JANUARY 2025

RIA

WWW.PRETORIAPHOTOGRAPHIC.CO.ZA

1st Runner Up Visual Art Juniors Beautiful Blue Christelle Swart

> Winner Landscapes Seniors Pink Beach Johan Hosten



PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.pretoriaphotographic.co.za

Photo-Vault-Online Entries

www.photovaultonline.com

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WEB-SITE LINK
www.steves-digicams.com
www.dpreview.com
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 HAPPENING7 January 2025No Photo Café Meeting21 January 2025Formal Meeting @ NGHybrid meetingChurch Lynwood SussexAvenue 18H30Jeroen LuykJudges:Jeroen LuykNovember 2024Heepko van KaamCobus EksteenKrugersdorp 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.	
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.	
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 2025		
MONTH	SET SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Rust	Own interpretation
FEBRUARY	Tattoos	Own interpretation
MARCH	Self-portrait telling us something of interest about you	
APRIL	Slow shutter speed	Own interpretation
MAY	Still life with something old/vintage	
JUNE	Emotions (Life, death, joy, anger)	
JULY	Creative – portray the title of a song from the 70's/80's	
AUGUST	Seasons	Own interpretation
SEPTEMBER	Abstract nature with rocks/sand patterns	
OCTOBER	Product photography for a commercial	

MONTHLY ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS:		
Dear PPS club members When entering your photos for the formal evenings, could you please remember the following:	and four entries in either of the following categories: 1. VISUAL ART	
Only members who have judged the previous month are allowed to enter more images.	 NATURE OR PJ according to PSSA rules OPEN – Manipulation 	
You are allowed one entry in the SET SUBJECT	allowed	

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.		
 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 yourse for either the informal or formal meetings. Photographing the year-end function. Organising the end of year function. 		

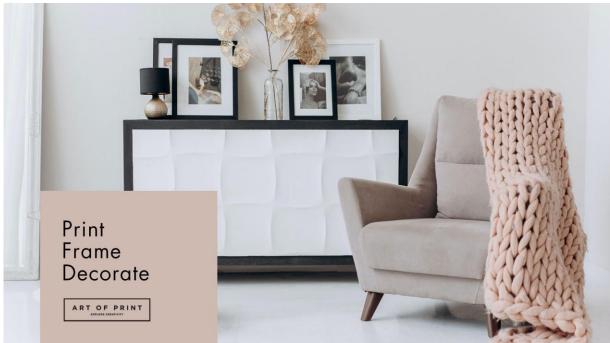
NATIONAL SALON DATES	2024/2025
Bethal National Salon	11 January 2025
WCPF Salon for Projected Images	25 January 2025
Krugersdorp Camera Club Digital Salon	1 February 2025
AFO National Salon	8 February 2025
ACC 3 rd Digital Salon	22 February 2025
PSSA National Salon of Photography	8 March 2025
8 th Bosveld Fotografieklub Salon	15 March 2025
1 st Hillcrest Camera Clug Digital Salon	22 March 2025
Visit <u>www.pssa.co.za</u> 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 <u>ppsannouncements@gmail.com</u>

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	
No Salons for December 2024	

Outdoor Photo:





Make memories come alive on print.



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

President's Page - Thelma van der Schyff DANCE INTO THE NEW YEAR

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." William Shakespeare

You all remember when we visited the State Theatre in the spur of the moment to take photos of the Mapungubwe Ballet – (the one about the golden rhino)

That was a new learning curve for me. Take a picture in the dark but do not use a flash. Great was my surprise when I enthusiastically started firing off shots and finding over-exposed photo's which in laymen's terms mean – no photo's.

That is when I found out that you search for the words "very dark conditions" when researching. The light available will only be the light coming from the stage. That then means you take the photo from a place of darkness and aim into the light.



When the opportunity arises, it is important to get permission to even be there, especially during an actual show. Remember that you are not the show, the show is on the stage. One should never disrupt the performers and the audience. It is easier to go to a dress rehearsal. Then you can position yourself pretty much wherever you like with no fear of being thrown out on your butt. In fact, try to be a photo ninja. Aim for minimal disruption. Dress in ninja black. This will help you hide in the shadows and be less noticeable. Use you ninja camera. Turn off all camera distractions, including beeping and lights. If you have a silent shutter on your camera, use it. Do not stand between the audience and the performers.



