

e FLASH



JUNE 2023

WWW.PRETORIAPHOTOGRAPHIC.CO.ZA



Red at night
Karin du Toit



Lines and shapes
Hendrik Grobbelaar



PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.pretoriaphotographic.co.za

PO Box 73056, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040

Photo-Vault-Online Entries

www.photovaultonline.com

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ORGANISATION	WEB-SITE LINK
Steve's Digicams (Reviews)	www.steves-digicams.com
Digital photography review	www.dpreview.com
Photoanswers (Practical Photography)	www.photoanswers.co.uk



PPS is affiliated with PSSA

FLASH

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NEW MEMBERS

Pine Pienaar our President is the contact for answers on new membership and the workings of the Pretoria Photographic Society. Contact Pine at president@pretoriaphotographic.co.za As per usual, the annual subscription fees are reduced by half for members who join after January.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

6 June 2023 Hybrid meeting	Photo Café @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 19H00
20 June 2023 Hybrid meeting	Formal meeting @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H45
Judges: May 2023	John Tapuch Rudi Pothas Dawid Mouton (NPC)

PROMOTIONS

1* to 2* Christelle Swart
2* to 3* Casper van Eck
3* to 4* Santie van Eck

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

PLEASE REMEMBER when you receive a promotion to update the Star Level on PhotovaultOnline before your next entry. These levels should just be a single digit: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

KNOWING YOUR STATUS IN STAR RATING

Photovault can now generate this information. Please verify your rating to ensure that Photovault is correct. We have had some teething problems. Contact Thelma van der Schyff @ ppsannouncements@gmail.com

END OF YEAR CATEGORIES 2023

The competition categories for the Junior and Senior streams are:

Landscapes	Outdoors scenes, seascapes, urban/cityscapes. Manipulation is allowed.
Visual Art Photography	Achieving an artistic effect through application of creative techniques.
Nature	Living, natural organisms (undomesticated) in their natural habitats. Plants and animals included. Excluded: Scenic/ landscapes/ cityscapes. <i>Images may not be manipulated and must conform to the PSSA Ethical Guidelines</i>
Macro and Floral	Includes both Macro (Close-up pictures of any subjects) and Floral (Flowers in their natural state or under controlled conditions)
Photojournalism	Newsworthy, story-telling pictures including sport. <i>Images may not be manipulated</i>
Portraits	Includes both Animal and Human portraits. Images may be manipulated.
Pictorial	Open category. It includes Architecture.
Monochrome	In this category the subject is totally open. Colour images will be disqualified.
Best of the Year	All category winners will compete automatically
Most Versatile Author	Entrants shall submit a panel of five (5) images each selected from five (5) different categories. These may include images entered for other awards, including monochrome images.
Most Golds and COM's	The member who achieved the most Gold and COM awards in monthly competitions, as recorded in the results of the competitions
Article for e-flash	Most articles written for the e-Flash
Photo Essay	The best photo essay entered in the competition

SET SUBJECTS 2023

MONTH	SET SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Patterns	A pattern in an image is a regularity within a scene. It is elements of the scene that repeat themselves in a predictable way. Patterns can be found everywhere and is commonly seen within shapes, colours or textures.
FEBRUARY	Fences or Gates	A fence or a gate must be the prominent feature of the image. It can also be more than one fence or gate.
MARCH	Perspective	A sense of depth or spatial relationship between objects within an image. Evoke a sense of scale and depth by changing the angle and position to be creative with the composition. Forced perspective as technique can also be used to make two or more objects appear smaller, larger, closer or further away than in reality.
APRIL	Smoke	Smoke must be the prominent feature of the image. Use smoke to create an atmosphere or special effect.
MAY	The Colour Red	The colour red must be the prominent feature of the image.
JUNE	Ice	Ice must be the prominent feature of the image. Ice can be represented as icy streams, freezing rain, icicles, snowflakes, ice cubes, frozen objects, etc.
JULY	Reflections	Any image that uses a reflective surface. Reflections in water, an image captured on a shiny surface, a person or object reflected in a window, reflection on a building, etc.
AUGUST	Industrial	Images of manufacturing plants, machinery, equipment, manufacturing processes, workers in action, shipyards, mines, tools in action.
SEPTEMBER	Street Photography	A genre that records everyday life in a public place. The very publicness of the setting enables the photographer to take candid pictures of strangers, often without their knowledge. The background of the image could improve the impact of the image.
OCTOBER	Macro Flowers	A zoomed-in shot of flower/s or part of it.

INNING THEMES 2023

MONTH	INNING THEME	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Something in the Kitchen	Images that can be recognized as taken in the kitchen
FEBRUARY	Still life mainly vegetables	Inanimate and creative images celebrating vegetables
MARCH	Food photography	Attractive, creative images of food.
APRIL	Pets	Pet/s must be the prominent feature of the image.
MAY	Shoes and Footwear alone or on a Person	Shoe/s or footwear must be the prominent feature of the image.
JUNE	Macro	A zoomed-in shot of any object, plant, insect, etc., or part of it.
JULY	Ant's Point of View	Subjects photographed from the same angle that an ant would see it
AUGUST	Two complementary colours as the main subject	Two complementary colours must be the prominent feature of the image. Complementary colours are colours on opposite sides of the colour wheel.
SEPTEMBER	Wet	Soaked with a liquid, rainy conditions, wet substances, etc., to be prominent features of the image.
OCTOBER	Portraits	Images that capture the personality, identity, soul and emotions of a person or group of people.

MONTHLY ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS:

Dear PPS club members

When entering your photos for the formal evenings, could you please do the following:

You are allowed **three entries** in either the Open category or Visual Art category, and **one entry** in the Set Subject category.

Only members who have judged the previous month are allowed to enter more images.

