

eFLASH

MAY 2024

WWW.PRETORIAPHOTOGRAPHIC.CO.ZA



City Scape
Casper van Eck



Dubai City of Distinction
Santie van Eck



PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.pretoriaphotographic.co.za

PO Box 73056, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040

Photo-Vault-Online Entries

www.photovaultonline.com

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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



PPS is affiliated with PSSA

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NEW MEMBERS

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 March.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

7 May 2024 Hybrid meeting	Photo Café @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 19H00
21 May 2024 Hybrid meeting	Formal Meeting @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H45
Judges: April 2024	Linda Martin Sonja de Klerk Dirk Heyns (AFO)

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.
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. <i>Images may not be manipulated and must conform to the PSSA Ethical Guidelines</i>
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. <i>Images may not be manipulated</i>
Portraits	Includes both Animal and Human portraits.
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.
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

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

<p>Dear PPS club members When entering your photos for the formal evenings, could you please remember the following:</p> <p>You are allowed one entry in the SET SUBJECT</p> <p>and three entries in either of the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VISUAL ART 2. NON-MANIPULATED – Nature or PJ according to PSSA rules 3. OPEN – Manipulation allowed 	<p>For your EXTRA ENTRY please do the following:</p> <p><u>Workshop:</u> Model in a red dress W</p> <p><u>Outing:</u> Newtown_O</p> <p><u>Inning:</u> Kitchen_I</p> <p><u>Resubmission:</u> Sunset over the dam RS</p> <p>Only members who have judged the previous month are allowed to enter more images.</p>
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RULES FOR OUTING AND INNINGS

<p>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.</p> <p>Members can enter either an Inning image or an Outing image, but not both.</p> <p>Inning images can only be entered in the month specified for a specific topic, e.g., January – Something in the Kitchen</p> <p>An outing image may also be entered in the month following the outing.</p> <p>Only one image per inning or outing is allowed.</p> <p>Clearly mark your image as _I for Innings and _O for Outings. E.g. Chasing each other O</p>
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SERVICE TO THE CLUB:

<p>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.</p>	
<p>List of services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Edenvale National Salon	4 May
Kroonstad Fotoklub Life in Mono	18 May
Amber AV International Salon	31 May
MFCC PDI Salon	1 June
PSSA Up & Coming Salon	8 June
TAF Print and PDI Salon	15 June
F-Stop Kempton Park Salon	29 June
Nelspruit Salon	7 July
Danube Summer Circuit	15 July
Benoni Camera Clug Digital Salon	20 July
Witzenberg Photographic Society National Salon	3 August
Durban Camera Club Digital Salon	17 August
PSSA National Youth Salon	24 August
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

BCC 7th National PDI Salon

Giuseppe Carbonatto

Cadmium Colours
Mother and cub
Waiting for the skipper
Putting out to sea

Sonja De Klerk

Coins of the world
Zip it
The love bite
Cherry smoke
Steamed fork
Sour swirl
She is coming with me
Lady in red COM

