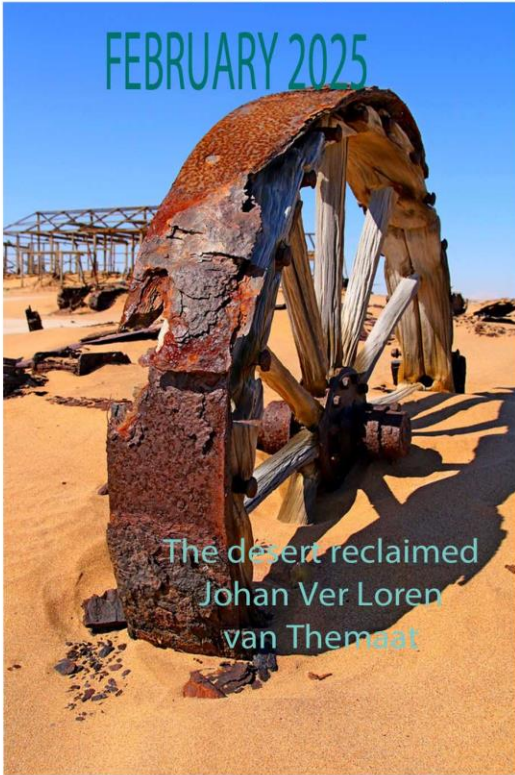


e FLASH

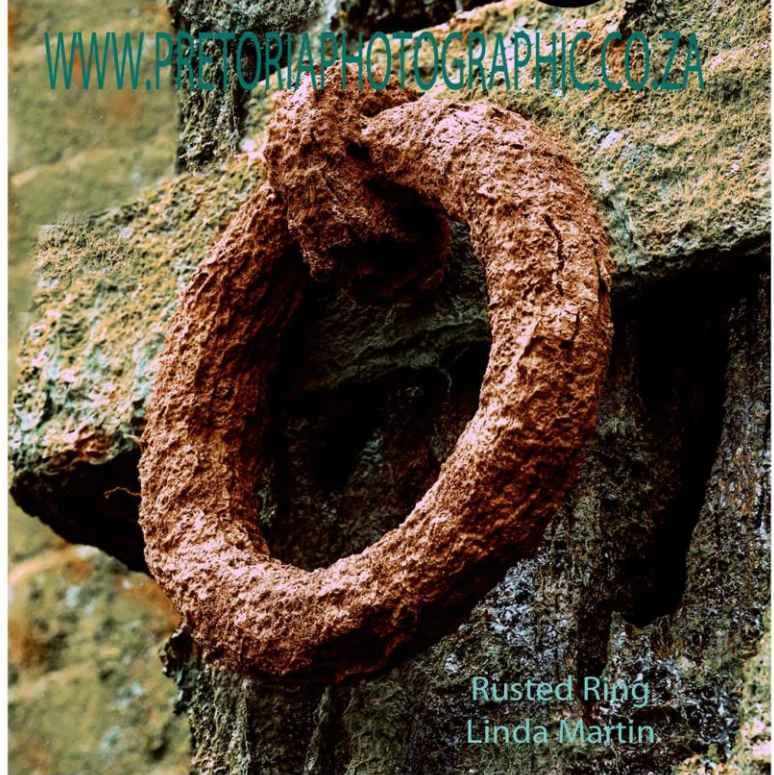


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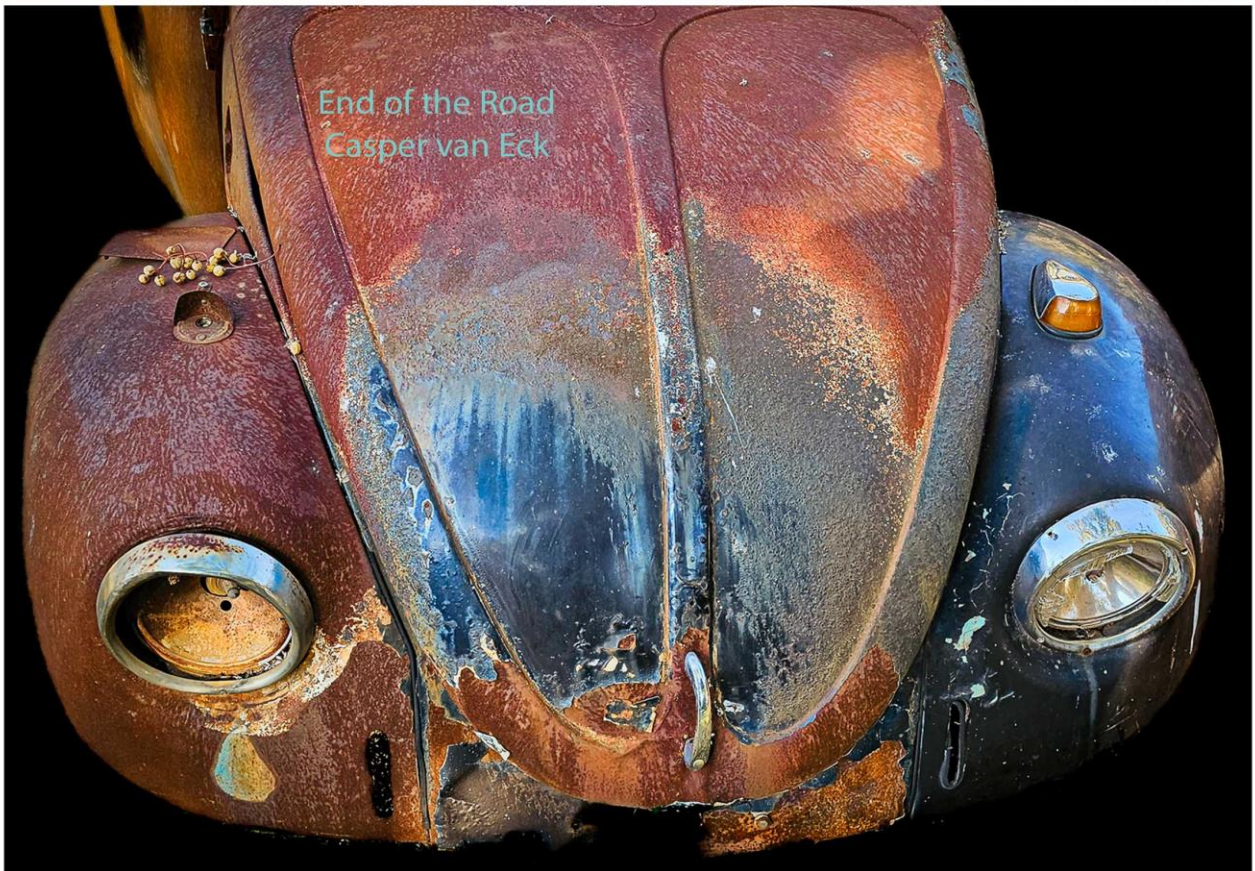
WWW.PRETORIAPHOTOGRAPHIC.CO.ZA



The desert reclaimed
Johan Ver Loren
van Themaat



Rusted Ring
Linda Martin



End of the Road
Casper van Eck



PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.pretoriaphotographic.co.za

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

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NEW MEMBERS

Pine Pienaar our Vice President is the contact for answers on new membership and the workings of the Pretoria Photographic Society. Contact Pine at pienaar459@gmail.com
As per usual, the annual subscription fees are reduced by half for members who join after March.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

4 February 2025 Hybrid meeting	Photo Café Meeting@ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H30
18 February 2025 Hybrid meeting	Formal Meeting @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H30
Judges: January 2025	Thelma van der Schyff Tony Roberts Willie Labuschagne

PROMOTIONS

Mary-Ann Costello 2* to 3*
George Stevens 3* to 4*

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. Please contact Sonja de Klerk at sonsdeklerk@gmail.com

END OF YEAR CATEGORIES 2025

The competition categories for the Junior and Senior streams are:

Landscapes	Outdoors scenes, seascapes, urban/cityscapes.
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.
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.
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

SET SUBJECTS 2025		
MONTH	SET SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Rust	Own interpretation
FEBRUARY	Tattoos	Own interpretation
MARCH	Self-portrait telling us something of interest about you	
APRIL	Slow shutter speed	Own interpretation
MAY	Still life with something old/vintage	
JUNE	Emotions (Life, death, joy, anger)	
JULY	Creative – portray the title of a song from the 70's/80's	
AUGUST	Seasons	Own interpretation
SEPTEMBER	Abstract nature with rocks/sand patterns	
OCTOBER	Product photography for a commercial	


MONTHLY ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS:	
<p>Dear PPS club members When entering your photos for the formal evenings, could you please remember the following: Only members who have judged the previous month are allowed to enter more images.</p> <p>You are allowed one entry in the SET SUBJECT</p>	<p>and four entries in either of the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VISUAL ART 2. NATURE OR PJ according to PSSA rules 3. OPEN – Manipulation allowed

SERVICE TO THE CLUB:	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>List of services:</p> <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.

