Comments report for Advanced EDI Colour - Open

African Sunrise by Mark Slater - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: A great serene sunset with a striking silhouette of a tree in the foreground. The solitary tree against the expansive sky symbolises resilience or solitude. The composition of this image effectively uses the silhouette of the tree to create a striking contrast against the vibrant sunset. The upward trajectory of the tree draws the viewer\'s eye toward the sun, enhancing the sense of depth. The colour gradient in the sky ranges from warm oranges to subtle yellows, evocative of serene twilight. I would suggest adding more dynamic contrast to the tree adding more drama to the silhouette. 13

Broken Treasure by Allen Skilton - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image presents a captivating scene of decay and nature\'s reclamation, showcasing an old, abandoned cabin nestled among lush greenery. The richness of the ferns in the foreground adds depth and contrasts beautifully with the cabin\'s weathered wood and rusty roof. However, the hut could benefit from being a bit brighter which would enhance the mood, highlighting its story amid the serene wilderness. It would also enhance the details, such as the textures of the wood and metal, are somewhat lost in the surrounding foliage. 12

Windy Day by Glenn Rose - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: I like the perspective you have used to capture foreground elements, like the plants and rocks, provide a nice contrast to the sky, giving depth and interest. There is an element of movement & blurred effect, not sure if it was intentional or not. But I feel I am trying to find something with contrast & sharpness to hold my focus. Suggest adding contrast to create more a dynamic & sharper image. 12

Blue Faced Honeyeater at Mataranka by Pauline Todd - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Great work in spotting and capturing this striking bird nestled among lush foliage and delicate flowers. The contrast between the bird\'s plumage and the leaves creates a vibrant colour contrast that draws the viewer\'s eye. The bird\'s intense blue eye adds an intriguing focal point, enhancing the overall impact of the photograph. The composition could benefit from a clearer framing of the subject; the overlapping leaves slightly distract from the bird?s features. 13

Dichotomy by Garry Pearce - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image presents a captivating architectural interplay with its dual frames featuring women in ornate windows. The contrasting styles and poses of the subjects create an engaging dynamic, drawing attention to their individuality. The detailed craftsmanship of the window frames complements the overall aesthetic, highlighting cultural elements. However, the lighting on the left appears slightly harsh, overshadowing the subject?s features. A more balanced illumination could enhance the emotional connection. Overall, the composition successfully evokes a sense of place and character. 13

At Rest by Patsy Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The composition is strong, with the boats leading the eye into the scene. The reflection in the water adds depth and interest. The arrangement is balanced, with the two boats ? one in the foreground and a larger sailboat anchored further back. This creates a sense of depth and invites the viewer to explore the entire scene. The leading lines provided by the dock draw the eye into the distance, enhancing perspective. The lighting is well-balanced, bringing out the vivid colours of the sky and water. The clouds add texture to the sky, enhancing the overall mood. 13

New Holland Honey Eater by William Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a bird perched among vibrant foliage, showcasing a clear focus on the subject. The bird\'s plumage, with its intricate blend of black, brown, and yellow hues, stands out beautifully against the green leaves. The lighting is soft yet sufficient, highlighting both the bird\'s features and the surrounding environment. A slight adjustment in composition could enhance the image by allowing more space around the bird, preventing it from feeling too cluttered and giving it more separation. 13

Devils Storm by David Skinner - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image presents a dramatic scene with a striking contrast of colours and forms, creating a surreal atmosphere. The negative colour effect adds an otherworldly feel, emphasizing the contrast between the vibrant foreground and the moody sky. The bold contrast of dark clouds and luminous foliage draws the viewer\'s eye, enhancing the emotional impact. I feel the scene may benefit from more defined focal points to guide the viewer through the landscape as there is a lot going on with this image. 12

rustic shed by Geoff Bayes - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image nicely captures the contrast between the rustic interior and the vibrant exterior. The bright blue sky and green tree create a focal point that draws the eye through the opening. The corrugated metal and wooden beams provide an interesting texture and frame the view outside. It also adds structure to the image. 12

The Rapids by Win van Oosterwijck - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a serene riverside scene, showcasing a harmonious blend of natural elements. The long exposure technique effectively smooths the water\'s surface, creating a tranquil, silky effect that contrasts nicely with the rugged rocks in the foreground. The soft lighting adds warmth, enhancing the green hues of the foliage. I feel the lighting is a bit harsh on the rocks suspecting the image was taken with a high sun. I suggest playing with contrast sliders to get a more subtle tone. 12

