

Monthly Newsletter: April 2025

Monthly Meeting Feedback:

This month, we organized two separate meetings: one dedicated to Black and White photography and our regular club meeting. Although we didn't have any new members join in April, participation remained strong across both sessions.

For the **Black and White meeting**, we had a total of 56 photos submitted. The variety and creativity displayed in these monochrome works were truly impressive, showcasing members' ability to focus on light, texture, and contrast without the distraction of colour. It was great to see how differently everyone approached the theme.

During the **regular club meeting**, 57 photos were shared. As always, the range of subjects, styles, and techniques reflected the diverse talents within the club. The quality of work continues to rise, and it's encouraging to see members pushing themselves creatively.

Overall, April was a successful month, with great engagement and strong submissions for both meetings. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the discussions!

Overall Winner for April Club Meeting

Feetjeland — Elizma Duvenage

Top 3 Open

1. *The Colors of Table Mountain* — Riaan van den Berg
2. *Old House Staircase* — Fiona Nell
3. *Kayaks in the Blaze, Gordons Bay* — Carima van den Berg

Top 3 Set

1. *Watching You Watching Me* — Riaan van den Berg
2. *Feetjeland* — Elizma Duvenage
3. *Broos* — Hilldidge Beer

Top 3 Prints (Open and Set)

1. *Soft Morning* — Peter Dewar
2. *Harmonica* — Peter Dewar
3. *Camel Rock* — Peter Dewar

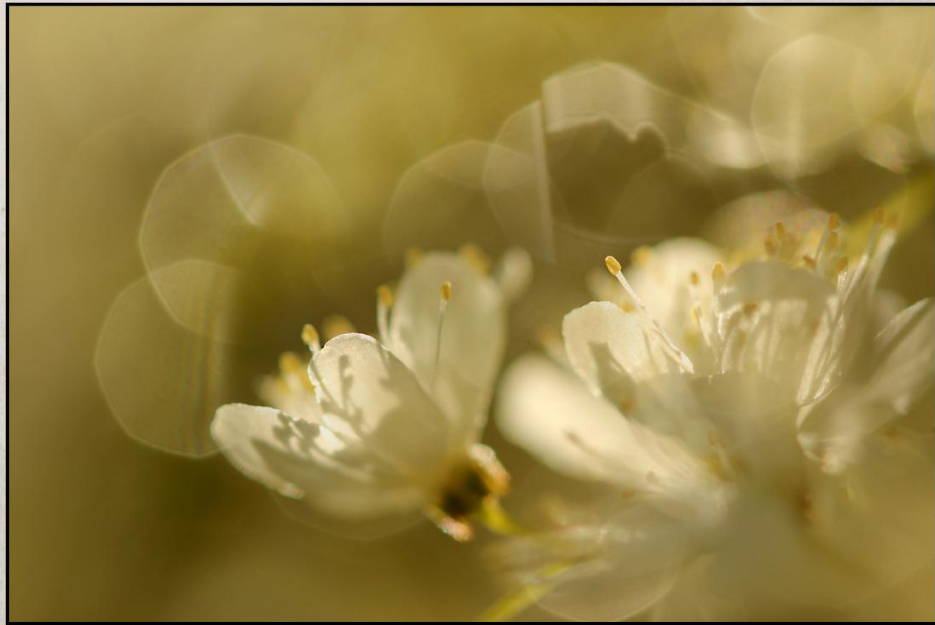
A heartfelt thank you to **Izak van Niekerk** for taking on the important role of judge for our April photography meetings.

We truly appreciate the time, effort, and careful thought Izak put into reviewing each entry. Judging is never an easy task, especially with the high standard of work submitted, and we are grateful for his expertise and dedication to supporting our club.

Thank you, Izak, for helping make April's meetings such a success!

OVERALL WINNER APRIL

FEETJIELAND
BY
ELIZMA DUVENAGE



Top 3 Open



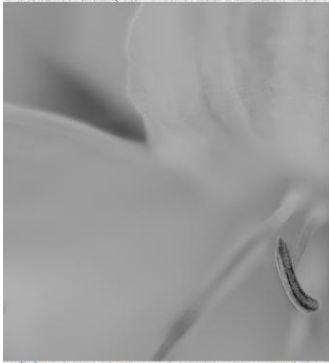
Top 3 Macro



Top 3 Prints



Some of our Black and White images



Club Meeting Information:

Our next meetings will be on the following dates in April, remember the closing dates of Photo Vault (PV)

Meeting	PV Closing Date	Meeting Date	Set Subject
Club	9 May	13 May	A South African Landscape
Black & White	30 May	3 June	A South African Landscape / Abstract

Something about our next Set Subject for June

What is Abstract Photography

Abstract photography is a form of photography that aims to capture images that are not immediately recognizable as objects from the real world. It focuses on the visual elements of an image, like lines, shapes, colours, and textures, to create a non-representational or non-objective image. Instead of depicting a specific subject, abstract photography emphasizes the formal aspects of the image to evoke emotions or ideas.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **Non-representational:**
Abstract images don't directly depict a specific object or scene in the real world.
- **Focus on formal elements:**
Abstract photographers pay close attention to lines, curves, colours, textures, and other visual elements to create a visually interesting image.
- **Emphasis on emotion and ideas:**
Abstract photography can be used to convey emotions, ideas, and concepts without relying on realistic representation.
- **Techniques for abstraction:**
Techniques like obscuring detail, using creative blur, or photographing from unusual angles can help achieve abstract effects.
- **Examples:**
Close-up shots of textures, patterns in nature, or images created through creative manipulation of light and movement can all be examples of abstract photography.

