



IPIP Photographic Club

May 2024 Newsletter

Theme: Industrial

Image By



Sacha Fermor

Our thanks to the members who submitted contributions for the April newsletter. Once again may we emphasize that if you have any item of photographic interest - technical or otherwise - which you wish to share, then you are welcome to forward such material either to me at pdk.main@gmail.com or to the IPIP address Ed

Matters Arising from the May Club Meeting

A total of 26 members and two visitors attended the meeting, which commenced with an excellent presentation by Alexius van der Westhuizen of his Lightning Photography Portfolio. Alexius explained in detail how he approached the art of capturing lightning bolts and we were treated to stunning images of this genre. Background information on this photographer and his work, may be found on www.digitalgallery.co.za.

Our congratulations go to David Wolstencroft on achieving his LPSSA Mono Portfolio award. The winning images are included at the end of this newsletter.

Our weekend away in Kaapse Hoop was attended by 17 persons who had a “spiffing” sojourn in this historical location. Keep an eye open for the June newsletter which will include a portfolio of photos with an engaging write-up by Geoff Twomey.

The definition regarding our June set subject, i.e. water drops, has been amplified to include not only drops falling into liquids but also the depiction of splashes made by solids falling into liquids – the accent is on the splash not the solid!

The set subject for July is “Abstract Images” which can be defined as “Images created by using photographic materials and equipment that don’t have an immediate association with the physical world”.

Members’ May Photo Submissions:

Two of the 4 & 5-Star judges, provided helpful overview feedback regarding our members’ performance standard, as well as the basis on which they made their judging decisions – see the members’ photo section at the end of the newsletter, for their comments

IPIP Website

Members are reminded that our Club website www.ipip-photoclub.co.za has been up and running for a while now. This is a first-class professional landing site full of interesting information and striking images, which we hope will attract newcomers to our Club.

PhotoVault Submission

All our monthly photo submissions are handled via Photovault at www.photovaultonline.com. A separate document explaining how to access Photovault is available on request. When submitting your images ensure that you receive an Email confirmation from PV within, say an hour, to the effect that your photos have been received. If not, you need to “re-finalise” your submission.

In 2024, Photovault will be used to track your scores and progress. The rule is that one image can be accepted in three Salons and will count 3 times for IPIP promotion.

It should be noted that there is no possibility of circumventing default Photovault procedures. Thus, late submissions are automatically disallowed and members should ensure that the monthly submission deadlines are observed.

A schedule of monthly submission dates, is included at the end of this newsletter.

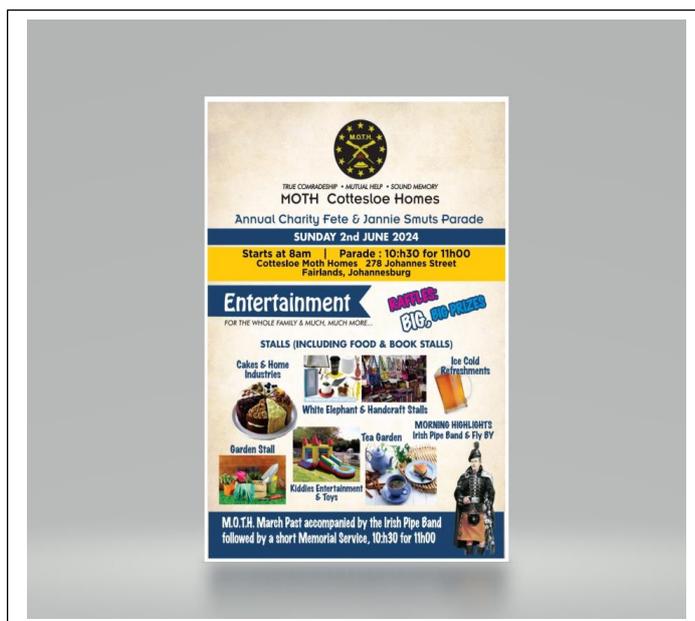
NB: Please remember to authenticate your PSSA membership on or after 19th May. You can download the procedure from the PV website

Relocation of Kameraz Store

This store is moving to Stonemill Office Park near Cresta Mall, at the end of May 2024.

