

Image #1 Title	Grade	Comments
AO All hail to the king.jpg	Merit	I feel that the pawns are waiting for the nod from the king to advance one square towards each other. The use of out of focus to focus draws my eyes forward and into the image. I find the more space behind the dark pawns compared to the light colored pawns a bit distracting. I keep looking to the right to see what is behind the pawns. There is a lack of balance which is created by a chess board being 8 spaces on each side. Finding the solution to bring balance into the placement of the pieces would give me peace when I look at and into this image.
AS A frosty night	Merit	I can feel the cool of the evening as the sun sets. I can smell the woodsmoke in the foreground as people warm their homes. This adds to the blue color in the darker foreground. The color transition from the ground to the top of the image is a gentle transition that appeals to me. The use of a small amount of clarity (if Lightroom is used for post processing) may add some detail in the shadows and lift the smoke adding dimension to the image. Nice colors that have been well framed by the crop.
AS After the sun has set, darkness falls	Accepted	I feel like I am on the edge of a volcano watching the lava flow down a mountain. I am feeling some of the heat. I like the red through the clouds and the reflection on the beach. There is a bit of pink in the clouds towards the right. If this could be brought out in post processing this would add to the feel of this image. It may also add some color in the reflection if it is there as well. I enjoy color like this and I feel that there is a bit too much darkness to the right in the photo. It covers more than half of the photo and does not add as much as the one third with the red sky. The color is a mazing and the cloud detail makes for an interesting story with this image.
AS Before the Storm	Accepted	I believe that a storm coming at sunset is a spectacular thing to see as the clouds hold or reflect the setting sunlight. I can feel the tension in the air as the storm develops. In my view the noise in this image takes away from the pleasure of viewing this combination of colors, silhouettes and cloud drama. I like the colors from the clouds to the horizon which creates the drama in this image.
AS Cooks Garden Memorial	Merit	The two ladies make this place feel like one of reverence for the sporting history that has occurred here. The people and the wall are in sharp focus which I like. I like the vertical rhythm of the light, tower and obelisk. And they make the image. I like the interest that they are showing in the plaque.

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AS Evening at the batch	Accepted	This is a popular scene for many New Zealand families. The image captures a moment that I believe has been lived many times over for the people in the image. I feel that the image is undermined by the blown out high lights from the windows. I believe that some lights should have been turned down or off in the bach. The image provides a memory of the evening to the person that took the photo.
AS Fireworks magic Castlecliff beach	Honors	I feel a part of this image, standing a long distance away hearing the bangs and crackles as the fireworks present themselves. Each of the fireworks is sharp and full of detail. The trail of light from the ground to the lowest firework gives it an anchor that is not often seen. I like the square crop and the white / purple border on the image. I really enjoyed this image and its presentation.
AS From Decrepit to Stunning	Accepted	<p>I feel that this building offers something pleasant on the ground floor but there may be something not so nice in the upper floor. I like buildings that are shot at night because the light is very different to that which is seen in the daylight. In this case the lights cast a dark shadow on all the upper windows except for the one above the door which has a drawn curtain. We can not see in to this floor. I find that the image is undermined by the softness of the image. There is a small amount of noise but the softness is the greater issue.</p> <p>I believe that when shooting buildings the photographer should be prepared to make small adjustments in the orientation in post processing. An example is the Transform section in Lightroom. This adds a correct perspective that most of the lenses can not replicate unless it is a tilt -shift lens. To do building perspective changes the image has to have room around it. It is a case of shoot wide and let the Transform changes crop in showing all the building. The image has been shot well with the lighting adding effect to the image.</p>
AS GETTING COSY	Accepted	<p>A fun scene that I have been in myself. I can hear the crackle from the fire, the smell of the wood smoke and hear the murmur of discussion amongst the people.</p> <p>The scene is undermined by the lack of sharpness in the features of the people. Boosting the ISO would allow a faster shutter speed that may have captured the people with less movement. This may add noise to the image but post processing software does a good job on removing noise. I want the same clarity with my sight that I have with smell and hearing. I like that the slow shutter speed adds an interesting detail in the sparks from the fire.</p>

