

PERSPECTIVE

AMBER CAMERA CLUB

FEBRUARY 2024



Meerkat Lookout by Toni Le Roux



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Christmas has been and gone and the New Year is well under way. With all the nonsense and disasters in the world today we can only hope and pray that things will get better.

We all need to live a good, meaningful and fulfilling life. If we are not, we need to get a bit of PERSPECTIVE back into our lives. We need to change our attitude towards, or our way of regarding some things.

We need to focus on what makes us happy and actively look for that fulfilment.

We, as photographers need to make the effort and take the time to pursue what we enjoy.

We need to get involved and lose ourselves in what makes us happy.

Our January meeting was a wonderfully pleasing turnout. Thanks to Jenny Kruger for the presentation on our next month's Set Subject of Minimalism, and to Di Hampson for the "Light Sculpturing" workshop. Those that participated enjoyed it thoroughly. If any members would like to send through images from the workshop that they are proud of, to be showcased in next month's magazine, please do so. Our email address is ambercameraclub@gmail.com.

Where does your passion lie in photography? Only you can answer that? We need to share what we enjoy and communicate more with likeminded people.

Let's join together on outings, at club meetings and celebrate life. Our January was a fantastic example.

We have some super topics on the horizon for this year. Apart from the Set Subjects, of which next month's is my absolute favourite, **Minimalism**. At this stage in our times, isn't that what we should all be striving for. Get rid of the clutter and focus on the necessary.

We have the Midlands Meander topics of **Spectacular Summer, Foodie Flavours**, and **Outdoor Activities**. Let's get out there and have some fun...

Happy Snapping

Rose



ABOUT THE CLUB

Amber Camera Club was established in 2011 by a group of passionate photographers. It has grown from strength to strength in the time it has been running thanks to a hard-working committee.

We welcome photographers of all ages and all levels to join our club in the hopes of helping them grow and creating an environment for likeminded people to meet and socialize.

There is a meeting every month - on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the evening at the Amber Valley Auditorium at 6:30pm. Everyone and anyone is welcome to join. We also host an outing on the Saturday following the meeting to practice some photography.

If you would like to find out more information – please contact us on ambercameraclub@gmail.com or contact one of our dedicated committee members, details, of which, are below.