Rising Mist by David Willis - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image evokes a serene and ethereal atmosphere through its use of soft fog and gentle colours. The composition effectively places the silhouette of trees against a subtle background, creating a strong sense of depth. The muted colours of blues and whites gives a dreamlike quality, but the overall scene could benefit from slightly higher contrast to enhance the visibility of the trees, allowing them to stand out more distinctly against the fog. Additionally, incorporating more foreground elements might add texture and dimension, drawing the viewer?s eye into the scene more effectively. Or even cropping a bit along the bottom. 12

Dressed for the races by Sharon Alston - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image features a woman wearing a striking black fascinator adorned with red flowers, enhancing the overall aesthetic. The soft lighting accentuates her features, drawing attention to her expressive eyes and perfectly applied lipstick, which adds a dramatic touch to the otherwise subdued outfit. The combination of the black lace veil and vibrant blooms creates a dramatic contrast, drawing attention to her features. The soft lighting adds warmth, highlighting her skin tone and giving the scene a classy feel. The look is elegant but could use a more dynamic setting.14

Eloquent by Wendy Slater - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a vibrant scene of a hummingbird perched on a large yellow flower, showcasing the bird\'s iridescent plumage beautifully against the soft focus of green foliage in the background. The focus is sharp, capturing the intricate details of the bird\'s feathers and the flower\'s petals. The lighting is well-managed, illuminating the details without harsh shadows. 14

Waiting for the Train by Pamela Milliken - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image captures a unique blend of fashion and vintage aesthetics. The arrangement of the subject, who is seated on a vintage suitcase, creates a strong focal point. The blues and greens complement each other well, adding depth to the image. The soft lighting from the left highlights the textures of the clothing and the surroundings nicely. I love the fishnet stockings which add an edgy element. The diagonal lines from the staircase add a dynamic element to this image, guiding the viewer\'s attention. Consider lifting the shadows, enhancing the models features and to bring out more definition and separation in the luggage. 13

City by Debbie Shepherd - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image captures a stunning Melbourne landscape during twilight, with a full moon adding an ethereal glow. The vibrant colours in the sky contrast beautifully with the sleek lines of the skyscrapers, creating a visually appealing skyline. The reflection of the buildings in the water, along with the sandy beach in the foreground, adds depth and interest. I would try cropping a bit from the bottom which will draw focus more toward the skyline and the moon, emphasizing the cityscape even further.13

Gardening Hat by Helen Bishop - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image features an elderly woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat adorned with flowers, evoking a sense of nostalgia and warmth. The close-up composition draws attention to her expressive eyes which with her upward gaze and gentle smile convey a sense of thoughtfulness and adds emotional depth to the portrait. The subtle colour palette, particularly the greens and soft tones of her attire, complements the hat and adds depth. The detail in the hat, especially the floral decorations, adds a touch of complexity and interest - it complements the texture of the clothing and the expression beautifully. 14

3 Sisters by Donna Rohrich - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image captures a stunning landscape, with majestic mountains reflecting beautifully on a calm water surface. The warm colours of the sunrise or sunset illuminate the peaks, creating a striking contrast with the cooler tones of the surrounding forest and water. The composition is effective, utilizing leading lines in the shoreline and the reflective water to draw the viewer?s eye towards the mountains. it\'s a captivating scene that evokes a sense of tranquillity and the beauty of nature.13

Golden Browed Chlorophonia by David Woolcock - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: What a stunning bird! The vibrant green and yellow plumage really stands out against the neutral background. The focus is sharp highlighting its bright eyes and sharp beak and also highlights the fine textures and details of its feathers beautifully. The composition is well-balanced, with the bird placed perfectly along the branch. 14

Buttress Rock by Rod Alexander - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a serene sunset over a tranquil sea, featuring a striking silhouette of a rocky coastline. The gradient of colours in the sky transitions beautifully from deep oranges through to muted yellows, creating a warm ambiance. The texture of the water is visible and adds depth to the image. The outcrop on the right provides some framing and also an anchor point. The horizon is placed lower in the frame, giving more emphasis to the sky, which is the main feature of the image. Well done. 14

