

e FLASH

JUNE 2024

WWW.PRETORIAPHOTOGRAPHIC.CO.ZA



Three and some more
Sonja de Klerk

Best 5 Star
Best open
COM
Best Senior:
A Splash of Red
Bill Zurich



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

4 June 2024 Hybrid meeting	Photo Café @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 19H00
18 June 2024 Hybrid meeting	Formal Meeting @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H45
Judges: May 2024	Marlene Birkholtz Johan Hosten Dawid Mouton (NPC)

PROMOTIONS

2* to 3* Fransie Stevens

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

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 Close-up 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>

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
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 Club 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

1st IPC Salon

Sonja de Klerk

My ride

Lady in red

Lloyd Munday

Makulu

Boshoff Steenekamp

Stoffel 1

Bee Eater Monochrome

Cape long claw landing on a bush



Fransie Stevens

Catch of the day



Edenvale Digital Salon

Sonja De Klerk

Curios COM

The fall of garlic COM

Only purple for this bee

The love bite

Lady in red

Boshoff Steenekamp

I shall stop this 1

Jackal on the hunt 1



International Salon

7th PSSA International Salon

Giuseppe Carbonatto

Hummingbird Hawk Moth

Dunes

Sonja De Klerk

Load shedding in Italy

Linda Martin

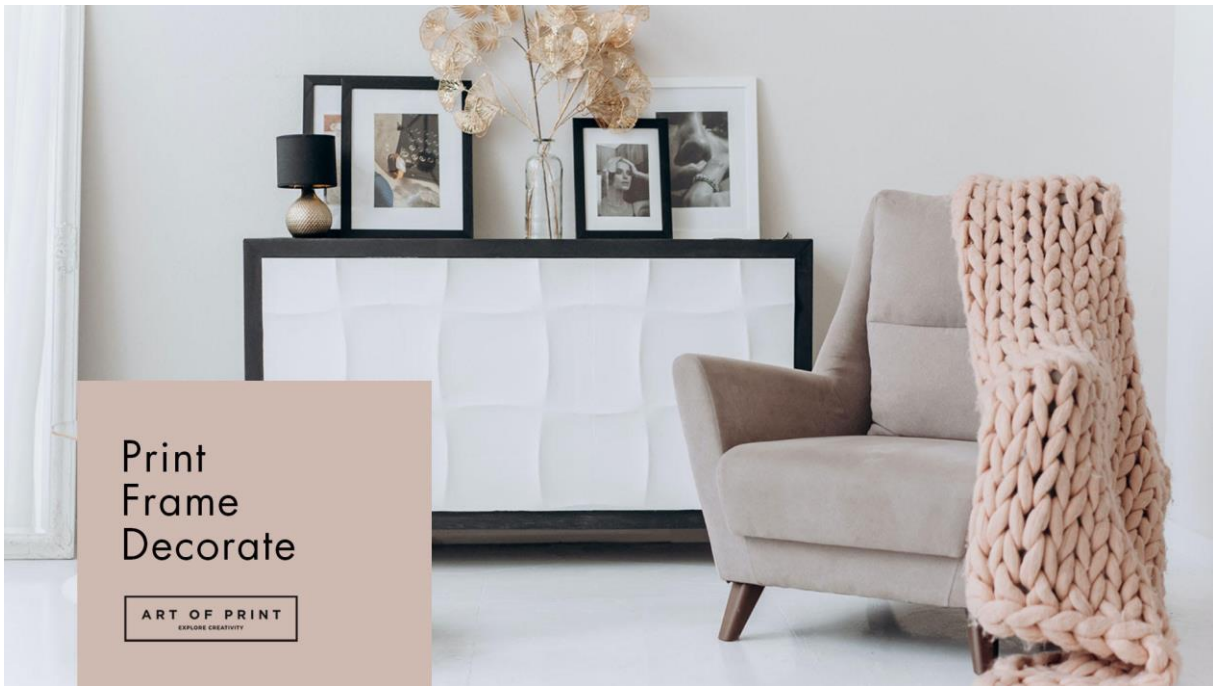
Peacock Feather Eye

Stonehenge Fire Sky

Depression

The Clown

Outdoor Photo:



Contact No: (012) 348 3693/www.outdoorphoto.co.za

President's Page: Thelma van der Schyff

One Candid President's Page

Living a forced or too organized life can be stifling and boring.