Chairperson: Jenny Kruger 082 871 1782

Competition Steward: Alex Gargan 076 836 7605

Secretary: Sue Grills 073 571 4971

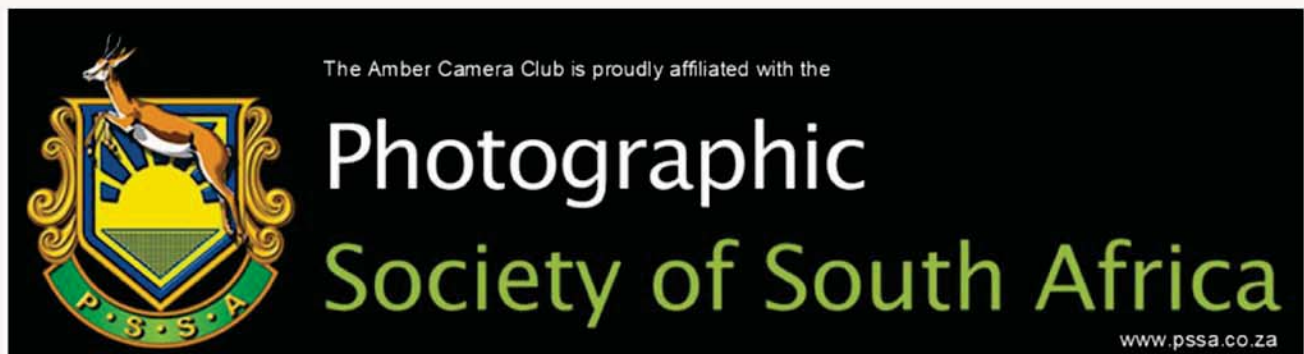
Treasurer: Gill Ainslie 083 789 2642

Membership: Diane Hampson 082 342 0242

Rochelle Bennett 071 876 7159

Editor: Rose Douglas 076 402 6020

E-mail: ambercameraclub@gmail.com



JANUARY CLUB COMPETITION

This month's JUDGE
Rochelle Bennett

Best Junior

Blackbacked Gull by Alexander Hopkins



Best Senior

Meerkat Lookout by Toni Le Roux



JANUARY CLUB COMPETITION

SET SUBJECT - Cell Phone Photography

Best Junior

There is no Limit by Ashley Wheeler



Best Senior

Carols in the forest by Llewellynn Scott



2024 CLUB COMPETITIONS

SET SUBJECTS

JANUARY - CELLPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

FEBRUARY - MINIMALISM

MARCH - EGGS

APRIL - SPLASH OF RED

MAY - HIGH KEY/LOW KEY

JUNE - BOOKS

JULY - FEATHERS

AUGUST - SOFT FOCUS

SEPTEMBER - STILL LIFE

OCTOBER - BOVINE PORTRAIT

At least 1 of your 4 entries should be entered in our Set Subject for this month, the balance may be entered in this category or across any of the remaining 5 categories on PhotoVault. If you are unable to enter anything in the set subject, you forfeit that image and enter only 3 in other categories.

NOTE: Remember to size correctly: at least one of the image dimensions must be exactly 1920px wide or 1080px high and sized up to 2Mb



MINIMALISM

The basic definition is:

A style in art, design, and theatre that uses the smallest range of materials and colours possible, and only very simple shapes or forms

Another way of defining Minimalism: It focuses on **embracing quality over quantity**. Minimalists are thoughtful in their selection of items, ensuring everything owned serves a purpose and enhances their experience.

In photography we can say - **Minimalism** is a style in which a small number of very simple things are used to create a particular effect, about stripping a subject down to its essence. Create photos that cut through the clutter with clean lines, empty spaces and only the essential elements.

Here are six elements of minimalist photography to think about as you create your powerfully simple frames:

1. Simplicity

Keeping it simple doesn't mean keeping it boring. In fact, a minimalist approach requires careful thought, observation and the creativity of working within certain boundaries — exploring how much information to keep and how much to take away from the image before it loses impact.

2. Negative space

What you do with negative (or empty) space is contrary to what the term implies. Negative space is the element that determines how freely the eye moves about in the image, and directs the eye to a place to rest. Negative space can be smooth, textured, coloured, and/or even contain some detail. We're surrounded by such open, blank canvases in everyday life: an overcast sky, a calm lake, a blanket of snow, a thick haze of fog, an open field, an unadorned wall.

Negative space in minimalist photography has visual mass. The key to the amount and placement of negative space is achieving a balance between the impact of it and your subject. This openness is meant to create breathing room for the subject, but not lose the prominence of the subject entirely. That said, not all images require expansive negative space to make an impact.



MINIMALISM

3. Powerful composition

I can't over-emphasize how much composition matters in minimalism photography. An appealing placement of the subject creates ease when our eyes read the image. Otherwise, our eyes are going to swirl around, looking for an anchor in the image, and do it over and over again until we lose interest. I often work with the rule of thirds, or even a smidge tighter when I'm composing minimalistic images. This technique helps bring the eye from left to right, or top to bottom, and creates a balance without perfect symmetry. That's important: Although your subject may be the smallest element in the frame, it needs to become the most significant once the eye comes to rest on it.

Tips:

1. If the flow of the image doesn't feel right, a simple horizontal flip of the image in post-production might be an easy fix.
2. View the image in thumbnail size to evaluate the overall balance of the composition.
3. There are always exceptions to the rules — sometimes the subject belongs front and centre in the frame.

4. Isolation

Because the frame will contain so little, it's important to think about the nature of your subject, and how its relevance in the frame will create an impact on the viewer. How will you isolate the subject, whether it's a lone tree in a field or a bird on a wire? By eliminating all other distractions from the scene, the viewer can really connect with the subject.

Tips:

1. Move around your subject until you find a way to isolate it. Get low to the ground or shoot upward toward the sky to change perspective and eliminate unwanted distractions in the frame.
2. If changing perspective doesn't achieve your goal, use a shallow depth of field to separate your background from the main subject. Beautiful bokeh can bring subtle, soft tones to your negative space.



MINIMALISM

5. Colour.

While I certainly love a beautiful black-and-white conversion for minimalist images, bold colours in minimalism certainly do have a place. Colour can give the image a big dose of wow. It's about finding complementary colours (refer to a colour wheel), and how those colours will complement the simplicity you are working to achieve.

Another play on colour is to use a small amount of it. A simple pop of colour can be an element that draws the eye. I love to use just one or two colours, and when I do, I make sure that negative space does not compete with, but rather complements my use of colour.