Autumn in the park by Jill Hancock - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a serene autumn landscape, showcasing vibrant foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The composition is effective, with the winding trees creating interesting lines that guide the viewer?s eye through the scene while also adding depth. The carpet of fallen leaves adds texture and depth, enriching the overall aesthetic. 14

Puzzled by Vicki Cain - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Well done in setting up and capturing this visually engaging image which explores patterns and dimensions. The image showcases an intriguing geometric design characterised by a contrast of colours and shapes. The repeating pattern enhances the rhythm and flow, drawing the viewer\'s eye across the composition. The combination of metallic silver and vibrant reds also draws the viewer\'s attention, creating a sense of depth and dimension. 13

Hilltop Castle by Malcolm Godde - Second Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a stunning castle, showcasing its intricate architectural details against a dramatic sky. The perspective draws the viewer in along the path leading to the structure, creating a sense of journey and anticipation. The surrounding greenery adds a vibrant touch, softening the rigid lines of the castle and enhancing the fairy-tale atmosphere. The overcast sky, while moody, I feel reduces the castle\'s visual warmth. A slightly brighter or clearer sky might elevate the overall mood and highlight the castle\'s features more effectively. 14

Tough Times by Wendy Stanford - First Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This candid image presents a poignant scene that speaks to issues of poverty and survival. The composition effectively captures the individual rummaging through a yellow garbage bin, accentuating the contrast between the bright bin and the melancholic urban setting. The angle from above adds a sense of detachment, which may evoke empathy. Despite the sombre theme, the colours are vibrant, drawing attention to the subject. Well spotted. 15

Would You Do This by Joanna Rath - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Nice sharp image capturing a moment of traditional craftsmanship. The focus on the hands and feet of the artisan emphasizes the physicality and skill involved in the task of cutting through fibres, showcasing the connection between the worker and their craft. The play of light and shadow enhances the textures of the hands, the tool, and the natural surroundings. Would like to have seen more of the person to create the story. 13

Drawn to the flames by Bill Thompson - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a rural scene with a group of cattle in the foreground, creating a strong connection to agricultural life. The gum tree creates some good framing. The burning pile in the background contrasts with the tranquil presence of the cattle. Smoke rising from the fire adds a sense of movement and depth to the image. The focal point could be more balanced; the intensity of the fire might detract from the cattle, which I feel are the primary subjects. Also, the image appears soft and blurry ? maybe a bit of sharpening would make the scene a bit more dynamic. 12

Eyes on you by Rhonda Hansen - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: A lovely cheetah captured from a side angle, showcasing its distinctive coat pattern with well-defined spots. The sharp focus on the animal\'s face allows the viewer to appreciate its striking features, including the expressive eyes and slightly parted mouth, which adds an element of character to the image. The natural environment, with blurred greenery in the background, suggests the cheetah\'s habitat without detracting from the subject. There is a lot of shadow in this image ? try increasing the exposure or shadows to bring out the beautiful golden tones of the cheetah?s fur creating a much stronger image. 12

If 7 bolts by Ben Gawne - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image showcases an intriguing geological formation, likely featuring fossilized remains embedded in earthy sediment. The circular structures, marked by evident cracks, suggest a texture that contrasts sharply against the reddish-brown backdrop of the surrounding rock. This colour contrast adds depth and visual interest. The irregularity of the circles implies a natural, organic formation process. I feel the image to benefit with some context - such as location or geological significance. 13

Mine mum Gran by Judy Hofmeyer - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Here we have a captivating arrangement of roses against a dark background, which effectively highlights the flowers\' colours and textures. The central focus is a large, pale pink rose with delicate edges and soft gradients, enhanced by the droplets of water that add freshness and vitality. The two red roses in the background create a striking contrast, enriching the composition with depth and visual interest. The lighting on the main rose however seems a bit bright and blowing out some contrast in the petals ? try decreasing the highlights creating more definition and would also enhance the tones of the petals. 12

Peaceful Country by Michael Klusacek - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: e image presents a wide view of a dry landscape characterized by earthy tones and sparse vegetation. The composition effectively captures the undulating hills and scattered trees, leading the viewer\'s gaze toward the horizon. The cloud formations above add depth and texture to the sky, contrasting nicely with the dryness of the land below. The image may benefit from adjustments in lighting as the colours look a bit flat. 12