For your extra entries (workshop/outing/innings/resubmission) mark your entries as such:

Workshop:

Model in a red dress_W

Resubmission:

Sunset over the dam_RS

Outing: Newtown_O

Inning: Kitchen_I

RULES FOR OUTING AND INNINGS

In terms of a resolution taken at a General Meeting on 4 October 2022 members will have an option to enter either an Outings image or an Innings image as an additional entry during the monthly completion, as from 2023. This will ensure that members who are unable to attend a monthly outing to also have an opportunity to participate and embark on a creative challenge each month.

Members can enter either an Inning image or an Outing image, but not both.

Inning images can only be entered in the month specified for a specific topic, e.g., January – Something in the Kitchen

An outing image may also be entered in the month following the outing.

Only one image per inning or outing is allowed.

Clearly mark your image as _I for Innings and _O for Outings. E.g. Chasing each other O

SERVICE TO THE CLUB:

You can serve the club by providing two or more of the services listed below throughout the year. Remember you must provide **regular** service to the club for it to qualify.

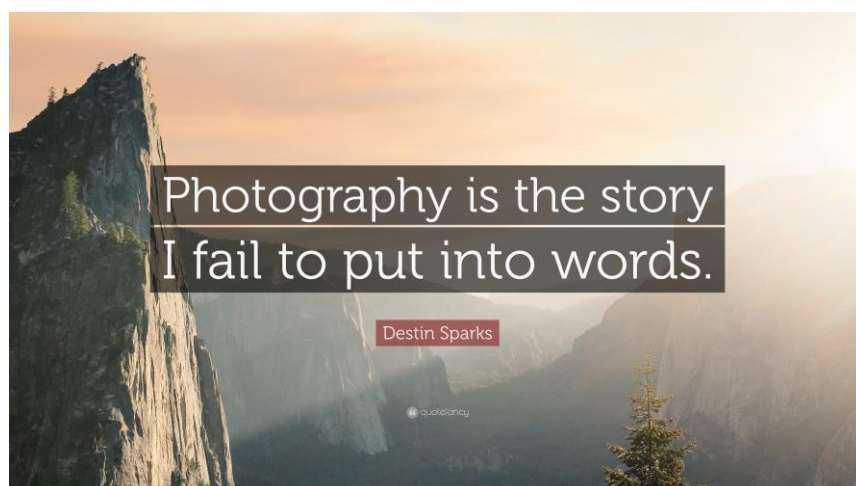
List of services:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judging at the monthly competitions.• Writing articles for the e-Flash.• Writing tutorials for the e-Flash.• Assisting with / hosting outings.• Assisting with / hosting workshops.• Assisting with / hosting tutorials. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing snacks and refreshments for informal meetings.• Organising a speaker or speaking yourself for either the informal or formal meetings.• Photographing the year-end function.• Organising the end of year function. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

NATIONAL SALON DATES 2023	
South African Visual Arts Society 3 rd National Salon	3 June 2023
PSSA National AV Salon	10 June 2023
2 nd Springs Photographic Club National Digital Salon	17 June 2023
Western Cape Youth Photographers Salon	24 June 2023
1 st Highway Salon	1 July 2023
2 nd Sanparks HR Free State Region Salon	15 July 2023
3 rd Witzenberg PS PDI & Print Salon	29 July 2023
Sandton 9 th National Digital Salon	12 August 2023
Midlens 2 nd Digital Salon	26 August 2023
1 st Pietermaritzburg CC Salon	9 September 2023
Krugersdorp CC 18 th National Salon	7 October 2023
PSSA Up & Coming Salon	14 October 2023
Westville CC 5 th National Salon	21 October 2023
2 nd Swartland International Salon	28 October 2023
VFV National Digital Salon	4 November 2023
2 nd Amber AV International Salon	11 November 2023
4 th SHPC Salon	18 November 2023
Visit www.pssa.co.za for more information and entry forms.	

All salon results administered by Photovault are registered automatically by the system. Please ensure correctness of your details in Photovault regularly. Those salons, not using Photovault still need to be captured manually. Contact Thelma if there are any discrepancies, at ppsannouncements@gmail.com

We would like to motivate all members to take part in the PSSA salon and international scene where possible. Advancement from 3-star and 4-star require a number of salon acceptances. The salon acceptances that are used to calculate promotions have a cut-off date 14 days before the meeting, to allow the competition secretary to update files. Acceptances after this date will be taken into account the next month.