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AS Hanging Out	Merit	I feel like I am the main dish in a horror movie. The mandible or palps around the mouth are a key feature and I understand would be tricky to get in focus with the eyes. So I take the eyes that look at me clearly and the mouth parts that are a bit soft adding to the mystery of how they would be used. I would not be one to try a shot like this and the photographer has done a good job with this image.
AS Into the light	Highly Commended	I can feel the moisture in the air as I walk down this brick paved sidewalk. The edge of the building on my right leads me towards the rounded step. The leading line is emphasized by the light reflecting down the building edge. I believe the composition keeps directing me to the step and then into the building itself. Some room to the left of the step would make me feel there is room to pass by the step and the edge of the image. The focus is good, the capturing of the light works for me. Black and white in this type of image suits it.
AS Katydid Balancing Act	Merit	I believe that this is a macro shot of an cricket type of insect. The photo has captured it poised and perhaps ready to leap away. Keeping the legs in the image makes this a good composition. The depth of field has the front of the head in focus which is not easy to achieve. The contrast in color between the green of the insect and the purple of the object is interesting and adds to the image.
AS Little Shed in the Paddock	Accepted	I like astro photography and the level of practice required to be successful. In my opinion this photograph shows the right elements with an interesting foreground feature (the shed) and enough of the sky with clear stars and planets. I feel like there is more of the sky to see but the image gives about 1/3rd of the space for it. In my opinion some of the wood on the left corner could be sacrificed by a crop that also reduces the tree line giving a bit more image space to the sky. If I walked up to the shed at night would it be lit by this much light? This is a personal preference on presentation. I would probably reduce some of the light so that the stars are brighter in a darker sky and the tree line is not as visible. The image is sharp and the colors are natural which adds to the presentation of this image.
AS Looking over the acres	Accepted	I would like to know more about what the this person is pondering as they look over the horizon and sunset. In my view the person's position could be a bit more to the left leaving more of the scene to look towards on the right. A bit of shadow enhancement may give the viewer a bit more information on what is being looked over. The color in the sky has a wave like appearance adding some definition to attract the viewer's eye.

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AS Looking Up	Highly Commended	I enjoy this image as it reminds me of waiting in line to get on, hearing the noise of the ferris wheel and being jostled by the people as the line moves forward. The sharpness of the image and the colors have been taken very well by the photographer. The blue halo lines on the white lights are very interesting and appeal to me. Overall I believe that this is a very good capture.
AS Making Music	Accepted	I feel that I am in a balcony above the orchestra imagining the music as I look down on the musician. The movement of the bow and the left hand tells me that there is sound in this image. I find that there are several things that undermine the presentation of this image. There is a softness in the presentation that does not provide a counter perspective to the movement of the bow and hand that increased sharpness would provide. Also the background instruments presence could be reduced through a vignette or a mask. Not to eliminate them but reduce their presence in the image. The photographer has done a good job in capturing the placement of the bow and the left hand with enough movement so that I can hear the music.
AS Moon gazing	Merit	I feel like I am just an arms length away from the moon. I like the details and sharpness of the image. I like the square crop as it frames it well and the two dark patches on one of the diagonal corners with the other diagonal without dark patches frame the moon in an abstract way. I like that the surface is clean without any sign of blur which can happen with shooting into the night sky.
AS Nightfall	Accepted	This looks like a beautiful evening as the sun sets over the sea, with colourful clouds silhouetted against bare trees. I like the branches for the interest they add and the framing of leading my eye to the distant water with a wave coming into the shore. While there are blowout highlights they do not detract me significantly from enjoying this the image. I might suggest that giving a bit of light to the shadows may add perspective to the elements on the shore - I do not know if I am looking to a distant hill or at some sandhills just meters from the photographer. This sunset has a couple of extra items that make it a bit more interesting for the viewer.

