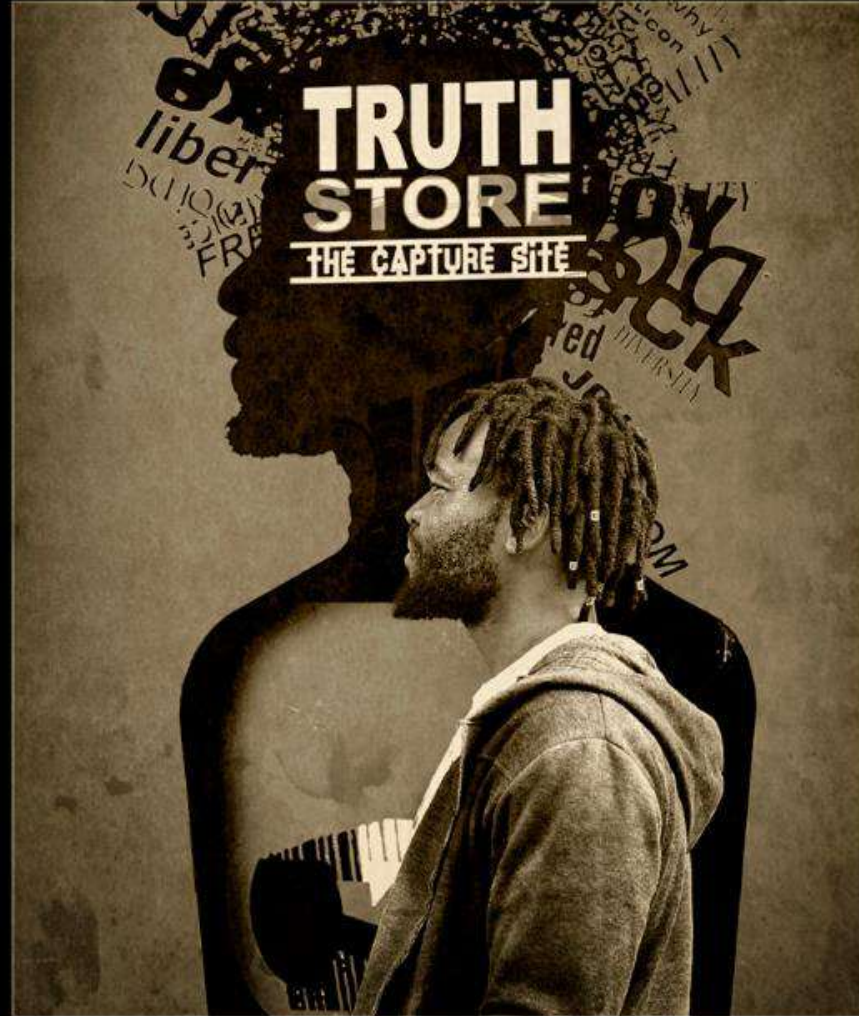
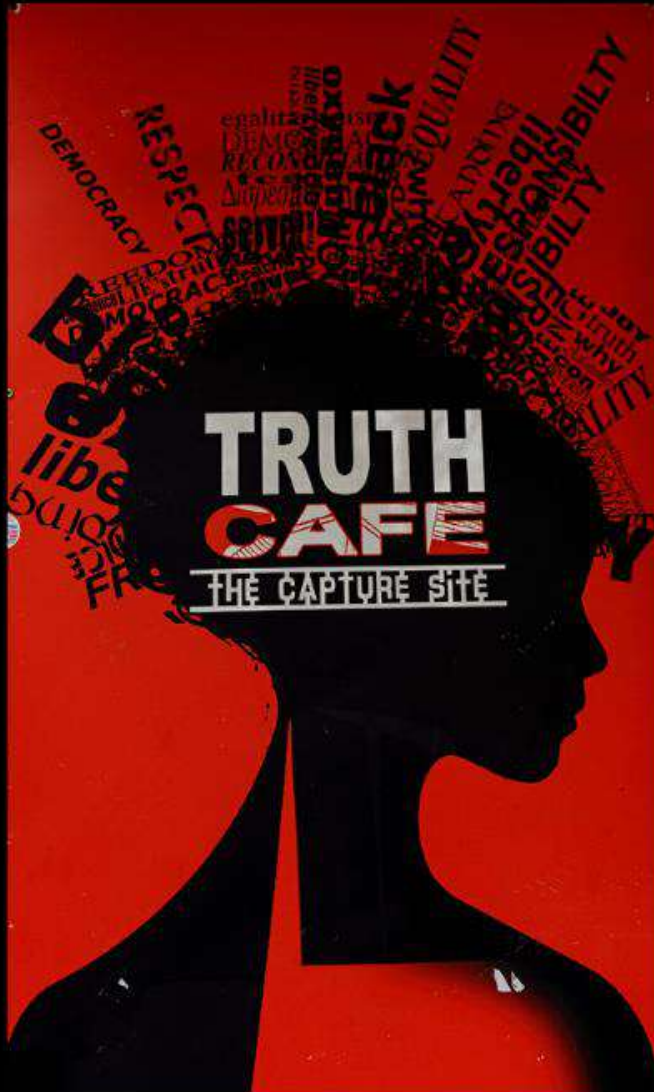
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graphic doodle images - Google