Tip:

Whether you use black and white or colour in your minimalist photography, there needs to be contrast in the tones or your subject could fade into the sea of vastness. That contrast should feel both harmonious and bold.

6. Lines and shapes

Leading lines guide the eyes through an image and can contribute to the viewer's sense of isolation, separation, distance, and scale. With little other information to go by, leading lines are often necessary.

Think of using repetition, symmetry or geometry to frame a subject or draw attention. Strong, unique shadows can also captivate and pull a viewer into the frame.

Now after reading all of this, remember the most important thing is to go out there and have fun!!!



SALON CALENDAR 2024

We encourage all Junior members to enter the FREE PSSA up and coming salon closing on the 8th June 2024.

OTRCC 3rd National Digital Salon	06/01/2024
PSSA National AV Salon 2024	13/01/2024
11th MIROC Digital Circuit 2024	15/01/2024
Bloemfontein CC Salon 2024	20/01/2024
Ermelo Fotoklub 4th National Digital Salon	03/02/2024
12th AFO National Digital Salon 2024	10/02/2024
7th Boksburg National Digital Salon - POI	24/02/2024
6de Brandpunt Fotoklub Nasionale Digitale Salon	09/03/2024
2nd Swartland International Salon	16/03/2024
PECC International Audio Visual Festival 2024	31/03/2024
PSSA International Salon of Photography 2024	13/04/2024
1st Cape Photographers National Print Circuit Salon 2024	20/04/2024
1ST IPC PDI Salon	20/04/2024
7th Edenvale National Digital Salon - PDI	04/05/2024
Kroonstad Fotoklub Life in Monochrome PDI Salon	18/05/2024
2nd Amber AV International Salon	31/05/2024
8th MFCC DPI Salon 2024	01/06/2024
PSSA 25th Up and Coming	08/06/2024
TAF 13th Print and PDI Salon	15/06/2024
1st FSTOP Kempton Park PDI Salon	29/06/2024

PSSA CONGRESS 2024

The PSSA Congress this year is to be held in
Parys, Free State, South Africa.

The dates are 30th September to the 4th October.
The host hotel is the Woodlands Country Lodge, Parys,
110km south of Johannesburg.

The link to the UTube presentation and the
early Bird registration Form has been sent out to members
by email.

MEMBERS WEBSITES / BLOGS VLOGS / UTUBE CHANNELS

Paul Bartho: www.bartho.blog

Mark Preston-Whyte: www.markpw6.wixsite.com/website-copy

Clare van Daele: www.clarevanartist.com

Rose Douglas: U-Tube channel — Rose Douglas Explore Africa

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN SITE LISTED, PLEASE SEND YOUR DETAILS TO THE EDITOR.



PARTING SHOT

ONLY YOU CAN KNOW

Below is a very appropriate article that appeared in the E-News of August 2022 of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB)

Worldwide, photographic clubs and associations have the same problem to police appropriation and have to rely on the integrity of their members when they declare a work to be their own.

Rod Wheelans, the Editor, kindly gave us permission to have his article reproduced by PSSA.

ONLY YOU CAN KNOW

I have followed many discussions on social media about how much effort a photographer should put into an image to make it their own. Many have claimed that they know of instances involving Remote Shooting, Nature Hides, Studio Workshops and Organised Photographic Events where the photographer has had no input at all, except to press the shutter. Many have never been involved in such activities but assume that there must have been lots of help, because they have not previously seen the same quality of work from that person. The PAGB (Photographic Alliance of Great Britain) have no rules to define how much help you can have and, indeed, we accept entries which have been printed by someone else, even into the Masters of Print. We take the view that the entrant has ultimate responsibility for the image. Amateur Photography, as practiced through Camera Clubs, is a social activity and Members are encouraged to learn from each other and to help each other improve their Art and their Craft. Most Club Members have benefitted from assistance in their Club and many, many Members have been willing to help. From advising on camera settings in the field or in the studio, helping with composition and exposure, helping to process and print images to constructively criticising the final product and showing how it could be improved. Such activity is the very essence of most good Clubs! Most organised events and photoshoot require the full participation of the photographer and, as a well-known organiser once said to me, "I give you the ingredients, but you have to make the cake". If you weren't there, please don't be quick to judge. It may well be true that some photographers have very little input to the images they have taken and may not do much to process them later. If you haven't made the INPUT, can you claim the OUTPUT? ONLY YOU CAN KNOW. Do you believe in your heart that you have contributed enough to feel that you own this image? If you don't feel that way, and you are successful in competitions with it, then what have you won? You may have won a medal but where is the personal satisfaction if most of the credit is due to someone else? Your name may be on the medal, but YOU know that it should be someone else being recognised. Be honest with yourself and you will gain much greater satisfaction from your photographic successes.



