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|  | <p>Image 1: Aged Buoy Still Floating (Whangarei) Judge Comments Evaluation: I enjoyed the rust and textures, plus the splash of orange in the cracks of this old buoy you have located. The colour contrasts nicely with the blue/grey of the water. A small boost in the brightness and contrast will make the colours more vibrant. The diagonals of the rope tied to the buoy and the close proximity of the mast and wires are a counter balance to the circular shape of the buoy and create some tension in the image. My eyes are drawn to the white tape around the rope and it may be worth cloning this out. MERIT</p> |
|  | <p>Image 2: Broken Beans (Whangarei) Judge Comments Evaluation: Your concept is dark and moody and I like the idea you have had behind the arrangement of the beans and the old saucer. The image is not sharp on my screen and maybe you have used a texture to blur the beans, however I feel I would like to be able to see more detail here. I feel the composition would feel more comfortable to me if the placement of the saucer was equal distance from the right edge and the top of the image. It feels as though it wants to slide out of the image. There is potential to build on this concept. NOT ACCEPTED</p> |
|  | <p>Image 3: Dolls Teapot (Whangarei) Judge Comments Evaluation: Glue runs down this pretty little teapot like a river. I expect it has been played with and enjoyed many times by children. Try a piece of white or black velvet hung behind a still life for a clean background. A small amount of reflected light would help to create a brighter feel to your image. I like the angle you have the teapot on, and that you took the time to keep the saucer centred. This image embraces the reality that nothing lasts forever and nothing is perfect. ACCEPTED</p> |
|  | <p>Image 4: End of its life (Gisborne – Kay Bayley) Judge Comments Evaluation: I love the interesting texture in the dead petals which often develops as a flower or seed head dies and then slowly dries out. The delicate weave of the attached web threads the husk of the petals together. A slight angle to the stem would give a more relaxed feel to the image. Because of the delicate nature of the subject I feel the texture in the background is fighting for our attention, and I would recommend if this was faded by about 50%. ACCEPTED</p> |
|  | <p>Image 5: Endless Love (Whangarei) Judge Comments Evaluation: The dried rose has a lovely rich purple hue with delicate bleached edges to the petals when you look closely. The stem is very dominant and I feel if you were to crop this image, this would make the rose the star, and will minimise the strength of the stalk. To bring out the lovely aged detail I would recommend lightening the rose slightly and darkening the stalk. Although dead and dried, the rose has still retained its beauty. ACCEPTED</p> |
|  | <p>Image 6: Fading sunflowers (Gisborne) Judge Comments Evaluation: The arrangement of the sunflowers in the square vase appeals to me, however I feel I am missing the potential golds and greens by seeing it in black and white. The greys have a muddy feel to them and perhaps a more high key look is needed to strengthen the whites and brighten the image overall. Maybe a single flower could have better shown the concept of wabi sabi which embodies simplicity and the truest form of an object? NOT ACCEPTED</p> |

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| | <p>Image 7: Imperfect ageing, old and tattered (Gisborne)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: I was trying to see what was happening in the interaction between the two bees but they are a little small in the frame. Perhaps cropping your original file from the left top edge might make this more obvious and help to reduce the impact of the bright band in the upper third. I enjoyed the monotone feel in your image. Not what I would expect to find when I think of a Wabi Sabi subject, but it does explore the impermanence of life. NOT ACCEPTED</p> |
| | <p>Image 8: Iris Entwined (Whangarei)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: I love the contortions that irises develop as they age, and I have enjoyed photographing many of these as they die. Isolating the dying flower or a part of the individual flower, would make the most of the details to be found and highlight the contortions taking place. Many wabi sabi images are simple images with only one flower. Placing the flower on an angle will help to get it within the frame as they are very elongated. ACCEPTED</p> |
| | <p>Image 9: Natures Wabi Sabi (Whangarei)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: I think this image expresses the concept of Wabi Sabi well in that it embraces the appreciation and beauty of aging, and the effects of time and the imperfections the leaf has developed as it ages. The colours have become almost abstract and are very attractive, plus I particularly enjoyed the progression of colour in the background and the simplicity of the image. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p> |
| | <p>Image 10: Neglected (Gisborne – Kay Bayley)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: The lamp has lovely backlighting or possibly the bulb maybe turned on, and the image has been nicely exposed. The subtle background is a good choice with the beauty of the aging process enhanced by the lichen and the cobwebs attached. I would advise a small crop from the left to centralise the subject as my eye keeps returning to the slight difference. This lamp has acquired a new charm as it aged. MERIT</p> |
| | <p>Image 11: Old Door (Gisborne – Wendy Campbell)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: The rough edges of the paint work and the old cracked step show the patina of wear and leave us with a fleeting sense of the history that this old door has endured. It celebrates the imperfections in the weathered paint work, becoming more beautiful as it ages, and I find the shade of blue very attractive. It would never be the same with a fresh coat of paint. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p> |
| | <p>Image 12: Old Timer (Gisborne - ?)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: The rustic surface of this old engine shows the passage of time. As I grew up with these engines shunting coal from across the road from where I lived, it reminds me that life is not permanent and gives me an appreciation of the stages we transition through in our lives. The background and the sky leaves me with the impression there may have been a layer applied for a blur effect, and this seems to have affected around the edges of the old engine. I feel I would like to view this old engine more from the side or front. ACCEPTED</p> |

