



The Photographic Society
of South Africa

Manipulation

What you can do and can't do

Jill Sneesby Hon MPSSA

Thanks to those photographers who have given permission for their images to be used in this presentation.



The Photographic Society
of South Africa

Manipulation

What you can do and can't do

Breaking the rules can be intentional with the photographer trying to beat the system
or it can be done by mistake or by not understanding the rules.
This presentation is intended to remove some of the grey areas.

Jill Sneesby Hon MPSSA

Thanks to those photographers who have given permission for their images to be used in this presentation.



The Photographic Society of South Africa



They can be accidental – such as my Leaping Impala – or is it Impala Leaping?
I entered this image many years ago in the Al Thani Awards and it was published in their catalogue.
I entered it again quite a number of years later in the PSA International and they informed me that I had
changed the title – a definite **no no** and something I did without even realizing it.



The Photographic Society
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SAME or SIMILAR?

Similar implies that it is almost the same time, or almost the same place, or almost the same situation – just another frame in an action series is not necessarily sufficiently different to make it a different image. By being almost the same it is a similar shot.

When is it the same or similar?
How different does it have to be to be
too similar?

What do you think?





The Photographic Society
of South Africa

SAME or SIMILAR?

Similar implies that it is almost the same time, or almost the same place, or almost the same situation – just another frame in an action series is not necessarily sufficiently different to make it a different image. By being almost the same it is a similar shot.

While they are different moments in time I would probably only use two of the images – one with legs together and the other stretched out.





The Photographic Society
of South Africa

SAME or SIMILAR?

Similar implies that it is almost the same time, or almost the same place, or almost the same situation – just another frame in an action series is not necessarily sufficiently different to make it a different image. By being almost the same it is a similar shot.

Are these too similar
—
what do you think?





The Photographic Society
of South Africa

SAME or SIMILAR?

Similar implies that it is almost the same time, or almost the same place, or almost the same situation – just another frame in an action series is not necessarily sufficiently different to make it a different image. By being almost the same it is a similar shot.



Something to remember is that it is not just nature – the same is true for any genre.

The make-up and lighting are the same but by changing the pose and the crop the actual essence of the image has been changed – so they sufficiently different.

Read the article in the Oct 2023 e-Image



The Photographic Society
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Changing the title

Each image must have a unique name; the name of the image may **not** be altered as acceptance records are based on the image name.

Different titles may **not** be used for Colour and Monochrome versions or Print and Projected Digital Image versions of the same image.



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Changing the title

Each image must have a unique name; the name of the image may **not** be altered as acceptance records are based on the image name.

Different titles may **not** be used for Colour and Monochrome versions or Print and Projected Digital Image versions of the same image.

Monochrome and colour variations originating from a single image are considered identical unless there is a substantial difference in artistic treatment



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of South Africa

Changing the title



Monochrome and colour variations originating from a single image are considered identical unless there is a substantial difference in artistic treatment

In this case Cynthia has used the same image but processed it very differently and very effectively, so that the emphasis is now on the shape of the face. The hair and makeup colour, which was so much part of the colour version, just disappears into nothingness. They are therefore different.



The Photographic Society of South Africa

It is not just PSSA who has rules and regulations and naughty lists – the Photographic Society of America does as well, as do all the other major photographic societies worldwide.

psa-photo.org/page/ethical-practices

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PSA Photographic Society of America WORLDWIDE

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Ethical Policies & Practices

Exhibitions Overview Exhibition Lists Ethics Entering Hosting Directors PSA Annual Who's Who Image of Year

Each person participating in activities of the Photographic Society of America Worldwide (PSA) or activities recognized by PSA is expected to act in accordance with all PSA policies. The full expectations relating to ethical behavior are described in the PSA Ethics Policy that was approved by the PSA Executive Committee in February 2024.

Members of PSA, and others participating in activities recognized by PSA, who do not comply with the PSA Ethics Policy may be subject to penalties by PSA. For PSA members, those penalties may include, but are not limited

00:00

YouTube presentation on Ethics by J.R. Schnelzer EPSA GMPSA EFAP



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FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE The International Federation of Photographic Art

The photographers must preserve intact and without any alteration the original metadata of the images. If an image does not include the original EXIF data, it will not be eligible to participate in the Biennial.

When uploading the images the system will check that the file includes EXIF data. If it does not, the system will send a warning message.

Pictures created by artificial intelligence are not allowed in the FIAP Biennials!

