

5th Competition: Movement & Open

B Grade Open

Judge: Paul Robinson

1. **Desert's Watermelon** – Score – 10 points

The mix of geometric and organic shape and cold/warm colour contrast recorded in a sharp manner informs the interest in the image. The desert sand is clear with a subtle visual texture. The strong overhead light has caused the shadows to blend with the leaves of the plant causing some distraction, fortunately you omitted footprints intruding into the image. Very late afternoon or early morning light together with a low angle of view (the camera placed on the ground) would overcome the shadow problem.

2. **Alien Like** – Score – 10 points

The subtle lighting and dark background of what looks like a Protea in close up upholds the imaginative title. It looks as if it is right out of a Steven Spielberg movie with dramatic background music to keep one on the edge of the seat. The photo is soft in its focus (sharpening is the last thing to do after re-sizing) which is a distraction. The stem looks like the skin of a reptile contributing to the idea of 'Alien Like'. See the work of the Japanese photographer, Miki Asai.

3. **Screen Goddess** – Score – 11 points

There are some basics working well here. They are that the model has presented well regarding grooming, make-up and attire. She has good eye contact (not always necessary) and fortunately, you avoided the cliché 'smiley' portrait. The white background is too bright and the lighting technique does not suit the bone structure of her face. She needs lighting styles called Butterfly or Paramount, and/or Loop style. It looks as if you have used the correct lens which has produced a sharp image. For lighting techniques see the work of the American, George Hurrell.

4. **Mystical fog magic** – Score – 14 points (2nd Place)

A delightful scene with a delicate mood supported by the body language of the two children engaged with each other. A key point of photographing children is from a low angle to give a sense of height of everything around them, their experience of the world. While this is not from a low angle of view height is nevertheless evident. The fog, linear and aerial perspective make this an appealing image. See the work of the Russian photographer of children, Elena Shumilova.

5. **A Pint by the Bridge** – Score – 11 points

A Photo Travel style image with a sense of drama owing to the sky and the high-contrast approach. The composition is straightforward and the circular modern statue on the right was an opportunity for a highly creative composition for it to frame the background or continue the apparent lines or exaggerate opposite shapes in the scene. Owing to the strength of contrast visual texture is apparent and raises the quality of the image. See the images of the American, Andrew Prokos.

6. **Boots** – Score – 9 points

Having a sense of humour as per the labels behind the boots also shows your powers of observation. It could be cropped just below the boots and also removing all just above the labels the reason for this is about removing the fringing distractions at the edges. This will make it a panorama style composition which is unusual for a 'Still Life' style of image and therefore encourage visual interest. See the work of the Still Life photographer, the Russian, Anatoly Che.

7. **Are you looking at me?** – Score 9 points

Capturing the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo at rest featuring eye contact with the viewer is sharp and has detail in the feathers. The background with leaves and twigs is a visual distraction. B&W nature photography is rare these days at National and International Salons therefore I would encourage you to make nature images in colour. See the work of the American, Melissa Groo.

8. **Some fun guys** – Score – 12 points (HC)

As a nature image it is reasonably strong and using the actual botanical name of the fungi would gain you 'Brownie Points' in a National or International Salon. Sharpening would be better had it occurred after resizing and the two small white areas in the background could be burnt in. The fungi have visual appeal owing to their colour and fragility. See the work of the Israeli, Alex Greenspun.

9. **Fragile** – Score – 13 points (3rd Place)

Typologies are rare in club photography and even more so in 'B' grade work. In addition to this it also has the appearance of a cyanotype, except for the red stripe on the lower right 'tile'. It is a modernist abstract style image that would be comfortable in a gallery. For inspiration see the work of the two English photographers, Anna Atkins and Walead Beshty.

10. **Emotion of ANZAC** – Score – 12 points (HC)

The image is a well resolved composite forming a cohesive whole. The emotional content and the line of sight of vision by the male model is consistent with looking at the bugler. The gentleman's hand is in the form of a fist and would look better had the fingers been extended. The yellow colour of the incandescent light brings warmth to the tableau.

11. **Mountain View** – Score – 9 points

The panorama is pleasant where the sun is low in the sky. The biggest challenge with the image is that it is not in focus and owing to its fragility cannot become sharp. This could be because it may have been cropped from a larger scene or not fully focused when being shot or the sensor was small for the size of the image. From the viewpoint of composition, based in colour, the warm/cold contrast supports the third dimension and there is visual texture throughout. For inspiration see the work of the American, Ted Gore.

12. Remembrance – Score – 9 points

The back lighting provides the mood and the shadow pattern obviously mimics the wrought iron gate design. The use of a wide-angle lens, with a slight tilt and about a sixty-degree angle of view has caused distortion with challenges to overcome in post-production. This is nearly always fixed by carefully getting all the vertical lines correct in the viewfinder when making the image. The words 'Lest we Forget' get lost against the background therefore each letter needs to be dodged to make them whiter and easier to read. The backlighting has brought out the visual texture and making it a B&W image suits the concept.

13. Gloomy Sunday – Score – 12 points

In scenic photography there is a specific genre called Gothic Landscape and your image completely aligns with this approach. It has a macabre, fearsome mood and while some may say the trees look busy, they in fact look more like a design in leadlight windows. The stone wall provides a solid foundation and contraposition between the geometric and organic shapes therein. See the work of the Englishman, Ian Gilmour.

14. Farm Ruins – Score – 9 points

Photography is not just a pleasant, fun pastime but also has responsibilities to bring to the fore meaningful images dealing with a whole host of current issues such as climate crisis, homelessness and habitat loss, to name just a few. Your image deals with history, colonial building practices in this case, which is just as important. It could be made into a narrow panorama by cropping off just above the roofline and omitting the gum tree on the right, this would enhance the value of the collapsing structures.

15. Small Talk – Score – 11 points

It is suspected this is the front elevation of a Mosque which has symmetry with its arches. In Gestalt Theory of composition, the three people display a group featuring separation. Two of the people are dressed similarly which ties the group together. The gentleman with the red jacket draws our attention to the group and their size in comparison to the architecture. The vertical lines could be corrected post-production, it looks like its leaning over here. See the work of the Iranian photographer, Mohammed Reza Domiri Ganji.

16. Flinders Ranges Sunset – Score – 12 points (HC)

Technically having correct exposure for the sky and the land has been carried off well. The sky is stunning and gives the impression of being over-saturated, whether this is the case or not only you know. The reason for mentioning this is that over-saturation can lead to a sense of artificiality. Visual texture is evident across the whole image. For inspiration see the work of the Australian, Mark Gray.

17. Last Hurdle – Score – 15 points (1st Place)

You have made a high quality sports image displaying a narrative, emotional content, timing, action and the effort involved through the facial expression of the front hurdler. The out of focus background complements the story line and being made in B&W may have been the best approach here to maintain the mood. For inspiration see the work of the American, Ezra Shaw.