Outings and Events

2nd June: MOTH Cottesloe Fete



2nd June: Aloe Farm Birding Day

Full details of this event can be found at

https://thealoefarm.co.za/2024/05/07/fun-bird-photography-and-gardening-day/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwxeyxBhC7ARIsAC7dS381LqJlEmYIZ3Xu23YJBopFZyIY8cKdFweKShzSd9xvTmPjwD3mg2saAqcFEALw_wcB

9th or 16th June: Cheetah Run and Private Tour

The Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre at de Wild is offering the above event at a cost of R360 pp for a min of 10 persons. Kindly let CHAIR know ASAP if you are interested

21st May: Painting With Light

See separate WhatsApp Post by Derek Carstens

2025 Weekend Away 25th to 27th April

A timely notice for a weekend event which has become increasingly popular with our members

Technical Feedback and Tutorials

An article submitted by Dudley Schnetler (reprinted from DPS)

How to Know If Your Photography Is Good: The Art of Self-Critique

A Post By: [Kav Dadfar](#)

Which images should you include in your portfolio? Which should you share on social media? And which should never see the light of day? Determining which photos to present to the world is a common problem for amateur and newbie photographers (and it's something that plenty of professionals struggle with, too!).

Now, photography is subjective, and every person will have their own sense of what makes an image good. In my view, this subjectivity is one of the great things about photography! You should always aim to photograph what you enjoy, and you should do it with your unique style and vision.

But sometimes – especially if you are looking to earn money from your images – you will need to consider other people's tastes and needs. You'll need to think about whether other people like specific images, and you'll need to determine whether your photography is good in the eyes of the everyday viewer.

In this article, I offer a set of guidelines for determining if your photo is good or not. By considering the questions and tips I share below, you'll be better equipped to recognize whether other folks will like your shots. And you'll *also* be better at looking at images from a more objective, clear-headed perspective, which can be helpful when evaluating your photos for *yourself*.

1. Is the photo technically good?



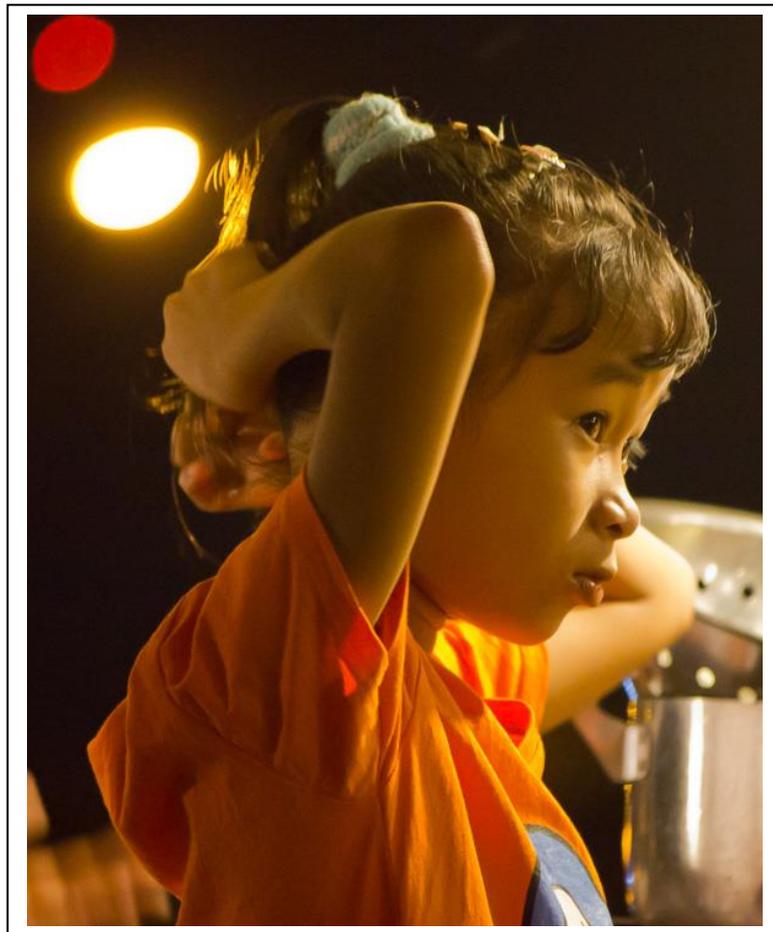
Different professional photographers have different workflows, but for most, determining whether a photo is good starts with checking if a file is technically acceptable.

