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|  | <p>01s - Tiny primula. Often the back of the flower is more interesting than the front. Your selective focus on the calyx and some of the petal edges with the rest in soft focus brings out the beauty in this little flower. We tend to read from left to right and I wonder if you flipped this horizontally it would increase the impact. I also wonder if you would consider a subtle vignette to keep the eye of the viewer within the frame. I do enjoy the bright splash of yellow right in the centre.</p> <p>Merit</p> |
|  | <p>02- Amongst the club moss When I look at this image my first thought is that the mushroom is the main subject. Then my eye is attracted to the beautiful bokeh you have created - I think you must be looking into the light to have achieved this, with a large aperture – but of course I could be wrong. Beautiful lighting, shallow depth of field separating main subject from background and good composition – well done.</p> <p>Honours</p> |
|  | <p>03s - Monowai mushrooms. I have to confess to not knowing a lot about fungi but I do get a strong sense from your image of a cool, dark and perhaps damp area of New Zealand bush. There is a little creature crawling around the cap of the mushroom top left which adds extra interest. There is a very bright and light orange/yellow spot up in the top left and I find this a little distracting – it tends to pull my eye away from the mushrooms. It would be very easy to remove in post processing. In terms of composition, I like the way that the stems of the left-hand ones travel more or less up the left hand third, the top two caps are about on the top third. Nicely exposed.</p> <p>Honours</p> |
|  | <p>04s - Camellia centre. Gosh this reminds me of my childhood – I grew up in a remote rural area and we had a large garden – we had a camellia tree with flowers which were just like this. The yellow fluffier end of the stamen is called the anther – this is the yellow part in this image. I think that the central placement of the anthers works well because it directs my attention and holds it there. In my opinion the petals are a little over exposed and lacking contrast – this could most likely be addressed in post processing. The anthers are nice and sharp and your choice of depth of field ensure that they are the main subject.</p> <p>Highly commended</p> |
|  | <p>05i – Petite Belles – I am really enjoying the textures and the detail in this image – the little hairs around the edge of the petals, and the textural detail on the petals themselves. I think the inclusion of the part of the leaf at the top is a clever decision – for me it is like an arrow pointing to the beauty of the little bells. In my view the addition of a subtle vignette would keep my eye from drifting to the much brighter background rock in the top half and wandering out of the image. I also wonder if you used a slightly shallower depth of field to separate the flowers from the top, more pale rock – for me this would increase the emphasis on the beauty of the flowers.</p> <p>Merit</p> |
|  | <p>06i – Windscreens Bug – These can be very annoying little critters, especially when on a long road trip! I really like the way you have lit this with the shadows adding a really interesting dimension. For me the image would have more impact if you photographed the bug from the front, giving more focus to its face and in particular it's eyes. I think it is nicely placed in the frame with more or less equal space top and bottom, left and right.</p> <p>Accepted.</p> |

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|  | <p>07i - Mycena Parsonsiae</p> <p>I am definitely not a nature photographer so I am impressed at how you have for me, really captured the beauty here. The detail of the bark on the tree in the close foreground shows the environment it inhabits with the depth of field nicely receding and no detail showing in the background beyond. For me this isolates the specimen nicely. There seems to be some loss of detail on the cap and I wonder if the light could have been toned down a little. Alternatively, lighting from below (gently) would enhance the intricate detail of the underside. I can see what looks like cobweb on the right-hand side which adds extra interest. Very nicely composed.</p> <p>Highly commended</p> |
|  | <p>08i – Droplets – Droplets are fascinating things to photograph. This looks to me like these droplets are on the petals of a flower, perhaps a rose. The droplets are a very small proportion of the image and you have used a very shallow depth of field. I think perhaps that a greater depth of field that would allow the edges of the petals to be in sharp focal would add impact to this image. I like the warm colour palette.</p> <p>Accepted</p> |
|  | <p>09s - Weta.</p> <p>Eek – not my favourite creatures! You have captured it very well in what looks to me like its natural habitat. Nicely focussed on the body, including the head and eyes. You have placed the weta very centrally in the frame and I think if it were placed more to the left with room to move into on the right, the balance in terms of composition would in my opinion be better.</p> <p>Highly commended</p> |
|  | <p>10s - Moth</p> <p>I love the detail you have captured in the moth’s wing – I find it fascinating as I have to confess, I have never really spent time studying a moth – so you have sparked my interest for next time I see one. The moth is hanging on a branch which forms a more or less straight line from left to right. This tend to create a somewhat static image. I fully appreciate that that is how the branch was – it should be possible though to rotate the image a little to put the branch on an angle to increase the dynamic impact. The head and eye of the moth are not sharp and it looks to me that the main point of focus is the centre of the wing. Whilst this shows the lovely detail in the wing, I feel that the image would have greater impact if the head and eye were properly in focus. I think your choice of monochrome is a good one as the beauty of the detail is not overwhelmed by colour.</p> <p>Accepted</p> |
|  | <p>11s - Azalea with Ants</p> <p>A lot to look at here with the stamens, the ants and the water droplets on the petals. I really enjoy the yellow glow which seems to radiate from the base of the stamens. I think that the square format works well for this image. I feel that your choice of depth of field is spot on – it has resulted in all the petals being in reasonably sharp focus, showing the water droplets in detail. This for me provides added interest to the ants in the centre. You might like to consider a very subtle vignette to keep the eye of the viewer within the frame – but I am probably being a bit picky! Nicely exposed – well done. Honours</p> |
|  | <p>12s - Dew on rose plant</p> <p>I always think that waterdrops are wonderful to photograph – so many shapes, and reflections. The central bud and stem are nicely in focus. For me it is a shame that you have cut off the tip of the bud. If you were able to step back a little to include the whole bud giving it a small amount of space below the top frame, I feel would significantly strengthen the impact of the image. I do like that you have isolated</p> |

