

GLADSTONE CAMERA CLUB

NOVEMBER - OPEN

FUNGI

MERIT

The composition works, it is well exposed and a good choice of aperture has enabled the background to be nicely blurred. To raise this image to the next level concentrate on that large shell like fungi which is obviously the star of the shot. You could make it pop even more by masking in some additional texture and clarity in ACR. Also, when doing your final sharpening you don't have to do it globally but, again using a mask, add sharpening only to that main fungi. It should be the sharpest thing in the image to immediately draw and hold the viewer's eyes.

IN THE FOREST

MERIT

This is a really pleasant scene with the path drawing the eye through the image and the two foreground trees providing interesting shapes and textures. You have pulled your highlights back a little too far resulting in them turning grey, most evident to the right of the large yellow tree. If highlights in this sort of scene are blown and distracting try cloning some leaves over the area, or possibly crop more from the right.

PREENING TIME

HONOUR

Well composed, sharp and you have captured nice detail in the feathers. The bird's pose and that feather in its beak helps tell a story. The large out of focus rock bottom right is a little distracting and could be cloned out. For an entry into a nature comp this wouldn't be allowed but acceptable in open.

THE TOWER

MERIT

Zooming or cropping to remove distractions around the building was a good idea. It is sharp and your black and white conversion has been handled well with tones from pure black to pure white. It appears you have darkened the sky but the wrought iron on the tower still shows areas of white sky. The wrought iron on the balcony could be accentuated with a simple S curve masked into that area or some dodging and burning.

MAGNOLIA

HONOUR

A lovely composition with the sharp area on one diagonal and the softer outer petals on a different diagonal and the flower filling the frame. The muted tones also add to the image's appeal.

TREE AND MILKY WAY

HONOUR

This is a good Milky Way image with the silhouetted tree providing a good focal point and the Milky Way diagonally across the frame. The stars are sharp and you have brought out some good colour in the core. The lights in the foreground are distracting and would be better cloned out, leaving it fully silhouetted but this is only minor.