

Theme Open

Title	Judge Comments	Results
Bee-eater is now stained glass	While I can appreciate this is a well-shot, well-exposed image, it is technically someone else's artwork, and I always caution photographers on shooting someone else's artwork as the main focus of an image because it's not your art. Unless it's an integral part of a story, it will probably get marked down a little bit lower with judges as a rule.	Acceptance
Gostwyk Wool Shed	Next, this is a really fabulous monochrome. I love all that grass in the foreground and the symmetry of the Woolshed. Those clouds are just fantastic as well. However, this image would benefit from a crop to a two-to-one ratio panoramic. That'll just take out about a third of that sky, leaving the grass in the foreground. It makes the Woolshed just a little bit more prominent, but we still get those great textures from all of those clouds.	Merit
And the rain comes	So, this image has so much potential and with a few fixes in post-production, I think you've actually got a really beautiful image. The color palate overall is fantastic, and the rain's been captured really well, but all of the noise in the image can be very easily fixed these days. When re-visiting your image see if you can reposition the plant an inch to the left reducing the negative space a fraction and adding some breathing room on the right.	Highly Commended
Festival time	This is a really interesting image with elements of sharpness in the background and elements of movement which add real interest to it. The movement of the people is actually really interesting and it gels with the movement of the spinning machine. The detail in the dark behind is just enough to show those trees in the background, and any noise has been handled very well. Overall, it's actually a great exposure, and something a little bit different.	Honor
Lilly bud	This Lily bud is beautiful with very complimentary colors of purple and green. I love the water droplets on it and the little bugs. It's a very simple image and generally simple has to be done very well. there are some minor noise issues in the greens in the background could be improved in post-production, quite easily. But an extremely minor criticism, an otherwise beautiful image	Honor
Marina Sunset	The exposure on this is really well done, and the color is really nice. The highlight of the sun has been handled really well. However, it does need some work on its composition. Just a little bit less tree at the top third of the picture would help to lift this image just a little bit more.	Highly Commended

Schools In	The maker has gone to a lot of trouble to set the scene correctly in a Harry Potter theme, including using the correct books. The pose and composition are great, but the lighting is probably a little one-dimensional, which keeps it down a notch. It's a really great effort, but I would have liked to have seen this in color, actually.	Merit
Black and White	in black and white, the bird in the foreground is captured very well, with a beautiful sharp yellow eye and feathers. However, the bird in the background is very bright and that's where my eye is drawn, and rests because of that very, very bright highlight. In order for this to come up, that bird in the background was actually unnecessary. I think it's a better image without it.	Highly Commended
Just Coasting	Capturing a bird in flight sharply can be really hard, and in this particular case, the maker has done really well to get the bird captured and exposed correctly. However, I find the bird behind, out of focus, a little bit jarring to my eye due to the crossing of the wings. Perhaps shooting something like this at a different time of day with softer, more complementary lighting could move this higher into the awards.	Highly Commended
Natures Kaleidoscope	The beautiful violet tones and soft light are really what make this image. The center of the flower placed on the thirds works well in this particular case, drawing your eye right into the center. This image just works well on all levels.	Honor
The Mountain	The maker has done a great job in finding a viewpoint that tells the story of the area. We see in the foreground the type of landscape and soil covered by the textures of the grass, the people adding scale to the image, and the sky overlooking the mountains adding a certain mood.	Merit