It is important to always know how to relax and find beauty in ordinary things. I try to do this in my own life, but must admit I am also a fan of lists, and then lists of lists.

When taking photos of an event, it usually requires some planning and organizing to be sure of a success.

I suppose that is why candid photography appeals to me. It is not staged or posed.

There is a sense of capturing a moment that is fleeting and won't come again.

When photographing a wedding, certain times and scenes need to be captured to get a flow of the day. However, you can let your eye wander and see where the bride left her shoes to one side after she danced the night away – facing different directions. The wedding cake can only have a few crumbs left on the table with a dirty knife. The champagne bottle can be upside down in the ice bucket. The bride and groom can be unguarded in their joy.



The beauty of candid photography is that you capture natural expressions and moments that might not be possible to reproduce in a studio or a posed photo in a photo shoot.

Some common synonyms of “candid” are “frank, open, plain.....” Candid suggests expression marked by sincerity and honesty. This is the opposite of portrait photography.

When taking controlled portraits, the photographer has to guide the model/mom and baby/teenager to get them to engage with the camera. This can be difficult as the photographer

already needs to have a very clear picture of what the subjects have to do. I must admit that I have always found it daunting to have somebody relying on me to tell them how to stand, sit or act. In candid photography there are related genres like street photography where you convey the idea that the subjects are unaware of the camera.



A candid image vs a studio photo

Street photography is fascinating. You are capturing people that are unaware that they are being photographed, so there is no posing. Look for the lady touching up her lipstick, the guy at the street café feeding his dog pieces of his bagel, or just the man reading his newspaper, with his cappuccino on the table nearly forgotten. A favourite of mine is when people watch themselves in store windows checking on their attire or hair.



Photos taken from the web

These candid photographs break away from our never-ending and often exhausting pursuit of perfection. Candid shots capture the beauty of a natural moment. They give viewers the opportunity to relate to a particular emotion, environment or setting. It creates the urge to strive for more real and authentic photography.

My favourite is taking photos at a wedding, but not like the wedding photographer has to do. I like to take photos of the nephews greeting one another, of granny getting out of the car, of guests arriving, of the little niece who has just started walking, of the little boy who slept under table after being exhausted after a long day. Then I make a video with music from the wedding and give it to the family to pass along to whoever will be interested. Usually the bride and groom, as well as the parents, all like to have a copy as they were too busy on the day to notice most of the stuff.

For candid photography, a 24-70mm wide-aperture lens is the regular workhorse. It works well in both natural and low-light environments, and can capture both close-up detail and the larger scene. If you use only one lens, go for a 24-70mm one.

Rather than using your camera's flash when shooting candidly, it's better to use a wide aperture and a moderate-to-high ISO setting to keep subjects sharp and focused. This way, the flash doesn't disturb your subjects, retaining a natural feel. For the same reason, you should turn off your camera's AF assist light.