Light Show Horseshoe Lagoon by Bruce Deas - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a vibrant evening scene characterised by colourful lighting and artistic patterns projected onto a walkway. There is a good sense of direction created by the path leading you into the scene adding depth. The illuminated designs contribute to an atmosphere that invites exploration. I feel the image could benefit from a more dynamic composition. The leading lines of the walkway guide the viewer\'s eye; however, a more distinct foreground could further enrich the scene to add context to the composition ? it?s just a bit busy and not clear what is in the foreground. 12

Medievil Head Stone by John Robertson - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image features a stone with intricate carvings suggesting some cultural heritage. Its weathered surface is adorned with orange lichen that provides a striking contrast against the grey stone, enhancing the visual appeal. The surrounding landscape, although somewhat overgrown, adds a sense of age and context to the scene. Just be careful with the framing as there is a large patch of white sky creating a distraction. Maybe if you took the image from a higher angle, you would be able to fill the frame with surrounding tombstones. 12

A Ball in Bali by Chrissi Miles - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image presents a composition that effectively combines natural beauty with a creative technique. The use of a crystal ball as a focal point invites viewers to engage with the landscape in a unique way; it acts as a lens that distorts and refracts the surroundings. The reflection of the waterfall and lush greenery within the sphere contrasts beautifully with the blurred background, creating a sense of depth and intrigue. The hand I feel looks a bit creepy ? the grey tones are distracting. Also, would like to have seen a bit more room along the top ? just cropped a bit too much. 13

A Touch of Summer by Deirdre Blunt - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: A great specimen of a vivid orange flower, likely a zinnia, against a softly blurred background, which enhances the subject\'s prominence. There is good contrast and definition with the petals adding structure. The composition effectively utilizes depth of field, focusing sharply on the flower while creating a great blurred background making the flower pop. I like the contrasting green tones of the stem and surrounding leaves. These vibrant tones evoke a sense of warmth and vitality. There is a patch of white highlights in the background ? maybe try darkening that area. 14

Three Little Birds by Yves Mounir - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image captures three cockies perched on a branch against a vibrant blue sky, showcasing a well-coordinated composition. The birds are striking, displaying light-coloured plumage that contrasts beautifully with the deep blue backdrop. The sharpness and clarity are great, highlight their textures, especially in their feathers. Although a slight increase in the whites may make the birds pop a bit more. 13

Antelope Canyon by Jessica Wells - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures the enchanting beauty of a narrow slot canyon, with smooth, undulating rock formations illuminated by warm, natural light. The play of light and shadow across the walls creates a dynamic contrast, highlighting the textures and layers of the sandstone. The winding paths and the slight opening at the end encourage exploration, inviting the viewer to imagine walking through this stunning landscape. A slightly wider perspective might enhance the sense of depth and scale. 14

Curious Honeyeater Fledgling by Michael Black - Second Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image of the bird perched on a branch is well-composed, with a focus on the subject that draws the viewer\'s attention. The soft bokeh in the background adds depth, allowing the bird\'s colours to stand out, particularly the vibrant yellows on its head and wings. The lighting is effective, highlighting the bird\'s texture and details of the plumage. The branch creates a strong natural framing and highlights its environmental presence. 15

Mallee Magic by Glenda Black - First Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Great work in setting up and creating this long exposure using the correct speed to ensure the stars are sharp and sparkling. The composition has been well thought out. This image showcases a captivating convergence of natural phenomena and human artistry. The aurora creates a stunning gradient in the night sky, transitioning from deep reds to greens, providing a dramatic backdrop. The vibrant colours contrast beautifully with the silos in the foreground which create a strong foreground with their beautiful artwork. 15

Reaching for the sky by Sharon Alston - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image captures a dramatic perspective of a forest canopy, showcasing the tall, slender trees reaching towards the sky. The black and white treatment enhances the contrast between the dark tree trunks and the lighter clouds, creating a striking visual impact. The upward angle invites the viewer to feel small in a vast natural space, evoking a sense of wonder. While the composition is strong, the image could benefit from showcasing more detail in the clouds to add depth. Maybe some contrast just to give them some extra definition. 13

Rhythmic Beauty by Mark Slater - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image presents a captivating portrait of a woman playing a drum, adorned in elaborate accessories that celebrate cultural heritage. She has a great smile and has a great connection with the viewer. Good textures and contrasts in both her attire and the surrounding environment. I suspect a flash has been used and under the circumstances, the lighting has been well handled. 13