Image #1 Title	Grade	Comments
AS On Reflection	Accepted	I can feel myself walking down this deserted street towards the traffic circle seeing the lights and their reflections in the water. The star bokeh of the street lights is appealing to me. I am drawn down the street by the centre line and the gold and red reflections. The lights and blue of buildings and signs to the left and right distracts me from my journey straight ahead. In my view the image appears soft and has noticeable noise and these undermine the presentation. I believe that these two items can be rectified to enhance the image by cropping out the blue colors to the side and removing the noise from the picture. The presentation of the centre elements of the image are effective in making me feel part of the story.
AS Rain clouds over the city	Accepted	I feel that the glow from the sunset is being wiped out by the rain. I like the presentation of the layers of grey back lit by the yellow sunset. The rain forms a soft color that mixes nicely with the lighter shades of grey. I believe two things that undermine this image is the color and luminance noise. Both of these can be quickly dealt with in post processing. The composition is interesting with the clouds above the city matching the topography of the city.
AS Solace in the Wind	Highly Commended	I feel the wind that would stop the statue from falling into the harbour. I look to the direction the statue is looking and see the distant shore. I like that this statue has enough light to see details but does not dominate the photo. I like the sharpness so that I can see building details. And I like the reflections. There is one light that draws my eye away from the statute. It is the one on the building beside the chest of the statue. Removing this light and its reflection would keep me focused on the statue. The black in the sky and water adds a minimalistic touch which appeals to me. This image grabs my attention and holds it.

Image #1 Title	Grade	Comments
AS Subdued Serenity	Merit	<p>For me this is a scene of recent times during covid with few people around. From seeing the moisture on the tables I feel the heaviness of it in the air as it that envelops the lights toning down their luminance. I believe that out of this street scene my eyes should be drawn to the umbrellas. I would like just a bit of light under them to see a bit more of the detail of the tables and chairs. Maybe there is more to the story underneath, perhaps a body? I believe that two items undermine the presentation of this image. The first is the leaf at the top of the image. The second is the clock tower to the left. It has enough bright light to keep me looking at it. There may be a way to present the scene with its story and that is not a part of it. Overall I like the moody overhead lights, the red umbrellas and the unknown of the dark space beneath which all add to an interesting story in this image.</p>
AS Sydney Harbour	Highly Commended	<p>This is an good capture of an iconic building which identifies the city of its location. I feel that I am right there once again, but not at a typical time. I have been here with thousands of others during the day. And I have not seen the lighting nor the color of the building before. The image has classical photographic parts. I like the leading lines that take my eye along the waterfront from either side to the building. The bridge above constrains my examination and directs me back down to the Opera House. The buildings across are not cut off by the bridge and tell me there is more to the CBD of Sydney than just one building. The bright boat dock in the lower right pulls my eye away from the Opera House and almost out of the image. A vignette may be considered to tone this down. I like this good presentation of this icon building.</p>
AS The Church of the Good Shepherd	Merit	<p>This is a very popular building in a location known for the dark sky environment. I can feel a light breeze blowing and the peaceful setting here.</p> <p>In my view the positioning of the church in the image is good as the wall on the left brings you along to the church. And then the church points my eyes to the sky.</p> <p>The sky appears a bit muddy in my view. There are clouds which are clearly seen but some post processing steps may bring out a bit more light in the stars and planets to support the church. The color cast of the church works for me and the sharpness of the image shows the detail of the stone.</p>

Image #1 Title	Grade	Comments
AS The Dark Side.jpeg	Accepted	The title suggests a dark side and I am not feeling anything ominous in the image. Perhaps it is on the other side of the windows and there is more to this building then the title and image presents. I like the series of window frames on each side of the entrance. The gold color adds a contrast to the grey of the building. The image is in focus and there is just a small bit of noise to the back right of the image. Overall I find that this is a very clean image. I feel that the light on the right edge does not contribute to the image and could be cropped out, but this is a personal preference. A well presented image that could be seen in many cities of New Zealand.
AS The Exhibitionist	Merit	I am not sure what this is exactly but believe that it may be a line of sparkler that has been applied to a frame and ignited. I find it very interesting as I look in close to the main cluster and then away to the entirety of the image. It reminds me of the art form of the Indians of North America where you get more of an outline rather than the substance of an object. I can see a bird in several forms, wings and feet. Sometimes dancing and other times stretching wings. I am as mystified at the end of my assessment as I am at the beginning as to what this is. And my conclusion is that it can be what ever I want it to be. Thank you for sharing this.
AS The Lighthouse with Captain Cook,	Honors	I believe that this is a sculpture of a centuries old historical man in a very modern setting. In my view his position in the centre with the lights around him and reflecting off of him is very good. The focus looks sharp showing colors on him and in places deeper than the surface of him. It seems that there is a little bit of magic in this image. Well done.
AS Time Stands Still	Highly Commended	This image makes me feel like I just stepped off a train into the square of a small town right after a rain shower. For me everything looks a bit sharper after a rain shower, dust in the air has been removed and there is a crispness in the air. The reflections pull me towards their light source. Whites seem whiter in the clock face and blacks seem blacker. The star illumination of the street lights adds a mystical element to the scene, it is not something that you see when looking at these lights normally. I like that the vertical edges in the clock tower, street lights and buildings are all similar. This is a repeating theme which appeals to me.