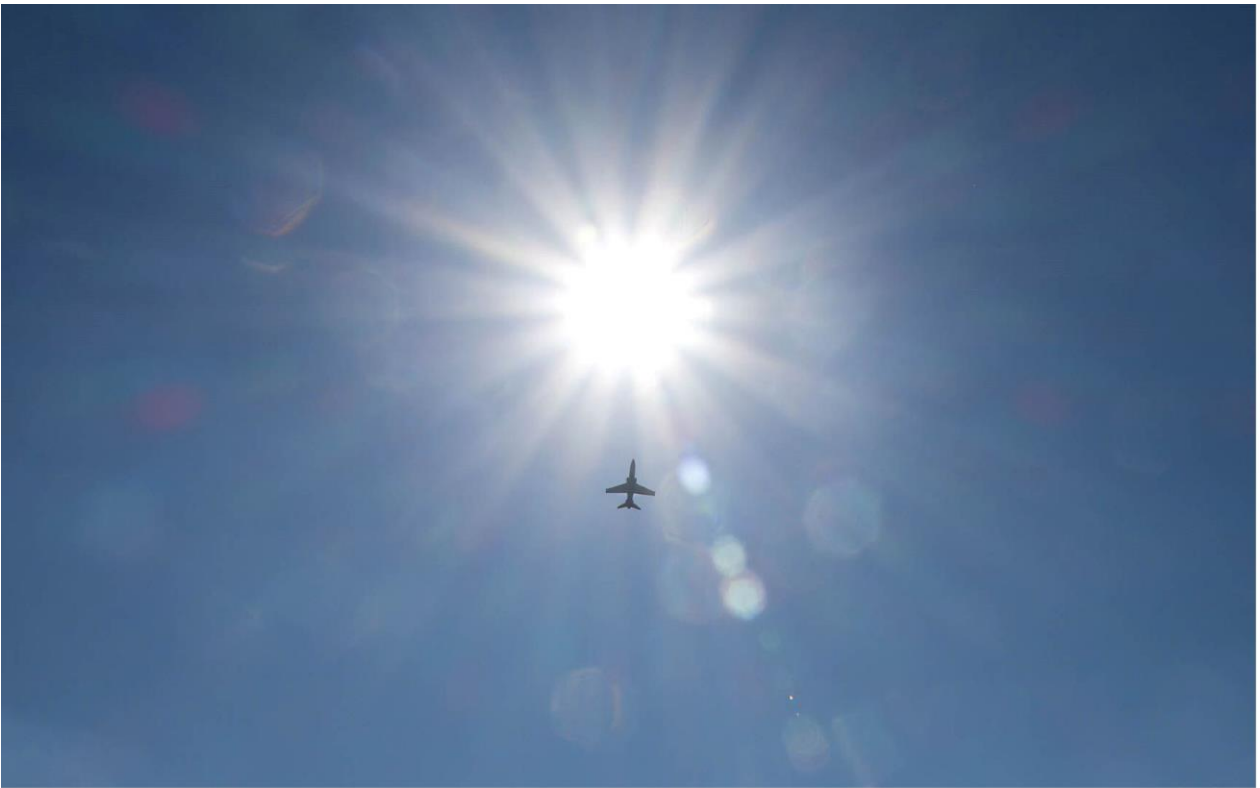
Inspired yet? I hope so. I even inspired myself.

Until next month

Kind regards

Thelma

Winning Photos May 2024:

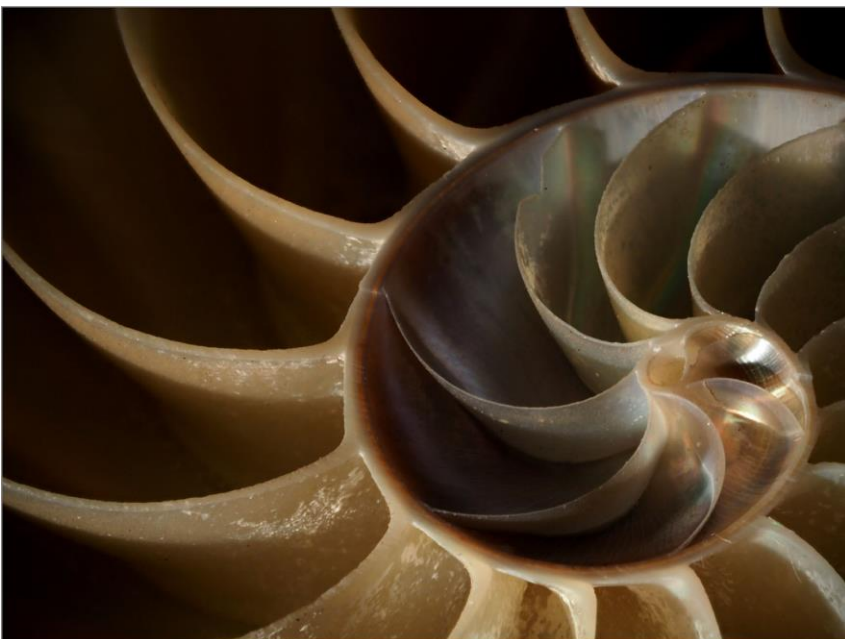


*Best 1 Star:
Icarus reinvented
Charles Costello*

*Best 2 Star
& COM:
Bright and beautiful
Fransie Stevens*



*Best 3 Star
COM, Best Junior
& Best Visual Art
Portal to other worlds
Karin du Toit*