Radio Never Never by Allen Skilton - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Here we have a desolate landscape, characterised by a sparse arrangement of structures and vegetation, effectively evoking a sense of isolation. The tonal treatment enhances the starkness and simplicity of the scene, drawing attention to the textures of the land. The positioning of the tower and the small building provides a focal point, contrasting the vastness of the open field. I feel the tones look flat. I would suggest adding some contrast to add some dynamic detail which will also add highlighting the clouds, which would add more depth to the image. 12

Old by Debbie Shepherd - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a dilapidated building, its peeling surfaces and broken windows telling a story of abandonment and decay. The starkness of black and white enhances the sense of desolation, with strong contrasts that draw attention to the textures of the bricks and metal. The composition feels somewhat unbalanced ? the building is on a slant ? suggest straightening the scene using perspective adjustment as I feel it?s leaning ? look at right wall. 12

Harp Duet by Glenn Rose - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: I think there are two people here ! We have a captivating interplay between two musicians and their harps. The depth created through the multiple layers of harp strings adds a sense of complexity and richness. The choice of black and white emphasizes the textures and shapes of the instruments, drawing focus to the craftsmanship of the harps. The positioning of the musicians partially obscures their faces, which could limit emotional connection. A wider angle might have included more of the context and environment, providing a fuller story. 12

Unanimity by Garry Pearce - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image features two distinct silhouettes behind a textured glass, each interacting with a
telephone. The use of a sepia tone adds a nostalgic quality, evoking a sense of timelessness. The blurred textures beautifully obscure detailed features while still conveying emotion. The focus on the silhouettes may limit the viewer\'s connection to the characters\' stories. A greater contrast or different lighting could enhance the depth and clarity of the image, inviting viewers to engage more deeply with the scene. 13

Improvised Stable by Patsy Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image presents a rustic scene with an old, weathered house and a horse, effectively capturing the essence of rural life in monochrome. The black and white format enhances the textures of the wooden structure, emphasizing its age and the character of the landscape. The lighting seems somewhat flat; introducing more contrast could highlight details and provide depth. 13

Hurry by David Skinner - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This black and white image captures a dynamic urban scene at Southern Cross Station, effectively conveying movement through the blurred figure of the passerby. The focus on the flag enhances the sense of place but also disrupts the clarity of the scene. The contrast between sharp text and the blurred motion adds a layer of energy, symbolizing the hustle of city life. The image could benefit from a more balanced composition; the central position of the flag somewhat distracts from the surrounding context. Overall, it nicely evokes a lively atmosphere. however just a bit busy. 12

Built for power by William Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a classic hot rod, characterised by its unique modifications and vibrant culture. The monochrome tone adds a nostalgic feel, reminiscent of vintage car photography. The prominent branding of \'RAT FINK\' on the side reinforces the rebellious spirit of car customization. The focus on the engine draws attention away from the driver, which might limit the storytelling aspect of the scene - maybe cropped a bit to much creating that sense of tension. 13

Sandy the War Horse by Geoff Bayes - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: the image effectively captures a moment from a military parade or demonstration, with participants dressed in historical uniforms atop horses. The tones enhances the vintage feel, adding a timeless quality to the image. The composition is well-balanced, with the figures positioned strategically to draw the viewer?s eye across the frame. There are some background distractions, which could be mitigated to focus more on the participants. Overall, it evokes a strong sense of tradition and camaraderie.13

Reflections of a Girl by Win van Oosterwijck - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: A creepy looking mural on a brick wall, featuring a woman in a thoughtful pose. There is good use of contrast to emphasize the subject\'s features, with soft shadows and highlights that convey depth and emotion. The integration of a parking sign into the composition adds an urban edge. Although I feel the sign\'s placement distracts from the mural, and having the mirrored effect creates a strong distraction as viewers typical are drawn to any signage in photos. 12

Fire Dancer by Wendy Slater - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The black-and-white image of the fire performer captures a dramatic and captivating atmosphere. The contrast between the flames and the dark background enhances the subject\'s striking appearance, emphasizing the danger and skill involved in fire performance. The choice of costuming, with its gothic elements, adds an intriguing layer to the character being portrayed. It is a powerful visual that engages with both aesthetic and added danger with the elements. 13

Flinders Street Station by Pamela Milliken - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image effectively captures a moody atmosphere of a railway station with a steam locomotive. The black and white filter enhances the nostalgic and timeless quality reminiscent of classic photography. The use of light and shadow creates depth, drawing attention to the train and the intricate rail lines. The composition feels slightly unbalanced, as the foreground is quite dark, which may detract from the overall narrative. Including more light in the foreground or adjusting the framing might highlight the station\'s activity better. 13