All the parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted. Offenders will be sanctioned for life!



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FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE The International Federation of Photographic Art

1.1) All the parts of each submitted image have to be photographed by the author who must be in possession of the original unretouched 'capture' version(s) of the image and where applicable of all component parts of the image. The author must also hold the copyright to each submitted image and of all component parts of it.

You can get inspiration from someone else's image

– but you cannot just photograph it and call it yours.



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and actually
Photographed
the trees at
sunset it is not
your work and
is not allowed.



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Jill Sneesby

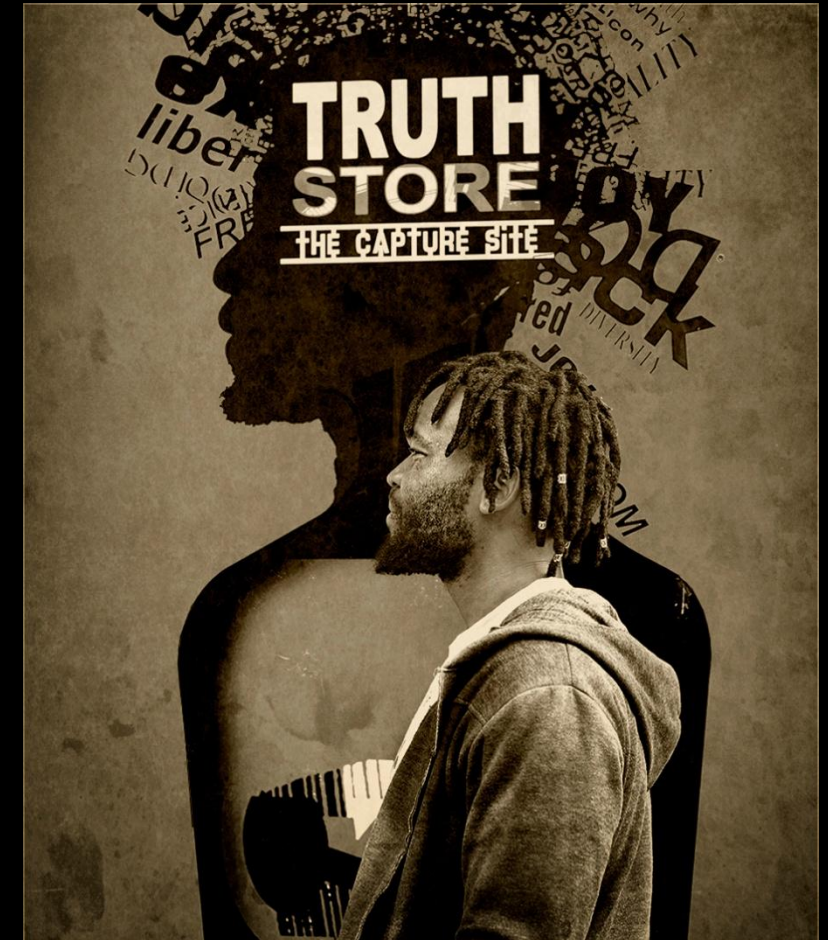
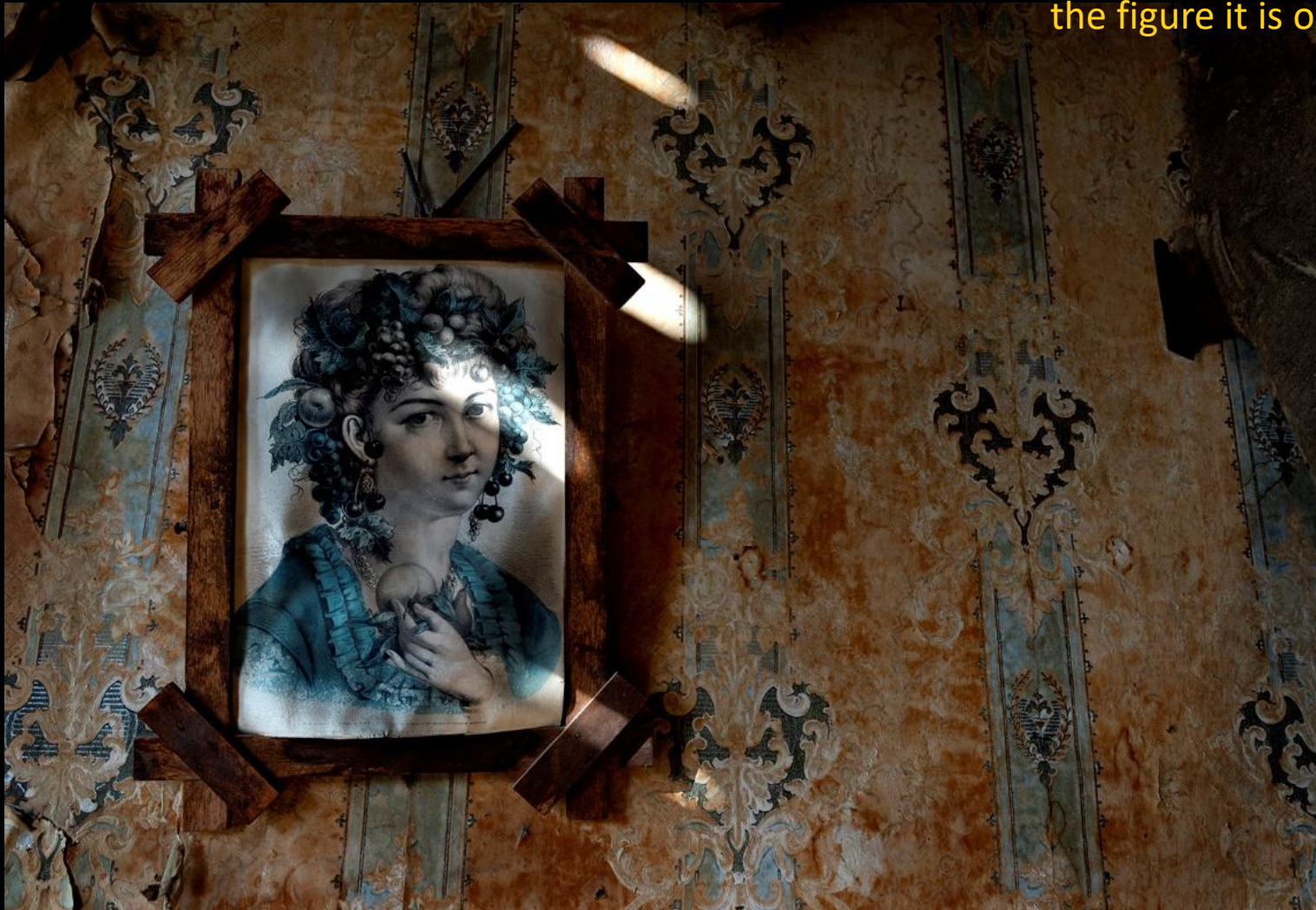
Whether its
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internet, or a
picture in a
gallery, a book
or from
absolutely
anywhere,
even if it says
you can
download
them for free,
unless you
were there
and actually
Photographed
the trees at
sunset it is not
your work and
is not allowed.



