

GLADSTONE

OPEN

The OPEN Category has displayed a high skill level and like any Competition, decisions were difficult as a result ... Some Images could easily have gone higher in the awards but as in all adjudications, some might argue that some awarded Images are not worthy ... I hope you see merit in the decisions that were made ... Adjudications are always subjective and on another occasion with another judge, Images may well do better if not successful this time.

ACCEPTANCES

Images: -

Colonial Time

This contrasty sort of scene is not easy to expose accurately and the Author has done well to be able to Capture detail throughout ... There are good leading lines and a lovely POI ... Choosing to include two very different leading lines though, has for me, created a divided interest from your chosen vantage point ... IMO having a single leading line would have been enough ... The right leading line is so interesting in itself that concentrating on it from slightly to the left and include the Stained Glass in a juxtaposition to it, could be a stronger Composition ... A similar treatment could be made using the left leading line.

Camel Ear

The backlit Ear of an animal [maybe a Camel] has captured this Authors attention, and what is presented is well recorded ... The lighting is lovely [it is one of three crucial elements necessary for successful photography: - Choice of Lighting, Choice of Optics, and the 12 inches behind the Camera.] and though it is well captured I feel it needs something else in a juxtaposition to communicate a more complete story.

Lucinda Beach Sunrise

What the Author has captured is a pretty picture ... IMO more is needed for success in Competitions though ... This scene presents a dark line horizon that divides the scene into two equal halves ... A simple crop to remove $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sky, would make it a very much stronger Composition ... Then add a story by, say, including a dog or child wading at the bottom left third near the isthmus at the time of capture, which would then balance well with that setting sun.

Anchor

Historical Ships Anchors has attracted the interest of many a photographer ... Finding one in a good position with good lighting that is conducive to good photography, is like finding Hens Teeth ... Getting down low to try and make it stand out against the sky is a good Concept, but the main body of the Anchor is still lost in this low level of light against the equally dark bush which is overpowered by the much brighter sky ... I feel the best way to make an interesting Image in this situation, is use additional lighting such as off camera flash [to light an Anchor of this size you may need more than one head to produce a WOW Image] and balance it with that sky which looks like some colour was developing around the time of the exposure.

Swinging

A graphic high key back lit silhouette, is quite a striking Image of a person using gymnastic equipment with support watching nearby ... I liked everything about this simple concept except for one part of the Composition, the big expanse of bright area behind her ... It could easily be altered if you don't mind making a simple bit of editing in Post Processing [PP]. Clone in the right hand border to a position just behind the two people behind her legs and exclude the rest in between. Otherwise good timing & well seen.

Although not without some issues, the following selection of Images was separated from the previous set of Images by aspects such as Good Timing, Composition, Lighting, and/or Selective Focusing techniques.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Tucker Time

Let's start with a well-timed tight crop of a Pelican about to swallow it's catch ... If this is a RAW File capture, I feel you may be able to control those burnt out highlights in a Raw Converter such as Adobe CC ACR or LR ... To that Edit, adding a horizontal flip to create a stronger Compositional Left to Right narrative of the visual story, might have elicited a Higher Award on this occasion ... A good Natural History Nature Study ... Well done.

Dragon Fly

Inclusion of Negative Space is a personal choice and a subjective aspect of an adjudication ... Colour Balance is also included in those decisions ... To me this would have more appeal if most of the space below the Dragonfly was cropped off, and if some of the blue and green bias in the White Balance was reduced ... Otherwise well captured.

MERITS.

Underground Worship

An interior Architectural Study of an unusual underground Religious Structure has been well captured with Leading Lines and Good Lighting that creates a strong Composition with the well-lit wall art the Strong POI ... There is one aspect I can't work out, that for me affects the potential for a Higher Award ... The middle foreground has an element that appears to be either an Illustrated Carpet or a Podium of some type which is not separated to distinguish how it fits in this scene ... It affects the viewers perception of the sense of perspective, shape and depth. ... Well done.