Image #1 Title	Grade	Comments
AS Time to relax	Accepted	<p>I was stretched to see how this met the set definition so assessed it as an Open category.</p> <p>I can feel the coolness of the glass as my hand wraps around it and the satisfaction as the liquid slides down my throat. The glasses and moisture on the outside appear sharp.</p> <p>Use of a different depth of field or a vignete may be considered to provide a more blurred background which would keep attention from drifting from the drinks.</p>
AS Vigil.jpg	Highly Commended	<p>Reminders of the sacrifice of others builds a story around a photo like this one. I can see the crowds come together on a day we remember such things. The two birds add an additional aspect the soldier, especially the one the statue facing the other way.</p> <p>Maybe watching the back of the soldier. The colors of the sunset may be the same color as the flames from cannons. This is a story that makes me stop, to think and be thankful.</p>
AS Waiting for the sun	Highly Commended	<p>I can feel the stillness of the lake. The mist on the lake reminds me that there is a coolness in the air. I like the colors that go from the monochrome of the rocks across the developing color of the lake in the the blush of the sky. I like the balance of the elements from the rocks in the foreground to the mountains in the middle of the image. Well done.</p>
AS Wellington Harbour	Merit	<p>I believe that his photograph shows a rare view of Wellington - the harbour is smooth enough to have a very clear reflection of the building lights. In my view the image is undermined by the rocks as presented in the foreground. The color of them draws my my eye when I would like to see them then go over them to the city lights. In a night reflection I want to keep my attention on the buildings, their lights and the reflections that occur. The focus appears sharp on the rocks and the city. I would suggest that presenting the city in a minimalistic perspective with black water below and black sky above could make a very engaging image.</p>
AS What a Day	Merit	<p>I like watching a bird coasting above the water with a beautiful sunset behind. In my view the story is in the bottom third of the image. I find that the space above the bird is more than sufficient. Removing some of it would not detract to the overall image in my opinion. I find that the amount of noise in the lower third of the image undermines its presentation. I believe the timing of the image in capturing the bird in flight and having it positioned to the left of centre makes this image captivating.</p>

Image #1 Title	Grade	Comments
AS Window Shopping.jpeg	Merit	<p>I like the way the building has been captured in this image. I am led right to the door which is on the corner of the building and would then go to the windows to see what is within. The lights on the upper floor give me enough to understand the shape and structure of the building.</p> <p>I feel that the story continues to the right onto the next building with lights on, looking closely it seems to be more of an office than a store so for me the image is all about the store that looks directly at me. The image is undermined in my opinion by the orange building to the left. My eye goes there and I have to keep bringing it back to the store. I like the sharpness of the image which allows me to look closely into the store.</p>
BO Riverton Rocks	Accepted	<p>This is a very busy scene with water splashing in almost every direction. I feel like I am in a washing machine. When trying to find a place to rest my eye, it gets pushed and shoved around the image. There is a high amount of noise in the image, both in the sky and the rocks. In my view dealing with the noise and making one rock the subject of the image as it gets wrapped in water would be a less confusing story. The freezing of the water spray is not always easy and in this image has been done well.</p>
BO Speargrass Flat Cottage	Merit	<p>I believe this image shows the passage of seasons from autumn to almost winter. I like how the red fruit of the trees forms a frame around the window and has a similar color to the roof which gives a harmony to the image. The trees on the right of the building are intertwined adding texture and depth. Old buildings present textures and subtle color shades that add depth to an image which appeals to me. I believe that the crop is well chosen to support the elements of the image. I would suggest that having the fruit on the left in focus (by changing the f stop or moving back a meter or two perhaps) would strengthen the presentation of the image.</p>