Because let's be honest: a blurred or poorly focused photo isn't going to make it into your portfolio.

So a good first step when evaluating a particular photo is to check that it is sharp with a good tonal range, that it has good contrast between shadows and highlights, and that it's focused correctly on the right portion of the scene.

Of course, there might be occasions when a photo is slightly off in terms of focus, for example, but it still works. And if you want to showcase it in your portfolio, that's fine. But the majority of the time, a blurry photo can be discounted.

(If your image has tonal or color problems, you can always try correcting things in post-processing. However, sometimes you just won't be able to edit away these technical issues, and you'll need to move on to a different photo instead.)



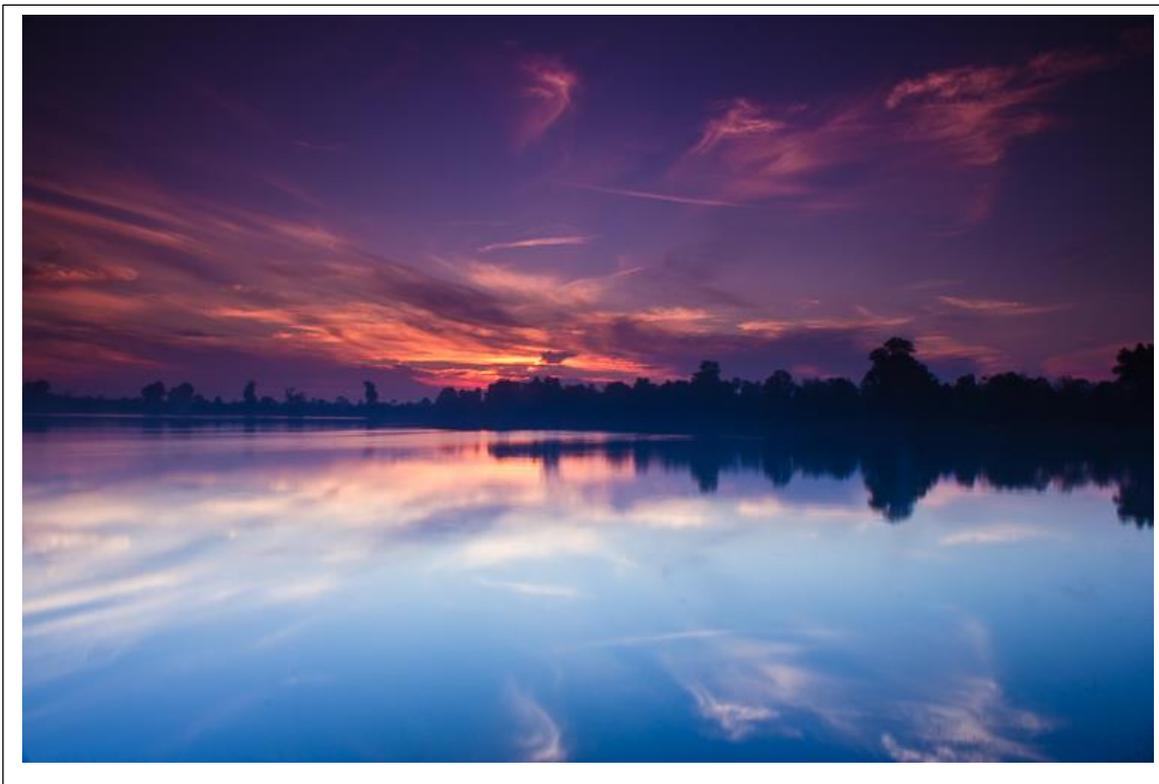
2. Is the image missing something?