*Best Set Subject
Nautilus SS
Ann Roberts*

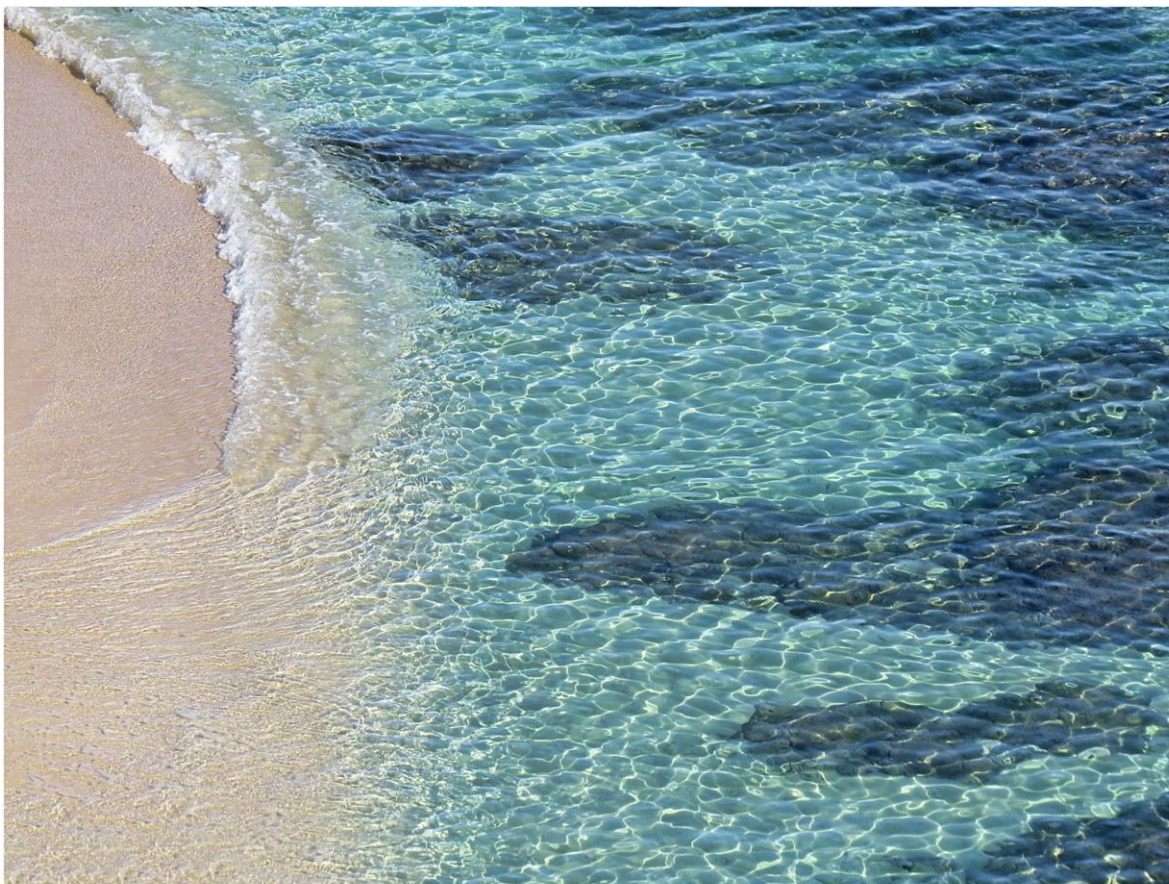


*Best 4 Star:
Clivia 1
Pine Pienaar*

*COM:
The fall of garlic
Sonja de klerk*

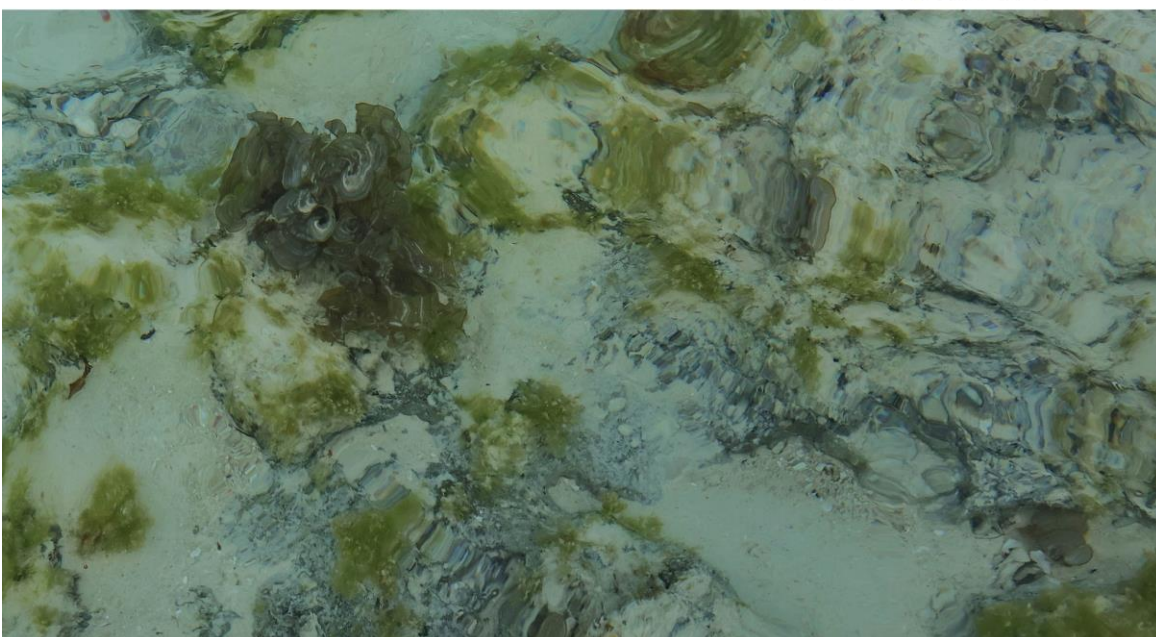


Set Subject:



*Crystal clean
Pine Pienaar*

*Reef water painting
Marianne Ver Loren
van Themaat*





*Delicious Monster
Texture
Tony Roberts*



*Pineapple landscape
Linda Martin*



*Flower
Zongjie Huan*

Best non-manipulated:



*Best non-manipulated image
& COM*

*Kingfisher grace
Sonja de Klerk*

*Headlock
George Stevens*



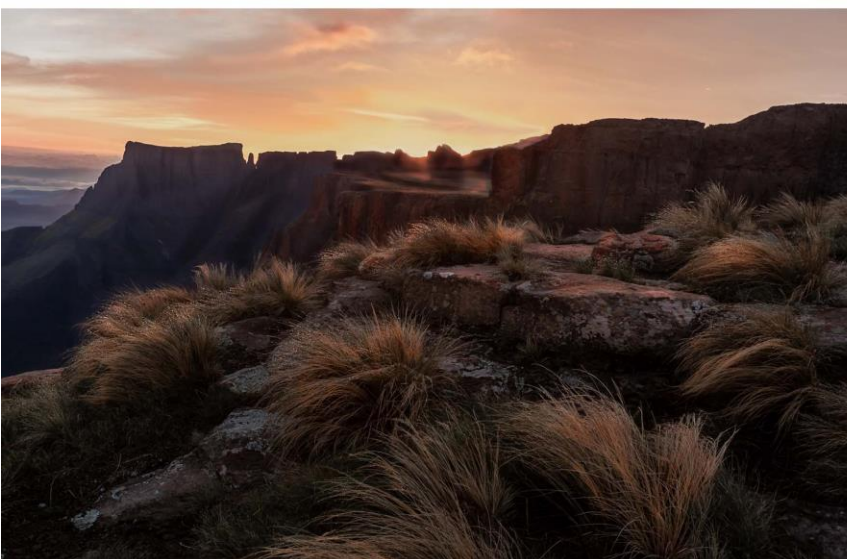
Good images:



*COM
Two Arches
Bill Zurich*



*Farmhouse
in the Mountains
Bill Zurich*



*A New Day
after a
rainy rain
Santie van Eck*



*COM
On the move
Boshoff Stennekamp*



*Night Scape
Giuseppe Carbonatto*



*Red canoes
in the mist
Carina Munday*



*Looking for a client
Marianne Ver Loren
van Themaat*



*COM
Sisterhood
Fransie Stevens*



*Rand Hunt
Ann Roberts*



COM
Design by nature I
Sonja de Klerk



How do you like
my palace
Marianne Ver Loren
van Themaat



Humming Bird Hawk Moth
Giuseppe Carbonatto



*The blow wave
Sonja de Klerk*



*My ride
Sonja de Klerk*

*Feathers all around
Joan Fouché*



Articles: Backlighting Photography Tips for Photo Magic - Ian Plant

My favourite style of shooting is against the light (known as contre-jour or backlighting). Backlighting in photography occurs when you point your camera directly toward a source of light, whether it be the sun, a street lamp, or a relatively bright portion of the scene. This effect causes the subject to be lit from behind, making its fringes seem to glow from within. When used properly, backlighting can help you create dramatic and mysterious photos.

Make It Glow

Anything translucent will appear to glow from within when backlit. In particular, subjects surrounded by fog, steam, dust, sea spray, and even falling snow can look magical in backlighting. During a photo trip to Namibia, the clear desert air there was perfect for contre-jour shooting, especially at sunrise and sunset when the light was most colourful. When I saw a trio of elephants heading my way at sunset, I selected a camera position designed to maximize my backlight opportunities. I photographed the elephants kicking up dust as they walked; the dust caught the warm light of the setting sun, giving the resulting image a colourful, mysterious look.



Etosha National Park, Namibia. Canon EOS 5D Mark III Camera, Canon EF 200-400mm f/4L IS USM Lens with Internal 1.4x Extender, ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/640 second.

Expose with Care

The edges of backlit subjects, such as this snowy egret, glow with light, and often it is difficult to keep these areas from becoming overexposed. Do your best to avoid overexposing highlights, but if you cannot, set your exposure to ensure that important mid-tones have sufficient detail. For this shot of the egret, I was unable to avoid slightly overexposing the backlit fringes of the bird's white

feathers, so I chose an exposure that optimized exposure for the rest of the scene, ensuring an overall brightly lit and colourful photo.



Chesapeake Bay, USA. Canon EOS 20D Camera, Sigma 300-800mm f/5.6 EX DG APO IF HSM Lens, ISO 200, f/5.6, 1/800 second.

Shade Your Lens to Prevent Flare

Flare, which results from light directly striking the front glass element of your lens, can be a significant challenge when shooting into the light, especially when the light source is very strong. Flare can reduce contrast, add strange colour casts, and even leave your images covered in unsightly “alien space ships” (oblong blobs of colour caused by excessive flare). It is typically possible to shade your lens from direct light striking the glass by using a lens hood, your hand, or something handy like a hat. Make sure you completely block the light, keeping the lens glass in shadow; just don’t get your fingers in the shot!

