





PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.pretoriaphotographic.co.za

PO Box 73056, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040 Photo-Vault-Online Entries

www.photovaultonline.com

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·	Hendrik Grobbelaar		
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ORGANISATION	WEB-SITE LINK
Steve's Digicams (Reviews)	www.steves-digicams.com
Digital photography review	www.dpreview.com
Photoanswers (Practical Photography)	www.photoanswers.co.uk





INDEX	page
WHAT'S HAPPENING	3
PROMOTIONS	3
END OF YEAR CATEGORIES	4
SET SUBJECTS & INNING 2023	5
ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITONS	6
RULES FOR OUTINGS AND INNINGS	6
SERVICE TO THE CLUB	6
NATIONAL SALON DATES	7
SALON ACCEPTANCES	7
OUTDOOR PHOTO ADVERTISEMENT	8
ESIDENT'S PAGE: Thelma vd Schyff Resolutions Oh Resolutions	10
PHOTOGRAPHS:	
Winners November 2023	13
ARTICLES:	
How to use overlays in Photoshop –	25
Linda Martin	
Photo Café 2023/ 2024	31
Outings/Workshops/Photo opportunities	31
PPS BIRTHDAY LIST	33

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/ N/ILN	LDC

Pine Pienaar our Vice President is the contact for answers on new membership and the workings of the Pretoria Photographic Society. Contact Pine at pienaar459@gmail.com
As per usual, the annual subscription fees are reduced by half for members who join after January.

WHAT'S HAPPENING		
2 January 2024	Photo Café @ NG	
No Meeting	Church Lynwood Sussex	
	Avenue 19H00	
16 January 2024	Formal Meeting @ NG	
Hybrid meeting	Church Lynwood Sussex	
	Avenue 18H45	
Judges:	Martin Kellerman	
November 2023	Henri le Roux	
	Schalk Engelbrecht	
	(George Camera Club)	

PROMOTIONS

PLEASE REMEMBER when you receive a promotion to update the Star Level on PhotovaultOnline before your next entry. These levels should just be a single digit: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

KNOWING YOUR STATUS IN STAR RATING

Photovault can now generate this information.

Please verify your rating to ensure that

Photovault is correct. Please contact Sonja de

Klerk at sonsdeklerk@gmail.com

END OF YEAR CATEGORIES 2024			
The competition categories for the Junior and Senior streams are:			
Landscapes	Outdoors scenes, seascapes, urban/cityscapes. Manipulation is allowed.		
Visual Art Photography	Achieving an artistic effect through application of creative techniques.		
Nature	Living, natural organisms (undomesticated) in their natural habitats. Plants and animals included. Excluded: Scenic/ landscapes/ cityscapes. Images may not be manipulated and must conform to the PSSA Ethical Guidelines		
Macro and Floral	Includes both Macro (Close-up pictures of any subjects) and Floral (Flowers in their natural state or under controlled conditions)		
Photojournalism	Newsworthy, story-telling pictures including sport. Images may not be manipulated		
Portraits	Includes both Animal and Human portraits. Images may be manipulated.		
Pictorial	Open category. It includes Architecture.		
Monochrome	In this category the subject is totally open. Colour images will be disqualified.		
Best of the Year	All category winners will compete automatically		
Most Versatile Author	Entrants shall submit a panel of five (5) images each selected from five (5) different categories. These may include images entered for other awards, including monochrome images.		
Most Golds and COM's	The member who achieved the most Gold and COM awards in monthly competitions, as recorded in the results of the competitions		
Article for e-flash	Most articles written for the e-Flash		
Photo Essay	The best photo essay entered in the competition		