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| | <p>the subject from the background so that it is not distracting.</p> <p>Accepted</p> |
|  | <p>13i - Windblown</p> <p>I am really enjoying the detail you have captured here – there is so much to look at. It reminds me a bit of when I was a child, we would collect these and watch as we blew carefully to see which parts flew away in the wind. I think that the square format works really well with the subject in the centre. The not symmetrical shape stops the image from being static – for me it suggests that pieces have just recently blown off, especially when I see some pieces that look semidetached – as though in the process of floating away. Very nicely composed and exposed.</p> <p>Honours</p> |
|  | <p>14i – Hibiscus Beauty – Hibiscus flowers are definitely beautiful and this one is no exception. What a shame it is that they last only for one day. The angle you have used provides a strong diagonal line from bottom right of the frame to the top left creating a sense of dynamism. Your choice of depth of field with sharp focus on the stamen has retained a good level of detail in the petal behind and below the stamen. I do keep wanting to pull back the left side of the frame to see the rest of the flower. Nicely exposed.</p> <p>Highly commended</p> |
|  | <p>15n – Scorched Past – I am sure this would resonate with the poor people in close proximity to the wildfires currently in Europe and I think also California. The match on the right-hand side is almost horizontal and I think gives the image a somewhat static feel. A diagonal line will generally provide a certain amount of dynamism to an image. There is a small black dot half way between the burnt match and the top of the frame which for me is a bit of a distraction – you should be able to remove this easily in post processing in the same way you might remove a dust spot. I like that you have placed the matches on a slightly textured surface. I think this is a great concept that you could develop further.</p> <p>Accepted.</p> |
|  | <p>16i - Droplet</p> <p>Wow! What amazing colours and fascinating reflection in the water droplet. They make me think of sweet pea petals. That the droplet is sitting in what looks like dandelion without all the fluffy bits, I think make great composition. The lines of the plant all lead to the droplet for me. The background is not especially bright or light at the edges which for me means my eye goes to the centre where the droplet is, and does not wander out of the image. (Bright edges will tend to take the eye out of the image) For me the central placement of the subject in the frame works well, the stalk leading my eye up from the bottom.</p> <p>Honours</p> |
|  | <p>17i – Lighting the Darkness – Since the beginning of life man has been fascinated with fire. This image has the same fascination – I feel compelled to just stare at it, explore the textures of the match head. I think that fire and flame are exceptionally difficult to capture well. You have captured the detail on the right-hand side of the match very well and it creates a lot to explore. The left-hand side of the match is almost without any detail which I think is a shame. You might consider some careful selective editing to try and bring out a little mote detail. I think the composition is good with the line of flame coming down from the top, pointing to the extinguishing match and the golden glow in the background echoing the shape of the match head.</p> <p>Merit</p> |
| | <p>18s - Master bear.</p> <p>These lovely little figurines for me hint of childhood, nostalgia and yesteryear. With people, animals, birds, insects etc we tend to focus first on the face and eyes. To me Master Bear’s face seems a little underexposed. This could be remedied in post</p> |



processing and I think would increase the visual impact of Master bear. I like your choice of depth of field which has separated him from the green object behind him.

Accepted



19s - Patterns

What fabulous colours and patterns you have got here! The large circle placed slightly off centre captures my attention first and I explore the contents then the little bubbles around the edge. The much smaller yellow circle top left provides a nice counterbalance and for me gives some visual tension – my eye tends to bounce between this and the large bubble. I do find it a little disappointing though that the yellow bubble has been sliced off at the top. Great colour palette with some complementary colours providing interest. **Highly commended**