Boy

Excellent innocent close-up eye contact of this young child is a very engaging Image to the viewer ... I was tempted to mark it higher, but the close crop of the Lip by the bottom border couldn't be ignored. If there is more that was captured, I'd try to include that so all the bottom lip can be seen ... Well done.

HONOURS

Sculpture On The Cliff

Monochrome is an excellent choice for this study of the Bust against the darker background ... Removing the distraction of Colour leaves one with Line, Shape, Form and Tone to create a pleasing mood and the Author has done that really well ... Congratulations ... Well done.

Bush BBQ Under Munda Stars

It can take a lot to plan a Concept such as a strong scenic Milky Way composition ... The Author has achieved that really well ... Having involved a Group of people and gain their cooperation adds to the difficulty aspect ... So much so that I can overlook the one aspect that could be improved and that is for someone to have sat in front of the Flame to reduce the impact of that Hotspot ... A stunning result ... Congratulations ... Well done.

SCAPES P1.

ACCEPTANCES.

Images –

Harnessing the Wind.

This Image sits well in the category as a Scape ... The Author has used the Shoreline as a lead in to a group of Wind Turbines ... That concept is fair enough, but to me the Post Processing [PP] has not helped to support your concept ... Several areas seem to have been selected to be toned darker ... The one area that lacks that treatment is the brighter and warmer tones of the foreground in the bottom right corner ... Warm tones – advance ... Cool tones – recede ... Being on the edge of the frame, those bright warm tones are screaming out for attention, when the Wind Turbines were probably the intended POI ... ‘Scape’ suggests broad vistas to me which this is, but perhaps you have chosen to include too much in this instance ... Maybe consider a smaller group of the Wind turbines from a closer and different angle if the opportunity arises again.

Meadow

The Image is in focus and sharp, to the extent there is terrific definition and detail throughout ... The lovely soft backlighting helps to define much of that detail ... In this instance some foreground inclusions and bright areas affected the choice of Award also ... In Adobe CC PS, using ‘Content Aware Fill’ to remove the tree top on the bottom middle edge and likewise with the partial brown bovine to the right of that would be an eligible simple procedure in PP ... Then a crop from the right edge to where that cloned bovine was, combined with a Horizontal Flip would IMO make a stronger Composition.

Farmlands

I feel the Author was a little unfortunate that being there when the light was shining from the left at an earlier or later time of the day, wasn't possible ... I like the Composition, there are hints of leading lines in the remains of a former crop and what appears to be a track coming in from the left side, that a lower angle of light would help to emphasis the mentioned Leading Lines ... The dwelling is a good POI well positioned in the frame and the Cloud structure has been emphasised with some PP which adds drama ... Maybe 50% of the sky could be reduced but that's personal taste ... If the lighting hadn't been so flat this may have been an Award.

Scapes P2.

Sunset

The two most popular subjects to photograph after acquiring a Camera is colourful Flowers & Sunset/Sunrises, because I suppose they are so readily available in Australia ... When photographing the Sun, something one needs to keep in mind is that your Camera cannot see as much detail as your eye, and one's eye cannot see detail in the bright sun ... So we need to ask ourselves if we can't see detail ourselves why do we need to show the 'Bright Sun' ??? A rule of thumb for capturing the sun is if you can't look at it without having to squint to protect your eye, avoid including it in the scene ... Wait till it has set or aim the camera either side of it ... Then you need to compose what is left so that the eye is drawn to what is a POI, and it has to be obvious ... Leading Lines help to achieve that and combine that with how you use light to make it stand out also ... If the POI is a Silhouette it needs to be dark and have a structure/shape that has universal appeal ... Try to avoid a dark dividing horizon that separates the top and bottom halves into equal proportions, that creates Divided Interest ... What you have presented is an Exposure that has been well handled under the circumstances, but for me there is no dominant POI on this occasion.

Everything is Quiet

The Sky is exposed well to reveal what little detail is visible in the distant New Moon ... But the Silhouetted trees unfortunately lack enough detail in their shape to provide a tangible story ... Maybe selecting just one tree, and by moving closer one could reduce the amount of black Negative Space and make the moon more prominent.

