

Theme: Reflections

Image Title	Judge Comments	Result
<p>Ferris Wheel</p>	<p>This is a vivid nighttime scene featuring a Ferris wheel, with its reflection prominently featured in a body of water in the foreground.</p> <p>The circular form of the Ferris wheel is subtly mirrored by the curved perimeter of the water's edge. This creates a harmonious repetition of form adding a sense of balance and symmetry.</p> <p>Both subject and reflection hold detail, keeping the viewer engaged and inclusion of the foreground water lends depth to the image.</p> <p>There appears to be a lack of definition and sharpness in features of the image. This could be due to capturing and/or downloading to a low resolution then overcropping. Check the settings on your camera/phone to confirm file size/image quality and when downloading for competition. The better-quality competition images are around the 1mb mark.</p> <p>Including an element on the shoreline such as silhouetted figure/s or other point of interest could strengthen the narrative.</p>	<p>Highly Commended</p>
<p>Reflections at Muttaborra Qld</p>	<p>The tree line and sunrise/sunset tones in the still lake create a sense of tranquillity.</p> <p>The warm colour palette from the sunrise/sunset evokes calm and the inclusion of the branches in the foreground adds depth.</p> <p>There's a painterly quality to the scene which enhances the mood.</p> <p>The Exposure is well-controlled, preserving details in the highlights and shadows and focus is crisp across key elements.</p> <p>The reflections of the trees contribute to the mood but due to a large section of negative space in the</p>	

	<p>water they're not featured prominently on the left-hand side of the frame and compete for the eye of the viewer with branches on the right. Capturing from a different shooting position and concentrating on a smaller area might have resulted in stronger adherence to the definition.</p> <p>Including a subtle human or wildlife element could enhance the narrative.</p>	
<p>On the Lake</p>	<p>The image effectively embraces the theme of reflections. The mirrored building and trees on the water's surface create a pleasing symmetry which is a strong point in this image.</p> <p>The rust-hued structure contrasts nicely against lush greenery evoking comparison between the man made and natural world.</p> <p>Exposure &amp; focus are well controlled lighting is gentle and even.</p> <p>Consider a wider crop to include more of the surrounding landscape or sky. This small adjustment could enrich the story and add environmental context.</p>	<p>Merit</p>
<p>Forest Reflection</p>	<p>This is a nicely seen and framed image.</p> <p>Colour harmony is strong: rich greens interplay with earthy tones of the tree trunks and soft light.</p> <p>The lack of man-made distractions allows the viewer to immerse completely in the natural dialogue above and below the waterline.</p> <p>Exposure is well controlled, preserving detail in highlights and shadows without introducing harsh contrast.</p> <p>Focus is appropriately deep, maintaining clarity throughout the layered elements (trees, water, background).</p> <p>The composition creates a frame with the forest features compelling the viewer's eye towards the</p>	<p>Merit</p>

	<p>bright blue section of the sky in the reflection. From here however the reflection loses its prominence and competes with other components for the viewer's attention.</p> <p>A lower camera angle might amplify the mirror effect and increase the prominence of the reflection.</p> <p>Slightly lifting the shadow detail in the reflection might increase its prominence within the frame.</p>	
Grazing	<p>The mirrored form of the deer in the water is conforms to the theme and adds to the composition.</p> <p>The soft natural palette and delicate posture of the deer offer a tranquil visual experience.</p> <p>Sharp focus on both subject and reflection maintains clarity, without disruption from ripples or distortion.</p> <p>Exposure and lighting are handled nicely with no harsh shadows or blown out highlights.</p> <p>Cropping is a bit tight however, not allowing much breathing room above the deer. Consider a wider crop to incorporate more environment to add depth and balance.</p> <p>The transition between the sky and grasses appears uneven and sharp. Small sections of ground have been removed and replaced with the same sky colour making it noticeable amongst the greens and browns of the ground. Whilst this breaks with the realistic appearance, I respect the photographer's efforts to experiment with their processing methods. This is a sure path to improvement. A reasonable choice has been made with the sky replacement colour but it could benefit from some texture or minor background detail so it appears less flat. With a few adjustments, the potential for a more compelling result is there. Some practice softening mask</p>	

