

GLADSTONE CAMERA CLUB

Many thanks for the Invitation and Honour to adjudicate and critique your Images ...

Just returned from the Easter Break at the headwaters of the Brisbane River ...

Joined in with the Peninsula Camera Club from Redcliffe @ Camp Duck – A - Dang ...

Attached are a couple of Images I made during the weekend ...

One is A Self Portrait in case you forget what I look like when I cannot sleep ...



The other gives some idea why we like that area ... Great opportunities for Images with Fog ...

For those who don't know me/remember me from my visit last year after the PSQ Convention at Yeppoon, I love how people try to use Light to make meaningful Images ... Particularly Side and Back lit Images ... With that sort of control we become Artists trying to create an Image with a sense of Depth and Perspective in their work ... Side Lighting provides a sense of shape and texture, Back Lighting provides a sense of three dimensional depth and perspective to ones Subjects/Images because of the shadows that project towards the camera and in themselves also can be a leading line ... Any time a leading line is introduced to the Composition, an Author who takes the time to think/plan what they intend to create, will be able to use that/those leading lines to convey the narrative of the story and connect the viewer with the POI as well ... Lighting that comes from behind the Photographer will help to make pleasing Images that are a nice record of an occasion but they're generally not considered to be Significant ... So let's see what Images have been submitted for this meeting.

NATURE COLOUR

The first Image titled **FAREWELL** is a study of a Whale frolicking ... I have not had the opportunity to even see a whale, let alone be as close to capture a study which has been well handled in contrasty conditions ... From Images on line I gather you were fortunate to be this close ... The very nature of the conditions - which are often beyond your control - means that you grab the moment as best you can ... unfortunately on this occasion the lighting was not ideal, so you did well to get what we see now, so congratulations for that.

Flat out like a Lizard is the study of **LAZING AROUND** ... It appears to be a young Water Dragon which can be difficult subjects to photograph well ... But if this is in an area frequented by people, it is surprising how close one can get sometimes ... The Image is sharp where it needs to be, the exposure has been well controlled although some shadow adjustments would have improved this result ... After a study like this my suggestion would be to then try for more studies - we refer to that as "Working the Subject" - to improve on what we already have ... On this occasion that would be getting down lower and closer to the subject so you have the opportunity to fill the frame more ... If the file size allowed, cropping the Image to present a closer study may have gained this one of the awards.

Well done to the author for being in close to fill the frame for the study of an orchid in **ORCHID HEART** ... The Labellum is often the most intricate and beautiful aspect that attracts people to them and is certainly the case with this one ... The Aperture of F2.8 helps to isolate the Labellum from the petals, but it lacks the 'Depth Of Focus' to bring all of it into sharp focus ... This sort of subject needs the assistance of a tripod [turn off the anti-shake system when using a tripod] to ensure sharp images ... An f8/11 Aperture would have been a better choice and in using a 5D SR, the 50 mp would have sufficient definition to get closer with a heavier crop to feature it better, than the 100 mm Macro allowed.

It's not easy to get an **OVERHEAD** view of a white subject against a white background, and it is even more so when it is an unpredictable bird in flight ... The Image is stunningly sharp, I love the Back Lighting/Contre Jour effect on the trailing feathers of the wings ... Placed centrally in the composition is fine if you like that sort of thing, but composed slightly lower in the frame would give that subliminal sense of the bird having more space to move into the scene ... Congratulations and well done to the Author.

The chosen Aperture for the **PORTRAIT OF A DRAGON** produced the lovely Bokeh of the diffused background ... The lighting is great for a Portrait and there is a great sense of shape and texture of the subject ... Everything went well until the shutter was released and then the Shutter Speed being less than the Reciprocal of Focal Length used, produced a slight degree of Camera Shake which has impacted on the Definition ... A good rule of thumb is to use a shutter speed that is at least as fast as the focal length used, if not use a higher ISO or a Tripod and turn off the Anti-Shake system. Something that I think would present it better is either crop to exclude all the leg or don't crop so tight and include all the leg.

Love the lighting on the Female Figbird in the final Image of this section, **WHAT THERE'S MORE** ... Placing the POI off to one side of the Composition is sound thinking, but I feel it was unnecessary to include as much space above the bird ... Cropping to reduce the space above by approximately 50% would be more pleasing IMHO. Nice and sharp, well exposed, well done.