Fransie Stevens

Peaches and Cream



Lloyd Munday

Slow down
Enigmatic Eyeballs



Brandpunt Fotoklub Nasionale Salon

Giuseppe Carbonatto

Movement

Sonja De Klerk

Three and some more
Le Raisin



Boshoff Steenekamp

Cape longclaw landing on a bush
I shall stop this

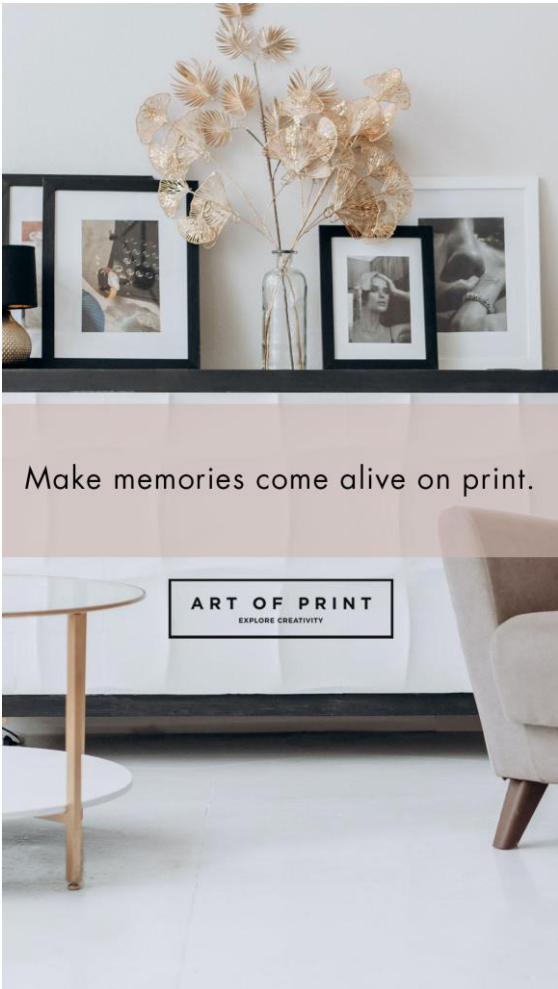
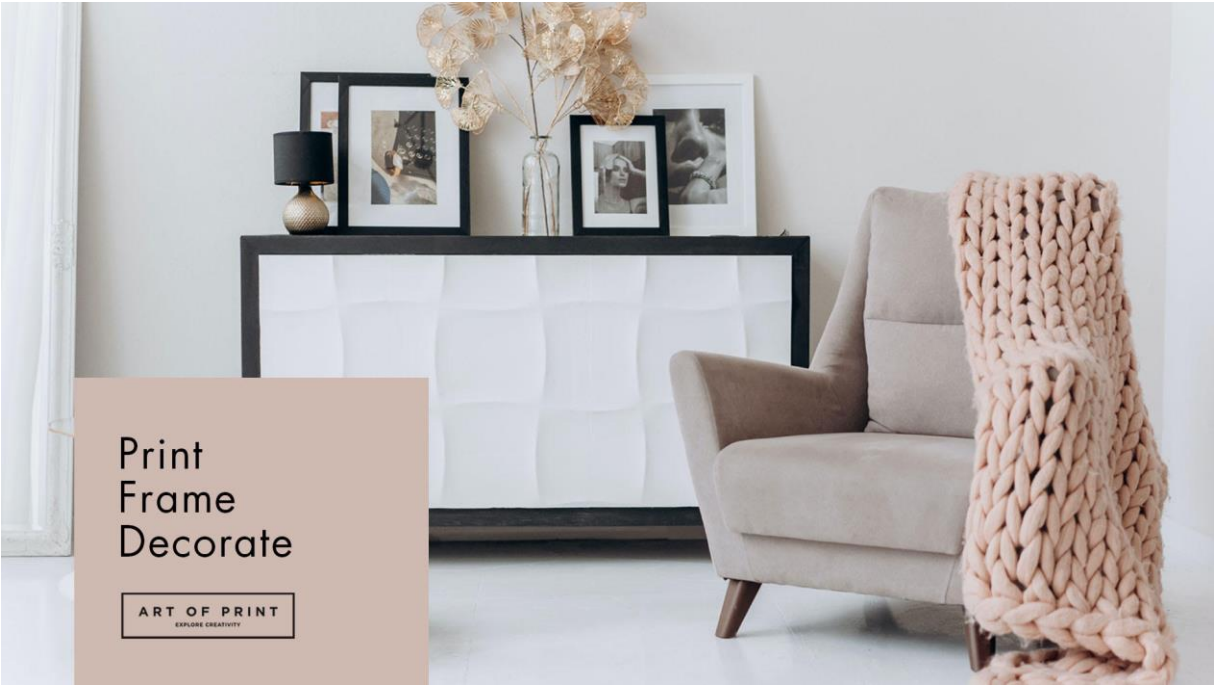
International Salon

2nd Swartland International Salon

Sonja de Klerk

My lookout point
Queen of hearts_I

Outdoor Photo:



Contact Nr: (012) 348 3693/www.outdoorphoto.co.za
President's Page: Thelma van der Schyff
Patterns Around Us

We are surrounded by patterns.

As I sit at my desk, I look around me and see files in a row on a shelf. I see tiles on the floor. I see the windowpanes in their frames. I see my grandchild's Lego blocks. I see colouring pencils in their box. Looking outside the window, I see identical chairs under the umbrella. All these things form a pattern, that is why it attracts my attention. All around us we can see architectural elements such as floors, walkways, stairways, brick walls or even man-made art.

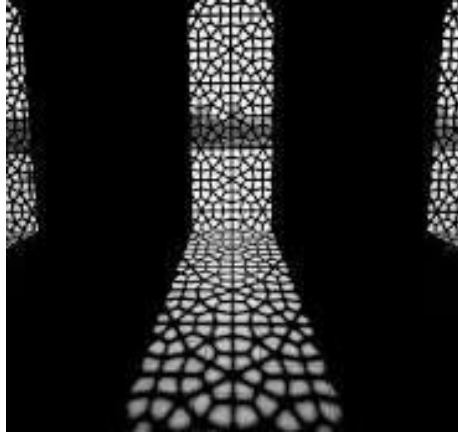
Looking further, I see the little rose bush blooming. On closer inspection I see the intricate center inside the rose showing off its patterns. Nature is full of patterns. It shows in the veins of leaves, the repeating pattern of grass and other plants.