	edges using refined feathering and edge-aware adjustments (like Photoshop's Select and Mask with "Refine Hair") would help create more realistic transition between elements.	
Power Station Sunset	<p>The symmetrical composition elevates the reflection from background detail to a central narrative subject implying themes of stability and quiet contemplation.</p> <p>The cool night palette punctuated by the warm red lights on the chimneys creates compelling contrast, leading the eye up and down through both reality and reflection.</p> <p>The centred horizon ensures balance, allowing the viewer to appreciate the symmetry without distraction.</p> <p>The reflection is nicely framed by the silhouetted trees on the shoreline and to the right with the leading lines of the chimneys ensuring the viewer's eyes are drawn to the reflection.</p> <p>The image retains sharpness throughout with the starbursts of the lights indicating a mid-range or smaller aperture has been used ensuring an effective depth of field.</p> <p>There is minimal visible grain in the darker areas indicating ISO has been well handled.</p> <p>To improve the image, I would capture a couple more exposures (one slightly longer, another slightly shorter) and layer these in Photoshop or similar software. This would bring out more detail in the darks of the tree lines and reduce the small blown out spots of white light. Alternatively, you could create a mask over the dark tree line and increase the shadow slider (in Lightroom or similar) to bring out more detail in this area.</p>	Merit
Egyptian Goose	The mirrored profile of the Egyptian Goose drinking at the water's edge creates a peaceful and contemplative mood. The reflection acts as both an aesthetic feature and a narrative component,	

	<p>enhancing the connection between the subject and its environment.</p> <p>The creams, browns and orange feathers of the goose compliment well with the muted earth tones. Natural light works well, and it's nicely focused with the bird and its reflection being sharp.</p> <p>The visual weight of the muddy background pulls attention from the subject, however. This combined with the area of negative space and lack of detail in the water below and to the left of the goose creates a visual imbalance, making the image appear top heavy. More detail or colour in the water may have reduced the imbalance.</p> <p>I believe a crop from the base of frame to midway between the bottom of the reflection, a similar amount from the top of frame and from the left, would strengthen the balance by increasing the prominence of the reflection within the frame.</p>	
<p>Escape Route</p>	<p>The orange ladder mirrored in the water is the strongest narrative element in the frame, inducing an idea of transition, entry or escape? The juxtaposition of the ladder against a worn stone wall and graffiti adds layers: urban comment meets orderly ascent. It complies well with the definition, as the reflection is not just visible, it contributes to the mood and storytelling.</p> <p>The bright orange ladder against subdued stone tones works nicely to draw the viewer's eye and creates symmetry, anchoring visual movement from top to bottom.</p> <p>The image is nicely exposed, though the shadowed area could be lifted slightly for more detail without losing mood. Crisp focus on both the subject and its reflection has been achieved.</p> <p>The vertical ladder as a central line is effective, but the tight crop near the top of the frame makes the scene feel slightly confined.</p>	<p>Merit</p>

	<p>A wider crop or slight rotation might allow for more environmental storytelling. For example, showing hints of sky or more bridge architecture to ground the scene.</p>	
Calm Harbour	<p>This image has a strong alignment with the definition. The harbor's still water acts as a natural mirror, offering a beautiful duplication of the boats and buildings.</p> <p>The reflection adds dimension, echoing the tranquillity of the harbor and inviting viewers to consider dual perspectives of reality vs. reflection.</p> <p>The image is pleasingly symmetrical, with the mirrored elements creating visual rhythm. The layered depth from boats in the foreground to hillside in the back guides the eye gently across the frame.</p> <p>Vibrant boat hues pop against the cooler tones of water and hillside. The colour repetition in the reflection subtly reinforces the composition.</p> <p>There is a calm and contemplative mood, thanks to the stillness and absence of human activity. The image encourages quiet reflection, figuratively and literally.</p> <p>Sharp focus of both real and reflected elements ensures the reflection reads as intentional rather than incidental.</p> <p>Exposure is well-balanced, with details maintained in both shadows and highlights.</p> <p>The orange buoy on the left between the blue and red hulled boats and the section of white in the water from the roof's reflection, draw the viewer's eye. Slightly cropping from the left to just beyond the buoy could tighten the composition and remove minor distractions drawing the viewer more decisively into the core of the image. Whilst</p>	Honour

	this is a minor adjustment it is worth considering if entering higher levels of competition.	
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