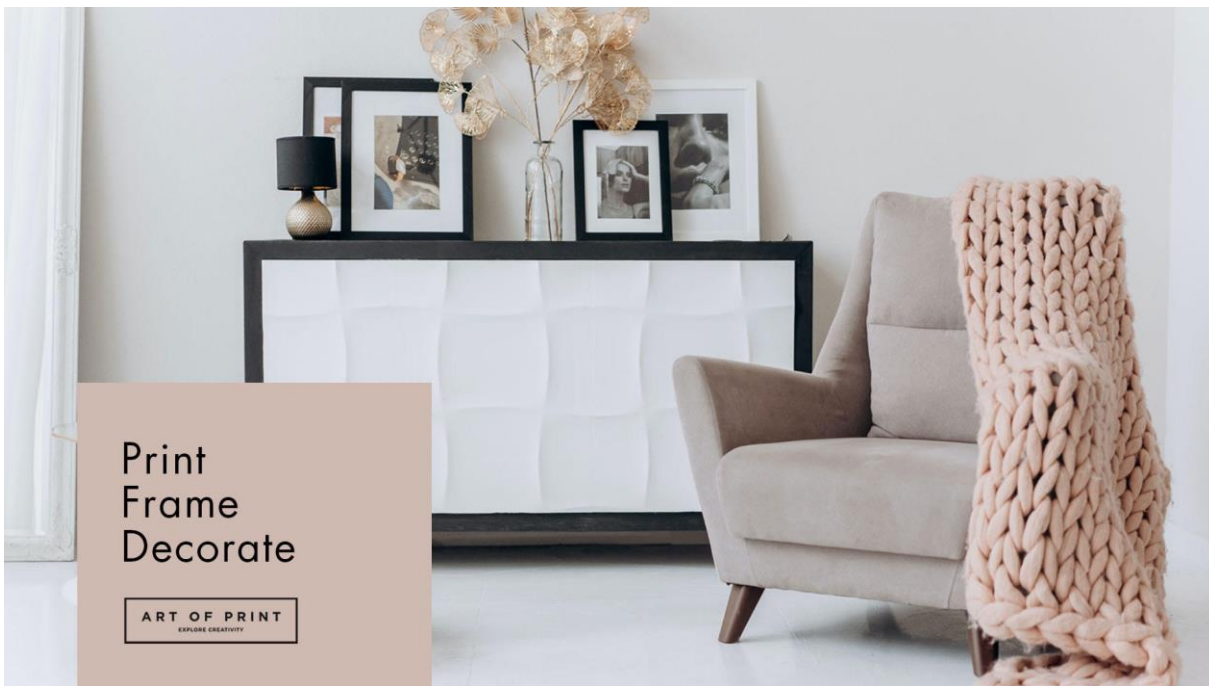
NATIONAL SALON DATES	2024/2025
Krugersdorp Camera Club Digital Salon	1 February 2025
AFO National Salon	8 February 2025
ACC 3 rd Digital Salon	22 February 2025
PSSA National Salon of Photography	8 March 2025
8 th Bosveld Fotografieklub Salon	15 March 2025
1 st Hillcrest Camera Club Digital Salon	22 March 2025
7 th Paarl National Salon	5 April 2025
9 th MFFC PDI Salon	19 April 2025
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 Sonja de Klerk 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 few 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 considered the next month.

SALON ACCEPTANCES	
<p>4th Bethal Digital Salon</p> <p>Casper van Eck New Beginnings</p> <p>Sonja de Klerk My Ride Garlic craft</p>	<p>Spil the beans</p> 

Outdoor Photo:



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

President's Page - Thelma van der Schyff

AN INTERESTING ME? LOOK AT MY SELF- PORTAIT

Well, here we are – in all our glory. We show the outside world what we think they need to see us as interesting and capable.