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Picture on the wall - Here you are photographing some else's art but by including the light and shade and wallpaper etc. you are creating an image and not just copying it.

The Truth Store pic is someone elses art but by introducing the figure it is only an element in the image. Both are OK.





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Photographing Graffiti is
photographing someone else's art.

What have you done
to make it your own?

You have added nothing – it is
therefore just a picture of someone
else's art.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

Photographing Graffiti is
photographing someone else's art.

What have you done
to make it your own?

You have added nothing – it is
therefore just a picture of someone
else's art.

The inclusion of the plants and grass
is not enough to make it yours.

Even if you want to argue the point,
do the plants and grass make it an
interesting photo?





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Photographing Graffiti is
photographing someone else's art.

What have you done
to make it your own?

You have added nothing – it is
therefore just a picture of someone
else's art.

The inclusion of the plants and grass
is not enough to make it yours.

Even if you want to argue the point,
do the plants and grass make it an
interesting photo?





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Once again – just graffiti – does the inclusion of the sky make it yours?



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Does the inclusion of the road (left)
or zooming in (above) help?



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Does the inclusion of the road (left)
or zooming in (above) help?

It certainly does make for a more interesting
photo in both instances. BUT?

All you have added is a different viewpoint
of someone else's art.

Perhaps if there were people looking out of the windows or
something more to make it more interesting it would be OK.



The Photographic Society of South Africa



Does the inclusion of the road (left)
or zooming in (above) help?

It certainly does make for a more interesting
photo in both instances. BUT?

All you have added is a different viewpoint
of someone else's art.

Here is a bit more of a grey area – the emphasis on the
windows – is it enough to make an interesting image and
more than a picture of someone else's art?



