

Image #1 Title	Award	Comments
AO Boss of the Alley		I really like the choices made around the cropping and scale of this print, it also suits the black and white treatment. The title is apt - don't mess with that cat!
AO Bull Toss		I feel one of the purposes of photography is to capture a moment in time, and what a moment in time this is! The expressions are priceless, and the gentleman on the fence really makes this image what it is!
AO Connections		I am very curious to the process behind this piece, where it started and how it reached it's conclusion. The piece has a bit of a sci-fi / mechanical feel to it, I love how the sparks of light make the connection points shine. The most artistic piece in the competition due to its abstract nature.
AO Going Home	Judges Commendation	A great example of documentary style photography, and obviously being a Whanganui local I recognise these two characters; the image evokes a sadness in me for them. The composition is well thought out, the contrast of all the strong lines of the architecture in comparison to the organic unkempt nature of the figures. The image for me sums up the disparity in wealth in our world and evokes a desire for this to change.
AO Harper		This is a beautifully soft portrait that has a real dream like quality to it. The treatment of the work feels like an analogue/film process as opposed to digital. I love the way the light perfectly frames the face.
AO Heavenly Light		In terms of the architectural images I found this the most creative and clever. I enjoyed the sense of reverence for the church and also the respectful inclusion of the cemetery in the foreground.

AO Kereru		The most creative of bird imagery in the competition, isolating the bird away from its background like this sure does accentuate the beautiful colours of the Kereru. A real celebration of this beautiful bird. This image to me almost feels like a painting as opposed to a photo, the use of white space gives the image a really great clean and fresh feel about it.
AO Ketetahi Falls	Judges Commendation	This is a really fine image and celebrates the beauty that is hidden away in New Zealand landscape ready and waiting to be explored (this image makes me want to do just that!). The long exposure is perfect in capturing this waterfall, and shows your technical skill.
AO Kotoku		Clearly a lot of patience required to capture this moment. There is a bit of a jarring quality to this image I think due to the disconnect of the bird to its background. I do enjoy the pop of that yellow beak and eye against the bluey grey of the ocean!
AO Lake Matheson	Runner Up	This is a breathtaking image and even though it's not Whanganui, it evoked feelings of home for me (and our River). Images like this celebrate how precious and beautiful the landscape we live in is and that we should never take that for granted. Beautiful crisp reflections, light and colour - the glow on the trees is just sublime!
AO Len Lye 2		A creative capture of this iconic architecturally designed building. The photograph has a wonderful drawn/painted quality to it which almost abstracts the building. If you didn't know the title or the building you'd be wondering what the image was of, I liked that curiosity factor.

AO Maui's Copper Butterfly, Lycaena edna	Runner Up	This is a stand out image - the colour, the detail, the beauty. It's clear of your very high technical skill with photography. I love the vibration created by the blur around the outside of the butterflies wings, enhancing that hyper real quality of the image as if it's going to fly off at any moment.
AO Moody Milford		A very dramatic depiction of Milford. I enjoyed the wide cropping of this image which really adds to the drama of the piece. The Mountains have quite a surreal dream like quality to them, I could imagine this scene used in a film!
AO Mt Nguarahoe		A beautiful capture of Nguarahoe. I love the way that cloud has settled and casting a great shadow on the mountain. Your skill in photography is evident, and I enjoyed the wide cropping of the landscape. The colours have a very painterly feel about them, I love the rich greens and golds in the middleground enhanced by the dramatic shadows.
AO Nankeen Night Heron		A wonderfully vibrant image of the Nankeen Night Heron, I love how the bird appears to be glowing amidst the richness of all the green around. Great use of asymmetry in the composition which is perfect for this image.
AO Nicholas	Judges Commendation	A fine example of portrait photography, I like the in-situ nature of this image - the piercing look of the boy says to me that he may of been just in the middle of something! I really like the treatment of the background blur, this image suits the black and white treatment and you have a great handle on utilising light to frame.
AO Paparangi		A beautiful ethereal landscape image that has a real dream-like quality to it. I did find myself craving some darker tones especially with the choice of the grey mattboard. The image seems as if it may have an analogue/film process rather than digital which I liked.

AO Pear Placement		A capture of New Zealand in modern times, right down to the Covid mask and cellphone clutched in hand, also a very iconic scene and sculpture. This image suits the black and white treatment, I'm not sure what the relevance or importance of the pear was, perhaps to bring a bit of fun and quirkiness to this image? Really enjoyed the strong lines of the architecture.
AO Pensive Pulchritude	Winner	There is a hyper real quality of this portrait that is unnerving (in a good way). For me, the disconnect that is created with the figure looking away from the viewer evokes a certain vancantness that enhances that. They way you have used light to enhance the figure reminds me of Old Masters Portaits, with the modern twist (the lip stud and the glittering top) bringing it into modern times. There's a certain sadness in her that makes me think of the younger people of this generation, and the confusion and displacement they seem to feel. This is a great image.
AO Philadelphia through the window		An impressive cityscape. The image has a analogue/film quality to it and I wondered what year this image was captured and perhaps if this view has since changed. Utilising a larger window frame around the image accentuates the grandess of this scene, and makes the viewer feel very small amidst it all.
AO Retro Glamour		A very dramatic black and white image, which oozes glamour. I am glad that the jewellery was the focus and that the mannequin has been blended into the background. The image is well lit and the quality of the printing is perfect.
AO Shadow		Through the clever use of shadow you have elevated this simple object to something quite mysterious, enhanced by the asymmetry of the compostion giving the shadow a very ominous presence.