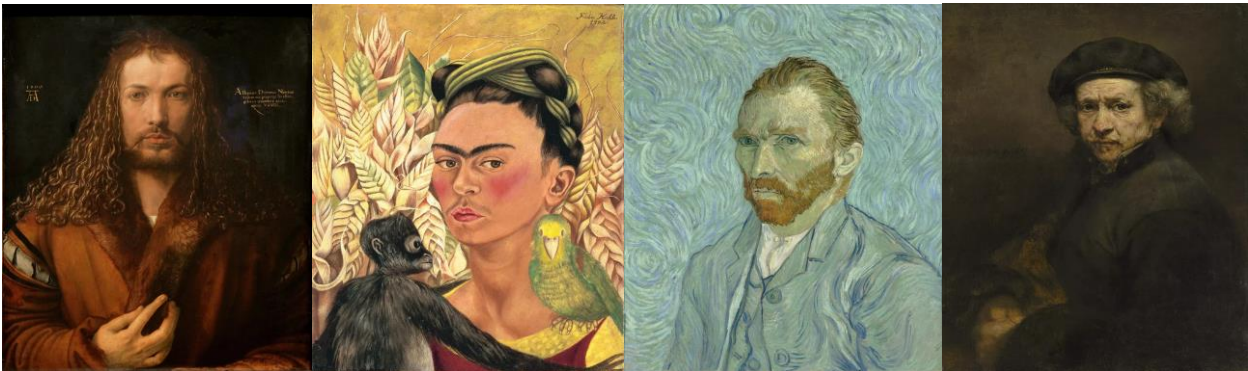
It is not always true. I may choose to show myself as the perfect picture. The viewers on social media must think I wake up with perfect hair and makeup, clear skin and dressed to the nines. Always in a good mood and happy.

The truth, on the other hand, is that I wake up with creases on my face from the pillow, hair that looks like I had a terrible nightmare and a neck complaining of sleeping in a bad position.

That is as far as the surface goes. However, there is more to me and you than a smiling picture.

You are made up of complex emotions and interests. The challenge is to show the world another side of you.

History is full of artists portraying themselves in self-portraits.



Albrecht Dürer

Frida Kahlo

Vincent van Gogh

Rembrandt van Rijn

German, 1471–1528

Mexican, 1907-1954

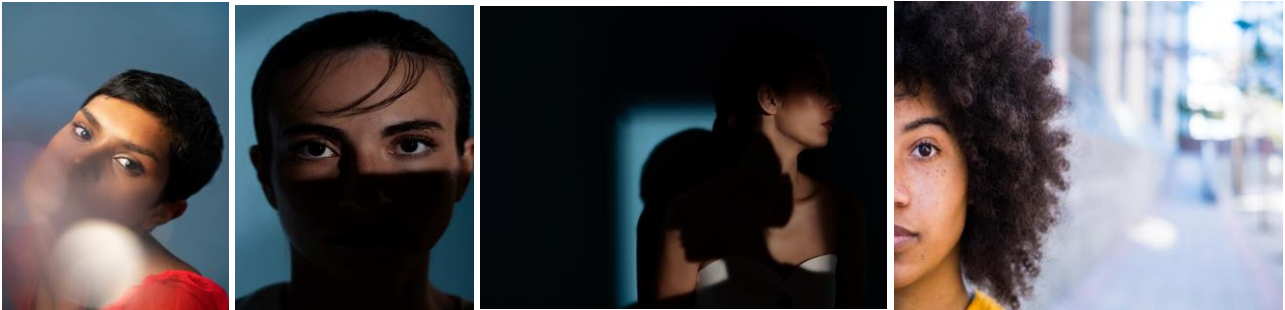
Self-portrait 1889

Dutch 1606-1669

A self-portrait is a work of art, like a picture or a sculpture, that an artist has made of themselves. Every artist is different, so every self-portrait is different too. A self-portrait can look like the artist who made it, or a self-portrait can look more abstract.

Here is an idea. Get far away from the police file type of photos. How about doing an extreme close-up? Sometimes what you leave out of frame can be as important as what you leave in. Be

creative and take a close-up of a particular facial feature. For example, focus on just the eyes or mouth. By leaving some of your face out of the frame, the viewer's eyes will be drawn to your focal point all the faster.



Photoshoot ideas do not always have to involve the face. Some interesting portrait ideas include shooting just the extremities or other body parts.

Photographing your hands is one great option. Our hands are unique, as they can tell a whole story about a person's life through their callouses, wrinkles, and scars. What you do with your hands is up to you, whether it is grasping an object, holding someone else's hand, or simply posing.



(All photos taken from Shutterstock)

Just like when you are shooting portraits of other people, the best self-portraits are ones that seem to capture a piece of the subject's personality. Some ways to achieve that with your self-portraits would be through action, facial expression, treasured objects, clothing, and location. Think about what makes you unique. Are you a bit of a goofball? Then show it off by making some funny faces. Are you a great dancer? Capture yourself in the middle of your best move. You might feel silly at times, but not being afraid to make a fool of yourself is an important part of producing creative self-portraits.