The four seasons—winter, spring, summer, and autumn —provide us with its own patterns. The skeleton of a tree in winter makes for lots of impact in a photo.

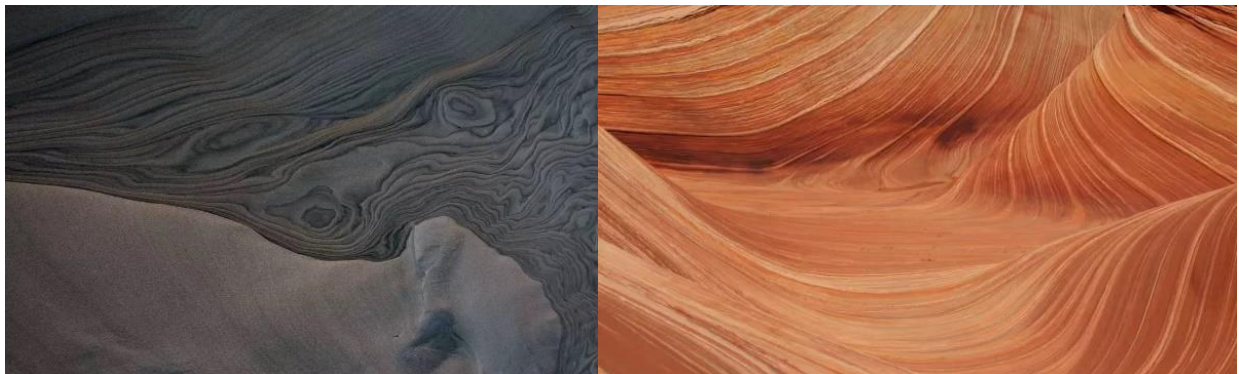


Similarly, spring comes with new growth and patterns. This is also found in vibrant colours that add to the drama in a photo.

Narrowing it down to day and night, the pattern that emerges of darkness followed by light makes for interesting images. Similarly, the light that falls through windows create beautiful patterns.



Just open your mind to start seeing what is around you. Think about all the swirls, waves or lines that abound all over our daily activities. Rock formations and erosion of earth form strong patterns.