PHOTO WALK

SATURDAY, 17 TH FEBRUARY

KARKLOOF COUNTRY CLUB 2.30PM

Photo walks are essentially a group creative activity. Use this as an opportunity to interact with other photography enthusiasts and collectively engage in the creative process of making visual art.

Photo walks are a great way to challenge you to use your photographic skills in a new way.

They also help you to meet people with similar interests, and they are a lot of fun.

The great thing about enjoying a photo walk is that it doesn't have to be a formal, structured occasion. You can be by yourself or with a group of friends. You can wander familiar streets, or you can explore an area that is brand new. The whole point is to get you out there, explore your surroundings, exercise your creativity, and take some pictures.

Some useful tips

1. Be comfortable. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing.
2. Don't carry too much gear.
3. Be confident enough to take only one lens.
4. Take your time, and enjoy the experience.
5. Be aware of your surroundings.
6. Know your rights and the rules of the area you are in.

Remember, photography is as much about the journey as it is about the final image.

Photo walks offer an enriching blend of social interaction, skill-building, and pure, unadulterated fun.

HOW OUR PHOTO WALK GOING TO WORK

1. Meet up for the photo walk, time and place to be announced via email, whatsapp and Facebook.
2. Subject will be announced at the venue. We can have a quick discussion regarding the subject.
3. Walk around taking photos.
4. Return to meeting place.
5. Upload photos to Amber Camera Club Facebook group.
6. Members in the FB group will be encouraged to like and comment on the photos you upload.
7. The Photo with the most likes will be chosen to be the FB banner, till the next photo walk meeting.

Please come and join us for some lighthearted photographic fun.

This fun activity is **not** restricted to Amber Camera Club members. Any enthusiastic photographer is welcome.

Any kind of camera can be used including cell phones.

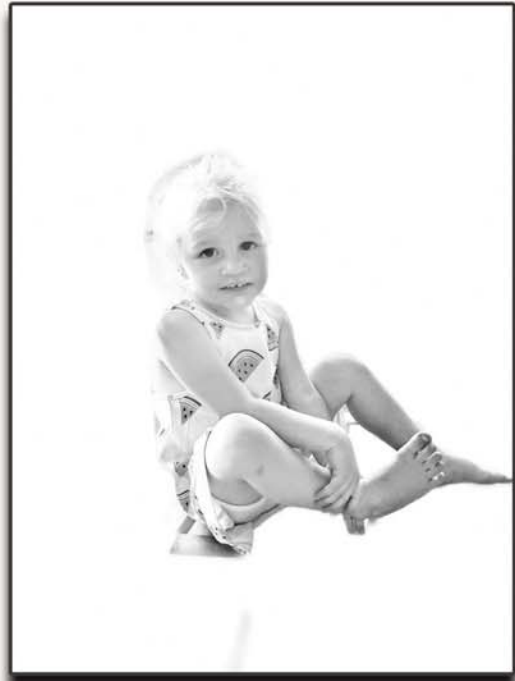
JANUARY WORKSHOP IMAGES



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SUBS 2024

Unfortunately, a club cannot run efficiently without money. It is that time of year again. Subs at Amber camera Club are the lowest in the country. They are due by 15th February.

Adults – R275.00

Country Members – R137.50

Youth (Under 18's) – R137.50

Please send proof of payment as well as using your name as a reference to Ambercameraclub@gmail.com

Banking Details:

AMBER CAMERA CLUB

Standard Bank, Howick

Account: 2577 535 75

PLEASE NOTE: NO CASH DEPOSITS

MEETINGS & CATCH-UPS

Monthly meetings are held on the **3rd Tuesday evening** of every month in the Amber Ridge, Function Room, **at 6.30pm**.

Workshops are usually held on the following Saturday. These will be communicated via the ACC chat Group. If you have not joined the group, please send an email to ambercameraclub@gmail.co.za to get your name added.

Starting this month there will be regular informal **PHOTO WALK** outings.