There is a unique species of photographer – the parent and the grandparent. Going to a nursery school concert first needs the parent/grandparent to wave frantically to catch the child's attention. Otherwise, said child might stand still scanning the audience until he finds his people. Try to sit in the front row if possible. Capturing little Susie's sunflower costume may just be too much of a temptation not to stand and try to get the shot. (The same applies for little Johny's tree costume).



Canon EOS R6 | EF24-105mm f/4L IS USM | 88 mm | 1/200 sec at f / 4.0 | ISO 32

Back to the serious business though. The theatre. Try to take the right gear. Most mirrorless cameras feature a strong low light performance with minimal noise. Having an F2.8 lens will also make a difference.

Start by shooting wide, capturing the entire stage. The next shots can be closer, until you highlight only one performer. What a bonus if you can capture facial expressions and emotions. Do not overlook tight shots of details like the shoes of a ballet dancer "on pointe," or a rock guitarist's hands really moving in a blur

Remember that composition is still very much one of the important factors to consider – even though they constantly may move all over the stage. The rule of thirds, rule of odds, leading lines and compositional practices still apply.

I am particularly intrigued with capturing movement with some still element in the picture. You all remember Giuseppe's dancing scene that did very well or him this year. This photo is one of my all-time favourites. Wish it were mine.



Photo (Giuseppe Carbonato)

The picture below demonstrates the impact of achieving a black background highlighting the dancers.



Photo (Karin du toit)

Stage lighting can be tricky, especially when you're trying to photograph with good color accuracy. Various lighting types will have different Kelvin temperatures. Mood is often created with color gels and other lighting color control. An example is working with a blue cast to simulate a night scene. Other times you might want to enhance the colour or take it in a different direction.



Do not forget about the magic of monochrome. It can be full of mood and provide a dreamlike quality to your work

If you need a few helpful tips, then read on.

Aim to use a flash (if permitted), a slower shutter speed, an open aperture, and a higher ISO. If no flash is permitted, raise your ISO

- A fast lens typically f/1.4, f/1.8, or f/2.8 enables the camera to take in more light. A wider aperture also allows for a faster shutter speed, resulting in minimal camera shake and sharper images.
- Aim for a shutter speed of at least 1/200s or faster to freeze motion. If the performers are moving quickly, you may need to increase it to 1/500s or faster. ISO: - Set a higher ISO (800 to 3200 or more, depending on your camera's performance in low light).
- 3. Set your camera up on a tripod and use a long shutter speed—start at 30 s. and go up or down from there. Look at your first shot—for more blur, lower the shutter speed, for less, increase it. Long exposures can also be used with still subjects to use a lower ISO without blur.
- Focal length will be dictated by your distance from the stage just do not violate the "No disturbance rule"

Who knows maybe we will get the opportunity to attend a performance again this year, somewhere, sometime.....