SALON ACCEPTANCES

PSSA National Salon Acceptance

Giuseppe Carbonatto

Damsalfly(O)
Kalahari Desert

Sonja De Klerk

The vegetarian
Hold tight
The forbidden fruit
Orange Burst
Twined

Lloyd Munday

Accepted Training run at dusk in Dubai
Drakensburg Amphitheater
Storm brewing

Hibiscus Coast Salon

Giuseppe Carbonatto

Surrounded by yellow
United

Sonja De Klerk

I am coming
The blue door
The Kiss
Distracted
Augrabies splendour

Hendrik Grobbelaar

Observation
Fiela se kind
Boy with a pipe
Gariiep sunrise 2

Joan Fouché

Spikes all around

6th Paarl National Salon

Sonja de Klerk

Who are you
Bad wing day

Joan Fouché

Spikes all around
At the end of the road

International Salon Acceptances

Giuseppe Carbonatto

JPS Circuit International Salon

Lifes cycle
Come closer
Lightning Strike
Playful
Surrounded by yellow

Green Line 202 Results

Following the scent

Through The Lens International Salon

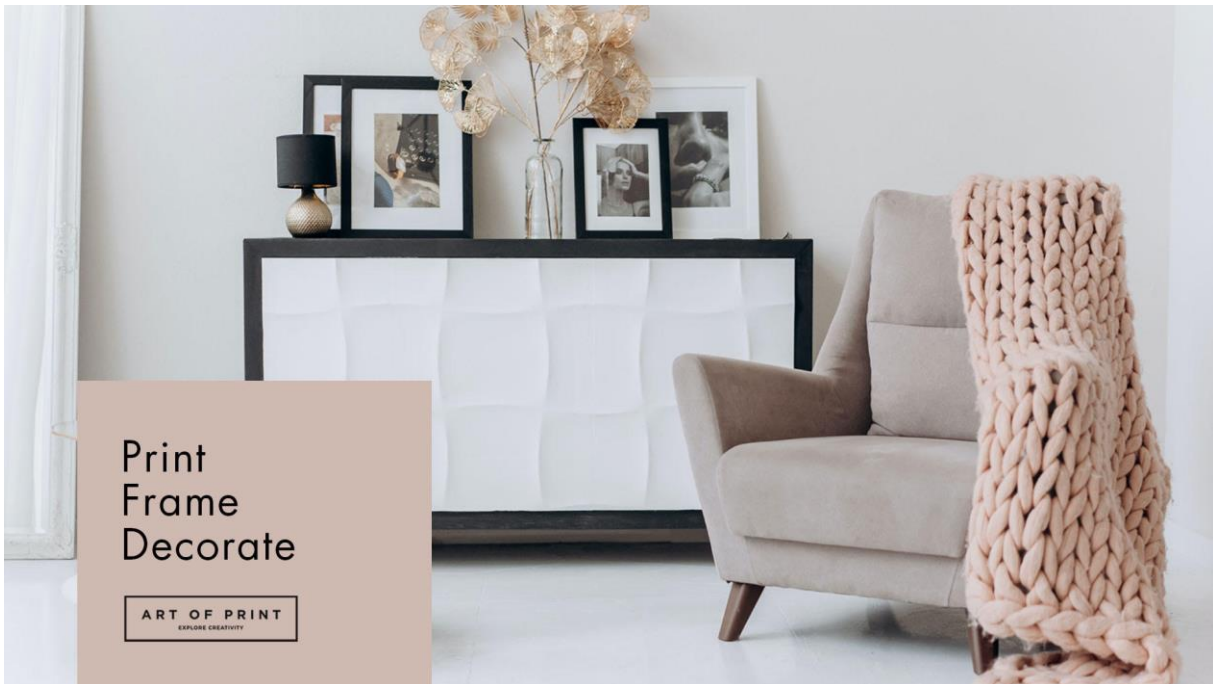
Taking a break

Sonja de Klerk

MATRIX International Circuit 2023

Friendly interaction
Bad wing day
Desert thirst

Outdoor Photo:



Contact Nr: (012) 348 3693/ www.outdoorphoto.co.za

President's Page – Pine Pienaar

The PPS Photo Essay Competition 2023 Part 2

Important:

You are referred to Part 1 of this article that was published in the March 2023 edition of e-Flash. In Part 1 the following sections were covered:

What is a photo essay?

The planning of your photo essay project.

Should you not have access to this edition of e-Flash, please contact me and I will send you a copy of the article.

In this follow-up article suggestions and information on the final completion of your project is discussed. Also, information on the assessment of the entries and the arrangements for submission of your entries and the announcement of the final results will be given.



Cover page of the photo essay by Alta Oosthuizen (2022)

The final completion of your project

This section covers aspects of the design and the layout of your publication. There are various effective procedures and available programmes to employ and some of our members are well acquainted with some of these. The description given here is a procedure that I have developed over the last 6 years in preparing my photo essay entries. **To members who are novices to this**

type of publication this procedure could be of some value, in order to save time and not making errors that could have an effect on the quality of your final publication.

Although it is a requirement that your essay be submitted in online (digital) format it is advised that you prepare the publication as for a printed issue.

1. Select the required number of images that will best relate to the chosen theme of your essay.

The general requirement is that the size of the essay be restricted to a **minimum of 16 and a maximum of 24 pages.**

2. Create a folder for your essay and use your photographic software programme to create a blank (white) JPG template file for the purpose of creating all the pages of the essay. If preferred a soft opaque background motive or colour could be added to the template. It must be stressed that any background feature should contribute to the attractive appearance if the images on the pages and not be distracting. The size of the page should be based on the **width** of standard A4 paper (210 mm). Depending on the typical aspect ratios of your images, an aspect ratio of the pages should be chosen that the images will fit comfortably and attractively on the page, like A4, 4x3, 3x2, 16x9 and square. (It is assumed that your essay will be prepared in landscape format.) For good quality resolution a dpi (dots per inch) value of 300 is sufficient. For example, for a 4x3 aspect ratio in landscape format, the size of your template will be 280x210 mm and the corresponding digital size at 300 dpi of the blank template will be 3307x2480 bytes = 227 KB.

3. Create and design the contents of your essay. The general layout of the booklet should be pleasing and conform to a consistent style as designed by the author. The sequence of images must contribute to the logical flow of and development of the story. Suitable photos for the front page and as a conclusion on the last page should be considered. Similarly, text additions should be relevant and informative and contribute to the logical flow and development of the story.

The application of pleasing but not distracting borders for the images could be considered. Resize each image to appropriate dimensions at 300 dpi and ensure that its size is smaller than that of the template. Paste the image at a pleasing position on the template. If you should consider (for personal use) to also produce printed copies of the essay, ensure that the margins between the image and the page edges are not less than 20 mm, ensuring that the back binding of the booklet do not impinge on the image. Where appropriate, more than one image can be placed on a single page. In most instances a single image will provide the strongest impact and message.

Choose an attractive but not a distracting font type for the text. The amount of text should be restricted to a minimum but appropriate short text additions could enhance the understanding of the theme and the story line. On some of the pages text additions could be omitted completely as

the impact of the image will tell it all. Choose a **catching title and image** for the front page that strongly portrays the theme of the essay. Page 2 could contain a short introduction to the theme of the essay, accompanied by an image. You are requested **not to inscribe your name** on the front page or on any other page of the essay. This will ensure complete objectivity during assessment by the judges. If preferred, page numbers can be added.