Shooting in black and white can give a totally different feel to your self-portrait. You place more emphasis on the contrast. Pay special attention to the highlights and shadows in your shot. Play with the contrast in post-production. Subtly increasing the contrast can take a drab black and white photo and really make it pop. It also draws attention to different textures in your self-portrait.



There are so many possibilities when taking a self-portrait. Think silhouette, use only one colour scheme, use burst mode to capture a series, play with angles, capture motion blur or get creative with framing.

The last self-portrait I want to mention is mirror photography, or shooting yourself in a reflection. Use a small handheld mirror at arm's length to capture an interesting shot of yourself in the reflection while leaving room for some details in the background. Many portrait photographers have also used broken mirrors to great effect.

Keep your eye out for other reflective surfaces that could make for interesting self-portraits, whether it is a window, metallic surface, or a puddle of water. Shooting self-portraits in reflective surfaces also offers the added bonus of enabling you to shoot from behind the camera—making it that much easier to compose your shot.



Next month our set subject wants you to take a self-portrait telling us something of interest about you. Now there is something for you to do and surprise us with. I am looking forward to seeing all your creativity.

Keep clicking, Thelma

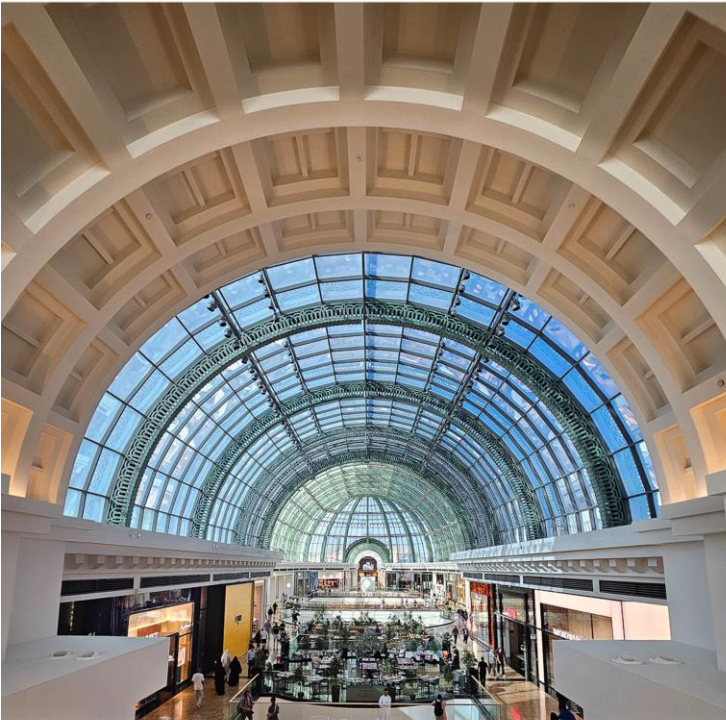
Winning Images January 2025



*Best 2 Star:
Catch of Giants
Mary-Ann Costello*

*Best 3 Star
& Best Junior:
Blue waxbill
Carina Munday*





*Best 4 Star:
Mall of
Emirates Dome
Casper van Eck*

*Best 5 Star & COM
Best Visual Art:
Twilight Forest where
childhood voices linger
Santie van Eck*