SET SUBJECTS 2024		
MONTH	SET SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
	Monochrome	Eliminate the clutter with clean lines, empty spaces and
JANUARY	Minimalism in any	only the essential elements
	Genre	
		Make the special "Blue light" just after sunset or before
FEBRUARY	Blue sky thinking	sunrise the focus of your land, sea, or cityscape.
MARCH	Fine Art Colour Image	Create a Fine Art Colour Image using negative space. Use
	using negative space	artistic freedom to manipulate the image
		Astro, Milky Way, star or light trails, Cityscapes,
APRIL	Low Light Photography	amusement parks or street photography using only
		existing light.
MAY	Macro or Closeup	Focus on the natural world by filling the frame with your
IVIA I	Patterns in Nature	subject. Illustrate patterns, leading lines, or repetition.
JUNE		Use symmetry, mirroring, or repetition as an instrument
	Panorama	to enhance a Panoramic image.
	Create Silhouettes or	Enhance the characteristics of any living creature in any
JULY	shadows	genre or colour.
		
ALIQUIOT	Patterns, Repetition or	Focus on Patterns, Repetition or Reflection to enhance
AUGUST	Reflection to enhance	Architectural Details in an image.
	Architectural Details	
SEPTEMBER	Pictorial Landscapes/	Create a Pictorial Landscapes with abandoned buildings
	abandoned buildings	as focal point.
		But all amphasis on the detail by use of feetis stacking
OCTOBER	Flowers, leaves or	Put all emphasis on the detail by use of focus stacking, or in contrast create out-of-focus images using
OCTOBER	insects as subjects	
		movement, colour contrast, negative space and bokeh.

INNING THEMES 2024		
MONTH	INNING THEME	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Solo Pet Portraiture	Only one pet portraiture
FEBRUARY	Reflections, no water	No reflections in water
MARCH	Oil on water in colour	Oily patterns in water
APRIL	Minimalistic Flower	Only flowers and minimalism
MAY	Visual Art	In camera or post edited manipulation is encouraged.
JUNE	Shadows	Shadows must be the main object in your composition
JULY	Double exposure	In camera double exposure
AUGUST	Minimalism in any form	Any genre minimalism
SEPTEMBER	Emotions	Emotions in human or animal subjects
OCTOBER	Vintage objects	Focus on vintage objects, tools or any detailed object.

MONTHLY ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS:

Dear PPS club members

When entering your photos for the formal evenings, could you please do the following: You are allowed three entries in either the Open category or Visual Art category, and one entry in the Set Subject category.

Only members who have judged the previous month are allowed to enter more images. For your extra entries (workshop/outing/innings/resubmission) mark your entries as such:

Workshop:

Model in a red dress W

Resubmission:

Sunset over the dam_RS
Outing: Newtown_O
Inning: Kitchen I

RULES FOR OUTING AND INNINGS

In terms of a resolution taken at a General Meeting on 4 October 2022 members will have an option to enter either an Outings image or an Innings image as an additional entry during the monthly completion, as from 2023. This will ensure that members who are unable to attend a monthly outing to also have an opportunity to participate and embark on a creative challenge each month.

Members can enter either an Inning image or an Outing image, but not both.

Inning images can only be entered in the month specified for a specific topic, e.g., January – Something in the Kitchen

An outing image may also be entered in the month following the outing.

Only one image per inning or outing is allowed.

Clearly mark your image as _I for Innings and _O for Outings. E.g. Chasing each other O

SERVICE TO THE CLUB:

You can serve the club by providing two or more of the services listed below throughout the year. Remember you must provide **regular** service to the club for it to qualify.

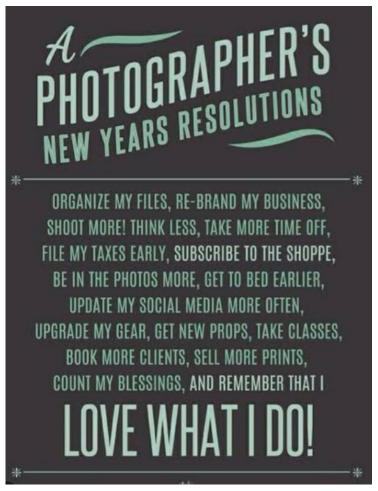
List of services:

- Judging at the monthly competitions.
- Writing articles for the e-Flash.
- Writing tutorials for the e-Flash.
- Assisting with / hosting outings.
- Assisting with / hosting workshops.
- Assisting with / hosting tutorials.
- Providing snacks and refreshments for informal meetings.
- Organising a speaker or speaking yourself for either the informal or formal meetings.
- Photographing the year-end function.
- Organising the end of year function.