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While I wouldn't be happy using either as my own competition pictures I would be happy to use them in an AV about Grafitti.



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The photograph of the window below is of a scene,
and as lovely as it looks it was not created as someone's
art, so it is OK.





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The inclusion of the guy running turns the graffiti into a backdrop – but still a very important part of the picture.
This is OK.



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FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE The International Federation of Photographic Art

1.1) All the parts of each submitted image have to be photographed by the author who must be in possession of the original unretouched 'capture' version(s) of the image and where applicable of all component parts of the image. The author must also hold the copyright to each submitted image and of all component parts of it.

PICTURES CREATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THIS COMPETITION!.

All parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted.

Offenders will be sanctioned for life! (INFO 260/2023)



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All parts/elements of the image have to be photographed by the author.





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You cannot download brushes and use them
to create your images –
you can make your own brushes and use
them.

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You cannot download brushes and use them
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you can make your own brushes and use
them.





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The Birds have been created by the author.

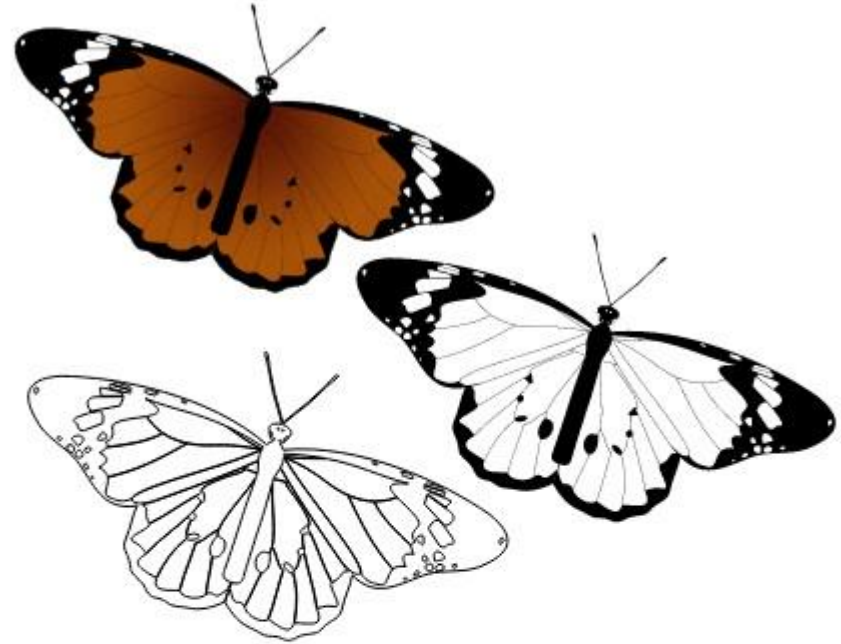




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You can photograph a live, or even an artificial butterfly and use your artistic skills to create the elements.





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You cannot
download the
dragon and
insert it.





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You cannot
download the
dragon and
insert it.

But you can
photograph it
off, for instance,
a jersey and
then insert it.





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You need to have
photographed all the
elements in your
composite.





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You need to have
photographed all the
elements in your
composite.

The background I shot in
Argentina – street art –
not an image on its own.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

You need to have
photographed all the
elements in your
composite.

The background I shot in
Argentina – street art –
not an image on its own.

The soccer boys I
photographed in Namibia.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

You need to have
photographed all the
elements in your
composite.

The background I shot in
Argentina – street art –
not an image on its own.

The soccer boys I
photographed in Namibia.

Both my own images so it
is OK.





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You can change the foreground by just duplicating and flipping →
But you can't add the flood in that you didn't shoot ↓





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But you can't add the flood in that you didn't shoot

You can use sky replacement – but the sky must be your own





The Photographic Society
of South Africa

MANIPULATION

Manipulation is **strictly prohibited**
in the Nature, Photo Travel, Street, Sport, and Photojournalism categories,
as well as in any categories defined accordingly.

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to
the original scene as possible, apart from conversion to grayscale
monochrome, which is permitted. Over processed images will be
disqualified.



The Photographic Society
of South Africa

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in the Nature, Photo Travel, Street, Sport, and Photojournalism categories,
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disqualified.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph, without changing the nature story
or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.



The Photographic Society of South Africa



Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph, without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.

We don't know what the exact scene looked like in terms of colour so any of these could be correct – you may not like all of them.



The Photographic Society of South Africa



Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible.

Over processed images will be disqualified.