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|  | <p>Image 13: Solitary Pear (Gisborne – Jan Shanhun)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: A good subject for a Wabi Sabi image as it embodies the principle that nothing is perfect and nor does it last forever. A great idea to combine the rustic wall with the pear in the cavity. I feel there is potential here to bring out the golden tones of both the wall and the pear a little more with an increase in the contrast. This may be a bit contentious as we are celebrating the imperfect. I do like this concept which you have arranged well, and I kept coming back to it. HIGHLY COMMENDED</p> |
|  | <p>Image 14: Raggy Sights (Whangarei)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: This poor old puss looks abandoned and I think it is very wistfully viewing the author to see if any food is on offer. I enjoyed the bright paintwork of the steps which has a rustic aged feel but I feel the railing on the right is a distraction to me. Chunks of concrete are missing, the paint is peeling, and weeds fill the cracks. I would recommend lightening the shadows as some detail has been lost here. ACCEPTED</p> |
|  | <p>Image 15: Relic At Rest (Gisborne – Maggie Asplet 32?)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: The old Bedford truck left to weather in the elements certainly embraces the realities of aging. It is covered in lichens and rust. The crop feels very tight and I would like to see more room for the truck to sit comfortably within the frame. The other option may have been to zoom in quite close on a smaller individual detail. ACCEPTED</p> |
|  | <p>Image 16: Rusty (Whangarei)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: : I enjoyed the way the light illuminates this little crafted bird. This is a perfect example of embracing the beauty of the effects of time, and the imperfections of materials that can be reused. By adding the hand drawn embellishment to this beautiful little piece of art, it has acquired a new charm which embraces the appreciation of aging and the wasi sabi philosophy. HIGHLY COMMENDED.</p> |
|  | <p>Image 17: Skeleton forest (Whangarei)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: There is the feel of transience and sense of the beauty in the harshness of this changing environment. One of the principals of wabi sabi is that nothing lasts forever, and the forest that was once here has been overwhelmed by the shifting sand and lack of water. The colours of orange and blue in the image are almost surreal, and perhaps these could be intensified more to increase this effect. MERIT</p> |
|  | <p>Image 18: Sunflowers (Gisborne – Julia Rae)</p> <p>Judge Comments</p> <p>Evaluation: The group of two aged sunflowers arranged in the rustic vase with another casually dropped in front, together with the addition of a scattering of petals, is casually but artfully arranged. The colours are complimentary with the grey/blue of the vase the perfect partner for the yellow and greens. The background is black with a lovely silver texture which is a good choice. HONOURS</p> |

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|  | <p>Image 19: Tea Without Ceremony (Whangarei) Judge Comments Evaluation: This looks very much like a cup and teapot that would be used in a genuine Japanese tea ceremony. It is a celebration of the beauty of the flaws and imperfections, particularly in the pottery cup. I enjoyed the third element you have added with the few scattered and faded petals which completes the image. The tones are very relaxing and I can see this as a large fine art print. HONOURS</p> |
|  | <p>Image 20: Treasures Of A Miner (Gisborne) Judge Comments Evaluation: I think some very busy spiders have been at work here over the years, not to mention a rather large accumulation of dust. This image certainly shows the effects of time, but perhaps the aesthetic appreciation of how an object can become more beautiful as it ages has not been fully explored. I would recommend concentrating mostly on the lamp and perhaps using a little bit of fill flash or the use of a reflector to illuminate the shadowed area. NOT ACCEPTED</p> |

Final Judge's Comments:

Thank you for asking me to evaluate this month's competition on the principles of Wabi Sabi.

Wabi Sabi is the Japanese art of the beauty and simplicity of imperfect things. It embraces the beauty of flaws and the aesthetic appreciation of aging, and celebrates imperfections.

It has three simple realities – nothing lasts forever, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect.

Wabi Sabi is the art of impermanence, about something that becomes more beautiful as it ages, fades, and consequently acquires a new charm.

Most authors embraced the principles of Wabi Sabi and expressed this in their photography. Photography reduces an object to an aesthetic appreciation of transience in an uncomplicated form. Some authors did over complicate their images with too much information.

Thank You,

Irene Callaghan.

Results Summary

| | Honours | HC | Merit | Acceptance | Not Accepted |
|-----------|---------|----|-------|------------|--------------|
| Gisborne | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Whangarei | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

Point system is as follows

| | Gisborne | Whangarei |
|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Honours | 5 | 7 |
| Highly Commended | 3 | 5 |
| Merit | 2 | 3 |
| Acceptance | 1 | 1 |

Therefore total points =

Gisborne 23 (16 – Gisborne scheme)

Whangarei 27 (19 – Gisborne scheme)