

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society

April-May 2024

When nature gets the treatment

Creative altering of reality too close for comfort?

How would conventional nature photographers react to this winning image in the latest round of the PSSA monthly club competitions?

It is not only well composed and impactful, with mood, and story-telling, but is technically so well put



"Waiting for the rain" by Theo Potgieter – composite of three images.

together that some might wonder how lucky the photographer must have been to come across such a special natural scene.

It was of course far more about creativity than luck.

The photographer, Theo Potgieter of Tafelberg club, explains on the PSSA website how the image, entitled "Waiting for the rain", came about: "It is a composite of three images – the rhinos (photographed in Mkuze Game Reserve), the cracked mud (photographed near Ceres) and the background (photographed in the Kalahari).

“The objective was to show how vulnerable our rhinos are to climate change (the cracked mud) and poaching (they are dehorned).”

It was not the first example of the broader genre of creatively altered, abstract and visual art photography to win any of the three monthly competitions (for senior club members, junior club members, and individual PSSA members). Over the last 20 months there were 14 out of a total of 60 winners.

During this time, conventional nature and wildlife photography held its own against the creative genre and all other genres in these open competitions, with 23 out of the 60 winners.

That was despite the “handicap” of strict rules against manipulation of nature and especially wildlife photography, compared to the great freedom of manipulation of the broad creative genre.

It has generally been easy to recognize the more creative images – a face that was half-lion, half-human; pencil lines added in the background of a portrait; a dancer’s dress disintegrating . . .

That they look different is not surprising. The Photographic Society of America defines Creative Altered Reality as follows: “The image may be of any subject matter and must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape or any combination of these three.”

That this winning image of the rhinos still looks so much like the real thing can be unnerving.

How fair could an open competition be between an image of an animal where not even an unwanted little branch may be removed, and a similar one which may be altered far more drastically?

Well, another example of the latter alteration is available. It is a second image by Theo, with which he won another competition in the same month – the one for individual PSSA members.



“Clash of the titans” by Theo Potgieter – replaced background and some other changes.

The image, “Clash of the Titans” was shot in Addo Elephant National Park. Theo explains: “I liked the image but it was no good for wildlife and had a very busy background. Thus I added a broody background and did some creative post-processing to turn it into a dramatic scene.”

Yet it still looks like wildlife. Again too close to reality for comfort?

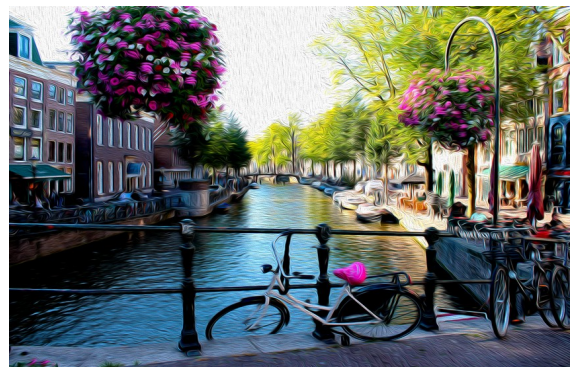
Our club's latest monthly entries



“Balance” by Charles Naudé and “Raptor RV climbing” by Wayne Moore were selected as our club entries in respectively the senior and junior monthly competitions of the PSSA (Photographic Society of South Africa) in May.



“Iconic Chobe elephants” by Carina de Klerk and “Desert time” by Victor Korsten were given a score of 34/45 and 35/45 respectively in the April senior and junior PSSA competition.



“Polo chase” by Carina de Klerk and “Abundantly Spring” by Fielies de Kock (33/45 and 35/45 respectively in the March senior and junior competition).

Cape Photographers Congress, Calitzdorp

Highlights

Willem Oets set up an installation with actors on stage (**right**) for photographers. "As an artist I am passionate about exploring the creative possibilities of photography."



Centre: Sarel van Staden creates fine art through automotive photography.



Below left: Martin Osner combines painting and photography for his works of creative visual art.

Below right: Attending the congress from Hermanus were Charles Naudé, Hestie das Neves, club president Carina de Klerk and Phil Sturgess.



Another three joined the club

Wayne and Netta Moore, and Toekie Oberholzer are our latest new members. Wayne got out of the starting blocks quickly by entering images for evaluation at our May club meeting – and with success. One of his images, “Raptor RV climbing” was selected as our May entry for the junior monthly club competition organized by the PSSA.

Salon results for March and April

Boksburg national salon

Charles Naudé – 4 images accepted for exhibition

David Wilson – 2 acceptances

Brandpunt national salon

David Wilson – 2 images accepted for exhibition

Charles Naudé – 1 acceptance

Swartland international salon

David Wilson – 4 images accepted for exhibition

Charles Naudé – 3 acceptances

PSSA international salon

Charles Naudé – 2 images accepted for exhibition

Ignite national salon

David Wilson – 3 images accepted for exhibition

International salons

David Wilson – 2 ribbons and 3 honourable mentions, for a total of 63 acceptances by various salons



"Rhinos under moonlight" by David Wilson – FIAP ribbon awarded by Nowruz international salon.

Forthcoming events

Our June monthly meeting of 2024 will be via Zoom on Wednesday the 5th at 18:00. Members may enter up to three images of their choice, and one on the set subject, "A sliver of light" / " 'n Strepie lig", all for evaluation.

Images will be evaluated by David Benn of the Camera Club of Johannesburg.

All submissions must be done via Photo Vault Online, and by Wednesday 29 May. All scores will count for advancement.

The set subjects for the next three months of 2024 are:

July – No set subject and no formal evaluation. Details to be confirmed.

August– Picception (an image inside an image) / 'n Prentjie binne 'n prentjie

September – A foggy or misty landscape / 'n Wasige of mistige landskap

Our annual print exhibition as part of FynArts, entitled Pixels and Perspectives, will be in our regular meeting hall at the NG Kerk Hermanus. The opening will be on Wednesday 12 June.

Forthcoming salons

June 1 – Magalies national digital salon

June 8 – PSSA Up and Coming Salon

June 15 – Tafelberg national digital and print salon

June 29 – Kempton Park national digital salon

June 30 – Amber international audio-visual salon

■ More information on club activities can be found on our club website (hermanusphoto.co.za);

■ Brochures and more information on salon participation are on the PSSA website (pssa.co.za).

Committee

Carina de Klerk	President/Chair 083 631 5743 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)
David Wilson	Vice Chair, art exhibitions and media 064 745 3552 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)
Phil Sturgess	Treasurer, membership and judge co-ordinator 083 272 2022 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)
Vacancy	Secretary
Judy Armstrong	Photo Vault administrator and advancement (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)
Natasha Olivier	Social and outings (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)
Daniel Reddie	Venue management and club outings 084 642 0038 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)

All of them are available to assist you with your queries.

Snapshot

Editor	Charles Naudé 083 309 1857 (cmnaude@gmail.com)
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