Final Requirements for Submission of your Publication

Use PowerPoint to finalise your publication. On PowerPoint “design > page setup” choose either landscape or portrait. On “slide size” choose the required aspect ratio, e.g. 4:3, 16:9, 3x2, A4 or a custom size. Transfer your JPG pages to PowerPoint in the correct page sequence. Finally, save your PowerPoint slide show as a PDF file (standard, for publishing online and printing). The label on the PDF file must contain the title of the essay.

The reason for finalising your essay in PDF format is that the PowerPoint file size is too large for submission by email. The typical file size in PDF format will be about 5 to 10 MB.

A PDF version is also required at print shops, if you choose to acquire printed copies for own use.

Submission date: **1 August 2023**. Submission of your **online photo essay**. Please email the PDF version of your essay to pinaar459@gmail.com

Assessment of the Photo Essays

A panel of three external judges having some experience of assessment of this type of photographic competition will be appointed. To ensure a fair judging process to all, judges will be supplied with a standardised score sheet as shown below.

SCORE SHEET FOR ASSESMENT OF PPS PHOTO ESSAYS	
TITLE OF THE ESSAY:	
NAME OF JUDGE: <i>eg. Judge A, Judge B, etc.</i>	
CRITERIA	MARK (out of 10)
1. Does the cover title and image(s) draw you into the booklet, wanting to see more? Does the cover represent what the photo essay is about?	
2. Are the images sharp, correctly exposed, colour balanced and meeting the criteria of normal photo competitions?	
3. Is there a flow (theme, story) from page to page in a pleasing sequence?	
4. Is the placement of text and images pleasant to look throughout the book? Is the font pleasing and does it complement the subject matter?	

5. Is the text and captions informative and add value to the photo essay?	
6. Overall impression: impact, layout and quality?	
	TOTAL MARK*
*The lowest score to be ignored and the sum of the remaining 5 categories to represent the total mark.	
REMARKS BY THE JUDGE:	

Results of the Competition

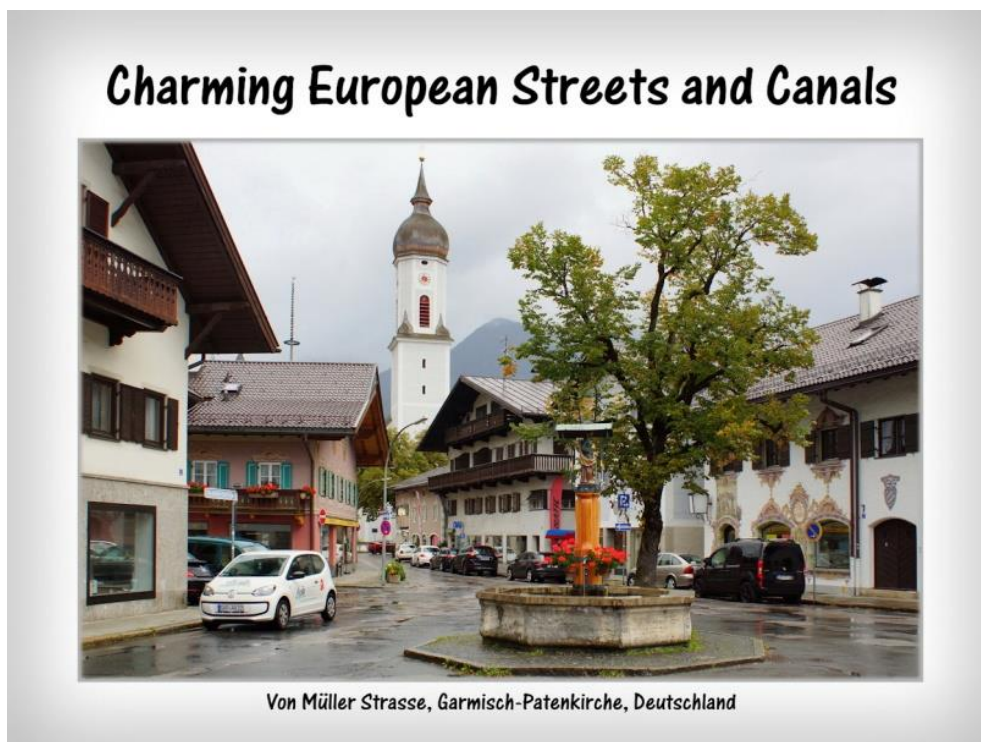
The names of the winner and the two runners-up will be announced at the Photo Café event of 5 September and they will be invited to deliver PowerPoint presentations of their photo essays at the event. A copy of the individual final result sheet will be emailed to each of the participants and it will be treated as a confidential document.

The Photo Essay Competition is an exciting and creative exercise that will also assist in improving your publication skills. I wish you good luck and enjoy the challenge!

Please contact me for any further enquiries.