Gray Slaty Flowerpiercer by David Woolcock - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This is a beautiful black and white image featuring a bird perched on a branch. The composition is striking, with the bird sharply in focus against a soft, blurred background, which makes it stand out nicely. The texture of the feathers and the intricate details of the branch and leaves add an elegant touch. Even though the blurred background works, I would play with the highlights to see if you can decrease the white tones as they can be distracting. 14

Roses are Black and White Too by Pauline Todd - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The black-and-white composition effectively highlights the intricate details of the flower, showcasing the texture of the petals and the delicate stamen. The contrast between the soft curves of the petals and the sharp lines of the pollen adds depth, drawing the viewer\'s eye to the centre. However, the lighting could be better balanced; some areas appear overly shadowed, obscuring details. A slight increase in exposure might provide a clearer view of the flower\'s form. 13

Resplendant Boab by Rod Alexander - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Great looking tree which captures its intricate details and textures beautifully. The below view perspective emphasizes the grandeur of the branches, creating a sense of awe. The contrast between the light and shadows enhances the depth, allowing viewers to appreciate the organic forms and patterns. The image could benefit from a bit more light on the trunk to reveal additional textures. 13

Heading to the Waterhole by Malcolm Godde - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The composition featuring the zebras is striking, effectively using the B&W tones to highlight the bold contrast of their stripes against the softer background. These tones create a great sense of mood and drama. The zebras are walking through the scene, creating a good strong leading line. I like the drama created by the dust flying around highlights the barren landscape. While the haziness & blurred effect creates focus, I feel the foreground blurriness on bottom right is slightly distracting.   13

On the gallop by Jill Hancock - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures the dynamic motion of a rider on horseback, effectively conveying a sense of speed and agility, drawing attention to their synchronized movement. The blurred background emphasizes the action, while the rider?s posture suggests confidence and control. The high shutter speed used does a great job in highlighting some great features and details in the rider?s outfit. However, with the rider looking away, it diminishes the emotional connection, as it blurs the personal story behind the action. 13

Art Deco Forks by David Willis - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image features a composition of multiple forks arranged elegantly against a stark black background, creating a striking visual contrast. The reflective quality of the forks adds depth and complexity, drawing the viewer\'s eye along the curves and contours. The minimalist approach highlights the beauty of these everyday objects, showcasing their design and material. The image succeeds in its aesthetic appeal but could benefit from additional narrative elements to put the forks placement in some context. 13

High In The Branches by Wendy Stanford - Second Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image evokes a sense of solitude and introspection. The towering trees create a dramatic verticality that draws the viewer\'s eye upward, emphasizing the majesty of nature. The composition effectively utilizes leading lines from the trees and pathway, guiding the viewer towards the vanishing point in the distance, which helps to convey depth and perspective. With the sole person also adding the grandeur of scale. 14

Fearless by Vicki Cain - First Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The portrait effectively uses high-contrast to accentuate the model\'s features, creating a dramatic effect. The lighting highlights the subject\'s cheekbones and eyes, drawing attention to her expression, which conveys a sense of contemplation or wonder. The vignetting works well in framing your focus. There are some great highlights in her curly hair which also frames the face nicely. Well done. 15

Comments report for Photographer EDI Monochrome - Open

Shoes On The Danube Promenade by Joanna Rath - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image captures a poignant and haunting scene of abandoned shoes, likely a powerful memorial reflecting on loss or tragedy. The black and white treatment enhances the emotional weight, stripping the colour away to focus on form and texture. The uneven arrangement of the shoes creates a sense of disorder and abandonment, inviting viewers to ponder their history and the lives once associated with them. I feel the tones are a bit flat ? try increasing contrast to make the shoes pop a bit more against the path and would also darken the tones of the water. 13

Old friends by Rhonda Hansen - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image portrays two primates, capturing a moment of intimacy and connection. The there is good contrast that enhances the textures of their fur and skin, emphasizing the details of their expressions and physical features. The lighting is soft, creating a gentle atmosphere that invites the viewer to reflect on the emotional depth of the scene. The composition is well-balanced, with both subjects positioned closely, suggesting a bond or communication between them. I feel the image is a bit soft ? the facial features appear blurred - distracting from otherwise a great photo. 12

