

Open Theme

Image Title	Judge Comments	Result
Alley Cat	Great graffiti on the walls here and some good strong colours showing up in the streetlight. I'm not sure whether it is supposed to be a street shot or a portrait of the lady but I like the angle you have shot this at. I would like to have been able to see further down the road though. If you use a small f stop such as f16 you will get starbursts around the lights and they won't be so blown out.	Acceptance
Angles	Good architectural shot highlighting all those angles. This is another image which might work well in black and white as the colour here does not really add anything. There is rather a big expanse of plain wall – maybe changing your position a little would have enabled you to get more detail in.	Acceptance
Cascades	Great little waterfall, taken with a slow enough shutter speed to blur some of the water movement but still with enough speed to show the lovely falls over the steps. I would suggest a slight rotation to the right to make the bottom step more horizontal. That might also eliminate the bit of fence at the top of the waterfall, which spoils the natural look.	Highly commended
Forest Trail	This looks an interesting path through the woods and I love the mossy ground. The path creates a great leading line, taking the viewer all through the image and the portrait orientation helps that story. You needed to use a smaller f stop though as the foreground and distance are very soft. Don't be afraid to raise your ISO in low light conditions and you can always reduce any noise in your post processing.	Acceptance
Graffiti	The graffiti itself should not really be the subject of your image as that is someone else's artwork. However in this image you have some potentially interesting architectural features with the vertical pillars and the horizontal lines leading one along the wall. I think if you had stood back a little and concentrated on those aspects that would have made a better image.	Acceptance
Melbourne Alleyway	Your title says that this is an alleyway but it seems more like quite a busy street. The red light reflections on the road are interesting but the top half of the image is rather over-exposed. Perhaps a slow shutter speed would have worked here to get some light trails. You could try a linear gradient mask on the top half and reduce the exposure.	Acceptance
On guard duty	Lovely shot of a meerkat on the lookout for danger. You have placed him well in the frame, allowing space for him to look into but I would suggest cropping some of the bottom which is out of focus and not really necessary. The background is nicely blurred and there is good detail in the fur but the head and eye are rather soft. Make sure you always focus on the eye when photographing animals, birds or people.	Merit

Rhino	What a magnificent animal – I love the tufts of hair on it's ears and you even have a catchlight in the eye. I like that you have zoomed right in to get lots of detail but I would suggest cropping in even further to just include the face, horns and ears. That would exclude the out-of-focus rail on the left. I would also raise the shadows so that we can see more of his face.	Highly Commended
Sing your heart out	This girl is obviously singing with lots of passion and you have caught her at a perfect moment. However the background rather spoils the image as it is overwhelming the performers. Always think about the background when deciding where to place yourself as that is something you cannot easily change afterwards.	Acceptance
Times Two	The brickwork itself could potentially make a good image of patterns, particularly with that lovely colour. However the artwork may be interesting but it belongs to someone else and this is merely a record of their work.	Acceptance
Blush of Twilight	There is some lovely light in this image, with the golden colour in the sky reflected in the ground water. The trees make a good foreground with the brown field the focus of attention in the middle distance and the hills in the distance. The image, though, is a little wide, with so many trees in the foreground my eyes are drawn from one side to the other with no real subject to settle on and it might be worth cropping the right hand third away just leaving three main trees. I would also remove the stump between the left two trees.	Highly Commended
Light Sphere	Lovely abstract image which reminds me of a time exposure of satellites orbiting the earth. Beautiful complimentary colours set off by the black background. I would happily have that on my wall.	Honour
Mountain Trail	This looks a rather barren and chilly part of the world, with no trees and snow not far away. I like that you have the road leading the viewer through the valley and into the distance. I would suggest perhaps cropping some of the sky and you could also try it in mono as then you could really increase the contrast, the blacks and the whites. You could also highlight the road more so that it is more prominent.	Merit