



Comments report for June 2024 Image of the Year

Advanced EDI Colour - Image of the Year - 18 entries



18 - Early Bird catches the Bug by Kaye Kennedy - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Excellent sharpness and detail in the bird and the background is relatively unobtrusive. The inclusion of a behavioural element (feeding) adds further interest.



17 - Clockwork Orange by Win van Oosterwijck - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Another themed image that has some obvious references to the movie in question. As an image I find the various elements a little disjointed (the hat, orange & clock face look very out of place in this scene) and would probably work better if the background image was modified or covered by a texture to help it blend with the more artistic elements.



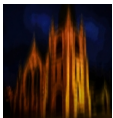
16 - Colourfull visitor by Geoff Bayes - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Colourful & interesting subject that grabs the viewer's attention with good depth of field that captures all the details of the butterfly. The strong vertical lines and shapes of the leaves, stems & flowers are visually complex & do compete with, more than complement the subject in this case. While unavoidable in this situation, generally a simplified background will give the subject greater visual impact.



15 - Rural Flooding by William Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - The sky adds some mood and the three trees make interesting subjects. Most of the visual weight of the scene is on the left side so the composition looks a little unbalanced. Shooting from a lower angle may increase the foreground interest and moving to the left would create more separation between the two central trees.



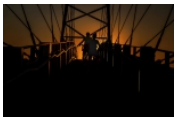
14 - Night Haunts by Patsy Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Creative use of ICM to produce a ghostly feel to this subject. Good choice of shutter speed as the viewer can still recognise what the main subject is. The mix of warm and cooler tones provide good visual impact.



13 - Warbirds by Malcolm Godde - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Important to have separation between subjects in this type of image and the smoke helps create a sense of movement. Some extra prop blur would also help in this regard which could be achieved by using a slower shutter speed (<1/500) and panning technique. A tighter pano style crop will also help emphasize movement or speed.



12 - Riding into the Sunset by Pamela Milliken - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Many leading lines here with most converging on the subjects and especially like the light on the left side rails. There is limited separation between the two people in the scene and I think in this case just a single person would simplify the composition increasing visual impact of the subject. Some more detail in the foreground would help breakup what is a large featureless area in the bottom half of the image.



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11 - Cradle Of Light by Mark Slater - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Well captured aurora image showing prominent beams with pleasing complementary colours. Great choice of location with the mountains providing interesting silhouettes that have double impact due to the lake reflections.



10 - Rock Hopper by Wendy Slater - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - A nice environmental portrait with great detail and excellent subject isolation thanks to the beautifully blurred background. Compositionally I don't think it quite works as all the visual weight is on the right side of frame. The negative space on the left of frame would be more effective if the subject was facing the other direction or looking to the left.



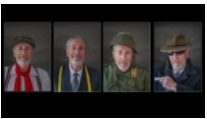
9 - Unseated by Yvonne Schnelle - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - An unusual and dynamic action image. The position of the rider is particularly perilous and leaves the viewer wondering what the outcome might be? A tighter vertical crop would accentuate the sense of height and remove some unnecessary elements from the scene. A triptych (if you have other images in this sequence) would also work well for this type of action and enhance the storytelling aspect.



8 - Predawn tree by Jill Hancock - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Well composed with the tree on the left third line and the birds on the right creating visual balance to the overall scene. The simplicity, colours and reflections combine to create an engaging and soothing image.



7 - Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy by David Skinner - Accepted

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - This image/s works well for a theme competition (Movie title I'm assuming?) and the author has been quite creative. While taking nothing away from the authors efforts, this type of image is probably less well suited to an Open competition.



6 - Spiraling Out of Control by Wendy Stanford - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Aesthetically pleasing composition utilizing the golden ratio or Fibonacci spiral. The spiral creates dynamic movement within the frame as the eye moves to the centre point which is also emphasized by the black railing that provides a pleasing colour contrast with the golden tones in the rest of the image. Also good depth of field and detail throughout.



5 - Delightful by David Willis - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Very well executed flower image. Lovely colours, great details, pleasing symmetry and the complementary dark green background really adds some pop to the image. The author has done well to get all the flower in sharp focus (maybe a focus stack?) and used a pristine example which is very important in flower photography.



4 - Tangled by Helen Bishop - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Creative image that displays great emotion (sadness to me) along with a storytelling aspect. The editing/compositing has also been handled very well.



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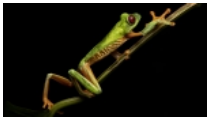
3 - Kuang Si Waterfall by Garry Pearce - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - I really love the painterly look of this landscape which makes it quite a surreal looking scene. The use of light & shade is very pleasing and a bit unusual for a waterfall image. The diagonal line of the falls also emphasizes the sense of movement of the water. The branch on the left is quite prominent intersecting much of the falls in the background and the leaves in the bottom left corner create a slight distraction.