May you have a very productive and blessed new year

Till next month

Thelma

Winning Images November 2024



First Runner up Jackal on the hunt Boshoff Steenekamp

Photostory

Winner Pisces of me Christelle Swart





Landscapes Juniors

First Runner up Flower Carpet Giel du Toit

Winner Mist Gerrit van Rooyen





Eandscape First Runner up The Wreck Giuseppe Carbonatto

> Winner Pink Beach Johan Hosten





Buds will bloom Karin du Toit





Macro & Floral Juniors

Yellow Lily Gerrit van Rooyen



Winner Purple is my colour Karin du Toit

15



First Runner up Bright and Beautiful Fransie Stevens

Macro & Floral Seniors

Winner Lady in red Sonja de Klerk





First Runner up Step back George Stevens

Monochrome Juniors

Winner Township Cat Karin du Toit





First Runner up The fall of garlic Sonja de Klerk Monochrome Seniors

> Winner Ballet on Rocky Beach Bill Zurich

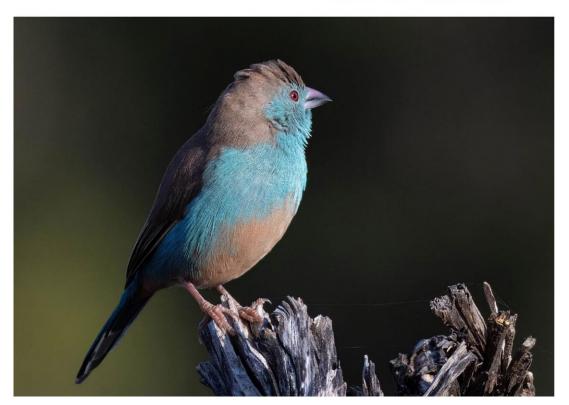




First Runner up Resting Lilac Breasted Roller Boshoff Steenekamp

Nature Juniors

Winner Blue Waxbill Charles Costello





First Runner up Catch of the day Fransie Stevens

Nature Seniors

Winner Very Cold Morning Johan Hosten





Pictorial Juniors

First Runner up Fancy Gerrit van Rooyen



First Runner up On Guard Hennie Stoffberg

Winner On the move Boshoff Steenekamp





First Runner up Blissful Peace Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat

Pictorial Seniors

Winner Team work Sonja de Klerk





Photojournalism Juniors

First Runner up Riding on a rainbow Boshoff Steenekamp

> Winner I Shall Stop This Boshoff Steenekamp



Photojournalism Seniors

First Runner up Rock Wall Warriors Lloyd Munday



Winner Street Hairdresser Bill Zurich



Potraits Juniors

First Runner up Street Vendor Karin du Toit



First Runner up Woww Christelle Swart

> Winner My Great Granddaughter Gerrit van Rooyen





Portraits Seniors

First Runner up Dea Ex Machina Tony Roberts

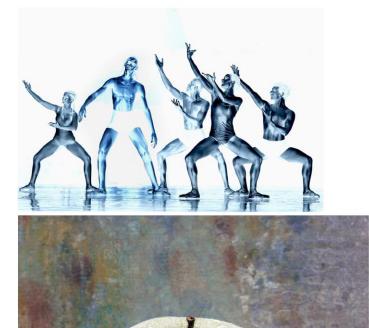
Winner Feeding Flamingo Giuseppe Carbonatto





First Runner up Beautiful Blue Christelle Swart Winner Sunflower Christelle Swart

Visual Art Juniors



Visual Art Seniors

First Runner up Celebration Johan Hosten

> Winner Fishy Apple Linda Martin



Best Images of the Year

Juniors Joint

Blue Waxbill Charles Costello

&

I Shall Stop This Boshoff Steenekamp

Seniors Very Cold Morning Johan Hosten







Most Versatile Juniors

First Runner up Karin du Toit











Most Versatile Juniors



Winner Boshoff Steenekamp









Most Versatile Seniors

First Runner Up Johan Hosten





Most Versatile Seniors

Winner Sonja de Klerk



Articles: What I perceive as timeless and subjective artistic photography – John Tapuch

As in so many articles that I have written over the past, I mentioned that when I started taking an interest in photography during the 1970s. I was only doing Black and White film photography and processing in the dark room.

After so many years, I have now renewed my passion to do a lot of Black and White, sometimes minimalist images. Much of which would not go down well at club level.

I suppose that I look at a photo and contemplate if it would look good on a wall. Or at least provoke a sense of awe or admire the simplicity combined with the artistic appeal and produce a sense of wanting to see deeper into the image.

The famous Minimalist Black and White Photographer Michael Kenna, who still uses film, he wrote these words.

"In, Photography, it is not difficult to reach a technical level where you do not need to think about technique anymore. I think there is far too much emphasis upon the techniques of photography. The make of camera and type of film we happen to use has little bearing on the results."

One of the images is typical Michel Kenna's the rest are mine.

Wishing all goes well with everyone in 2025.