*Best Set Subject
Rustic Hondeklipbaai
Giel du Toit*

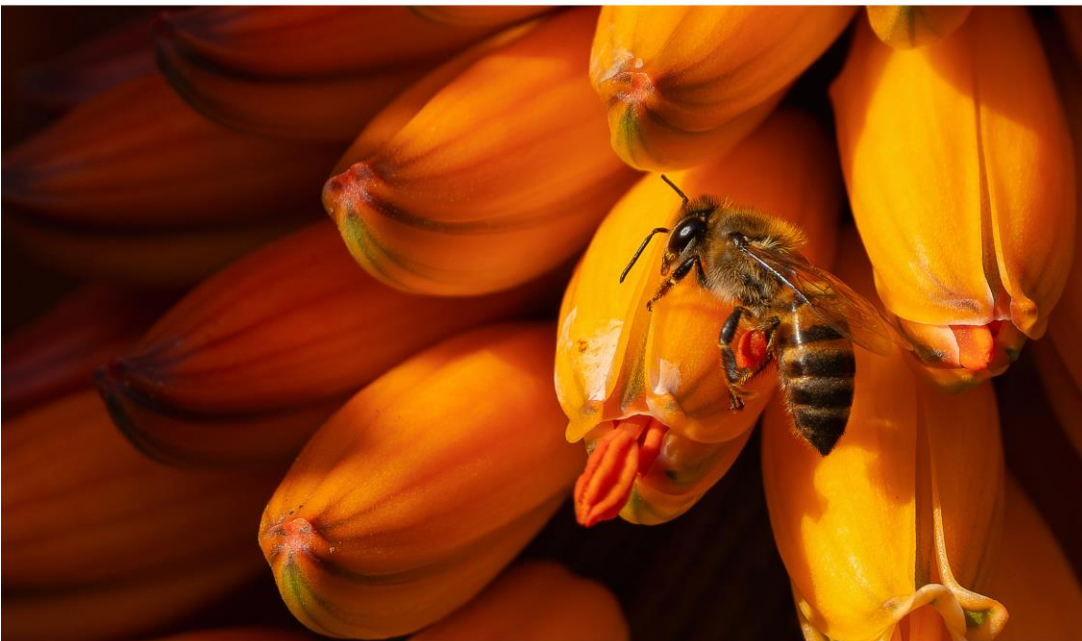
*Good Set Subject
Yesterdays delight
Fransie Stevens*





*Best Open & Best Senior:
Garlic craft
Sonja de Klerk*

*Best Nature/PJ:
Catch a petal
Sonja de Klerk*



Good Open & Visual Art:



Skyscraper
Linda Martin



Ain Dubai
Casper van Eck

Dune Shadow Curves
Johan Hosten





Big Foot
Johan Hosten



Complementary
Gerrit van Rooyen

Inquisitive
Giuseppe Carbonatto



Good Nature:



*The Beauty of the Dragon
Santie van Eck*

*Follow Mom
Johan Hosten*





Vulture
Giuseppe Carbonatto

Bird of 2024
George Stevens





Drenched Warbler
Santie van Eck

Did you see that
Sonja de Klerk





Waiting
Sonja de Klerk

Moment of Triumph
Santie van Eck



Articles: Why PHOTOGRAPHY Matters - Sourced by Linda Martin

I was thinking about the fact that I was not actually prepared to go Photography mad in 2025. It is not that I want to give up the great art of snapping at things or going to great lengths to create a photo. But I want to get a hold on my desire to warp my photos into Digital Art.

Now making art requires a deep look into software such as Photoshop and there are times that my ideas far outweigh my limited skills in that department. So, I figured I should spend more time developing skills of post-production on the photos I took on my recent trip to the UK. To this end I bought the ON1 software set with a myriad of presets and effects and heck knows what to speed up the tweaking of landscapes and other pictures. I do use Lightroom but ON1 Photo RAW seemed to have something easier to work with.

Yeah right! The learning curve is still flooring me and at times I simply give up. That set me thinking about why take photos at all? Simply snapping is fun but does not create gold award club shots. Keeping a record of images seen usually only has meaning to the photographer at that moment and does not grab the viewer. Finding the unusual takes lots of travel and dedication that is out of my grasp at this moment.

Then I came across this article which kind of added perspective to my dilemma

Why does photography matter?

It is a question that we all ask at one time or another. After all, why do we keep waking up at 4:00 AM to photograph the sunrise, when we could be warm and comfortable lying in bed? Why do we spend long hours tweaking our compositions and learning about photography fundamentals when we could be watching television or be out with friends?

And some days, when we have no creativity at all and pressing the shutter button seems like the hardest thing in the world, we continue to persevere – but why? What is it about photography that is so compelling?

What motivates us to keep going?



1. Photography helps us see the beauty in a complex world

Life is not always picture-perfect. Sometimes it is chaotic, sometimes it is overwhelming, and sometimes it is just plain tough. But even amidst the clutter and the struggle, there are glimmers of beauty waiting to be found. That is where your camera can be a transformative tool.

Photography trains your eye to search for those glimmers. When you look through the lens, you are not just composing a shot; you are actively seeking out the beauty in a world that desperately needs it.

Being able to capture that beauty serves a dual purpose. First, it provides a moment of solace, a brief escape from the turmoil around us. Second, it creates a lasting reminder that even when the world seems dark, there is always light somewhere. Your photographs can be those beacons, encouraging you and others to find beauty even in the mundane.

So, keep shooting, even when the world seems too complicated to handle. Your lens can act like a sieve, filtering out the ugliness and leaving only the beauty. In doing so, you will find that the world, despite its flaws, is still full of wonder that is worth capturing, worth cherishing.