Sometimes, you can look at one of your photos, and while it'll be *technically* good, you can tell that it's missing something. (This might be obvious after a glance, or it might take a bit of inspection before you recognize that sense of emptiness. So if you're not instantly sure, spend some time sitting with the image and see what you think.)

It might be that you've done a great job of capturing a quiet cobbled street, yet it just feels wrong without a person in the shot. Or it might be that you've photographed some beautiful scenery, yet the composition is missing a point of interest.

These are the type of photos that you look at and think, "I wish I had done something differently," or "If only there were something or someone in that empty spot..."

If you have those (or similar) thoughts about one of your images, then it's probably missing that special something that would make it into a great photo. And it probably shouldn't go into your portfolio, because while it's likely a decent photograph, it's not a *good* photograph.



Here, I've captured a nice landscape with a nice sunrise, but there's no real point of interest. It would be improved with a boat on the lake (or some other object on which the eye might rest).

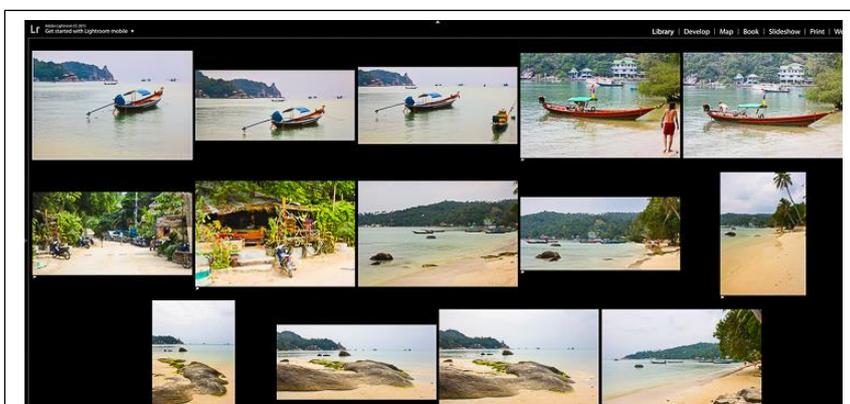
3. Try the Stop Test

When I'm going through a collection of my images, one of my favorite things to do is something I call the "Stop Test."

You see, when you flick through one of your galleries of photos – whether it's on your smartphone, your computer, or even your camera – there are usually some photos that make you stop.

It might only be a split second longer than usual, but sometimes you'll pause briefly as you flick through the set just to look at that one photo.

That's usually a good sign there is clearly something about that particular shot that grabs your attention. And if it can grab *your* attention, it might grab the attention of others as well. (In other words, it might be the kind of image that the average viewer will see as *good!*)