An Eye of Ages by Michael Klusacek - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: A striking perspective of a tree stump, characterised by its textured surface and rich details. The golden tone enhances the natural qualities of the wood, creating a warm and timeless feel. The circular pattern of the stump draws the eye, emphasizing the organic form and its age. A slight adjustment in framing could also bring more focus to the stump, isolating it from surrounding bark and enhancing its prominence. 13

Lets Go by Judy Hofmeyer - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image captures two pelicans in flight, showcasing their elegant wings against a serene backdrop. The birds are well positioned, capturing a sense of motion. The diagonal line they create adds dynamic energy to the image. The photo has a nice sense of depth, especially with the birds at differing distances. I somewhat feel the front bird is obscured by its wing creating a distraction. I therefore suggest cropping it out.. 12

Karahung Rocks Looking through Time by John Robertson - Accepted

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This image presents a unique visual voyeuristic perspective through a circular opening, offering a glimpse into a natural scene beyond. The strong contrast between the dark foreground and the lighter background effectively draws attention to the texture of the rocks and grasses.   The overall composition is intriguing, yet the presence of more defined shapes or interesting details by creating a slightly sharper depth of field or enhancing the shadows to bring out the clarity of the distant elements, could enrich the composition. 12

Navajo Sacred Place by Jessica Wells - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The black-and-white rendering of this canyon scene effectively emphasizes the contrasting tones of light and shadow, creating a dramatic and moody atmosphere. The textures of the rock formations are beautifully highlighted, drawing the viewer's eye toward the illuminated areas that serve as focal points. I would suggest lifting the shadows to enhance the foreground which will add more dynamic lighting. 14

Foggy Morn by Glenda Black - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: This monochrome effectively utilises contrast and texture to evoke a moody atmosphere. The fog adds a layer of mystery, obscuring elements and focusing attention on the gnarled trees that rise eerily from the water. Their reflections create a symmetrical aesthetic, enhancing the calmness quality of the scene. The placement of the ducks in the foreground adds life to an otherwise haunting environment, inviting viewers to engage with the tranquillity of the water. I feel the image could have benefited from a slight increase in sharpness to further define the details of the branches.14

Silent Glider by Michael Black - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: I suspect you have used a zoom or telephoto to capture this shot, and under the circumstances, you have captured a nice, sharp well exposed image. The composition emphasizes the bird\'s graceful wings and elongated beak, drawing attention to its dynamic form mid-flight. The reflection on the water adds depth, complementing the overall calmness of the scene. the image could benefit from a slight adjustment in contrast to enhance the texture of the ripples in the water, creating a more striking visual impact by drawing the viewer into the scene - adding depth. 13

Cape Conran by Bruce Deas - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The B&W tones in this photograph captures a serene coastal landscape, conveying a sense of tranquillity and contemplation. The dark clouds overhead enhance the atmosphere, making the scene feel dramatic yet soothing. The winding boardwalk guides the viewer\'s eye toward the water, inviting exploration. Balancing tonal contrast by lifting shadows could draw more attention to the foreground details, allowing the coastal textures to emerge more prominently. 13

Aging in Silence by Yves Mounir - Merit

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The image effectively captures the essence of a rustic cellar, showcasing various wooden barrels that evoke a sense of history and craftsmanship. The sepia tone enhances this atmosphere, giving the impression of vintage photography. The soft lighting creates interesting shadows that add depth to the composition, drawing the viewer?s eye across the entire scene. Strengthening the contrast between shadows and highlights could further enhance the texture of the barrels and the overall visual interest.13

Heart of the Anemone by Deirdre Blunt - Second Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: Great close and cropping. This image captures the delicate beauty of a flower, emphasising the intricate details of its structure. The contrasting shades highlight the textures of the petals giving the structure and separation and the central stamens, creating a visually striking effect. The focus on texture and form adds an extra perspective. Suggest decreasing the exposure slightly to add some dynamic contrast on the stamens to make them pop. 14

Namibia Desert by Chrissi Miles - First Place

Judges Comment: Sam Mariani: The B&W tones capture a serene, minimalist landscape. The muted colours evoke a sense of calmness, enhanced by the soft transitions between the distant mountains and foreground. The placement of the two Oryx adds a dynamic element, drawing the viewer\'s eye across the composition creating a sense of barrenness. 15