NATIONAL SALON DATES 2024		
OTRCC 3 rd National Digital Salon	6 January 2024	
PSSA National AV Salon	13 January 2024	
Bloemfontein CC Salon	20 January 2024	
Ermelo Fotoklub 4 th National Digital Salon	3 February 2024	
AFO 12 th National Digital Salon	10 February 2024	
Boksburg National Digital Salon	24 February 2024	
Brandpunt Fotoklub Nasionale Digitale Salon	9 March 2024	
Visit www.pssa.co.za for more information and entry forms.		

All salon results administered by Photovault are registered automatically by the system. Please ensure correctness of your details in Photovault regularly. Those salons, not using Photovault still need to be captured manually. Contact Sonja de Klerk if there are any discrepancies, at ppsannouncements@gmail.com

We would like to motivate all members to take part in the PSSA salon and international scene where possible. Advancement from 3-star and 4-star require a few salon acceptances. The salon acceptances that are used to calculate promotions have a cut-off date 14 days before the meeting, to allow the competition secretary to update files. Acceptances after this date will be considered the next month.



SALON ACCEPTANCES

National Salons

6th Vanderbijlparkse Fotografiese Vereniging Salon

Giuseppe Carbonatto

On a mission

Sonja De Klerk

Free style I am on a diet The winter girl Letotse

A painting by nature

Frans Fouché

Wild flower Approaching a flower Hanging on 1

John Tapuch

Light intrusion.
The overflow
Drakensberg Cascades 2

Joan Fouché

Finding a way out
Finding nectar
Mexican Butterfly weed COM



4TH SHPC National PDI Salon - 2023

Giuseppe Carbonatto

Mother and cub Mirror mirror Pushing it

Sonja De Klerk

Testing the water A mouthful Dusted Team work

Joan Fouché

Warming up 2

Santie van Eck

The Dawn of a new Day
Ok Let Me Think about it
Not all those who wander are lost

International Salons

11th Olympic Photo Circuit 2023 Sonja de Klerk

Letotse I am stuck Team work

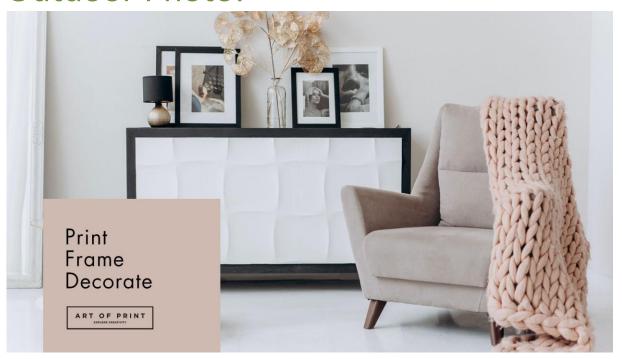
Kangeroo Circuit 2023 Sonja de Klerk

My Ride Hallo there

Wild Rhino Circuit 2023 Sonja de Klerk

A thirsty family
Team work
Framed by my mom
She is coming with me
In the air
Spout and spit
Ouch
A royal wave

Outdoor Photo:





Contact Nr: (012) 348 3693/ www.outdoorphoto.co.za

President's Page - Thelma v.d. Schyff RESOLUTIONS, OH RESOLUTIONS......

Well, here we are - slap dash in 2024.

With a whole year ahead of you, you must decide what you are going to do differently, with emphasis on photography. Do you want to try a new genre, shoot with your smart phone or just enjoy your hobby?

Whatever you feel like doing, you might consider some suggestions for the year to come.

