

High Key

Image Title	Judge Comments	Result
Allocauarina Sky	This is an interesting image and is definitely high key. The patterns in the clouds are very attractive and tend to draw the eye away from the tree. In general casuarinas tend to be quite scruffy, and it would be worth looking around for a tree with more visual appeal. The challenging light conditions present when taking an image like this have led to the clouds being slightly overexposed while the shadows in the trees are very dark and have lost all detail. There is a streetlight and presumably part of a roof in the lower left corner which need to be either cropped or cloned out. The idea behind this image is sound and with a few modifications it could be much stronger.	Highly commended
Flower in the Clouds	This agapanthus is pin sharp and stands out well against the light background. Presenting it in narrow portrait format is good, although including all of the flower head would be worth trying. It would also be worth cloning out the 'droopy bit' at the bottom of the flower on the right, which because of the angle it is on almost looks like it is from another flower head. It is however a lovely high key image.	Merit
Flower	This is quite a striking image of a very attractive artificial flower, made more so by the softly smudged background and the double border. The light source has been set up on the left, resulting in some very light areas on that side and some shadowing on the right. These shadows however are not deep and the image can be regarded a high key image. There are some very white areas behind the top left quadrant of the flower which look as if they could have occurred in post processing – it would be worth softening these so they do not have such a defined outline. Overall it is a very attractive and well presented image.	Merit
Heart	This is beautiful and must have been done by the author of 'Flower' as it has the same double border. Great work – this is a excellent high key image.	Honour
Stormy Seas	This is quite a striking image but it is debatable as to whether or not it is a high key image, as that brooding sky gives a dark and dramatic impression rather than a light and airy one. The wreck is very dark and lightening it a little would show more detail. The clouds are fascinating with all their patterns and textures. It is interesting that the tyre tracks in the sand, which are faint leading lines, take the eye to the dark cloud rather than to the wreck.	Acceptance

Wrecked at Mahino	This is a well composed image that has had a little work done on it to make it high key, but it hasn't been done as well as it could be. The clouds at the top have quite an unrealistic colour from lifting the highlights, and the misting of the top of the wreck has missed the 'pole' that is sticking up. I would revisit this one in post processing, or alternatively go out and take it again in different light.	Acceptance
Delicate	This dandelion is sharp where it needs to be is well positioned centrally in the image. However the image has a light subject with a darker background and it doesn't fit into a high key category as the background should be lighter or brighter than the subject in a high key image. A simple way of looking at it is to remember that high key photography includes a white or light background, whereas low key photography includes a black or dark background. High key photography is bright and airy, whereas low key photography tends to be dark and dramatic.	Acceptance
Emerald Lake	This is a lovely high key landscape image. My only suggestion is that the image would be stronger if it was not cropped so close on the right – allowing the same area between the trees and the edge would balance it more, even if there is something in the background. Great work.	Merit
Flexing	This is a good subject for a high key image, and the texture in the background is enough to give context. The bird is slightly soft. The image needs to be straightened as it is tilted down on the left – the water lines in the reflection should be horizontal as water lines are flat and straight, no matter what the shape of the reflection is.	Highly Commended
Beach Mangrove	This is an interesting subject for an image, but in this instance it has lost context. There are very faint water lines in the background, but every other feature has been removed, making the clump of mangroves look as if it is floating in the air. High key does not necessitate a completely white background – soft tones are ok, as are reflections, which are different from shadows. There is a suggestion of a reflection on the far right, but all the other reflections appear to have been edited out, which makes it look a little odd, because there is a very sharp line of demarcation between the roots and the water. There are some distracting lines and debris in the bottom half of the image that were probably textures in the water. It would be good to revisit this image and make it a little more realistic by restoring some of the natural features.	Acceptance

Faking It	An apt title – although at first glance this could be mistaken for a real magnolia flower. Focus is good and there are minimal shadows, although the small area of textured surface under part of the flower is in shadow and does tend to draw the eye simply because it is 'different'. However this is an attractive image that is definitely high key.	
Petals	This is just beautiful – simple, elegant – a great image.	Honour
Tibouchina	This is a magical image with beautiful composition and lovely soft colours. Excellent work.	Honour
Banksia	This close up image of a banksia flower is sharp but because these flowers are so complex being this close to the it has taken away the beauty of the flower, and presenting it in monochrome does not really help this. It meets the requirements of a high key image, but this flower would be better presented in colour so it's beauty can be appreciated. There is a dark area on one of the stems in the upper left corner that is a distraction and would be better removed; if you are going to present it in colour it would be better to give a little room at the bottom so the entire flower is in the image.	Acceptance
Water Front	This is a high key image which has a lot of interesting things to look at. Exposure has been very well handled so the image is light but the colours are retained without being too washed out. The piers look quite odd, especially the two second from the right, where one is leaning drunkenly and there is no pier cap visible. The horizon is crooked and this needs correction, and the image is a little soft throughout. In spite of this it is actually quite striking.	Highly Commended