2. Our photographs tell us what is important to us



When you ask people what possessions they would rescue from their burning house, one of the most frequent answers is a photograph album or a computer with all their digital images.

Interesting, isn't it? We would grab photos instead of valuable jewellery, even in moments of panic. This impulse to save our recorded memories is a powerful force, one that tells us much about the role of photography in our lives.

We preserve the important events and people in our lives. The ceremonies of birth and birthdays, marriages and anniversaries, holidays and new houses are all recorded because they matter.

Photographs are a timeline of our lives filled with faces and places that we love. They are our story, which we can then share with others. Ultimately, the thousands of images we take form a narrative of our lives.

3. Photography documents the world as it is

We live in a whirlwind. One moment you are a kid playing in the yard, and the next, you are an adult with responsibilities. The world does not stop, not for a second. Ever noticed how quickly cars evolve, or how skylines change? It is dizzying. But here's where photography swoops in like a time-travelling superhero.

Capturing the world through a lens allows us to freeze moments in time. It is not just about historical landmarks or world events; photography can document the little things too. Think about your childhood home, or the first pet you loved. Photos make them immortal, forever etched in the frame.

When you snap a picture of your family gathered around the dinner table, you are doing more than creating a memento. You are documenting a piece of life as it was at that exact moment. These snapshots become invaluable treasures, letting future generations peek into the world we once knew.

Photographs serve as visual textbooks, offering lessons about life, society, and the ever-changing world around us. They can reveal how fashion has evolved, or how a neighbourhood has transformed over the decades. It is not just nostalgia; it is a record of human history on both grand and intimate scales.

I encourage you to wield your camera like a historian. Because when you capture that fleeting sunset or the laughter in someone's eyes, you are doing something profound. You are documenting the world as it is, a world that will never quite be the same again.

4. Photographs are part of our legacy



I remember passing a playground where children were standing at attention for the annual school photograph. In the front row sat the teachers, and behind them, hundreds of children were neatly preened and uniformed. For the briefest second, the entire assembly was motionless. I passed just as the photographer clicked the shutter.

Then, as if in slow motion, the huge group scattered as children escaped their enforced immobility. The neat rows dissolved and broke down into individuals who were kicking balls or huddled with friends.

None of those children realized that the photograph was probably going to outlive them. A couple of generations later, the school photo might resurface among old papers in an attic, and someone would search for their grandfather among the fresh, young faces.

Photographs matter because they freeze moments of our lives that pass unremarkably, and which seem to have little importance to us at the time. The significance of a photo might not even be ours – instead, it might be for others who search for the person we once were or the places we once knew.

Each photo can be a small piece of a jigsaw that completes the larger picture of our lives.

5. Photographs allow us to share and to communicate

Images are much more than a simple record. Photography speaks to the best and most generous part of our human nature – the desire to share what we find beautiful and interesting with others.

You only must look at the multitude of photo-sharing sites to see this impulse at work, where millions of people share their personal, passionate, and sometimes quirky take on the world around them.

In other words, our images can share our lives with strangers. How powerful is that?

6. Photography makes us artists



Art is not limited to galleries and fancy offices. In fact, you do not need to be a traditional artist to create something awe-inspiring. That is the magic of photography. With a camera in hand, anyone can be an artist.

Think of your lens as your paintbrush. The frame is your canvas, and light is your palette. You have the freedom to compose shots that evoke emotion, tell a story, or simply dazzle the eye. It is an art form that is accessible yet deeply personal, allowing you to project your vision onto the world. We all have a unique way of seeing things.

The way you frame a sunset, capture a smile, or even focus on a single raindrop can reveal your personality. Your perspective becomes your artistry, setting you apart in a sea of creators.

So, do not underestimate the power of the photos you take. Whether you capture landscapes or portraits, whether you shoot in black and white or vibrant colour, you are making art. You are transforming ordinary scenes into extraordinary visual narratives.

Take pride in your work. Display it, share it, celebrate it. You are an artist, with your very own gallery at your fingertips. It is time to recognize your photography for what it truly is: a form of art that you can excel in, one frame at a time.

7. Photography allows us to express ourselves



Our images can express joy and sorrow, wonder and sympathy. Every human emotion can find a place in photography.

For many years, I never valued my photographs of overcast landscapes, because I believed there was no beauty in a land with muted colours and a leaden sky. I wanted the land to be alive with colour and vibrancy.

However, the lack of colour in a landscape makes you search for other things that often go unnoticed in bright sunlight. This could be the symmetry of hills or a tree standing out from a forest of thousands.