Sunrise Simplicity

Well done to the Author for the way you have composed this minimalist Sunset Study ... The Colours are lovely and the Composition of dividing the scene into Thirds is a sound choice, but what detail you were able to include over and above that, has been too distant for me to read a story into what you have Presented ... But that's just me, it must have meaning for you and that is all that matters ... So well done for trying it anyway.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Boulder Beach

The Images in this Set Subject are a very good standard and the skill level compared to the last time I judged in 2016 is much improved, so well done Gladstone Members ... That observation means some tough decisions need to be made though, such as who does or doesn't get an Award and this is one I mulled over for some time ... It is a well seen subject and the technique has been well executed ... The curve of the shoreline draws the eye through the predominately shadow lit hillside to the Cliff edge that is still caressed by the last rays of light ... There is a lovely mood created by the Neutral Density Filter effect on the flow of foreground water, 99% of which is also lit by shadow light that shows detail throughout ... The quandary then arises as to what is the POI ... Is it the Sunlit Clifftop or the Cloud Structure in the background ... Each fills approx 50% of that part of the scene ... Because of the brighter warmer tones I'd prefer to see a bigger percentage of the Cloud Structure so that it dominates the scene ... I will say though that another Judge may provide a different decision ... Your technique to capture this was wonderful.

Here Comes The Storm

Exposure and Timing to capture the Lightning & Cloud structure is terrific, and I liked the importance given to the sky by showing more of it than the ground ... This was so close to being a Merit and maybe even an Honour ... The ones receiving those Awards were clearly stronger Images, that in all fairness I couldn't go that high with this Image, but certainly very worthy of the HC Award ... If you study the Middle Hillside/top, one might see a road heading toward the Cloud and a Building near the road ... If you could have made your way to that road, and composed it to be a foreground leading line, it certainly would have been Awarded one or the other of the two higher Awards ... Unfortunately I feel the need to subliminally jump the fence and fight a way through the trees to feel connected with the meat of the story, was too much of a hurdle ... Otherwise well done.

MERITS.

Sunset Glory on Pei

A lighthouse balanced nicely with the exquisite colours of a wonderful Sunset is well presented in a strong Panoramic Composition ... A simple White Balance adjustment may have been all that was needed to go that one step higher ... A well seen scene, well done to the Author.

Jetty

There is much to like about the capture of this panoramic scene ... Two aspects stand out ... The Sharp detail throughout the Image and the strong leading lines that draw the viewers eye to the well composed position of the POI the Anchored Boat ... Contrasting with that is two more aspects which for me held it back from the higher award ... The first is a personal bias, the inclusion of the sun which is composed near the top right edge ... Although it's exposure has been well handled, it is for me in particular too distracting in that position ... The second has for me an obvious solution ... Was it necessary to include so much space around the POI the Boat ... For me cropping in from the right and down from the top would have made this an Honour ... But again that is just me, someone else may not mind such a presentation ... Well done for what you did achieve.

Autumn Sunrise On The Lake

The final Merit Award is the sort of Image that falls into the realm of one of the many Quotes by Ansel Adams: - 'THERE ARE NO RULES IN PHOTOGRAPHIC ART – JUST GOOD PHOTOS' ... Again a simple arrangement using the effects of the weather to isolate two areas of Silhouetted Trees ... The dominant Group on the left bottom third, is balanced in a slight juxtaposition by a smaller group all of which is composed against a WOW Factor of perhaps a Sunrise/set Colour backlighting the receding tones of defusing mist ... If the bright area in the top left corner could have been controlled in Post Processing, the Image may well have received the higher Award ... Well seen and captured, well done .

HONOURS.

Approaching Storm

To me this would be the 'Image of the Night' if there was such an Award ... Such a simple Scape with a minimalist POI composed in the strongest way possible on one of the dominant 'Thirds' which just happens to be in the brightest spot of the Composition ... All of which is set against a Dramatic Sky ... The composition of the darkest part of the sky is also a great leading line to guide the viewers eye to that POI ... How sweet is that ??? Congratulations ... Well done to the Author.