

Feedback for Gladstone Camera Club

23 October 2019

From Fran McFadzen QPSA PSQA

Criteria provided: Images can be colour or mono.

FLOWERS

NO	TITLE	FEEDBACK	AWARD
1	C Even Ants are Attracted to Flowers	<p>My eyes went immediately to the ants on the flowers, probably because they are contrasting in colour to the grevillea, because they are sharpest and because they are in the centre of the image. The contrasting colours between the soft yellow and the soft blue of the sky works well. Good choice of camera settings to expose the image well and to narrow the depth of field. I also find the gentle diagonal of the composition pleasing.</p> <p>Only suggestion for improvement would be a tighter crop – maybe even try a square crop.</p>	Merit
2	C Flowers in the Red Desert	<p>Mulla-mulla is an interesting plant with its furry flowers, leaves and stalks. I think they may have been close to the road as the plant is covered in red dust, whereas away from the road they are much whiter (in my experience). I almost feel the heat of the desert from them. Good choice of camera settings with narrow depth of field to concentrate our attention on the flowers.</p> <p>To improve your image, try a crop from the left side to remove the half flower head. That would keep our eyes from wandering out of the image, and maintain attention on that diagonal of the main flower head stalk.</p>	Highly Commended
3	C- Tentacles	<p>Great colour and good close crop draws attention right to the action area. The little white anthers are mostly sharp, and the black background helps to increase the impact of the image. I believe the image is well exposed and has appropriate depth of field.</p> <p>To improve your image if you are taking another flower sometime – try to get the centre stigma intact. The one in this image is broken off, and that small defect really draws the eye.</p>	Merit
4	Flower Power	<p>Wow! This image has impact. I like the different point of view, the colour is harmonious and the image is very strong in its simplicity.</p> <p>It would be improved by a crop to remove about a quarter of the image from the left side, leaving the single flower with that good negative space on its right side.</p>	Honour
5	Flower-Sturt's Desert Pea	<p>Interesting treatment of the image. The filter you have used on the background has imparted a flowing texture which, in my opinion enhances the image without being too distracting. The complimentary red and green works well and the flower is well placed within the composition.</p> <p>For improvement, the edges of the flower where you have separated it from the background are a bit blurred in places, and may benefit from some additional time spent doing the separation.</p>	Merit
6	Flower-Tulip	<p>Clever idea, using the intensity of colour to draw the eye to the centre tulip. The separation is well executed, and in this case, the centre positioning works to hold attention. Love the square crop.</p>	Highly commended

		To improve your image, I wonder how a black and white background might work. The retoning you have chosen looks muddy or brownish to me. I'm not sure which technique you have used to recolour the background – perhaps try just using the Saturation slider alone (in Lightroom) to reduce the colour.	
7	Flowers – Gum Glory	Great colour, strong impact, good separation from foreground and background using depth of field and nicely exposed. Good close crop, and well composed. Nothing to improve.	Honour
8	Flowers_PlumFlower	Excellent work, big impact, great exposure, depth of field, lighting, composition and you have even captured a sparkle in the petals. I feel like it is one for the wall or the calendar. Nothing to improve	Honour
9	Flowers_Weed	Well captured, even if it is a weed. I like the composition with the C shape of the dandelion seeds in white pointing the eye towards the two that have come adrift. The bud in the corner is a bonus. Pleasant colour, good depth of field to drop out the background. Nothing to improve, just not quite as much impact as some of the others.	Merit
10	good morning	Another different point of view, and your image has good colour. That the in focus petals are behind two dominant out of focus petals is a distraction though. When taking anything in nature in the field – never be afraid to clip off things which would be a distraction to your image. I like the way you have used depth of field to keep attention on the strongest coloured petals. For improvement, either increase your depth of field to include the two foreground petals, or perhaps move your point of view to reframe the flower.	
11	Is this my twin	I see what you are attempting with your naming of this image, but the two flowers are too different. It may have worked if they had been identical. The centre composition is not as pleasant as it might be if the Gazania was off centre. For improvement, perhaps change your camera settings so that the principal subject is not overexposed.	
12	Lily blowing in the wind	I like to see creative treatment of competition subjects. Your use of movement is interesting, but it hasn't quite been as successful as it might be. The colour is good, and I like the movement blur on the waterlily, though. For improvement, include more of the waterlily petals cut off on the left edge of the image, and less of the open space on the right hand side. Perhaps it would work better if you also crop to remove the stalk on the right as it is like unfinished business as it has no bud or flower to complete it.	Highly commended