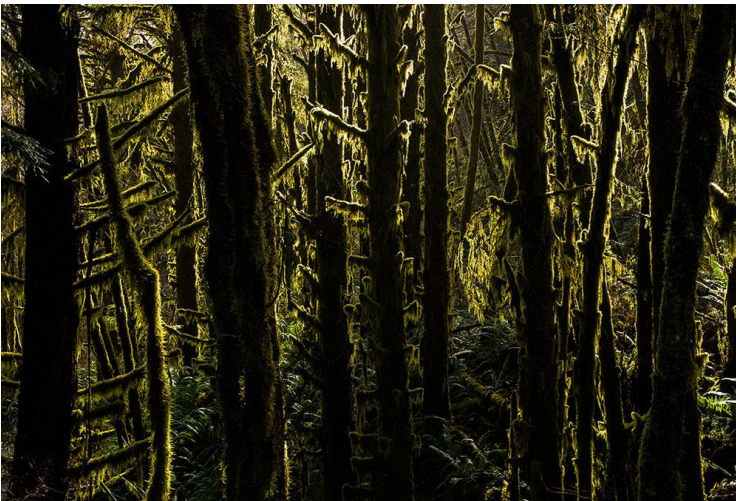
For this image below of a charging grizzly bear, I chose to let the bear go into silhouette, retaining detail only in the fringe of its fur and the backlit water drops, resulting in a graphic, simplified, and mysterious presentation. Even though this is midday light, which conventional wisdom suggests is of limited utility for nature photography, backlighting nonetheless proves to be effective. I was careful to use my lens hood to prevent the light from directly striking the front element of my lens. The result is a crisp, sharp, and dramatically lit image.



Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, USA. Canon EOS 5D Mark II Camera, Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM Lens, ISO 800, f/5.6, 1/2500 second.

Look for a Dark Background

Backlit subjects look best when juxtaposed against a dark background (usually another part of the scene which is in shade). For this photo of a rain forest, strong midday backlight created a dramatic rim light effect. The translucent moss-covered fringes of the trees seem to glow from within; I was able to enhance the effect by choosing a camera position which put a shadowed hillside behind the trees, making them seem to “pop” out of the background.



Redwood National Park, USA. Canon EOS 5D Mark III Camera, Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM Lens, ISO 100, f/16, 1/4 second.

Shoot in Strong Light for Maximum Effect

Strong light is vital to getting the best backlighting – the stronger the light, the better the effect! For this image of one of the world-famous Chincoteague wild ponies, a clear horizon, free of clouds, haze, or any other obstruction, allowed bright, warm light to catch every translucent surface and set it on fire. This is precisely the look you should be aiming for!



Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, USA. Canon 5DIII, Canon EF 500mm f/4L IS II USM Lens with 1.4x Extender, ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/500 second.

Conclusion

Although backlighting presents a number of technical challenges, the results are well worth the effort. So the next time you're out taking pictures, start thinking of creative ways to shoot into the light!



About the author: *World-renowned professional photographer, writer, and adventurer Ian Plant is a frequent contributor to and blogger for Outdoor Photographer Magazine, a Contributing Editor to Popular Photography Magazine, a monthly columnist for Landscape Photography Magazine, and a Tamron Image Master. Ian is also the author of numerous books and instructional videos. Ian leads photography workshops and tours around the world to help beginner and advanced photographers explore and expand their personal vision. His personal photographic project, Dreamscapes, moves beyond the literal and transforms subjects into something unexpected, bridging the line between the real and surreal. Ian relies on long exposures, unique lighting conditions, non-traditional perspectives, and special natural events to show his subjects in a new light. Ian travels the world, seeking out the hidden spaces in between the familiar, in his never-ending quest to inspire, entertain, and educate others in the art of photography. You can see more of Ian's work at www.ianplant.com.*

Have something to add to the story? Leave a comment or email editor@outdoorphotographyguide.com.

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 - Criteria 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 Vyfer's presentation on her work
MAY 2024	JUNE 2024
7 May Alta Oosthuizen on processing of photos	4 June Gerry van der Walt is our guest speaker. He leads high end photo safaris for Wild-eye.

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	May 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.	4 May SAAF Museum Air show Swartkops 19 May The Grove Ice Hockey Matches 7:30AM

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.