

Theme: Open

Title	Comments	Result
A Long 8 seconds	<p>This is a great action shot and you have done well to capture it. The cloud of dust and dirt show how much movement there is. The expressions on the observers' faces add impact. There are a couple of blown out areas but overall you have handled the exposure very well – it can be a challenge in bright light like this. The image is pin sharp throughout, which is also quite an achievement under these conditions. It's a good image – well done.</p>	MERIT
Capturing the Sunset	<p>This is a very well composed and attractive image – positioning yourself so the setting sun is behind the statue allows us to still see the golden light without looking at the glare of the sun. There is a little colour noise in the sky (magenta) and the statue is grainy indicating that the shadows have been lifted in post processing. The high contrast lighting in a situation like this is difficult to deal with – the statue would have been quite dark with all the light coming from behind it. Graduated ND filters or exposure bracketing can be of benefit here. Using a reflector to deflect light back onto the statue would also work, and would give it a golden tint. You have done well to take this image and process it the way you have. If you the opportunity to revisit this area it would be worth experimenting with some of the techniques I have mentioned.</p>	HC
Meal Time	<p>This is a beautiful, sharp, well exposed and well composed image – there is nothing more to say other than I wonder what the meal is – perhaps it is better not to know!</p>	HONOUR
Mountain Stream	<p>This is another beautiful and restful image. Composition, exposure and colour are excellent. There are all sorts of things to look at, so it catches the attention and holds it. The long exposure has created lovely silky water movement. The image looks as if it could be tilted down to the left ever so slightly – there are a couple of areas where I would have expected the water to be absolutely horizontal. Check this against the grid lines – it is only a fraction. Great work.</p>	MERIT
Raceday Focus	<p>Concentration indeed – and it only requires one eye and eyebrow to convey this to the viewer. Presenting it in black and white has removed all colour distractions. Two relatively minor issues could be easily fixed by some judicious cropping – one is the object at the top of the image; the other is the blown out area on the right. Making this a tighter image will not detract from it at all; and removing those two distractions will strengthen it.</p>	HC
Sweet Treats	<p>This is a great photo of the most delicious looking food. You couldn't have chosen a better colour for the plate – it complements the food beautifully. The important element (the food!) in this image is sharply in focus while both the fore and</p>	HC

	backgrounds are soft – this directs the eye to the centre of focus. The discordant part of this image is the blue reflection on the table / bench, which has a hard outline especially on the left. There is also an area under the plate which carries through the grain of the wood but has not been tinted – these two things look slightly unrealistic. Unless there is glass or a similar surface over the wood reflections like that would not occur. It would be preferable to not have a reflection that is blue; if anything a natural small shadow would do.	
Absent Landlord	What a contrast – the delicate dew covered strands of the spider web against the rusty old wire fence. The background is beautiful and the dew droplets really stand out against the green. Exposure and composition are good. The droplets are sharp and having them sitting on the web illustrates how complex and beautiful spider webs can be. Good work.	HC
Fight for the Ball	This is another great action shot with only the two main players being in focus. The other players are soft and in the background, which makes the image stronger. Colour is good as is exposure. You have done well with this image.	HC
Forking Flame	This is a fascinating and creative image with great colours and composition. It makes the viewer think and is well conceived and executed. Great work.	HC
Star Cinnamon	This is a great image of cinnamon sticks and star anise, which complement each other not only photographically but in cooking as well. It is sharp where it needs to be, has an attractive neutral background and the spices are well placed. The only thing I would think about is what it is sitting on. It looks as if you have tried to soften the end of it, giving rise to the line along the bottom of the image. This is an image where having the spices sitting in the middle of a flat surface rather than right up against the edge would be better. I would experiment with this because you will be able to make this into a spectacular image with a few modifications.	HC
Taking Off	This is an excellent panning shot which has the subject in sharp focus against a 'moving' background. Exposure is good, the colour of the background is great, and the lettering on the plane is all clearly able to be read. You have done this extremely well - this is great work.	HONOUR
Workmans Beach	This is a beautiful, restful scene. It is well composed, sharp, and the colours are just lovely – the orange of the clouds is reflected in the water. It's the sort of place where one would go to enjoy the peace and watch the sun set or rise. There is something strange going on with one of the clouds in the upper left corner – it appears to have been double stamped so it is probably an addition - this needs to be corrected. At the same time you need to clone out the large sensor spot that is also in that corner.	HC

Covid Effects	<p>What a great image of a beautiful old building. The lighting is just right to highlight the open-air dining tables and chairs while leaving the building a little darker, creating an atmosphere of romance. It is a beautifully executed image that is well presented and a pleasure to look at. The only thing you need to do is fix the sky – clone out the lighter areas in the sky on the right and the darker area in the sky right at the roof edge – just to the left of centre at the upper border of the image. I am giving this image an honour in spite of these small sky issues because in every other way it is an excellent image.</p>	HONOUR
Frans Josef Glacier	<p>This is a rugged area that is well presented in this image, which shows the cold and unfriendly environment in all its majestic splendour. It's a fascinating look at something we do not have in this country. The image itself is sharp and well exposed. It would be worth slightly lifting the shadows in the bottom left corner – only enough to lighten it a little and bring out the textures in the vegetation.</p>	MERIT
Come Closer	<p>This is an image of what looks like a Leucospermum, or pincushion protea, which is a fascinating flower when looked at normally, and even more so from this close up angle. The colours are soft and attractive and the foreground stamens are sharp. There are no shadows – the lighting is excellent. It's a lovely image – well done.</p>	MERIT
Pretty in Pink 21	<p>You have created a lovely still life in which the flowers and background actually look hand painted. The colours are attractive. Originally I thought the entire left side of the vase was blown out but it has a pink tinge so I suspect it was a created effect. There is a light line at the left end of the shelf that creates quite an abrupt transition from the wallpaper to the shadow under the ledge – it that needs to be cloned out as that transition needs to be softer. You could try bringing in both side edges to decrease the amount of dead space on the sides – it is fine as it stands but a small side crop would strengthen the image. It's a very interesting image – well done.</p>	HC