
















Elements Results – 21.07

	<p>Earth Wind Fire and Water: A marvellous piece of work - probably the best here. You have managed to include all 4 elements which is great. It was a risk using 4 pictures - you could have finished up with one weak picture, and the whole concept would have failed - instead each is a great image in itself.</p> <p>Honours</p>
	<p>Ice and Fire: A striking image, and in a way, the “ice” leads to a mental challenge. One expects a candle to be made of white wax, yet there are noticeable signs of clarity on the left. Then there is the texture of the candle. But these are just additions to a very striking picture, that without these little “worries”, might otherwise not hold our attention all that long. Highly Commended</p>
	<p>Forgotten: Again, the title is inappropriate. While in this case the subject is more in keeping with the set subject, and that it does show a remnant of fire left on “earth”, it is a fairly weak image - the light is not interesting, and the focal point is bang in the middle.</p> <p>Accepted</p>
	<p>Having Fun: Although this does show one of the elements, the title tells us that the picture does not meet the requirement of the set subject. Please do think carefully about your title - they do tell the viewer what to see. But over and above this, this picture is not really up to Salon standard.</p> <p>Not Accepted</p>
	<p>Earth plus Water Grows Flowers: Some might think that this should be accepted as a good try - trying to fit the set subject matter by using a suitable title. However, we must be realistic, I’m afraid. Flowers do need to be really well done at the best of times, but this does tend to come across as “just a pot plant”. Had you added “fire” into the title (given that the flower is red), you just may have gotten away with it.</p> <p>Sorry to be so blunt.</p> <p>Not Accepted</p>
	<p>Nature’s Flow: This has more relevance to the set subject, and a title that can be said to work. But more attention should have been paid to composition. The orange line area has, by itself, far greater potential than we see here - essentially the old story of less is more. The bright water is very distracting too. It could be argued that the three hills make a reasonable recession, but they are then another picture, distinct from “nature’s flow”. Accepted</p>
	<p>Glacier Ice: Here we have a stronger picture. The iceberg is clearly the focal point, and we have a reasonably helpful background. But it's not perfect. There is a large amount of dark moraine, and the tip of the iceberg does nick the skyline - perhaps a slightly lower viewpoint?</p> <p>Merit</p>

	<p>Saltpan Desert: Even though it is not perfect, there is a lot to like about this picture. The low view point really accentuates the distance. However, I do think that it would have been vastly improved by sacrificing shutter speed for a smaller aperture – a greater depth of field would have been a vast improvement. This would have also given a lot more texture to more of the track - which as presented contains an excessive area of what that has too little texture. The very wide-angle view point is however, neat. Merit</p>
	<p>Hot Shower Anyone: Yet again - title. You are making this personal/human” by including “Anyone” in the title. However, the image is a little better than some of the previous ones, in that the presentation of the contents is tighter. However, a little more attention to that material when taking the picture could have improved the composition. As presented, the white on the left is very obtrusive, the spray starts half way up the picture, and thus we get competition between the spray and the greenish rock. Also, the overall impression is that the picture is tilted in the frame (OK, so geothermal vents can be frightening!). Accepted</p>
	<p>Farewell Spit Winds: Here we have a great presentation of most of the elements, and a <i>small</i>, relatively insignificant, but powerful human element. The atmosphere (both the natural and pictorial) are very well presented, the horizon is in the right place, and we have a very enjoyable image. Honours</p>
	<p>Wai Marino: An attractive stream picture, with the water very pleasantly rendered. The cropping appears slightly heavy handed, and perhaps that could have been improved by changing the slope - the picture does give the appearance of water flowing uphill. Colour is very pleasant and lively. Highly Commended</p>
	<p>Sculpture in Progress: Given that the emphasis in this picture is “human” (both in respect to the figures, and “sculpturing”), we must consider that this too does not fit the set subject. Not Accepted</p>
	<p>Ice Jewels: Here we have a picture with a bit more effort in it. The arrangement, although not outstanding, is more imaginative, as too is the subject matter. Merit</p>
	<p>The Power of Water: While waterfalls are a very difficult subject to arrange well, this picture shows that it can be done. But I am of two minds about the “flare”. Is it real, or intended? While it does give the picture and “ethereal” feel, I personally finding it disturbing, especially knowing what powerful colours one can get in this environment. Highly Commended</p>
	<p>In The Beginning: In comparison with the earlier geothermal subject, this is noticeably better. The water provides a good base to the picture, the steam is relatively well kept within the frame, and the spout/vent on the left provides a sound focal point. Colour harmony also pleasant. Merit</p>



Thirst Quencher: Simple, and powerful. I like the arrangement of the tap coming from the right - as they eye tries to escape out that side of the frame, one's mind follows the water up the spout to the outflow. And while a pure black background is usually unsuitable, it is one of the main contributions to the success of this picture. One small complaint - it's just a pity the bottom of the glass is missing.
Honours



Fertile Earth: This picture makes it because it is very well arranged - the ground texture leads nicely to the storage building in the top right corner. Not knowing the function of the soil pyramids makes me a little hesitant about having to make a further comment about them. But the author has introduced the word "fertile" so we do think about it. And the only fertility in the picture seems to be small weeds. Do be careful about what you say in a title, because that tells the viewer what you want them to see, and I am sure that storage building is not for storing weeds.
Highly Commended



Elements From Beneath: Given the geothermal nature of this, there is no doubt about fitting the subject matter. And technically, it is fine. However, the composition is where the short comings occur. Now while sky is technically "air", here it is not really presented as part of the set subject requirement - rather it, along with the bush's, are simply a significant distraction from the (geothermal) elements. But even the geothermal area has poor composition, in that the significant whiter lines lead strongly out of the frame. **Accepted**



Elements in Perspective: An attractive seascape that, for this grade reasonably well fits the set subject. The lighting is good, although a little midi-dayish. Composition is satisfactory, in that there are fairly distinct paths through the picture, although the bright mass in the bottom left does tend to be a little too strong, to the extent that it does become the focal point of the picture. **Honourable Mention (Merit)**



Ring of Fire: Striking, to say the least. One almost has to wonder if a camera was used. But it is a fascinating presentation, and while its "mathematical" origins are almost stronger than its photographic ones, it is still an image that is remarkably successful.
Honours



Gooseberry on Ice: Another striking picture, very well structured. Again, I am impressed how well a pure black background has been used. The Committee did have some discussion about whether there should have been some slight impression of the surface the subject was on, but we eventually agreed it was definitely optional. And in fact, there is a small bit to the right of the subject that very nicely gives some feeling of surface. **Honours**



Sand Patterns: A remarkable piece of work. Almost looks like a high altitude (drone or aerial) shot. But close examination suggests the presence of sand grains, yet the valleys are remarkable free of that texture. The arrangement of flow from top centre to spread across the base is delightful, and that the base has a darker colour keeps the viewer in the frame. **Honours**



Water On Earth: One certainly feels the elements here. Although almost a pattern composition, the white ripples near the front give us an excellent focal point. The smaller area of light ripples at the front is a very satisfactory, unobtrusive base for the picture, and while our eye then goes off to explore the darker ripples, those white ripples haul the eye back. **Honours**