1. Get to know your gear well.

Were you lucky enough to get a new camera for Christmas? Have you upgraded to mirrorless? Now is the time to get to grips with your camera. Look again at shutter speed and its importance, at aperture and how it can change your photo and find out again why white balance set manually, can improve your shots.

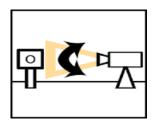
2. Try something new

Put on your boots and learn a new piece of editing software or a different photography technique. Why not try your hand at high-speed photography? The results are so rewarding.



How about tilt shift photography?

In tilt shift photography the camera remains stationary while mounted on a tripod (or handheld if you are steady) and now you tilt the camera up or down. This move shifts the audience's attention from one area to another, vertically extending the range of the visual scope of the shot.



This is a creative and unique type of photography in which the camera is manipulated so that a life-sized location or subject looks like a miniature-scale model.



3. I will take my camera with me more often

Many of us are guilty of leaving the camera at home, where, if we had in it in the bag or car, we will take more photos. Even your smartphone will suffice with cameras getting better all the time. You may not get a winner but might still learn something from what you captured.

4. I will make the most of the gear I have.

It is possible to take good photos even if you do not have the latest camera on the market, with a long lens to go. Rather focus on the capabilities of your camera and use it to its full advantage. When you do not have a long lens for wildlife, try another option. Visit a game farm that takes you close to the animals, even visit the zoo and do close ups of the animals there. Do not forget of our own Rietvlei on our doorstep, where animals can come close to your vehicle.

5. There is one other challenge I would like to bring to your attention. The "365" is the ultimate photographic challenge. It would probably require that you create a side Instagram account, but this is mainly to hold you accountable. (Not like your gym membership that falls behind quickly).

A 365-photo challenge is a project where you capture an image every day for a year. You receive a calendar that tells you what your daily shoot must be. The long and short of it is that you can learn a lot through this challenge. You can learn new technical details and get familiar with different sides and genres of photography.





As you are given ideas each day, it forces you to rely on your creativity. It gets you to shoot every day and drags you out of your comfort zone.

Now that is a thought.

Can I wish you a creative 2024, not shying away from challenges.

Regards

Thelma

End of Year Winning Photos 2023:



Landscapes Juniors

2nd Runner up Seaside Zongjie Huan



1st Runner up Cold winter morning Carina Munday



Winner Daybreak Christelle Swart



Landscapes Seniors

2nd Runner up
Not all of those
who wander
are lost
Santie van Eck



1st Runner up Quiver Tree Forest Rudi Pothas



Winner Daybreak Giuseppe Carbonatto



2nd Runner up Bee with a parcel Karin du Toit



1st Runner up Dinokeng Butterfly Karin du Toit



Macro Juniors

Winner Dandelion Gerrit van Rooyen



2nd Runner up Orange Johan Hosten



1st Runner up The window to your soul Hendrik Grobbelaar

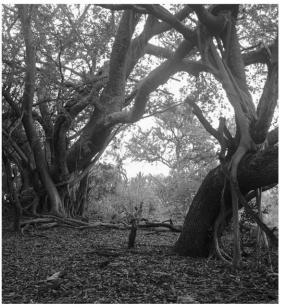
Macro Seniors



Winner Dig deep Sonja de Klerk



2nd Runner up Jonah The Fish Casper van Eck



1st Runner up The Forest Casper van Eck



Monochrome Juniors

Winner Cleared for take off Casper van Eck



Monochrome Seniors

2nd Runner up Gourikwa Rock Mermaid Bill Zurich



1st Runner up Twined Sonja de Klerk



Winner Father and son in mono Hendrik Grobbelaar



2nd Runner up Grass blade Gerrit van Rooyen



1st Runner up Playing with my food Karin du Toit

Nature Juniors

Winner Breakfast on the go Giel du Toit





2nd Runner up Caring hands Santie van Eck





1st Runner up Red Bishop Hendrik Grobbelaar

Winner King of the Kalahari Rudi Pothas





Pictorial Juniors

2nd Runner up Low Tide Giel du Toit



1st Runner up Cactus Bloom Gerrit van Rooyen

Winner Adamski Effect Christelle Swart





Pictorial Seniors

2nd Runner up Behind the fence Joan Fouché



1st Runner up Blue but hot Sonja de Klerk

Winner Screws Hendrik Grobbelaar





PJ Juniors

2nd Runner up Shipping industry Karin du Toit



1st Runner up Red night Karin du Toit

Winner Chopper Hennie Stoffberg





PJ Seniors

2nd Runner up Operations Sand Giuseppe Carbonatto



1st Runner up Focused Santie van Eck

Winner The outcast Johan Ver Loren van Themaat





2nd Runner up Pets Gerrit van Rooyen



1st Runner up Ageing Beauty Karin du Toit



Portraits Juniors

Winner Can I get a treat now Karin du Toit



2nd Runner up Innocence sign language gone wrong Bill Zurich



1st Runner up Older and younger Hendrik Grobbelaar



Portraits Seniors

Winner Blondie John Tapuch

Article:

How to Use Overlays in Photoshop - By Linda Martin

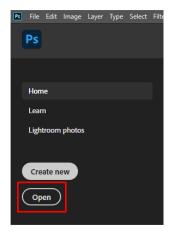
Article taken from fixthephoto.com

I have been experimenting with and fully enjoying the compositing experience that Photoshop is famous for. My creations have got smoother and I hope a lot more interesting. My last Photobook creation was a case in point. I used the compositing experience to the max. It was both liberating and maddening in complexity. Apart from the concept and photographing the puppet models, all other components had to be added via 'OVERLAYS'

I came upon this article about how to use an overlay for anyone who has not tried it before. This is a simplified step-by-step version that uses specially designed downloadable overlays that usually have black backgrounds. Doing your own is not wildly difficult but that is another subject altogether.

If you want to embellish your photos with interesting elements, e.g., feathers, stars, leaves and snowflakes, you can use Photoshop overlays. These are special filters that you can apply to JPEG and PNG images as an extra layer. Read this guide on how to use overlays in Photoshop and start experimenting straight away.

1. Select a Photo



Next choose File>Open

2. Paste the Overlay onto the Photo



You need to drag and drop the overlay you like onto the picture. It will be automatically displayed as a new layer. The photo was taken in winter lacks some fairytale atmosphere, so I will use a snow overlay. You can add smoke in Photoshop or any other effect that can match your image.

If needed, you can resize a layer in Photoshop. Doing this is simple. You just need to open Image > Image Size or use ctrl-T and use the resize handles to enlarge the overlay image.

Make the needed adjustments in the window and double-click on the photo to accept changes.

3. Choose a Blend Mode



Similar to adding texture in Photoshop, you need to change the blend mode, after adding an overlay. With the help of blending modes, you can combine and overlap pictures the way you like It is important to experiment with blending modes while learning how to use overlays so that you can instantly understand what results you will get by choosing different modes. By default, the blend mode is set to Normal. I recommend changing your Blend Mode to Screen. You have probably seen that my overlay has a black background. With "Screen" mode on, all pure black parts will disappear and there will be only snow visible. (The light or white parts)

Tip: It often happens that the colour of an overlay and the general colour gamut of your image are unmatched. You can easily fix this by creating an adjustment layer, by opening Image >Adjustments > Hue/Saturation.

4. Add a Layer Mask to Hide Parts of an Overlay

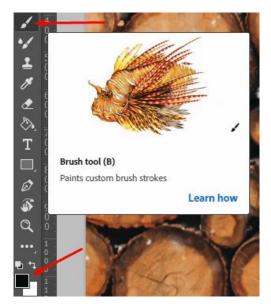


It is crucial to learn how to mask in Photoshop.

First off, go to the Layers panel and select an overlay there. You need to click the "Add layer mask" button located in the lower part of the panel.