AO Southern Bell Frog, Ranoidea raniformis		What a wonderfully colourful creature, mimicking his surroundings perfectly. The forward motion of his front legs makes this image, as if he's just about to jump off the page. I wondered if printing the image slightly smaller might resolve the clarity of the focus.
AO The Collector		This style / aesthetic is unique in the competition, with none like it. An interesting array of objects carefully curated - I can imagine a very enthusiastic collector of interesting things behind this image. You've clearly had a lot of patience to get this image.
AO Tui feeding on Kowhai	Judges Commendation	A very rich image which celebrates nature in its full glory, from the details in the Tui to the vibrant colours of the kowhai enhanced by the high gloss printing of the image. To capture this image at such a high quality requires a patience and skill that needs commending, well done!
AO Water Fern	Judges Commendation	This is a stunning image that breathes the potential of new life. It's a quiet image but the strength is found in the fern itself. I think of the resilience of nature's intricate and purposeful design, that enables it to keep propelling forward.
AO Yakety Yak Don't Talk Back		Quite the scabbling moment captured between these two seagulls. Really like the contrast of the smoothness of the seagull feathers, compared the roughness of the stones. It's a very tightly cropped image which enhances the mood of this disagreement!
AS Out for a stroll		The contrast of Vintage and Modern fashion attire, is enhanced by the cool calm stride of the couple compared with the stares of passersby. The composition is very clever in the way it is split in 3, foreground (couple), middle ground (passersby) and background (crowd reflection in window) which really gives you a sense of the buzz and atmosphere of the festival, despite only 4 main characters captured in the image.

BO Bird of a feather		The perfect title for this quaint image - technically speaking it's a beautiful crisp image, which I know would not be easy with sparrows who are very quick moving! It's a very closely cropped image - but I enjoyed the perspective you've been able to create using your depth of field and focus.
BO Dr JP		I love portrait photography, and feel it's a real privilege to meet someone this way as there is such a vulnerability about it. Dr. JP has a kind soft face, and he seems to me to be a hardworking man; the way the light reflects the eyes brings a real closeness to this moment. I would have liked to have seen this image printed a little bit smaller to enhance that intimate moment between sitter and viewer.
BO Impending Storm	Judges Commendation	I am a big fan of a urban vs nature image - and loved this emotive photograph. There is clearly something brewing! Love the way the light is hitting the power lines - and the little bit of artistic blur really suits this image.
BO Mantodea & Fly	Winner	I'm not a big fan of the pray mantis (or bugs in general actually), but this image just blew me away. The sheer patience alone to capture an image like this, along with the obvious skill with your camera to obtain such a clear and vibrant image is to be celebrated!
BO Overthinking!	Runner Up	I feel one of the purposes of photography is to capture a moment in time, and what a moment in time this is! This images makes me want to transport myself into this moment and see it for myself. The play on scale makes this very central composition work!

BO Ruapehu Rising	Runner Up	I love all the contrast in this image and the choice of composition. There's a sense of mystery created because of the way you've chosen to frame the Mountain peeking out from behind the reeds, come and discover me it says! I also loved the deep darkness of the clouds yet the golden shine on the reeds. Just so much push and pull of light happening in this simple but beautiful image of Ruapehu.
BO Smokers Corner		I enjoyed the nice strong lines created in this piece using the surrounds, the table, the sign and the black screen. The woman is very contemplative but I did feel she was a little out of focus. However this image did make me very intrigued about who this woman is and what is her story - and why you choose to capture her.
BO Spring		One of my favourite blooms and seasons. The droplets you've been able to capture on these flowers really make this image sing. Would be interesting to see how the image changes with a less dramatic crop, but it seems to me that you wanted these flowers to be the centre of attention!
BO White Faced Heron	Judges Commendation	Technically a really successful capture of this beautiful Heron. I love the golden colours of what would seem to be the sun setting or rising giving the photograph a very painterly feel to it. A lot of patience and attention to detail to capture this image.
BO You've Been Warned		This is a very clear and strong image technically. The hyperreality of this image is unnerving with the way you've cropped to include the houses in the background and the crispness of the rubble in the foreground, I feel that really sets the scene and makes you do a double take of this wax figure.