



JUDGE'S COMMENTS

THE MONTHLY JUDGE'S COMMENTS OF THE

MARLBOROUGH
Camera Club

May 2017 Urban and Open
Judge: Terry Cockfield APSNZ

Prints

C Grade Set.

High in the Sky: When I came to this print it had slipped in the mount and become reattached skewed and with a corner projecting. I could not reposition it without risk of damage. The title on the mount is "Mountain Daisy/Tikumu" which didn't seem to fit very well. After all that – it is an interesting viewpoint, well framed and very sharp. I would prefer it printed with more contrast, as the lack of any clean white leaves it looking very flat. In spite of all that - Merit.

Technicolour Jargin (sic): I presume it is intended to be "Technicolour Jargon" and that the title on the mount ("White Water") is incorrect. The picture is a well seen comment on the clutter of signage. Framing and print quality are good. Merit.

B Grade Set.

Talking Point: A good quality print, apart from rather casual selection around the buildings when burning in the sky. Pictorially, I would like to see a little more of the foreground so that the talkers have a little more space. Merit.

A Grade Set.

Alleyway: Great quality and presentation. The low-key treatment suits the subject and the lighter tones at the centre hold attention. Unfortunately, that is not the most interesting part – at least to me. I hope you took another one concentrating on the chained-up chests. Regardless of that comment, Honours.

City Skyscape: I guess you'd call this a duotone. Very effective! Excellent design. Honours.

Corridor Melbourne: This picture captures the mood of a half-remembered dream. The faceless people dark shapes accord with this interpretation. Whether or not that is what you had in mind – Honours.

The Old & the New & Now Gone: You've successfully told the story you saw. However, for my taste the image is low in contrast and does not make an impact. Acceptance.

Urban Jungle: A good quality print, well presented. From a content point of view, the comparison of natural and man-made forms is well made. However, it doesn't hold my interest very long. Merit.

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Angel on a Bike: The double exposure and “spaced out” look on the little girl’s face very effectively suggest the supernatural. The very neutral background and direct central placement also work well. Honours.

Early Light, Cuillins: Simple, but very clearly conveys remoteness and wildness. Nice colours and I like the black mount. Somehow the smallish image on a large mount seems entirely appropriate. Honours.

Emma: The direct look of communication with the photographer is a redeeming feature. Otherwise I find it uncomfortable. Mostly this is due to the mount edge pressing down on her head and the disembodied arm coming in from the right. Also, there is a slight blue cast which is unflattering, but the print quality is otherwise good. Acceptance.

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Digital.

C Grade Set.

A Triangle of Two Halves: The structure is someone else's art work, but the photographer has picked a moment that a person walks through, head down and apparently indifferent. It may be an icon, but to that person it is only part of the road home. Muted colours and a small palette fit that mood. Honours.

Into the Light: This is a very well composed and presented picture. The sombre tones of setting with the lines of pillars leading through to the light makes for a very moody result. Honours.

Narrow Houses, Amsterdam: Excellent quality, but maybe a bit ambivalent as to intent. Yes – the background is the narrow houses, but the foreground is a medley of transport options – light rail, motor vehicles, bicycles and even the option to have water vehicles. A bit cluttered, but a good rendering of the street life. Merit.

Vertical Gardens, Shanghai: A travel record, but a good one. Nice colours and well chosen point and angle of view. Merit.

Wooden Roller Coaster: You've chosen an excellent point to capture the sweeping curves of the roller coaster and those of its setting. The trees make a nice visual contrast. The colours and tones are well rendered too. Honours.

C Grade Open.

Dangerous Crossing: The long exposure is very effective here, giving a pleasing texture to the stream. The rather unappealing stick is turned into a feature by the title. I like the picture, but it is downgraded by the strong green/yellow cast. Merit.

Dove Lake: A very pleasing picture. Often a reflection picture is weakened by being symmetrical, but here I think it works. The only change I suggest is a vignette, or gradient darkening top and bottom a bit to focus attention on the centre area. Merit.



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B Grade Set Subject

Arcade: The striking feature of this image is the colour contrast between the orange pavers and planter boxes and the blue sky and reflections top right. It works, but the closest planter dominates too strongly. An option is to crop it off making the picture a vertical. Merit.

Dignity and Impudence: Good title and well seized opportunity. The window reflections suggest you were driving past in a bus, so for quick reaction - Honours.

Fun in the Mud: Urban?? Anyway, a well caught moment. No changes needed – it is what it is. Acceptance,

Port Living: Another picture that seems to push the definition of Urban a bit. Regardless, it is a good quality image. Well composed and pleasing to view. Acceptance.