Regards

Pine



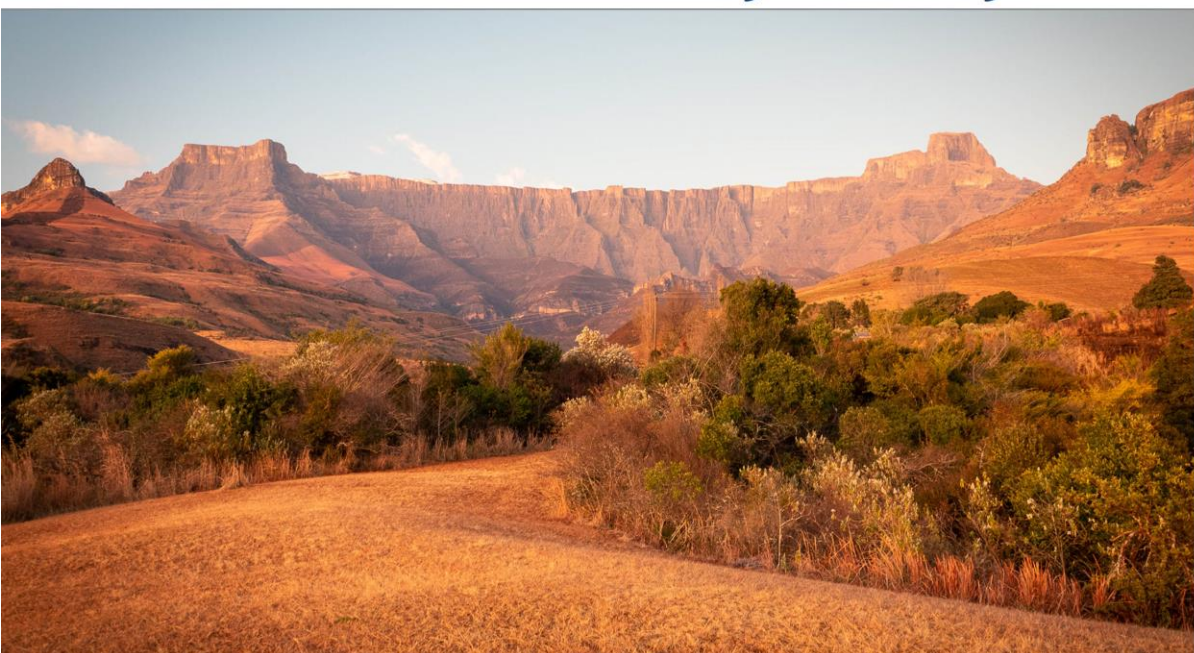
Cover page of photo essay by Pine Pienaar (2022)

Winners April 2023:



*Best 2 Star:
Castleburn
Christelle Swart*

*Best 3 Star:
Golden Dawn at
Drakensbergs Amphitheater
Lloyd Munday*





*Best 4 Star
& Best Senior:
Twined
Sonja de Klerk*

*Best 5 Star:
Princess of Mapungubwe
Bill Zurich*



Visual Art:



*Best Visual Art
Best Junior:
Wallner lines
Gerrit van Rooyen*

*Green
Gerrit van Rooyen*





*Good Visual Art
& COM
Eye Globe
Christelle Swart*



*Good Visual Art
Moonlight Reflection
Casper van Eck*



Good Visual Art
Strelitzia multiple
Hennie Stoffberg

Good Visual Art
Cream mix
Hendrik Grobbelaar





*Lavender Farm O
Linda Martin*

*Jeweled flower
mantis O
Sonja de Klerk*

Set Subjects:

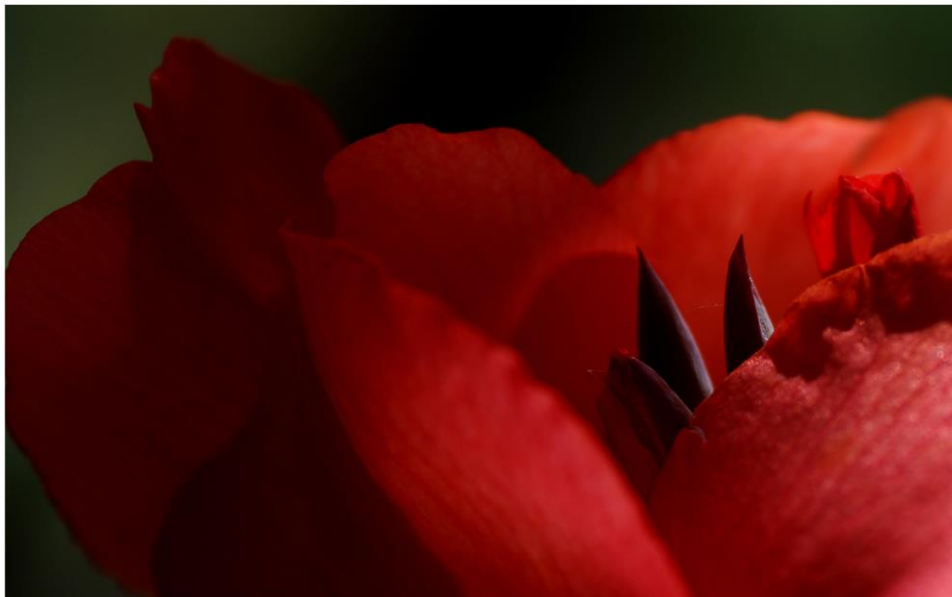


*Best Set Subject
Red hat and lips
Hendrik Grobbelaar*



*Good Set Subject
Cheers
Santie van Eck*

*Good Set Subject
Red Canna
Carina Munday*





Good Set Subject
Impala lilies
Pine Pienaar



Good Set Subject
Hibiscus
Gerrit van Rooyen

Good Innings:



Innings

*Laceless
Pine Pienaar*

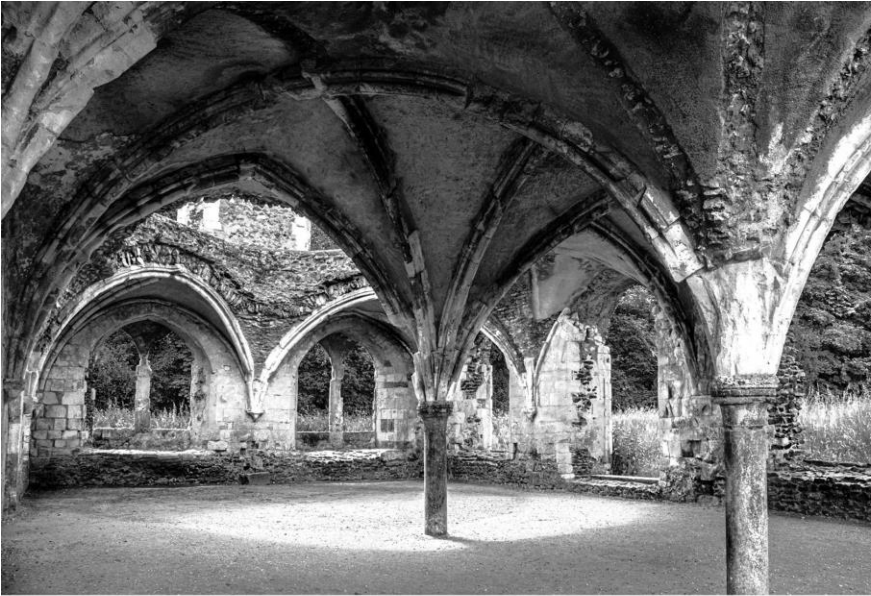


*High heels
Hendrik Grobbelaar*



*Time is running out
Joan Fouché*

Good Open:



*Waverley Abbey Refectory
Linda Martin*



*Artist at work
Sonja de Klerk*

*Dawn Breakers
Tony Roberts*





The cleaners
Santie van Eck

Ground Squirrels Nutty Delight
Lloyd Munday





I have the Golden Rhino
Bill Zurich

Golden Rhino of Mapungubwe
Bill Zurich



Article:

The association between old school and modern photography - John Tapuch

We so often refer back to the old pioneer photographers like Ansel Adams, Henri Cartier- Bresson etc.,. They were famous in the mid 20th Century and are still well known to most modern photographers.

Their image formats ranged from large format sheet film for Ansel to 35mm roll film for Henri, all in black and white film.

The emphasis today is in pixel numbers e.g. 24 megapixel compared to e.g. 40 megapixel etc. and the sensor size, which range from Smart Phone tiny sensors to full frame 35mm. There is a tendency lately, for some to go to medium format but, its only amongst the more wealthy enthusiasts and professionals who purchase these cameras.

In those days the genres were mainly Landscape, Photojournalism, Portraiture, Street Photography, and limited Sport and Wildlife photography. This was due to the slow ASA (ISO) of the film restricting the speed to 64 ISO and the cameras were mechanical and did not even have built in light meters. As time progressed all the essential requirements progressed and today, we are almost totally photographing with digital devices which include Smart phone cameras that everyone carries around with them. And they are producing great results.

So, what does that mean for the modern photographer.

Well first of all, A. Expense after the hardware has been purchased, the processing is cost free as compared to the old film days. We can now shoot as many images as we wish and once the S.D. card is full, we simply delete all old images and start again at no extra cost. B. The simplicity of producing the image, mainly because the essential operation of the camera is taken care of via electronics or A.I. * C. Post processing via sophisticated software makes it possible to tweak our images, compensating for what would be regarded as imperfections.

Therefore, it is incumbent on us to see our images and compose them so that we start off with something that we like and feel satisfied with or are even excited about.

I refer to Photoshop/Lightroom a bit like ladies make up. Now, I have to be careful how I say this!! She starts off having her normal appearance and after she has tastefully applied the various range of cosmetics, she comes away looking gorgeous. (Hopefully). She can however over-do it and can make her appearance

overdone. So, with experience and tasteful application, she should be pleased with the outcome. It's the same with post processing, the final outcome of an image can be transformed from a simple unexciting photo into something that become really special, which was never really possible with colour film images. But this has a down side, so often an image can be overdone and too saturated.

The tools have advanced, but have the rules of judging advanced with the modern methods of taking pictures.

I think to some extent yes, as the standard of photography has obviously advanced as the product sophistication has improved, enabling one to produce better quality photos with less effort. But the same old rules still apply. And so they should, to some degree. However, what we are sometimes experiencing, is petty criticism even when a really great images come up, the judge might find that there is a bit of noise and brings it down 3 points and with regards to an image that is aesthetically quite ordinary, simply because he cannot find technical reasons to fault it, he will give it a high score. For me the main intention to participate especially as a 5 star worker, is to do creative work, rather than just produce nice photos.

Like most things as time goes on, things progress, technology has to be taken into account that older digital cameras, although are very capable, do not handle noise well at higher iso levels as compared with the latest mirrorless cameras which also have eye detection etc, which give a big advantage with regards to sharpness in moving objects.

In my opinion, because the technical advancements have advanced so much, when judging we should to some degree try to assess an image as soon as it is projected and if it pleases or excites us, that is when the quality of the photo should take precedence and thereafter look for minor imperfections, rather than the other way around.

The Art perspective of an image.

In days gone by, many people did not even regard photography as a means of art. But today, because of its sophistication and ease of use, the camera should not only be used to capture a photo but should be a medium of producing an artistic picture. Therefore, Photography should be regarded as an art form.

That does not mean that the old film produced images were not regarded as artistic. The fact that most beautiful, especially colour images, were simply shot of a lovely landscape or whatever and if executed correctly were highly appraised. The same still applies today, but it needs to be quite special to be regarded as an artistic image.

As we switch on our TVs or computers, we are inundated with these amazing images that come up taken all over the world by talented photographers, but somehow, I personally have a quick peek, marvel at them

and then move on. These images I often regard as Chocolate box photos and come a dime to the dozen, unfortunately.

However, the famous monochrome photographers that I alluded to at the beginning, produced prints that today are regarded as classics and are worth a fortune.