google.com/search?rlz=1C1AVFC_enZA796ZA796&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=graphic+doodle+images&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwioxavrLyAhXPRKEAHcrCCW4Q7AI6BAglEE4&biw=1920&bih=969#imgrc=tiNHyUubR978rM

Google graphic doodle images

Graphic designer doodles Vector Images ... depositphotos.com

Doodle Art Graphics, Designs ... graphicriver.net

Doodle Graphics Images, St... shutterstock.com

Doodle Art Graphics, Designs ... graphicriver.net

Doodles graphic back to sc... vectorstock.com

Graphic hippie hand drawn arti... vectorstock.com

Doodle Illustrations for your Designs ... graphicmama.com

Doodle Images | Free Vectors, Stock ... freepik.com

CREATIVE PROCESS

Graphic Designer Doodle High Res Stock ... shutterstock.com

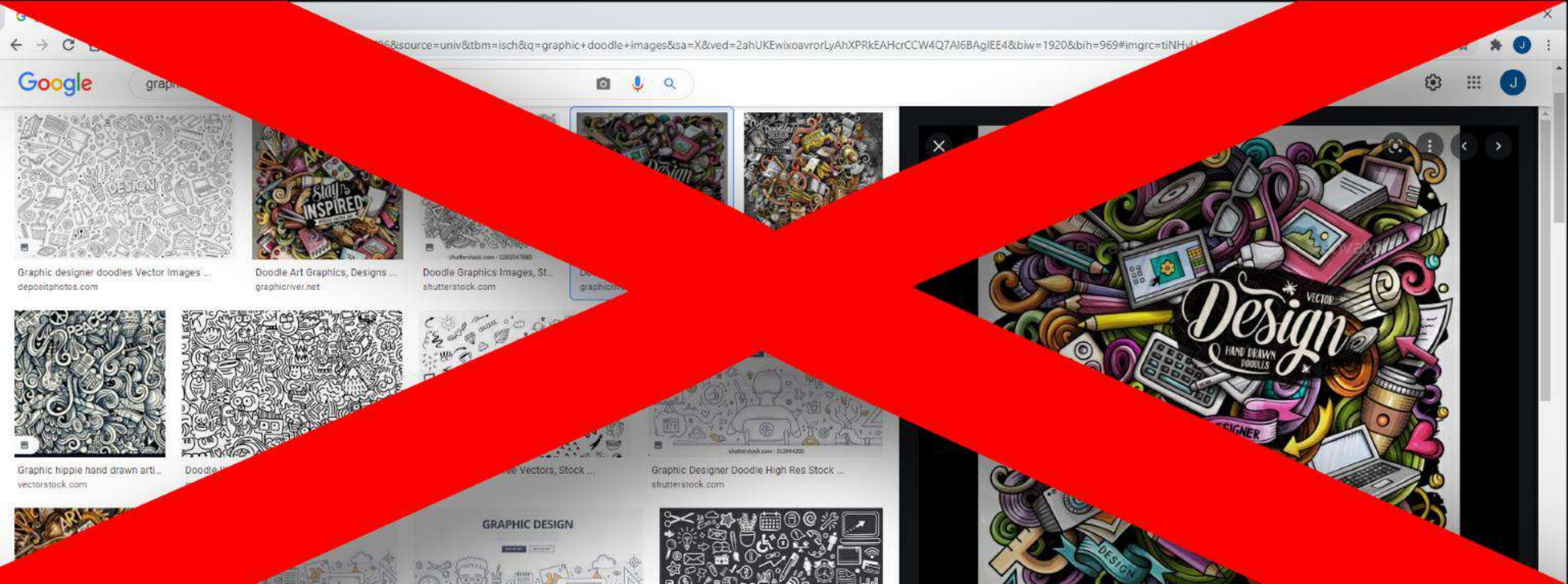
GRAPHIC DESIGN

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PSSA HONOURS SHOW 2007



Gail Reuvers



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Chris Nel



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So then - WHY JUDGE?

CLUB - To Teach

and it can be better from what was learned and put into practise
from comments made by the judges.

Judge with care



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When a member leaves a meeting
he most often remembers what the judge
didn't do well.

It would be great if the opposite were true.

That should be your aim when judging.