

Theme: Minimalism

Image Title	Judge Comments	Result
This is Trumby beach days	The wide-open spaces and expansive sky provide a strong foundation for a minimalist image, and the inclusion of the dog introduces a clear narrative while helping to establish scale. By moving in low and allowing the dog to dominate the frame, there remains no negative space, an important element of minimalism. A wider perspective, with the dog occupying a much smaller portion of the frame, would better represent the genre and enhance the sense of space. Reducing or removing some of the distracting beach elements would also strengthen the simplicity. The monochrome conversion was a thoughtful choice and works well to limit the colour palette.	Acceptance
Walking the Beach	This image makes effective use of negative space, and the monochrome treatment supports the minimalist theme well. However, the number of elements present slightly dilutes the simplicity, and the image may have been stronger with a single person or dog as the sole subject. Including more sky and reducing the out-of-focus foreground could help create a cleaner, more open canvas. Shooting from a low angle adds a strong sense of perspective and contributes positively to the overall story.	Highly Commended
Dune Walker	The elegant curve of the dune, contrasted against the light background, creates a beautifully simple and effective setting for a minimalist photograph. The use of a single subject is both powerful and emotionally engaging. From a compositional standpoint, placing the subject closer to third - perhaps by cropping slightly from the left, may result in a more balanced and pleasing frame. The strong black and white tones are an excellent choice and suit the subject perfectly.	Merit
Harbour Sunset	The broad expanse of water provides a calming sense of negative space and sets a peaceful mood. Unfortunately, the highlights from the setting sun are blown out, which draws attention away from the intended subject. A slightly lower shooting angle, using the pylon to partially obscure the sun, may have helped control the highlights while allowing the structure to stand out more clearly. A longer	Acceptance

	<p>exposure could also have been considered to smooth the water and enhance the ethereal quality of the scene. A scene with lots of potential.</p>	
<p>Raindrops</p>	<p>This is a simple and effective subject that suits the minimalism theme well. The reflective droplet is the clear focal point and carries strong visual interest. While the mottled background frames the subject, a plainer backdrop may have better reinforced the minimalist intent. Lifting some of the shadow detail in the stick could improve tonal balance. The central placement of the droplet works well in this instance and feels appropriate.</p>	<p>Highly Commended</p>
<p>The Submarine</p>	<p>This is a wonderfully suited subject for minimalism, with just a sliver of nose, ears and eyes emerging from the water to spark curiosity. The soft, milky water provides effective negative space, although the processing does make the water feel slightly unnatural and could be refined. The composition is strong, with the subject positioned nicely on the thirds. If possible, an even wider framing might have further enhanced the sense of space and simplicity.</p>	<p>Highly Commended</p>
<p>Low Tide</p>	<p>The harmonious blue tones of the sky and water, broken by the white sandbar, create a calm and visually pleasing minimalist scene. The lone channel marker adds a subtle narrative element, although its proximity to the edge of the frame slightly weakens the composition. Exploring an alternative placement—or excluding it altogether—may have strengthened the image. The panoramic crop works well, though incorporating more open sky could also have been effective for the Minimalism subject. Overall, the restrained colour palette, the alluring lines and shapes and simplicity convey a strong sense of tranquility.</p>	<p>Merit</p>
<p>Sunset over Mt Larcom</p>	<p>The warm orange hues of the sunset contrasted against the silhouetted landform create a soothing and well-balanced image. The thin crescent of the moon adds an extra layer of interest and narrative without detracting from the overall calm. The image might benefit from a subtle border, as the edges blend into the surrounding dark tones and are difficult to distinguish. Still a wonderful minimalist scene well captured</p>	<p>Honour</p>

Lone penguin	<p>The combination of a single subject, generous negative space and a limited colour palette works very well for a minimalist image. The sand appears slightly unnatural, possibly due to reduced clarity, though it still functions effectively as open space. The penguin is well exposed, and I love the subtle splash and lifted foot that bring a sense of movement. From a compositional perspective, capturing the penguin moving into the frame may have created a stronger sense of direction and flow</p>	Merit
Preening	<p>The clean blue sky provides an excellent backdrop for a minimalist composition. Positioning the bird in the lower corner creates a simple and pleasing arrangement. The image may have been even stronger with the bird's tail angled to the side and more eye contact with the camera. Removing some of the out-of-focus twigs would further simplify the scene and help the minimalist tone. Suits the minimalist subject matter well with a well-intentioned and strong capture.</p>	Merit