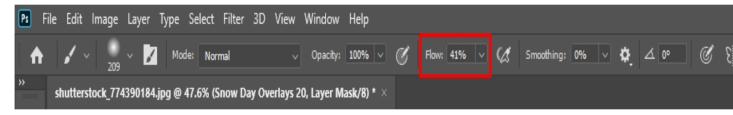
There will appear a white layer mask thumbnail next to the selected layer, which is needed for hiding parts of your overlay. For example, if you apply an overlay to a portrait image, you definitely want models' faces to be perfectly visible. So, any part of an overlay that covers the forehead, eyes, etc., should be hidden.

5. Select the Brush Tool from the Tools Panel



Learning how to use Photoshop overlays is simple, as the range of tools you will have to utilize is rather small. At this stage, you need to select the Brush tool (B) from the Tools panel and set it to black. (D key resets). Keep in mind that a pack of available instruments is sufficient for basic tasks. However, you may need to install Photoshop brushes shared on the net for more sophisticated adjustments.

6. Enter the Brush Settings



Feel free to alter brush settings. For instance, you can modify the opacity and hardness the way you want. However, I recommend sticking to 41% on flow.

Feel free to alter brush settings. For instance, you can modify the opacity and hardness the way you want. However, I recommend sticking to 41%.

7. Hide Parts of the Overlay



Now, you can conceal any piece of an overlay. Keep in mind that you should use black to erase and white to recover. Fortunately, all changes made are non-destructive.

In other words, you can always return to the previous stage by changing the brush's colour to white (X key toggles) and moving it over the areas you need to recover. I will concentrate on deleting an overlay from people's faces because I think this part of a photo should have no distractions.

Tip

Adjust the layer opacity to refine your overlay even more.

8. Done



PHOTO CAFÉ 2023/2024	
SEPTEMBER 2023	
5 September Photo Essay presentations and announcing of winners	
OCTOBER 2023	
3 October	
Photo Stacking demo by Tony Roberts	
Rear Front sink flashing by Giuseppe Carbonatto	
NOVEMBER 2023	
7 November	
Guest speaker: Neville Peterson - Industrial	
Photographer	
Francois Venter - Criterium and tips regarding	
salons	

OUTINGS/ WORKSHOPS/	PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES 2023/2024
SEPTEMBER 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023
3 September Fire event:	9 September - Flower workshop - Jan Cillierpark:
Dea ex Machina — Tony Roberts	19 September - Rhino of the Mapungupwe Ballet rehearsal 30 September – Klitsgras Drum Beating
OCTOBER 2023	DECEMBER 2023
13 October Gentle Introduction to Drag Hunting at the Inanda Country Base	13 December Queen Ballet - Monte Casino

PPS Birthday list:

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January	February
Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat 1	Vanessa Price 6
Gerrit van Rooyen 19	Gurling Bothma 18
March	April
Christelle Swart 6	Casper van Eck 11
Rudi Pothas 13	Carina Munday 24
Fransie Stevens 21	
Linda Martin 22	
May	June
Detlef Basel 23	Suretha du Plessis 11
Frans Fouché 30	Jing Chen 13
	Joan Fouché 16
	Lloyd Munday 18
	Marius Coetzee 30
July	August
Diana van de Wiel 4	Tony Roberts 6
Robin Miles 9	Cata Schramm 9
Johan Ver Loren van Themaat 21	Sonja de Klerk 10
	Bill Zurich 16
	George Stevens 16
	Almari Coetzee 17
	Ann Roberts 23
	Brigitte Hansen 25
September	October
·	John Tapuch 1
	Thelma van der Schyff 8
	Huan Zhongjie 12
	Chantelle J v Rensburg 24
November	December
Santie van Eck 6	Brendan Hohls 1
Johan Hosten 9	Giuseppe Carbonatto 1
Karin du Toit 11	Hendrik Grobbelaar 24
Giel du Toit 15	Pine Pienaar 26
Frans Mohr 21	Marlene Birkholtz 31
Bruno Engel 21	
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