To expand, those suffering from depression can use photography as a language to express feelings for which they can find no words. We have a miserably poor vocabulary for mental illness, but photography creates a visual language for some most difficult emotions. The act of taking photos can be therapeutic.

Great art often stems from vulnerability. When you use photography to express your true self, you join a rich lineage of artists who have turned to their craft for emotional release. From heart-wrenching photojournalism to evocative portraits, these pieces resonate because they come from a place of sincere emotion.

So go ahead, pick up your camera and shoot not just what you see, but also what you feel. It is more than a snapshot; it is a fragment of your emotions frozen in time. Through your photos, you can share your inner world, making connections that words alone could never forge.

8. Photography has the power to move us

Photographs can grab our attention and speak directly to our emotions. There are plenty of powerful photos – such as Nick Ut’s photograph of a crying Vietnamese girl whose clothes have been burned away by napalm – that can make us feel things.

On a more subtle level, photography teaches us lessons about a whole range of emotions. Grief has the power to wash away the brightness and colour of our lives. There is no magic way to restore these. We must be patient. But while waiting, we can search for the shapes and patterns that are still present in the greyness. They will lead us back to colour eventually. During moments of great sorrow in my life, I have used images to express that hope of returning colour.

Photography, at its best, is a powerful language that speaks to our emotions. It allows us to tell our story and shows others our framing of the world around us.

9. Photography can change the world



A single photo can stir the conscience of its viewers, incite action, and even alter the course of history. It is not just art or a form of self-expression; it is also an agent of change. Your camera can be a powerful ally in shedding light on issues that matter, both globally and right in your community.

Consider the impact of photojournalism. Images of war, poverty, and social injustice have moved entire generations to take action. These photos put faces and stories to the issues we hear about, making them feel more real, more urgent.

Yet, you do not have to travel to a warzone to make a difference. Everyday struggles in your own community are equally deserving of attention.

Let us say there is a park in your area threatened by development. A well-timed photo capturing the park's natural beauty could rally your neighbours to its defence. Or perhaps you are passionate about animal welfare. Your poignant images of shelter animals can encourage others to adopt or donate.

Photography has the power to go beyond mere observation and step into the realm of advocacy. Just like Ansel Adams used his camera to safeguard Yosemite, you can use yours to protect and highlight what you care about. The scope does not have to be grand; the act of drawing attention is often enough to ignite change.

Whether it is a social issue or an environmental cause, do not underestimate the impact your photos can make. You are not just a bystander; you are a participant in shaping the world's narrative. So, pick up that camera and shoot with purpose, for your lens could very well be the catalyst the world needs.



The reasons to pick up a camera are as diverse as the people behind the lens. Yet, the common thread weaving through every shot is the profound impact photography can have. It is not just a hobby or a skill to master; it is a journey that enriches your life and, quite possibly, the lives of others.

Linda's last thoughts, not all this deep emotional stuff will get you golds or salon acceptances, but it gives a reason to keep photographing. My philosophy is to take pictures and make pictures to satisfy your own soul. Awards be damned but great if you get any. This is very much "beauty in the eye of the beholder" art and you "can't please all the critics all the time" but catching one is an achievement!

PPS Birthday list:

January	February
Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat 1	Vanessa Price 6
Mary-Anne Costello 4	Gurling Bothma 18
Gerrit van Rooyen 19	
March	April
Christelle Swart 6	Casper van Eck 11
Fransie Stevens 21	Carina Munday 24
Linda Martin 22	
May	June
Boshoff Steenekamp 16	Joan Fouché 16
Detlef Basel 23	Lloyd Munday 18
Frans Fouché 30	Marius Coetzee 30
July	August
Diana van de Wiel 4	Tony Roberts 6
Kagiso Langa 8	Cat Schramm 9
Robin Miles 9	Sonja de Klerk 10
Annelize Brynard 17	Bill Zurich 16
Johan Ver Loren van Themaat 21	George Stevens 16
	Ann Roberts 23
	Brigitte Hansen 25
	Bibi Andrews 27
	Petra Haselmaier
September	October
	John Tapuch 1
	Ken van Wyk 5
	Thelma van der Schyff 8
	Huan Zhongjie 12
	Chantelle J v Rensburg 24
November	December
Santie van Eck 6	Giuseppe Carbonatto 1
Johan Hosten 9	Pine Pienaar 26
Karin du Toit 11	Ann Williams 29
Giel du Toit 15	Marlene Birkholtz 31
Frans Mohr 21	

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