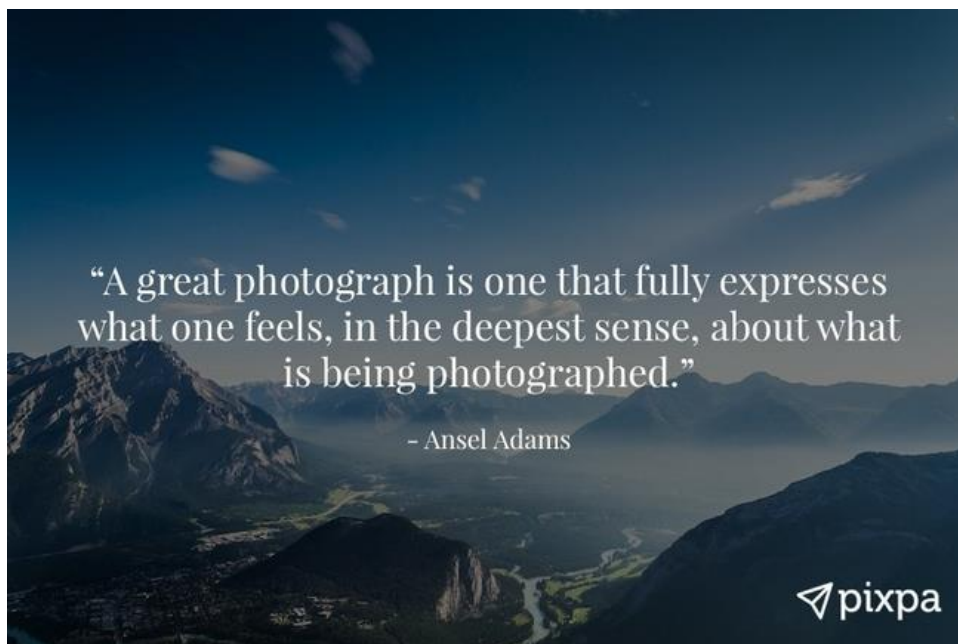
Now today, we see many international photographers producing similar images, especially in monochrome and some who still use film cameras.

People like Michael Kenna, still take their images on film. He uses a Hasselblad medium square format camera and produces Fine Art images that historically would get nowhere at club level, but they sell their prints for a fortune. Kenna for example, takes minimalist image which have great artistic presence.

On the other hand, we have some incredible local photographers/visual artists who produce stunning images incorporating multiple photos into one and if done tastefully achieve amazing results like Charlaine Gerber and others.

To some up.

I believe unless one uses their camera as a tool to do professional images like products etc. And even then, they should produce the photo with an eye for creativity. Us, as enthusiast photographers should try to see ourselves as aspiring artists and that we use our cameras as a medium of capturing a moment in time and then applying the post processing to firstly impress ourselves and then the judges, and that should be our final aim.



What Is Macro Photography – MasterClass

Macro photography is a form of close-up photography, originally developed for scientific research.

The strictest definition of macro photography is that the subject is photographed at 1:1 magnification—in other words, the subject is life-sized in the photo.

However, most people use the term “macro photography” to refer to any photograph that depicts a close-up and extremely detailed image of a small subject.



3 Types of Macro Lenses

A macro lens is a type of camera lens that is specifically designed to focus close up to the subject with a 1:1 (life size) reproduction. Macro lenses come in [many different focal lengths](#), from 35mm all the way up to 200mm.

1. **Short macro lenses (35mm-60mm):** These macro lenses are light and inexpensive, but they also require you to stay very close to your subject, which can cast shadows and (worse) scare your subject away.
2. **Intermediate macro lenses (90mm-105mm):** These mid-range macro lenses have a longer working distance, but are still light enough to use without resorting to a tripod.
3. **Long macro lenses (150mm-200mm):** Macro lenses with a longer focal length produce the highest quality photos at the longest distance, making them ideal for shy macro subjects like insects. However, they’re also the heaviest and most expensive macro lenses.

For beginners or amateur photographers, most experts recommend a macro lens with a focal length between 100mm 150mm. Popular macro lenses to consider include:

- **Sony:** Sony FE 90mm f/2.8 Macro G OSS or Sony E 30mm f/3.5 Macro
- **Canon:** Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L Macro or Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1-5x Macro
- **Nikon:** Nikon AF-S VR Micro Nikkor 105mm f/2.8G or Nikon AF-S DX Micro Nikkor 40mm f/2.8G
- **Tamron:** Tamron SP 90mm f/2.8 Di Macro 1:1 VC USD
- **Sigma:** Sigma APO Macro 180mm f/2.8 EX DG OS HSM Lens

What Is the Best Camera for Macro Photography?

While a macro lens is the most important piece of macro photography equipment, it's crucial to start with a high quality (and lens-compatible) camera. While both standard [DSLR cameras and mirrorless cameras](#) are good options for macro photography, mirrorless cameras have the advantage of displaying the final photograph for review through the viewfinder. This means you can set up your shot and make adjustments without moving the camera. If you opt for a mirrorless camera, be sure that it has an electronic viewfinder for close-ups, since focusing a macro shot from an LCD screen is very difficult.

Here are some examples of camera brands and models to consider for macro photography:

Canon. Canon cameras tell you the actual aperture rather than the “functionally correct” aperture. The Canon EF series is a good option for macro photography.

Nikon. Nikon cameras boast the highest resolution, with 36 megapixels. The Nikon AF series is a good option for macro photography.

Sony. Sony has been specializing in mirrorless cameras for longer than Canon and Nikon, and the A-series full frame is a top mirrorless option.

Other brands. Micro four thirds cameras, such as the Olympus M macro shooting line, are a good starting point for macro photography. Other brands to consider are Pentax

What Are Extension Tubes and How Are They Useful in Macro Photography?

If you can't afford a macro lens, extension tubes can help you take close-up photos without one. Extension tubes are essentially hollow tubes that you attach to your existing lens in order to extend its focal length.

Extension tubes are typically sold in sets, which can be mixed and matched depending on the situation.

A starter set of extension tubes generally costs about \$150–\$200.

When selecting extension tubes, spend a bit more money and purchase an extension tube that offers electrical connections between your lens and the camera, allowing greater control with settings like aperture and focus.

Extension tubes are not without drawbacks. For instance, because they place more distance between the lens and camera sensor, extension tubes reduce the amount of light that hits the sensor. Consequently, you'll have to adjust camera settings like aperture and shutter speed to compensate. Keep in mind, too, that extension tubes are only as good as the lens they are attached to. Invest in a good lens from the start, and your photos will turn out better.

What Are Macro Filters?

Another option for achieving macro effects with your existing lens, close-up filters mimic macro photography by enabling close focusing distances. A close-up filter screws onto the front of your lens and essentially acts as a magnifying glass.