How to Capture the Beauty of Inked Skin by Tammy Danan



Tammy Danan

Tammy is a freelance journalist, strategist, and founder of Moss Content Studio, a boutique agency focused on long-form storytelling and organic growth. She worked with brands like Teachable and Zapier, and publications like AI Jazeera and ZEKE Magazine. Tammy covers personal finance, creative pursuits, and the future of work, and how all these overlap with our everyday lives. If you want to specialize in capturing tattooed people on camera, we got you. A deep-dive into what works and what does not.

Tattoos are awesome. Perhaps we can all agree on that. But they can be tricky to photograph. If you want to capture the beauty of inked skin for <u>social media purposes</u>, that may be easy. But, if you want to capture a polished image that is going to be more than an Instagram post, you would want to do it the right way. No matter how amazing the subject is, if the shot is not up to par, it might not be useful for your portfolio. So, what makes a tattoo image stand out? And, how do you achieve it?



Image via Shutterstock's Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection.

What Makes Good Tattoo Photography

There are many elements at play when talking about a good tattoo image. But, perhaps one of the most important is solid lighting. You would not want glares and unnecessary lights pointing at the wrong directions. Plus, you want just the right amount of shadows.

Another element is the angle of where you are shooting from. Tattoos are fun to photograph but if your goal is to have professional shots you can use in your stock photography collection, or perhaps add in your portfolio, you want to keep things lively. By that, we mean shoot from an interesting angle.



Images via Shutterstock's Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection.

Lastly, going bare minimum. It can be scary to photograph with too few details. A plain background may sound boring. Going up-close to capture the details of the tattoo or blurring the background all sound like you are stripping the image of its character. Like there is no storytelling happening in the image. But, with tattoos, it works best because the ink itself, when captured correctly, will tell its own story.

How to Capture the Beauty of Inked Skin Nail Your Camera Settings



Consider your depth of field. Image via Greentellect Studio.

While it varies depending on the kind of shot you want, most of the good tattoo photographs out there nailed the depth of field. Do not be scared to use a wide-open aperture. This is especially important when you are shooting outdoors, or when the background has too many details such as trees and concrete structures. Blurring them away or pushing them further back helps bring the focus to the tattooed subject and to the tattoo itself.

When it comes to exposure settings, especially on manual mode, it really helps if you stick to 0 exposure and couple that with the lowest f-number. This, plus the right shutter speed and right ISO, will help you end up with an image that truly showcases the ink. Also, stick to capturing in RAW format. While almost all <u>kinds of photography</u> benefit from this, it is especially important with tattoo photography. During post-processing, it helps you recover any details that you may have lost. If you are capturing a detailed tattoo, or perhaps a tattoo at a complicated body part—such as one with curves—this is even more important.



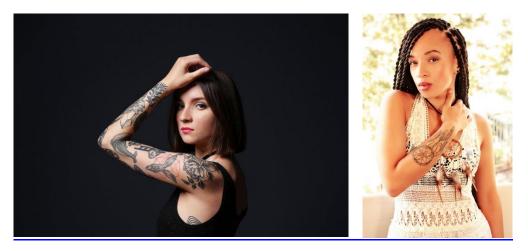
Use the Right Camera and Lens

Mirrorless cameras are perfect for tattoo photography. Image via bogdandimages.

There is no one perfect camera or one perfect lens for tattoo photography. However, there are cameras and lenses that work nicely for it. Firstly, you will never go wrong with mirrorless cameras. They are super-straightforward, so even if you are new to photography mirrorless cameras are helpful for getting used to the craft.

Wide-angle lenses are a smart choice for tattoo photos where you are also capturing the subject and a good amount of background. For close-up shots, you will want to go for macro lenses or those used for portrait photography. Also, 50mm f/1.8 lens of any lens brand is a good starting point.

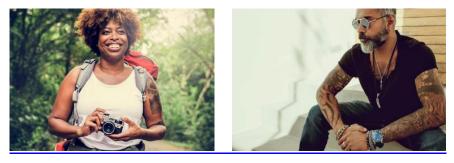
Accentuate Tattoos the Way You would Accentuate the Face in Portraits



Images via Shutterstock's Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection.