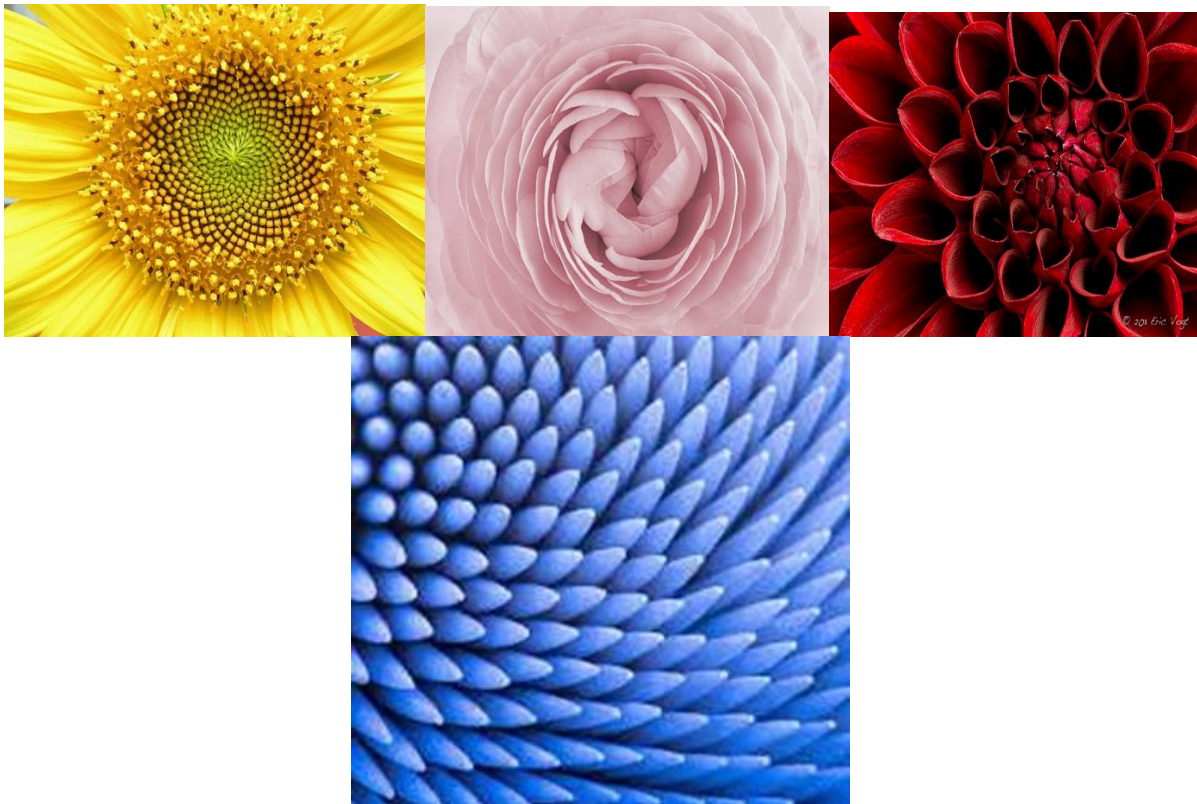


Dunes form repeating curves, wind waves are sea surface waves that create the characteristic chaotic pattern of any large body of water.

Animals are great subjects showing us their patterns. A zebra has black and white stripes, while a leopard has spots. Some animals use their patterns for camouflage, while others use them for communication.



When having the opportunity to photograph the natural world, one never lacks inspiration - just get into the habit of looking and seeing. By filling the frame with your subject creates great patterns. It shows the hidden world that is often missed. You never know what is hidden from the casual eye, until you stoop and observe.



A beautiful example of spirals accentuated with colour. How great creation is seeing the nautilus shell or the chameleon's tail in detail.



Take this further, find snail shells, whirlpools, ferns and algae. Look at a cross section of red cabbage and you will see spirals. Look at your fingertip, where you would make a fingerprint, and you will see a spiral. Then the ultimate spiral – the stunning view of spiral galaxy M101, also known as the Pinwheel galaxy. (This might just be for admiring seeing that this captured by the Hubble Space Telescope.)



Go out and find patterns, patterns patterns.....

Get carried away.

Be happy till next time.

Thelma

Winning Photos April 2024:



*Best 7 Star:
Iceland aurora
Charles Castello*



*COM Inning
White rose
on red stoep
Boshoff Steenekamp*



*Best Visual Art
Celebration
Johan Hosten*



*Best 2 Star
Com &
Best Open:
All my goodness
Fransie Stevens*

*Best 3 Star
Best Junior:
Dry
Gerrit van Rooyen*

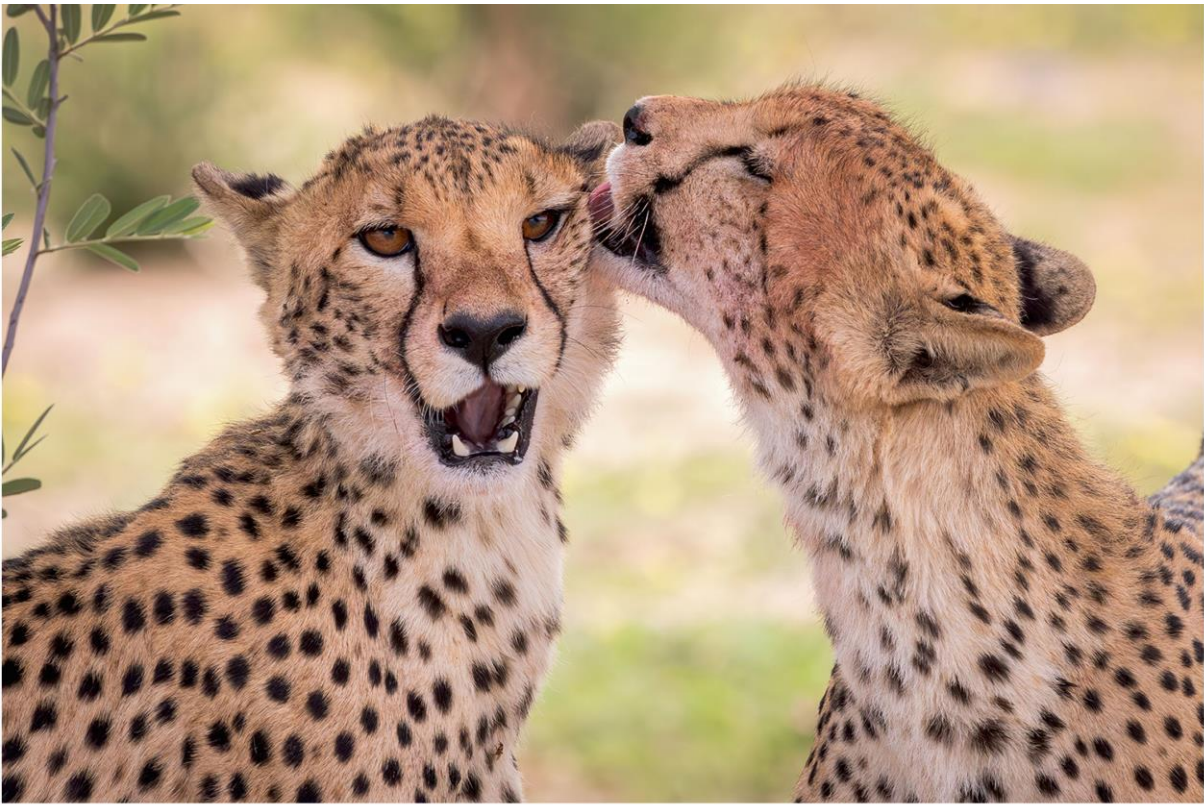




*Best 4 Star:
Urban Warrior
Lloyd Munday*

*Good non-manipulated
& COM:
I shall stop this
Boshoff Steenekamp*





*Best 5 Star
COM*

*Best non-manipulated:
Licking Clean
Johan Hosten*

*Good non-manipulated
& COM:
Watch Out
George Stevens*



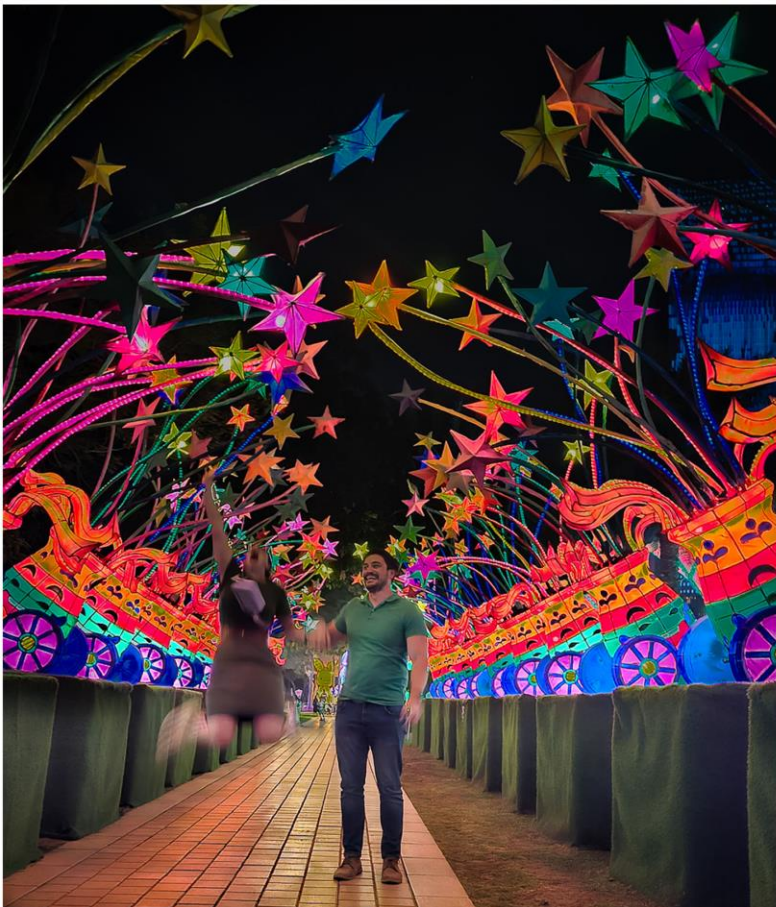
Set Subject:



*Best Set Subject
COM & Best Senior
a Home away from Home
Santie van Eck*

*Cityscape at Night
COM
Bill Zurich*





*Qinhuai river
in the evening
COM
Zhongjie Huan*

*Love Glows
Casper van Eck*

Good images:



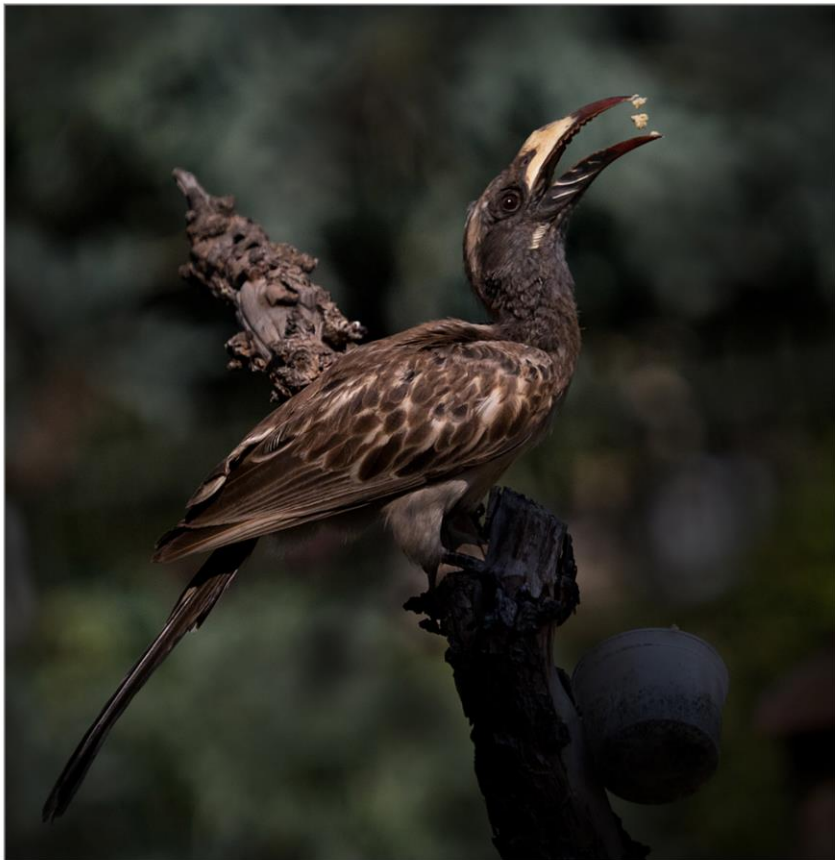
Kgalagadi Storm
Giuseppe Carbonatto

Arniston
Giuseppe Carbonatto





*Cape longclaw
landing on a bush
Boshoff steenekamp*



*Feeder Raid
Tony Roberts*



Brown Hooded Kingfisher
George Stevens

Diederik Cuckoo
George Stevens





*Water play
Thelma van der Schyff*

*Gripping
Hennie Stoffberg*





*Catch of the day
COM
Fransie Stevens*

*Family care
Johan Hosten*





*Shiekh Zayed
Grand Mosque
Santie van Eck*



*Fragile
Santie van Eck*

Articles: Minimalism - Linda Martin

This is not an easy way to photograph. The very word means LESS

Minimalist photography is a form of photography that is distinguished by austere simplicity. It emphasizes sparseness and careful composition, shying away from overabundance of colour, patterns, or information. (Definition in [Wikipedia](#))

Minimalist photography is about stripping a subject down to its most elegant essence. It is a way to create photos that cut through the clutter by emphasizing the essentials, including clean lines and empty spaces. Simplicity itself.

Negative space plays a huge part in the minimalist style. Since the idea is to remove all clutter and unnecessary elements to highlight just one subject, you are going to end up with an empty area around the subject. Where one can add texture or colours to fill a negative space and compliment the subject, in minimalism this is not ideal. Nothing must overpower the simplicity of the subject.

Minimal art is the culmination of reductionist tendencies in modern art that first surfaced in the 1913 composition by the Russian painter Kasimir Malevich of a black square on a white ground.



This I feel is taking the whole thing to the point of crazy. I don't personally "get it" and as a photograph it won't get anywhere near a bronze.



Photo from Unsplash

This simplistic photo is a lot more pleasing, but I feel a bit of something small to balance the leaves on the right side would add value.



Photo from Pinterest

This is a lot better in my opinion, simple clean uncluttered shelf of vases beautifully balanced by the shadow of a window.

The minimalistic style can be applied to landscapes and architecture as well as still life. In fact, I have seen it applied to wildlife as well. I do feel that the subject needs to be at least identifiable in the vast plain of otherwise “nothingness”. As far as composition goes, the rule of thirds works well. A leading line to the subject makes a small subject really stand out. And a sudden spot of colour draws the eye.

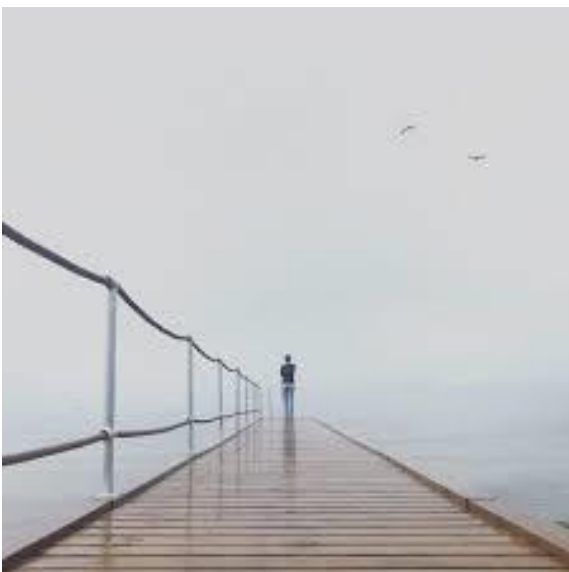


Photo Expert Photography



Photo Photopoly



Photo 12 Clicks



Photo Photzy

Using a very shallow Depth of Field will blur out distracting details in the background and leave a pleasing subtle colour behind the subject.

