

Theme: **Open** FRAN MCFADZEN

Title	Comments	Result
As proud as	Aren't Peacocks the most amazing display of feathers you have ever seen? This is a good photo of the display, great colour, well composed, and technically proficient. I just wish it had turned its face towards the right. That is the side where all of the looking room is, so as a viewer, we instinctively think that someone might be creeping up on it. Many of our responses to images and how we understand them is because we have learned "film language", so that we are able to decode the meaning of movies. Might be useful to keep that in mind when you are working on getting an image to tell a story.	Merit
Dune Grass	Very trendy, is ICM. This is a good one and I see it was taken at the beach, but might be an idea to not use the technique too often in camera club competitions. Main reason is that many PSQ Judges are a bit averse to creativity does not tell a story or evoke an emotion. Me, I am happy to accept that this is art, and I'm not going to tell Da Vinci how to paint.	Merit
Ladies in White	Also an ICM, but can I point out that this one has a story and it is much more suggestive and open to individual interpretation. What I see is three ghosts in long ragged filmy sheaths, on a journey into the darkness. It makes me wonder who they are haunting or where they are bound. The greyscale conversion supports the mystery and premonition of things to come because we cannot clearly see any colour cues that might distract us from letting our imaginations run wild.	Honour
Morning Mist	The image makes me feel cold (good for prompting a response in the viewer). I think it is the mist and the muted greens that are giving this impression. Your composition is exemplary, and technical skills are obvious. Might I suggest you open this copy of your image in Photoshop then go to Filter/Camera Raw Filter/ and click the "Auto" button at the top. What the algorithm does is open up the exposure half a stop. Then add +15 to the contrast and see the difference. In my opinion, your image really pops then. That Auto button is a good trick. I use it often, then decide whether I will use its suggestion or not.	Merit
Morning Fog of Autumn	Pleasant pastoral scene. For some reason the music "Morning has Broken" by Cat Stevens, came into my head when I opened your image. (Yeah, yeah, I'm showing my age now...) You have captured the fog well, and I like that I can still see the mountains in the background. It looks as if you have taken the scene over a fence on the side of the road. I think that because if you were allowed to advance into the paddock, you might have gone closer to the trees and cattle, or featured something interesting for the foreground. Nevertheless, it is a good effort, and you didn't even get your feet very wet.	Highly Commended

Nature's Lamp Post	OMG, you thought about doing this image for quite a while, I suspect. The placement of the moon and the inclusion of the earth shadow (blue shadow of earth rises against the pink atmosphere as the sun goes down) makes the image seem very well planned. One tiny suggestion, I might have focused on the building instead of the moon. When you are shooting the moon, you can rely on the hyperfocal distance to pull the moon into focus if you have the building sharp.	Merit
Covid Effects	Empty street, empty tables, I can see why you called it Covid Effects. Your management of the lighting is excellent. Areas of interest are lit, and the rest falls off into the shadows. It is very evocative. Now a processing suggestion. (Feel free to ignore it.) I see you have chosen a portrait oriented 6x4 aspect for your image. To me, it looks too narrow for the subject it holds. Here is another trick I use. Open it in your post production software, and choose "image Size". You should have two boxes, one for height one for width, with a lock on them so that if you change one, the other one is kept in relationship. Undo the lock, change the measurement from inches or pixels or whatever to Percentage. Change the width to 120%. The image is now wider but completely undistorted.	Merit
Frans Josef Glacier	Your image has a spectacular amount of fine detail as well as being beautifully composed within the encompassing clouds. I am in awe because you have either climbed up the mountain or have taken it from an aircraft. Either method demonstrates your skill and determination.	Honour
Come Closer	I find the flower or seed heads fascinating, and the gradations of colour from greens in the centre, radiating outwards into pinks and then purples intriguing. Use of narrow depth of field which picks up only the tops of the flower/seeds also adds mystery to the image. It is so different. I love seeing something that I can't work out. Thanks for the challenge.	Honour
Pretty in Pink	Oops, your flowers have exploded. Now that is going to make a mess. This image is so creative, and unlike any treatment I have ever seen before. Well done for expressing so much individuality. It is truly a piece of art.	Honour
Archie	Great close up of the dog. You have caught his expression very well, but I have no doubt that someone has shown him FOOD. No wonder he is fixated on whatever is just off screen. The composition is excellent, with his portrait nicely balanced within the frame and good looking room. The eye is sharp, as required for critters, but for improvement, perhaps increase the depth of field so that more of him is in focus. And if you are seeking perfection, Archie needs some backlight to pick out the top edges of his nose and head so we can clearly see where he begins and the background ends.	Highly Commended

Music is Dance	I can see that you have positioned and posed the violinist specifically for this image. Both strategies have worked well. She is well framed within the image and the background is subtle enough not to intrude. What has let you down is your attention to lighting. There is light coming from behind her (curtained windows) and from the right which we can see on the violin. But because she is in a dark dress, she needs light on the front of her as well, so we can see more detail. Keep up the good work.	Highly Commended
Hello Sunshine	The centre of your daisy with its little blue florets is beautiful. The very narrow depth of field works well in conjunction with the complimentary colours within the flower and the diverse range of greens in the background. The composition works well, and the lighting has really enhanced the whole effect.	Merit
Medieval Bridge	Wow, I am really impressed with the concrete arch this bridge has under the stonework. I suspect some serious reconstruction has been done. The image is well framed by foreground stones and background trees and the smoothness of the surface of the water tells me that it is a time exposure. Well done you. The light is rather dim, so I wonder which rainy country it was taken in. If you wanted to curb that intrinsic dullness of the image, try the trick I mentioned for Morning Mist where I suggested trying Filter/Camera Raw Filter/ and clicking on Auto.	Merit