Tattoo photography, in one way or another, is akin to portrait photography. It is a part of a bigger subject (a.k.a. a human) that you want to highlight. That said, a good practice to capture the beauty of inked skin is to accentuate the tattoo just like you accentuate the face and the emotions it shows when doing a portrait shoot. Now, this may pose challenges because, unlike the face, tattoos do not have emotions. But they do have beauty. If you need more help, make it a habit to see tattoos as a work of art because that is really what they are. Make the message and the details in the tattoo more prominent in every shot.

Do not Forget to Have Proper Lighting



Images via Shutterstock's Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection.

Working with light can be tricky sometimes. When capturing inked skin, you want to have the proper lighting to avoid glare and unnecessary brightness. Go too bright and you might lose some of the details of the tattoo, or the camera might end up not focusing on the ink. Instead, natural light is your best bet. Shoot outdoors. Find a location with good natural light and less distraction. For studio shots, a good external light source will go a long way. If you have access to a continuous lighting system, great! If not, the right kind of flash will do. You also want to consider using a diffuser to get softer light. And lastly, with the mention of lights, we would also like to mention: Do not be afraid to play with shadows.

Consider Going Up-Close



Images via Shutterstock's Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection.

Some of the greatest tattoo images out there are close-ups. And, we are not talking about those images used by artists for their social media and portfolio that are purely focused on the ink itself. We are talking about images close enough that it also captures the curves of the human body. Now, when you are used to street photography, for instance, you may be used to situations where you cannot get any closer to your chosen subject. When you are used to photographing lifestyle photography, you may be used to capturing as much background as you can without making the photo look too crowded. After all, the set is a beautiful set for a reason—it completes the image. With tattoo photography, we encourage you to go closer than you would usually go. Trust your camera lens and settings. And, more importantly, trust your skills. Take multiple shots until you get the hang of it. For this kind of image where you get closer than usual, you may notice how the tattoo is becoming the sole subject and the person wearing the ink becomes the background. Go for Plain Matte Black Background



Images via Shutterstock's <u>Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection</u>. Simple backgrounds will never fail you when doing tattoo photography. In fact, the simpler, the better. That said, glossy backgrounds are nice. But, for tattoo photography, you would want to go for matte. And, if possible, black. This helps bring more focus to the tattoo itself, whether that is a close-up shot or not. While it is okay to have a more detailed background, in one way or another, it can be risky. Detailed backgrounds, no matter how nice, might bring distraction in the frame instead of adding interest in the overall shot.

Sometimes, it is All About the Right Pose



Images via Shutterstock's Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection.

Aside from the right pose, it can also be the right angle. Do not be afraid to experiment with different angles when shooting. If you are capturing an artist at work, she also becomes an important subject. That said, take multiple shots from different angles so you get the feel. If you are capturing a lower sleeve tattoo, perhaps ask your model to sit and prop her arms on a tabletop so you can shoot from above. Keep in mind that you want your photos to highlight the tattoo. At the same time, you want to keep things fun, unique, and interesting.

Dare to Go Black and White



Images via Shutterstock's Inked – Gorgeous Photos of Tattoos Collection.

Even when you are shooting colorful ink, you will never go wrong with black and white. After all, capturing the beauty of inked skin is not always about the color. It is about how you can strip it to bare minimum and still end up with an image that details the beauty of the tattoo design.

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
Fransie Stevens 21	Carina Munday 24
Linda Martin 22	
Мау	June
Boshoff Steenekamp 16	Joan Fouché 16
Detlef Basel 23	Lloyd Munday 18
Frans Fouché 30	Marius Coetzee 30
July	August
Diana van de Wiel 4	Tony Roberts 6
Kagiso Langa 8	Cat Schramm 9
Robin Miles 9	Sonja de Klerk 10
Annelize Brynard 17	Bill Zurich 16
Johan Ver Loren van Themaat 21	George Stevens 16
	Ann Roberts 23
	Brigitte Hansen 25
	Bibi Andrews 27
	Petra Haselmaier
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	

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