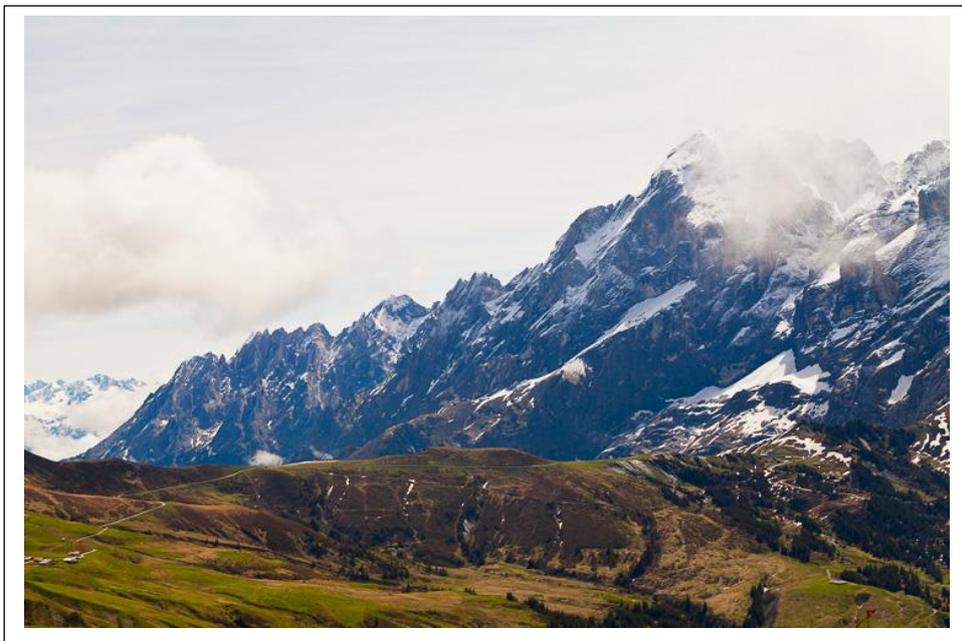
When I'm flicking through my photos, a lot of the shots just fly by – but occasionally, one makes me stop. That's a sign that I might want to consider it for sharing publicly.

4. Don't get sentimental

One thing that's easy to do as a photographer is get *sentimental* about a photo. Regardless of how detached you try to be when reviewing and editing your photos, there will still be that part of you that remembers the effort it took to capture each shot.

It might have been that you spent hours getting to a location, or maybe the image reminds you of a memorable encounter with someone interesting. No photographer is a robot, and we are all guilty of liking our images for sentimental reasons, rather than liking them because they're actually great.

So if you're unsure about an image, try to pause and ask yourself: Is this actually a good photo? Or am I just being sentimental?



Though it took a while to get up to this vantage point, I know that the lack of light means the image doesn't work. It can be hard to admit, but it's true.

5. Is the image unique?

In this era of digital photography, where everyone has a camera, the biggest challenge is often capturing *unique* photos. And that is also a good test of whether you should include a photo in your portfolio.

It could be that you've captured an image that's perfectly fine, but if it's a popular subject from a conventional perspective, it might not be worth including in your portfolio. (After all, your portfolio is your way of standing out – of making it clear that you can capture unique photos that are different from the billions of files uploaded to Instagram.)

On the other hand, if your image is merely decent, *but* you've managed to capture something unique that doesn't already exist, that might elevate it to greatness.

The key is to search what already exists and see if your image is better or different than others, then take that into account when evaluating your shots.



6. Can you imagine the photo in a magazine?

Even if you're not planning on selling your photos, trying to envision them being used in real-life scenarios can often be a good guide to how good they are.

When you look at your image, can you imagine it on someone's wall? Can you see it on the cover of a magazine or used to illustrate something for a feature or story? Can you imagine it on a billboard, flyer, or postcard?

If you can imagine your photo in those scenarios, then it's probably a good shot, and you should include it in your portfolio.

7. Go with your gut

There are many different ways to critique or evaluate a photo, but sometimes you just have to go with your gut feeling.

Sometimes you might be proven right and that image you were unsure about leads to work (or even ends up making sales!).

Always remind yourself that photography is subjective. At some point, we all look at a photo we've taken and have a good feeling about it – and that feeling can be worth trusting!



I took this image at a local market in London, but I wasn't sure if it was a good one. It was a last-minute decision to submit this image to my agency. Since then, it has made over \$350 worth of sales.

Critique your photos, but don't follow my guidelines too rigidly

These are just *some* of the ways to assess if a photo is good or not, but hopefully they provide you with some handy guidelines to help you evaluate your images!