2 - Looking Up by Vicki Cain - Second Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - An abstract composition very well seen & captured by the author that displays the beauty of simplicity. The diagonals are very dynamic here and form strong leading lines that move the viewer through the scene. The colour contrast of black on orange is also aesthetically pleasing and adds a nice visual 'pop' or wow factor.



1 - Red Eyed Tree Frog by David Woolcock - First Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Very interesting subject, excellent soft lighting and dynamic diagonal composition. Good choice of aperture (f16) means the frog is all in focus from front to back. The red eye on the green really creates a strong focal point for the image.



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3 - From the Mist by Allen Skilton - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - The mist helps provide mood and simplifies the composition by removing any background distractions. The foreground reeds and background trees frame or create a pathway for the main subject to move through and a panoramic crop would help emphasize the movement in the image. Monochrome might also be suited to this subject.



2 - Tannery Worker Fez by Leanne Wheaton - Second Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Interesting environmental portrait of an unfamiliar occupation. The central placement of the subject works well as he is framed by the baths that also provide lines that direct our attention to him.



1 - Dairy Factory at Dawn by Glenn Rose - First Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - This image has strong vertical lines, repetition, symmetry, interesting light and circular shapes that together provide a visually stimulating scene. A monochrome conversion would reinforce many of these elements and perhaps provide an even stronger composition.



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6 - Catch Me If You Can by Vicki Cain - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Great sense of action in this image created by the flying dirt and horses legs. The three outside riders also direct our attention to the central main subject on the white horse. Also appears to be shot from a low angle which has made the subjects more prominent while also reducing background distractions.



5 - O My, What Big Eyes You Have by David Woolcock - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Wonderful detail and sharpness of the eyes that instantly grab your attention. The lighting and monochrome treatment has also nicely highlighted the skin texture of the frog. The diagonal lines also create a slightly more dynamic composition.



4 - Death Becomes Her by Mark Slater - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - A moody semi-abstract landscape. The bent and twisted limbs certainly tell a story of struggle and death. The monochrome conversion heightens the moodiness of the scene. The 'S' curves and diagonal lines throughout are not only aesthetically pleasing but help move the viewer around what is a complex composition to explore all the details within the frame.



3 - Royal Crescent Bath by Garry Pearce - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - The thing that attracts me about this image is the strong juxtaposition of the man-made and natural elements in this scene. The building has many prominent lines and shapes with repetitious symmetry but super imposed over this is the curves and chaos of the tree that provide a striking contrast. While this image still works without an obvious focal point, I wonder if including something or someone in the foreground would elevate it further?



2 - Making The Sparks Fly by Wendy Stanford - Second Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - A dynamic low key environmental portrait. The main focal point is initially the grinder which is also the brightest area of the image and then the viewer is drawn to the face of the operator by leading lines created by his arms and the grinder itself. The composition is well balanced due to the even distribution of light and dark tones throughout.



1 - Follow Me by Malcolm Godde - First Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - The depth of field has created a 3D effect so you feel like you are there with the photographer and the main subject is about to walk through the screen. The monochrome treatment has brought out all the skin texture and lends itself well to this subject. You also have the story-telling aspect of this elephant family travelling through the plains of Africa (I assume) and the three obvious subjects works well in terms of compositional balance. There are some obvious processing artifacts around the ears and a few sensor spots that could be cloned out but the strong subject and story-telling elements carry greater weight than the minor technical issues in my mind (apologies to all you pixel peepers!).



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3 - Warp speed by Bill Thompson - Merit

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - A creative image that conveys a great sense of movement fitting to the subject and taken from a unique perspective.



2 - Sunning by the Pool by Pauline Todd - Second Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - The extended wings and 'S' curves have created a dynamic composition and good choice of aperture to provide sufficient depth of field to capture detail from head to tail. The symmetry of the subject also lends itself well to the centred composition. The wings have a similar tone to the background so darkening or brightening the background may provide better subject isolation. A vignette would also place extra emphasis on the bird.



1 - Ballina North Wall by Glenn Rose - First Place

Judges Comment: Leigh Teitz - Fantastic image with great story-telling & emotive appeal and several layers of contrast. What is a small girl doing playing in what appears to be a dangerous location? Where are her parents? My feelings when looking at the image are apprehension and anxiety if she falls in a gap between those giant concrete blocks. In terms of contrast you have tonal contrast between the girl and the darker blocks, size contrast (small & large), shape contrast (human form vs square blocks) and the softness of the child contrasted with the hardness of concrete. I think this would do quite well at VAPS or other bigger photo competitions. Well done.