A bit of creative reading material:

<https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/photography/type/abstract-photography.html>

<https://www.adorama.com/alc/abstract-photography-for-beginners-9-tips-for-capturing-stunning-abstract-images/>

Outings, Workshops and Courses:

A small HPS group braved the oppressive heat to visit **Adene's Farm Flowers** on Wednesday 19 March.

Unfortunately, having made all the arrangements, Nettie wasn't able to join us but Natascha, Adene's manager at Lourensford, was very welcoming and generously honoured the pricing deal for a large party even for our select few.

Adene's Lourensford operation grows mainly dahlias with a small area given over to my favourites, Cosmos.

Staying in the flowers' shade cloth tent any longer than an hour proved a challenge on the day, but the beauty of the flowers warranted a longer visit... Nature's genius on show in the perfect design of the dahlia blooms and the daintyness of the Cosmos and their foliage.

Trying to get candid shots of the workers picking the blooms, vignettted by more blooms, proved tricky - I was soon spotted and then off came the caps and out came the smiles, not quite the look I was going for, but the guys were thrilled and excitedly sent their pictures off to their wives!

Hopefully Stephen, Lorraine and Irmel enjoyed the outing as much as I did and got some extra pleasure from the blooms they took home.

It seems like the Lourensford site is going to be seasonal so anyone else wanting to visit should try to go in the next couple of weeks... just avoid any days with temperatures in the 30s!!



Steves talk:

Thank you, Steve Trimby, for taking the time to share your knowledge and passion for landscape photography with us. Your talk was not only inspiring but also packed with practical tips and tricks that we can all take away and apply to our own work. The demonstration with the golf bags to show focal points was a blast and really brought the concepts to life. I think it's safe to say we all learned something new and left feeling more motivated to get out there and capture the beauty around us. Thanks again for such an engaging and insightful session! You can find his slideshow on the website if you'd like to revisit any of the points he covered.

HPS Audio Visual Group by Irmel Dunaiski

What is more inspiring than sharing your creative work with a group of friends?

That is how I felt after our March meeting where nine members were showing quite a variety of AVs leading to lively discussions and some laughter. Six of us have been to Soetmelksvlei, at Babylonstoren with their farm activities as they were done more than a century ago. A journey back in time.



Our goals for 2025:

As our members are using a variety of AV software, we will concentrate more on creating Audio Visuals in general rather than software specific. The right sound is as important as our images. And often it is the bigger challenge to find the right one for a good quality audio track. How to choose, create and edit it will be one of our 2025 aims.

In this regard, Antenie created a 3min 21sec soundtrack with Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' as a stimulation for us. Thank you, Antenie.

The AV Set Subject for 2025 will be 'Movement', a wonderful challenge to use suitable sound and music.

Any suggestions and questions, also from non-AV members, are welcome!

If you want to join, contact Irmel

irmel@avcreations.co.za // 0823729824

Through the Lens of the Future: Will AI Transform Photography or Steal Its Soul?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping photography, sparking both excitement and concern. Like early fears about photography replacing painting, today's artists wonder if AI will erode the human touch in photography.

Potential Pros:

- **Enhanced Creativity and Efficiency:** AI tools like Adobe Sensei help streamline edits, improve images, and suggest creative ideas.
- **Better Image Quality:** Apps like Topaz Labs' Gigapixel AI can upscale images without loss of detail.
- **Accessibility:** AI makes high-quality photography more achievable for amateurs through smartphone technology.
- **Workflow Automation:** AI speeds up tasks like image sorting and selection.
- **New Artistic Possibilities:** Tools like GANs and apps like Prisma offer new creative outlets.

Key Concerns:

- **Ethical Issues:** AI manipulation blurs the line between reality and fiction, raising concerns in fields like journalism.
- **Job Displacement:** Automation may threaten traditional roles like retouchers.
- **Skill Degradation:** Over-reliance on AI could erode core photography skills and homogenize artistic styles.
- **Data Privacy:** Storing large datasets introduces security risks.
- **Loss of the Human Touch:** AI images might lack the emotional depth and storytelling that define human art.

Moving Forward: To balance AI's advantages with its risks, photographers must focus on ongoing education, ethical guidelines, and emphasizing emotional storytelling. Collaboration with AI, rather than resistance, could lead to a richer, more diverse photographic future. Ultimately, AI in photography is here to stay. The challenge is to harness it thoughtfully without losing the human soul of the art.

(Short version of Masters of photography's article: AI in Photography, July 12, 2024)

The PSSA has issued a statement in March 2025, to all clubs and members regarding the use of AI in photography. Please take a moment to read it. You can find the statement on their website, or simply follow the link below

https://pssa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Photography-and-AI-Statement_Final.pdf

Once Upon a Bot: A Light Read from the Future:

<https://mastersof.photography/photography-blog/ai-in-photography-2/>

<https://aperture.org/editorial/how-will-ai-transform-photography/>

<https://fstoppers.com/artificial-intelligence/great-ai-debate-will-artificial-intelligence-revolutionize-or-ruin-photography-679773>

Additional Information:

Our website is undergoing a change, go and have a look. Thank you to Riaan for all your hard work.

Visit our Facebook page, invite friends to like our facebook page.

Let's Invite people to come to a club meeting, maybe a few members can have ideas about how to grow the club, get in new young members.

Webpage: <https://helderbergphoto.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helderbergphoto/>