Storm Water Pipes: Yes. Infrastructure is an important component of urbanisation. The image is documentary in style – something that would sit in a newspaper or report rather than hang on the wall. That doesn't disqualify it though. Merit.

Street Planters: A nicely composed piece of street art. The window content and reflections add to the story. If you are using this again, I suggest cropping the dark vertical object on the extreme left of the frame. Regardless of that – Honours.

Sunset Mood: Well captured. I'm not comfortable with the mauve colour, but it's growing on me. I think the "Mood" part of the title would be strengthened by a vignette. By darkening the periphery the sense of approaching darkness would be enhanced. Merit.

Wellington Boatsheds: The boatsheds provide a strong repeating pattern, but the lighting and composition are giving mixed messages about what actual subject is. Brightness and contrast take the eye to the left hand boat, but placement says it is subordinate. Also competing a bit is the expanse of dark water at the front. Have a look at increasing brightness to give the sheds more life, then applying a fairly strong vignette to bring attention to the centre. Maybe also a crop at the bottom. In spite of all those suggestions, the picture has its appeal. Merit.

Wellington Harbour: Urbanity is a very small part of this picture. I like it though. Merit.



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Black Prince: A lovely bloom, well presented. Suggestions are to use the HSL controls to selectively darken the background greens. The leaf on the left is making a takeover bid. Merit.

Happiness is: The diagonal line of the colour change imposes order on the scene and is very effective. You've captured a mood of exuberance here which I enjoy. Honours.

McKenzie Cove: I like the scene and the way you've used the birds as a foreground feature without letting them take-over. On the technical side, the sky is a bit noisy and the left hand side too bright. Juggling the sharpness and noise adjustments in the detail panel will fix the former. A gradient from the left solves the latter. Merit.

A Grade Set Subject.

Child's Eye View: I don't get the title, but the picture is good. Well processed and well presented. The clouds do a good job of breaking up the blue without dominating. Merit.

Cruising: Colourful and novel. It works well as-is, but try a small crop off the LHS and a touch of sharpening to her face. Honours.

Cuba Street: Photography is great for making comparisons. Here, the red pillar draws a line between two tea room users and their approaches to the tea-break. Works well, and quality is good. Honours.

My Little Blue Car: I like the attitude of the baby. There's a sort of "old head on young shoulders" look to him. It is a straight-forward family record shot with a bit of an edge. Merit.

Passed Use by Date: A documentary shot. No doubt an opportunity for some realistic training. Well taken, but probably of greatest interest as part of a series. Merit.

Survival: Instances of plants hanging on where life must be a struggle can excite admiration or annoyance and almost anything in between. This is recorded quite neutrally, so does not have great impact. Acceptance.

The Red Bike: A classic sentimental pictorial shot, but very enjoyable to look at. It is well composed, position and colour-wise. Honours.

The Tannery: The picture captures the mood and style of the place very effectively. After looking at it a while though, I started to feel that it was a great setting, but needed something stronger as a point of interest. Merit.

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Vineyard Workers' Leisure Day: A good quality picture of some interesting looking people. However, I'm not seeing anything especially urban. Acceptance.

Wandering in the old town: old towns and old countries have, to us, interesting and unusual alleys, doorways, etc. This captures one of them beautifully. The two people provide a great centre of interest against the backlight of the archway. The tones of the image create mood and show interesting detail and texture. Honours.

A Grade Open

Clematis Lei: Technically excellent, with good detail and colour. I'm not a "flower person" so the subject doesn't move me. Another judge might love it. Acceptance.

Container Containment: Strong subject interest (if you know the background story) and good composition. It is down-rated a bit by the quite strong Green/Yellow cast. Merit.

Dotti: Unusual, interesting and very well executed. The central composition and the confinement of mid tones to a small part the image create a strong feeling of style. Honours.

Early Morning Grooming: Beautiful picture quality – colour and texture are recorded to perfection. I suspect that framing has been dictated by adjacent objects, which is why the birds are located so far to the left. To me the result is a bit unbalanced though. In spite of the interesting curve line twigs, roots, or whatever, I think a crop on the right would work better. I'm still going to give it an Honours though.

Here's looking at you: I love the attitude. Unfortunately, the lack of sharpness is almost unacceptable. Almost, but not quite. I'm glad you shared it! Merit.

Sugar Festival Fiji -Among the crowd: A great shot, not seriously affected by the background bits and pieces. The eyes, smile and colour are irresistible. A close crop in on the face alone is also excellent. Honours.

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