Going monochrome or severely reducing colours is another way to show up the simple subject without the confusion of colour.



Photo Click magazine



Photo Pinterest

Not all of this might be your style. It certainly does require another way of “looking” at the subject. Be careful of totally losing any sense in the photograph, the story can get forgotten or lost once you eliminate the clutter. Try to keep it real, have a subject that “says something”. It needs a reason to be there even if not up close and personal.

Long exposure and Intentional Camera Movement can also create some stunning Minimalist photos. Just keep the colours muted and have something identifiable to pique the viewer’s interest. A jumbled blur does not really work too well.

All in all, this form of photography is what a lot of “Fine Art” is based on. A photo one can look at for some time without suffering from sense overload.



Photo Wim van Teeffelen

Panorama photography - Mike Smith

Panorama photography seems quite daunting, but in reality it is a lot easier than you think.

A panorama is basically a long thin photograph of a big scene. It could be a mountain range, a large lake or a huge vista. Just something that you might not be able to fit into one photo with the lens you have ... or you might have to shoot super wide and crop in on that photo, which is never a good thing as you would then be throwing away valuable pixels.

I think every photographer should be shooting panoramas ... and I'll let you in on a little secret ... they're not that hard to shoot!

I filmed this week's on location landscape photography video in [Pen Y Fan, in the Brecon Beacons](#). It's an awesome place to visit and hike and gives you some spectacular views that are perfect for panoramas.



01. Principles of Photographing a Panorama

This is a technique whereby you take a series of photographs, and then afterwards merge them together in your editing program, to form one big photograph.

You can do a single row of photos, it could be as little as two merged together, or as many as you want ... although the more you throw into the mix, the harder your computer will work.

You can also do multiple rows of photos ... however it is easy to get carried away with this ... I have tried over a hundred just for fun, and my computer had a little bit of a sulk and refused to give me the image ... so just be aware of your computing power at home.

I have the M1 Mac Mini with minimal specs (8Gb Ram) and it takes about 3-5 minutes to stitch over 20 images together, so you can quite easily build a really big photo, with a relatively cheap computer.

02. The Basics of Taking the Photos for Your Panorama

To take a panorama photo all you need is a camera that has a manual mode setting:

- Set the camera to [manual mode](#)
- Set the ISO to 100

- dial in the settings for the conditions you have on the day (If you're not sure about this, see below)
- With the settings you have, check the brightest parts to make sure the highlights aren't blowing out (are too bright)
- focus on the scene, then set the camera to manual focus (in the image above, I've focussed on the mountain to the left)
- Start to take the photos one by one, I normally shoot from left to right. Make sure you stop all movement before taking each one.
- Overlap your photos by about half (So each photo has about half of the scene the last photo had in it)
- As long as there is a decent overlap, the computer will stitch them together successfully
- Shoot a bit wider than you think you will need. It is better to crop in afterward on your panorama, than to not have enough.

03. Check Your Photos for the Panorama

When you have finished, check all the photos in the sequence. I'll just make sure they are all sharp, in focus and have a decent overlap.

04. Editing Your Panorama Photo

I use Adobe lightroom classic but most editing programs are similar in the way they stitch your photos together.

- Import your photos into lightroom using the import button.
- Select all your photos in the pano you want to stitch together by clicking on the first one, and then holding down shift and selecting the last one.
- Right click on any one of the selected images.
- Select Photo Merge, and then Panorama.
- It may take a while to load up depending on your computer's performance.
- If they successfully stitch together, great job, **if not**, you probably didn't get enough of an overlap.
- In the popup window, select Cylindrical projection for single row panoramas and spherical projection for multi row panoramas.
- If the horizon is a bit wavy, play with the boundary warp slider to try to straighten it out.
- Check Auto Crop and Click Merge
- If it is a big pano, you might want to go and grab a coffee and leave your computer to do it's thing ...
- Once done, edit as normal

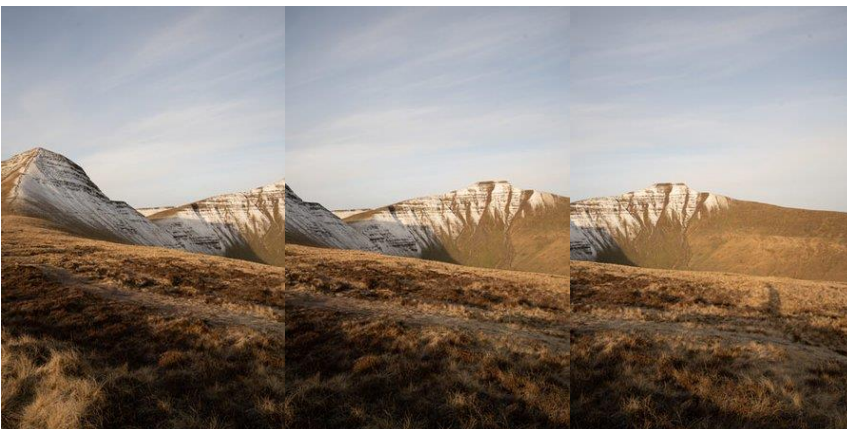
05. Things to watch out for when stitching your panorama photographs together

- It will be a big image once stitched together, so just be patient if your computer is taking a while to build it ... also when editing, it will be a little slower.