PEOPLE MONO

The stern gaze by perhaps a senior officer of the Papal Swiss Guard at a subordinate, provides a connection which overrides what would normally be considered a Divided Interest Composition when two similar sized objects are composed at the same level ... The tonal range in **VATICAN** is good and the strong pattern of the uniform helps them stand out in the Palace environment. If one of the Guard had been viewed from an angle that made them larger in the Composition it would have become a stronger POI and Image IMHO. Well done.

The author appears to have deliberately included the Gondolier as a strong foreground interest which is good compositional practice ... However – if it were possible - the view would have been better from the other side of the Gondola because you then would have a chance of getting a clearer view of his face, as well he would be arranged with better space to face into the Composition instead of out of it as presented in this story of a **VENICE** scene ... The Image is sharp, well exposed, with good DOF.

LONDON is a view of a Royal Guard ... Well captured, with good tonal range, the Guard is gazing upward and could be the reason why the Author allowed more space above him in the Composition ... Personally though I think the space above him could be reduced by $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ for a stronger balance ... The composition would be even stronger still if the brick wall on the left had been cropped to the edge of his sleeve ... This would then mean he is centrally located but in this arrangement his dark uniform is so well exposed that he would be so dominant it wouldn't matter.

HOME MADE CHERROOTS in their culture is I guess similar to Roll Your Own in our culture ... The author has seen the potential for a great Social Documentary/Photo Travel study ... But for me the Composition with them both positioned on opposite edges of the Image Frame makes them more suited for cropping as individual studies, particularly the lady on the right ... Her face is an excellent choice for a great Character Study. To make a more complete and an even better story, combine the two in the one view but with the camera positioned more to the right for a slightly side view of the right hand lady and less of a gap between the two ... Again good tonal range ... Well done.

MUM'S KISS a wonderful moment of Mum enjoying a tender fun moment with her children ... I think the camera positioned further to the right would be a better angle without Mum looking at the camera ... From that angle it is more a Social Documentary moment than just a nice Family Album type of moment ... Facial tones look to be a touch too bright, particularly on the forehead ... Selective adjustments can easily be made in LR or ACR now, to control small areas like that ... The lighting looks to be bounced lighting off the ceiling of the room or something similar [which is fine] but the angle of reflectance has been highlighted on the forehead ... Otherwise well captured.

PIPER a study of a person in Scottish Attire beside the water's edge playing the Bagpipes is technically well captured, but I feel arranging the Harbour elements in the background is distracting when there has been no context included for the study as well ... In other words the story is not complete ... It needs context in this sort of situation ... If it is meant to be just a simple portrait of the man doing what he enjoys, the environment needs to be one that is less distracting. Well done otherwise.

SINGING NUNS is a good cultural study showing time and place ... The tonal range is excellent and I like the fact you have composed them so that one can still see the environment also ... It may not be possible to capture them without being bunched up so much, so it may be unreasonable to make this comment, but I feel it would be a stronger Image if the scene didn't seem so cluttered.

The title **WAITING FOR SUNSET** explains the reason for the boats and people being all bunched together, but without the title it is another Image that requires something to give it Context ... Again the exposure is good and there is good tonal range, but if an Image could have been made when a couple of boats had been closer to the Author and cameras were in plain sight, then there is context and a POI for the viewer's eye to focus on and rest ... At the moment this composition has the eye constantly wondering and nowhere to rest.

The final Image, **WE'VE LANDED** is not the impression I get from this capture ... It looks more like the passengers are waiting for blast off with their Mobile Phones at the ready ... It is well captured and I see it as a good study for inclusion in a sequence such as an AV where a whole series of Images tell a more detailed story than a single Image could possibly do ... But as a single Image, there needs to be more dynamic/dramatic action such as the burners being fired I feel.

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April Nature & People Results.

NATURE COLOUR.

- 1ST** OVERHEAD.
- 2ND** PORTRAIT OF A DRAGON
- 3RD** WHAT THERE'S MORE
- HC** LAZING AROUND

PEOPLE MONO

- 1ST** VATICAN
- 2ND** SINGING NUNS
- 3RD** LONDON

Again many thanks for the Honour of being your PSQ Accredited Judge on this occasion ... Best Wishes to you all in your continuing Photographic Endeavours.

Cheers ... Bo B.