Close up filters are the most inexpensive way to take macro pictures, and they're very easy to carry. However, they're often manufactured with lower-grade glass, and can significantly reduce image quality.

How Aperture and Depth of Field Work in Macro Photography

Macro lenses offer a very shallow depth of field, particularly at the closest focusing distances. This can make it very difficult to get all of your macro photography subject in sharp focus. [Lowering your aperture settings](#) to f/16 increases the available depth of field, making focusing easier.

It's also worth noting that the magnification effects of macro lenses, [combined with exposure](#) and [depth of field](#), can change the effective aperture of your camera. For instance, while you may be technically shooting macro at an f-stop of f/11, the above factors mean that your camera's "functional aperture" is closer to f/22. (Some camera brands, like Sony or Nikon, compensate to display this working aperture, while others, like Canon, do not.)

Five Macro Photography Techniques

Finding the proper camera settings for macro photography is much more a process of experimentation or trial and error than it is a hard science, but there are some baseline things to keep in mind.

1. **1. Use flash.** While decreasing your aperture will give you the depth of field you need to get your subject in focus, it will also allow less light into your camera. If your setting doesn't offer enough natural light, using your camera's flash or a macro ring light can help counteract this problem. A flash may startle the subject, however, so a flash diffuser might come in handy to soften the light and leave your subject undisturbed.
2. **2. Use manual focus.** At high levels of magnification, the autofocus feature on most cameras ceases to work because it cannot automatically find a focal point. Instead of using autofocus, get as close as possible to your subject and use the manual focus on your camera. Once you've found the optimal setting, rock your body back and forth to bring different parts of the image in focus. Snap a picture every time the subject is in focus. If you can't get the whole subject in focus, try taking multiple shots with different parts of the subject focused.
3. **3. Use a tripod.** Between shallow depth of field, using manual focus, and delicate camera positioning, it's extremely difficult to achieve optimal results in macro photography without using a tripod to stabilize your camera. A tripod setup is ideal for macro photos of stationary objects, but can also be used to get better results for live subjects like insects. Using a tripod can also help you take a series of nearly identical photos, which is crucial for the focus stacking technique outlined below.
4. **4. Take plenty of shots.** As with any photography method, the more photos you take, the more room you'll have to experiment, and the more opportunities you'll have to get the perfect shot. This is especially true of macro photography, where you may not get another chance to be so up close and personal with your subject.
5. **5. Stack photos in post-processing.** Aside from changing your aperture, another method for obtaining a greater depth of field for macro photography is to "stack" a series of photos using a post-processing software like Adobe Photoshop. This involves taking multiple photos of the same subject at different focal lengths, then layering them using software.

Subjects for Macro Photography

Macro photography was invented to capture insects and plants that the naked eye could not see in detail. To this day, macro photography is a great way to get close-up shots of flies, bees, dragonflies, butterflies, worms, flowers, leaves, grasses, and more.

1. **Nature.** Macro photography is a great way to discover the “secret lives” of these creatures and flora and fauna. You can go to your local park, or even your backyard, to find subjects to photograph. If you are not sure where to go, try a place with water—many plants grow near water and bugs like to be near water. As with [any nature photography](#), be sure to cover yourself thoroughly to protect yourself from bug bites, wearing long pants, long sleeves, a neck covering, and, if needed, gloves.



2. **Portraits.** There are many other subjects to photograph on a macro scale outside of bugs and plants. Macro photography is a great way to create a [unique portrait of a person](#). You can photograph their eyes, ears, or nose at close range to pick up human details that other photography methods would miss. Just make sure your subject is comfortable having this part of their body under the microscope of your lens.



3. **Food.** From fast food chains to fine dining restaurants, [food photographers](#) make extensive use of macro photography to accentuate the colors, textures, and craftsmanship of foods and beverages.



4. **Products.** Photographers use macro photography in to create detailed shots of different products, including consumer electronics, jewelry, and other luxury goods. If you want to use macro photography to aid your photography business, practice capturing the details of different products around your house—a mascara brush or a set of pencils, for example.



Want to Become a Better Photographer?

Whether you are just starting out or have dreams of going professional, photography requires plenty of practice and a healthy dose of creativity. No one knows this better than celebrated [National Geographic photographer Jimmy Chin](#). In Jimmy Chin’s MasterClass on [adventure photography](#), he shares how to capture your passions, build and lead a team, and execute high stakes photography.

Want to become a better photographer? [The MasterClass Annual Membership](#) provides exclusive video lessons from master photographers, including Jimmy Chin and Annie Leibovitz.

PPS Birthday list:

January	February
Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat 1	Vanessa Price 6
Gerrit van Rooyen 19	Gurling Bothma 18
March	April
Rudi Pothas 13	Casper van Eck 11
Linda Martin 22	Carina Munday 24
May	June
Detlef Basel 23	Suretha du Plessis 11
Frans Fouché 30	Joan Fouché 16
	Lloyd Munday 18
	Marius Coetzee 30
July	August
Diana van de Wiel 4	Evelyn Gibson 2
Robin Miles 9	Tony Roberts 6
Johan Ver Loren van Themaat 21	Sonja de Klerk 10
Oscar Abramovitz 30 (Born1930)	Almari Coetzee 17
Alta Oosthuizen 31	Bill Zurich 16
	Ann Roberts 23
	Brigitte Hansen 25
	Bibi Andrews 27
September	October
Louwtjie Meyer 10	John Tapuch 1
	Ken van Wyk 5
	Thelma van der Schyff 8
	Chantelle J v Rensburg 24
November	December
Santie van Eck 6	Brendan Hohls 1
Johan Hosten 9	Giuseppe Carbonatto 1
Karin du Toit 11	Hendrik Grobbelaar 24
Giel du Toit 15	Pine Pienaar 26
Frans Mohr 21	Marlene Birkholtz 31
Bruno Engel 21	

Please send your date of birth to Joan Fouché if your name is not on the list.