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BS 30 Drews Avenue	Accepted	<p>For me this is about an older building in a modern society. I believe that the age and the character of the building is highlighted by interesting light in the window areas. I feel like I should see a carriage driving up to drop off some people.</p> <p>I think that the structure of the image has been undermined by trying to include as many lit windows which portrays the building in an unnatural way. I believe that older architecture was designed and built to show a building from a front on point of view, whether it is the long side or the short side. Presenting the building with a corner point of view undermines the key features of central doors and balanced symmetry of windows.</p> <p>I would suggest that there also needs to be more space on the top of the image above the chimney. The image is nicely presented showing modern and character themes.</p>
BS Fading Light Mowhanau	Highly Commended	<p>This time of night with the sea and sunset is one that I always enjoy. The colors of the sky are captivating and seeing the water wash over the rocks and try to pull them into the sea is reminds me of the endless patience of the ocean. The reflection of the light on the wet sand shows the muted colors from the reflection of the sky. In my view the image is undermined by the rocks on the left. They attract my eye when I am inclined to look to the right. I believe that a crop that removes them would keep viewers focused from the centre of the image to the right. A nice combination of elements and colors in this image.</p>
BS Kapiti Sunset	Accepted	<p>Living on the Kapiti Coast the horizon is dominated by Kapiti Island and there are many locations that show off the different faces of the island. I believe this presentation taken away from the beach does not let the unique aspects of the island show. The foreground hides parts of the island making it hard to determine anything unique about the location. The light is nice as are the colors in the sky. For me this is a record of the type of sunset that can be seen on the Kapiti Coast.</p>

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BS Lake Rotorua	Merit	<p>I can feel the warmth of the water as steam rises off of it in the distance. The steam makes this landscape image a little bit different to many others. This is a unique location that could be found in few parts of the world (the title gives the specific location but to overseas people they may not know that this is in New Zealand). The color on the clouds and in the reflection reminds me of landscape painters that capture the light in the clouds in Italy. A bit of light in the shadow of the far hills may give a bit more detail adding to the overall presentation of the image. I like the detail and how it has been captured.</p>
BS Moonrise 1.jpg	Accepted	<p>I feel the stillness of this place as the moon rises and the stars reveal themselves. The silhouette of the tree is like a large scale bonsai. Using the tree to block the brightness of the moon works well. This has allowed the stars and maybe a planet or two to show in the sky.</p>
BS No Worries.jpg	Merit	<p>I think that this image is about a surfer enjoying a calmer moment on the water watching the sunset as the ocean stretches out to the horizon.</p> <p>The amount of water and sunset undermines this by competing for my attention. I would suggest that a portrait crop may strengthen this story as it takes away some of the ocean and sky space and it would constrain my focus from the surfer to the sunset and back again. I like the sunset colors as they complement the steel blue of the ocean with some sunset reflections.</p>
BS Shadow Love	Accepted	<p>I think this photo is about a couple sharing a special moment in nature watching a wonderful sunset.</p> <p>In my view the positioning of the couple's hands in the silhouette of the tree undermines the connection they have for each other as their joined hands are not clearly seen.</p> <p>I find a bit of tension from the rise of the land on the left and the main branches of the tree leaning to the right. I think that a square crop removing the left side of the image would remove the tension keeping my eye on the tree and couple. The color of the sky with lines of shading is appealing to me.</p>

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BS Silent Prayer	Merit	<p>The presentation of the image does not help me in determining if it was taken at night or in a broader interpretation of the set definition praying is something that is done more at night than the day. In my view the repetition of the image of the praying girl reenforces prayer as a part of this person's life. I believe that the underlying composition of the image could be strengthened by having more space under the image instead of above it.</p>
BS They are out there	Honors	<p>This has an engaging story with the car and its occupants heading off somewhere. Walking by I can see myself doing a double take as my mind catches up with what my eyes have seen. With the different types of lights in the image I like that there are no serious overblown areas that dominate the image. The occupants are in focus as is most of the car which guides my eye to the occupants. I like the crop as it gives space around the car on each side.</p>
BS You never know whos watching	Highly Commended	<p>For me this image is about the penguins watching as well as the possibility that there is someone in the window which is being reflected. The white window looks a bit like a hologram image to me and holograms have a three dimensional perspective to them which may hide something.</p> <p>I like the shapes in this photo. The triangle of the night about, the rectangle of the building to the right and the building with the penguins converging to a distant point to the right (supported by the triangle above). I believe that the photographer made a very deliberate choice in placing the different elements to present to the viewer in this image something that keeps them engaged for a long period of time.</p>