This panorama below came out at 20,000 x 8,000 pixels, which is a 160 megapixel image! (Although to keep my website quick, I downsized it to 1000px wide.



- If the computer doesn't stitch them together successfully, you need to work on your overlap.



This shows the 7 single images I took for the panorama I photographed in the video.

If you look at these photos carefully, you can see most elements in the photographs are repeated in at least two of the photos. So with Cribbyn, the peak in the middle, you can see the top of the mountain in photo 4 and photo 5.

I also shot a bit wider to the left to give me room to crop in post when determining the framing of the pano.



This is the final panorama from the 7 images above.

Panorama photographs are a great way to showcase a big landscape and if your wide angle lens isn't cutting it, or if it just looks unimpressive. Try getting out a longer focal length and shooting a panorama.

I do this all the time and love it when I get a good panorama, but just in knowing that the process is relatively easy, is a great way to give you confidence to start shooting your very own panoramas photos.

If you aren't sure about getting the right exposure in your camera, just put the camera in the auto mode and see what settings it gives you for the brightest part of the photo. Then copy these settings across to the manual mode setting and you are good to go.

This is actually a good way to get into [manual mode photography](#) as well ... let the auto mode or the aperture priority mode do all of the hard work, and then just copy it, and then think about why it chose those settings and if you have time have a play around with your camera settings to see how they change your photos.

As for needing a tripod or a specialised tripod head ... well I go deep into that idea in the video so make sure you [watch it](#) to see how I take most of my panoramic photographs.

PHOTO CAFÉ 2023/2024	
SEPTEMBER 2023	OCTOBER 2023
5 September Photo Essay presentations and announcing of winners	3 October Photo Stacking demo by Tony Roberts Rear Front sink flashing by Giuseppe Carbonatto
NOVEMBER 2023	FEBRUARY 2024
7 November Guest speaker: Neville Peterson - Industrial Photographer Francois Venter - Criterium and tips regarding salons	6 February John Dreyer: An expert on drones.
MARCH 2024	APRIL 2024
5 March Johan Greyling on Wildlife photography	2 April Malie van der Vyver's presentation on her work
MAY 2024	
7 May Alta Oosthuizen on processing of photos	

OUTINGS/ WORKSHOPS/ PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES 2023/2024	
SEPTEMBER 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023
3 September Fire event: Dea ex Machina – Tony Roberts	9 September - Flower workshop - Jan Cellier Park: 19 September - Rhino of the Mapungubwe 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
MARCH 2024	
17 March 2024 from 09:00 to 11:30 The Mercedes Benz Club - 40th Jubilee Run to the Voortrekker Monument Old and new Mercedes Benz vehicles will be present. The idea is to have photos taken of the vehicles and members against the beautiful backdrop that is the monument and its grounds.	

PPS Birthday list:

January	February
Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat 1	Vanessa Price 6
Mary-Anne Costello 4	Gurling Bothma 18
Gerrit van Rooyen 19	
March	April
Christelle Swart 6	Casper van Eck 11
Rudi Pothas 13	Carina Munday 24
Fransie Stevens 21	
Linda Martin 22	
May	June
Boshoff Steenekamp 16	Jing Chen 13
Detlef Basel 23	Joan Fouché 16
Frans Fouché 30	Lloyd Munday 18
	Marius Coetzee 30
July	August
Diana van de Wiel 4	Tony Roberts 6
Robin Miles 9	Cat Schramm 9
Johan Ver Loren van Themaat 21	Sonja de Klerk 10
	Bill Zurich 16
	George Stevens 16
	Ann Roberts 23
	Brigitte Hansen 25
	Bibi Andrews 27
	Petra Haselmaier 29
September	October
	John Tapuch 1
	Ken van Wyk 5
	Thelma van der Schyff 8
	Huan Zhongjie 12
	Chantelle J v Rensburg 24
November	December
Santie van Eck 6	Giuseppe Carbonatto 1
Johan Hosten 9	Pine Pienaar 26
Karin du Toit 11	Ann Williams 29
Giel du Toit 15	Marlene Birkholtz 31
Frans Mohr 21	
Bruno Engel 21	

Please send your date of birth to Joan Fouché if your name is not on the list.