Always remember, however, that these are not hard and fast rules that you should adhere to all the time.

Not every photo will fit the criteria I presented above. But just because a photo doesn't fit *doesn't* mean the photo is bad. Use these points as a guide when you are stuck on an image, and if in doubt go with your gut feeling.

Kav Dadfar

is a professional travel photographer, writer and photo tour leader based in the UK. His images are represented by stock agencies such as 4Corners Images and Robert Harding World Imagery and they have been used by clients such as Condé Nast, National Geographic, Lonely Planet, and many others. Kav is also the co-founder of That Wild Idea, a company specializing in photography workshops and tours both in the UK and around the world. Find out more at [That Wild Idea](#).

Members' Forum

An Article by Antje Higgo

Tulips in the Netherlands

Earlier in April I travelled to Germany and the Netherlands – what better opportunity than that to visit the tulip blossom?

From mid / end March until mid of May, fields across The Netherlands are dotted with flowers – mainly tulips but also other bulb flowers like crocuses, narcissus and hyacinths. The climate with cold nights and cold winters and the sandy soil of the Provinces of Flevoland, Drenthe, Zeeland and Groningen are ideal for growing tulips on a large scale.



The Bollenstreek – an area in North and South Holland around Voorhout, Sassenheim, Lisse and Hillegom, is most famous for its hundreds of flower fields and the perfect place to admire tulips in full blossom.

Although tulips are always associated with The Netherlands, they originated from the mountains of Kazakhstan and found their way to Holland via Persia, China, Turkey and Antwerp.

Around 1593 the tulips first appeared in Holland where they were initially grown exclusively in the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden which today is the oldest botanical garden in Holland. Soon they spread all over the country causing tulipmania – which is considered an official era in Dutch history. During this time prices for bulbs reached bizarrely high levels – at one time the price for one bulb was equivalent to what an average man would earn in 10 months! The market – however – collapsed in 1637 making tulipmania the first speculative bubble.



These flower farms are beautiful, and every year attract tourists from around the world. However, these farms are not aimed at business with the flowers, but the bulbs are the actual product farmed.

Not long after tulips bloom the growers chop off the flowers, leaving the stem and leaves. These provide nutrition for strong bulbs which are sold mainly abroad. The Netherlands export over three billion tulips and bulbs are exported every year.

A nice destination to experience the tulip festival is a visit to Keukenhof Gardens (30 min drive from Amsterdam). On 200 hectares more than 7 million flower bulbs are planted by hand in autumn to flower in spring – in a variety of 800 different tulips.

Enjoy a day there – strolling around the beautiful landscape and flower bed arrangements, renting a bicycle or do a tour in a silent boat through the tulip fields while enjoying ample opportunities for photography.

This visit has been on my bucket list and it was definitely worth the while.



The next meeting will be on 4th June, 18H00 for 18H30

A schedule of Photovault submission due dates is included below.

Hope you enjoyed the May newsletter

HAPPY SHOOTING

IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Set Subject Calendar for 2024

Month	Set Subject	Definition	SS Image Cut-off Date	MC Image Cut-off Date	Submission Date
June	Water drops	A photograph of a drop of liquid falling from a height onto a liquid or solid surface. The aim is to capture the moment the drop hits the surface. This is a staged and controlled scene and may not be the natural fall of water such as rain, a waterfall or the ocean.	1 st May 2023	1 st December 2023	25 th May 2024
July	Abstract	Consists of images created using photography materials and equipment that don't have an immediate association with the physical world.	1 st June 2023	1 st January 2024	22 nd June 2024
August	Food	A restaurant would like to show chase their meals on a new menu card, their online ordering platform or website. Your task is to photograph the food in a manner that would look appetising.	1 st July 2023	1 st February 2024	27 th July 2024
September	Cold	Related to temperature. The focus of the image should be of something cold for example ice, frost, breath, icicles, snow or a clearly cold winters morning or evening.	1 st August 2023	1 st March 2024	24 th August 2024
October	Travel	A photograph depicting travel, either the destination or the mode. May be a beach, an iconic scene, a suitcase and ticket or a train for example.	1 st Sept 2023	1 st April 2024	21 st September 2024
November	Farming	Explore the world of agriculture by photographing the daily life, work, and landscapes of farms, showcasing the agricultural process. Focus is on farming activities, landscapes, or farm life. No farm animals unless they form part of the landscape, activity or daily life.	1 st October 2023	1 st May 2024	26 th October 2024