We don't know what the exact scene looked like in terms of colour so any of these could be correct – you may not like all of them.



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We don't know what the exact scene looked like in terms of colour but we do know what sort of light there was – here we don't have shadows so we can correctly assume the lighting was flat and the colour not great.

BUT

There has never been any rule that says we can't enhance the scene.



Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible



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Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible – enhancements are allowed.



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In Nature and Wildlife, **NO** vignette may be added.





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In Nature and Wildlife, **NO** vignette may be added.

In the other no-manipulation categories a very subtle vignette is allowed in PSSA salons.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:



A very effective image with the dark
surrounds emphasizing the cuteness of the
cheetah cub. But did you shoot it like that?



The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Adding a vignette during processing;



A vignette has been used to darken the surrounds i.e. remove the areas you don't want to see – therefore it is manipulation and not allowed.



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of South Africa

Is the dark background real?



Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph, without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.



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Is the dark background real?

Yes it is real because the background was obviously dark, but be careful of going too far – the first image probably did go too far because you are effectively removing the water by darkening it.



Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph, without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.



The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:



This image looks quite “normal” and it was entered into a nature section and was accepted. It was only on requesting the raw image that the problem could be seen.



The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene by DARKENING



The whole background has been darkened far too much – not just enhancing the image but totally changing the time of day and removing the surrounds. It is definitely not allowed.



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Techniques that enhance the
presentation of the photograph

are permitted.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph, without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph, without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any elements except by cropping are permitted.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any elements except by cropping are permitted.

- ✓ enhance
- ✓ crop
- ✗ replace
- ✗ remove





The Photographic Society of South Africa

- ✓ enhance
- ✓ crop
- ✗ replace
- ✗ remove



No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any elements except by cropping are permitted.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, whether done via lightening, darkening, cloning, blurring or any other photo editing technique, **except for cropping and straightening**





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, whether done via lightening, darkening, cloning, blurring or any other photo editing technique, except for cropping and straightening





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene by CLONING





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene by CLONING

You cannot however remove anything – not even just a small white stone which is a bit distracting.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene by CLONING



When looking at this image all looks fine whether it is entered into an Open or Photo Travel or Street Photography.

As judges we take images at face value and trust the photographer to follow the rules.

So when do we query it?

Every so often there will be an audit to make sure that everyone is following the rules.



The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

If the image was entered under Photo Travel or Street Photography it should have been DQ'd – the only way to remove the unwanted elements in these categories is by cropping and this could have been successfully done to all elements except the wires in the top left.

The addition of the sky above is done using your own pixels (in content aware fill) and is therefore allowed in Open.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

All looks fine in this image – but take a look at the raw image.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

All looks fine in this image – but take a look at the raw image.
You can crop, and it doesn't matter how small a part of the image you crop.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, by any photo editing technique.

When you go in close however you can see that the highlights around the bird have very effectively been removed. You may not remove anything so this has been manipulated.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

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When you go in close however you can see that the highlights around the bird have very effectively been removed. You may not remove anything so this has been manipulated.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.



*There is a distinct difference between nature and wildlife – all wildlife is nature but only those creatures that are living free and unrestricted in an area of their own choosing are wildlife.
Creatures in a reserve such as shown here are nature but NOT wildlife – all arranged action shoots are nature and not wildlife.*



The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.



Neither of these are Wildlife as they are not living free and unrestricted in an area of their own choosing
It is not always obvious but we have to trust ourselves and our fellow photographers.



The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

A very effective
image with a
beautiful soft
out of focus
background.

But did you
shoot it like
that?





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene;

A very effective
image with a
beautiful soft
out of focus
background.

But did you
shoot it like
that?



The background
is distracting but
that's how it was
shot, and you
can do nothing
about it if you
want to enter it
as nature.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original scene;