Members' Images – May 2024

Salon Acceptances

7th PSSA International Salon of Photography 2024

Sandy van Vuuren



Blazing Guardians (36)



Man in the Mist (34)

Members' Images – May 2024

Salon Acceptances



Ethereal Dawn (36)



Rocky Shores (35)

Members' Images – May 2024

Salon Acceptances



Paper lanterns (36)



Poetry in motion (38 COM)

Members' Images – May 2024

Salon Acceptances

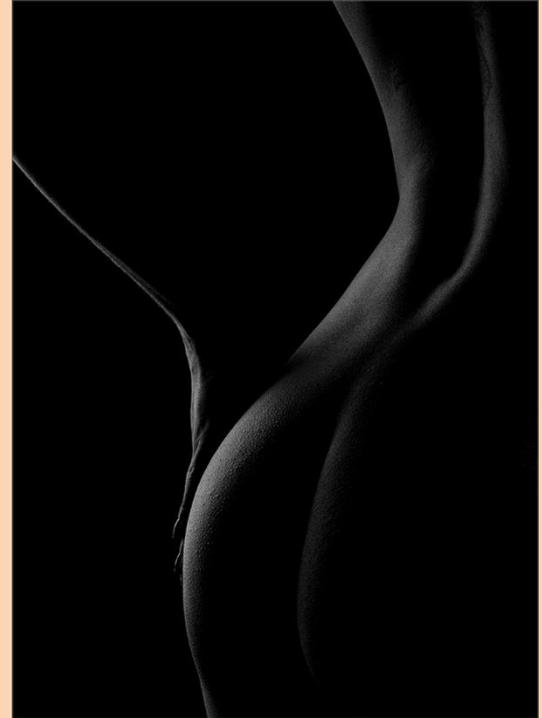
7th PSSA International Salon of Photography 2024