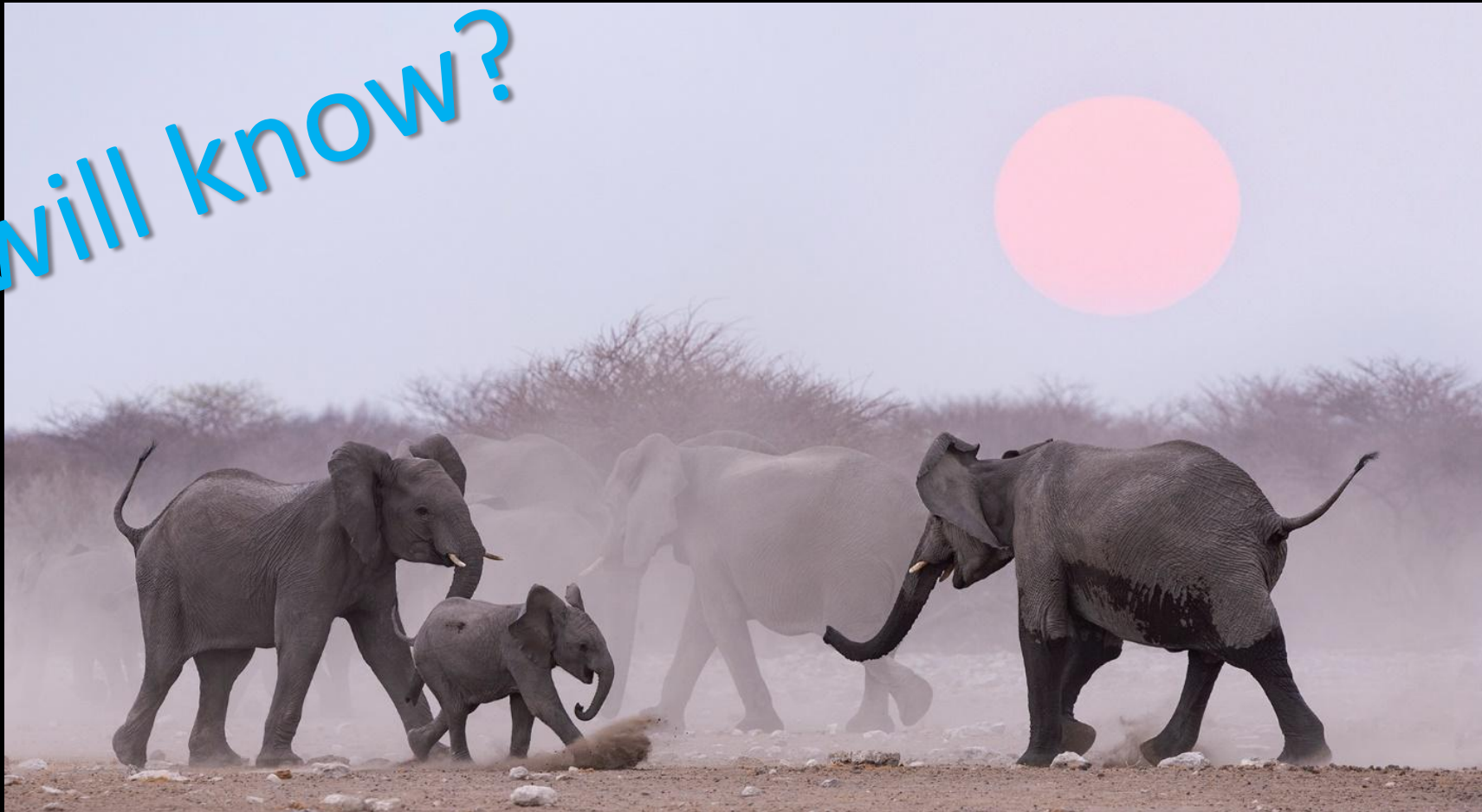


The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story
or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.

Who will know?





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.



“Trust takes years
to build, seconds
to break, and
forever to repair.”

Dhar Mann



The Photographic Society of South Africa

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Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted.

Cropping, Straightening, Flipping are permitted.





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The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, whether done via lightening, darkening, cloning, blurring or any other photo editing technique, **except for cropping and straightening.**





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, whether done via lightening, darkening, cloning, blurring or any other photo editing technique, **except for cropping and straightening.**

Up to this stage everything that has been done is allowed.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, whether done via lightening, darkening, cloning, blurring or any other photo editing technique, except for cropping and straightening.

Converting to Monochrome is allowed.





The Photographic Society of South Africa

In the categories
Nature/Wildlife, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism,
manipulation is not allowed.

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene by LIGHTENING



But now it has gone too far – it is fine for a pictorial image but it could not be entered into a nature category as the bushes and ground have been removed – in this case by making it lighter.



The Photographic Society of South Africa

This image is made up of two images, one shot immediately after the other, and then combined.

A beautiful image but one that does break the rules and is therefore manipulation.





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Many manipulations result in great images.

- So don't give up – just don't enter these images in a category that does not allow manipulation.



Enjoy your Photography!!