Dudley Schnetler



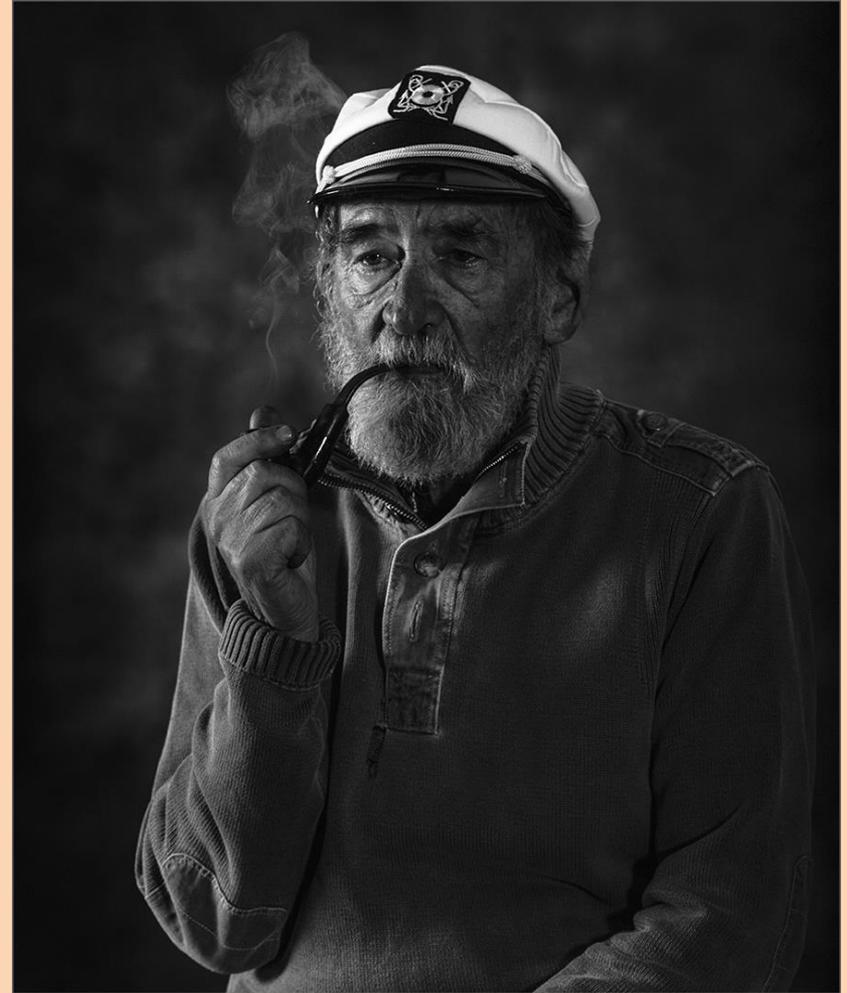
Members' Images – May 2024

David Wolstencroft – LPSSA Portfolio



Members' Images – May 2024

David Wolstencroft – LPSSA Portfolio



Members' Images – May 2024

David Wolstencroft – LPSSA Portfolio



Members' Images – May 2024

David Wolstencroft – LPSSA Portfolio



Members' Images – May 2024

SS – Judges' Vote

Judge Comment 1 -

The club standard is very high. Salon acceptance standard is normally 12 out of 15 and more than 20% of the club received 12 or higher.

I scored the set subject images that had some action in it higher than the plants that were not operating.

It is normally good to wait for a beautiful sunset before taking photos of plants that is not operational. Night photography of plants also creates high impact images.

Judge Comment 2 -

A general comment of the set subject is that many of the images were very busy and in many cases lighting poorly handled. Yes, you are going to get the argument that industry is busy, but as a photographer we need to consider that it is not just fitting the theme but is an appealing photographic representation.

Something to ask the photographer.....would you put this image on your website to advertise your industry?

Members' Images – May 2024

SS – Judges' Vote

1-3 STAR WINNER (Judges' Vote and Peer Vote)

Antje Higgo – (35) Rusty Texture



Members' Images – May 2024

SS – Judges' Vote

4 STAR WINNER

Geoff Twomey (38) – Debris & Dust



Members' Images – May 2024

SS – Judges' Vote

5 STAR WINNER

Sandy van Vuuren (38) – Flowing lines



Members' Images – May 2024

SS – Peer Vote

PEER VOTE 4 STAR WINNER

Deon Heyns – Gauging the Machine



Members' Images – May 2024

SS – Peer Vote

PEER VOTE 5 STAR WINNER

Dutchy Geldenhuys – Circular Saw



Members' Images – May 2024

MC – Judges' Vote

1-3 STAR WINNER

Dave Brimson (40) - Vogue



Members' Images – May 2024

MC – Judges' Vote

4 STAR WINNER

Deon Heyns (40) Champagne



Members' Images – May 2024

MC – Judges' Vote

5 STAR WINNER

David Wolstencroft (40) – Orange Gerbera



Members' Images – May 2024

MC – Peer Vote

1-3 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER

Waiting to take flight – Nina Perry



Members' Images – May 2024

MC – Peer Vote

MC 4 STAR PEER VOTE – WINNER (TIE)



Champagne – Deon Heyns



Icicles – Saskia Cole

Members' Images – May 2024

MC – Peer Vote

5 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER

Imagination Throne – Fabienne Jardim

