

AO Past Memory

This image captures the essence of timeless elegance and artistic expression. The soft, flickering candlelight casts a warm, gentle glow that dances across the violin's graceful curves and the intricately notated music sheet beneath it. The amber light enhances the rich, polished wood of the violin, creating a sense of intimacy and serenity.

The juxtaposition of the violin resting on the sheet music evokes a sense of anticipation and creative energy. It's as if the instrument is poised to bring the notes on the page to life, translating the composer's vision into a symphony of emotions. The delicate interplay of shadows and light adds depth to the composition, emphasizing the instrument's craftsmanship and the dedication required to master it.

Highly Commended

AO Splash of Red

Nature's intricate beauty never ceases to amaze me. This captivating close-up of flowers reveals a mesmerizing world of precision and elegance. The straight-like shapes of the petals create a sense of order and symmetry, while the delicate layering of the petals adds depth and texture to the composition. The vivid red accent serves as nature's brush strokes, adding a dramatic touch to the composition.

In this image, the beauty lies not only in the individual details but also in the harmonious interplay of shapes, colours, and textures.

Highly Commended

AO Steampunk lair

This captivating image transports us to a bygone era, shrouded in an aura of dark mystery. The desk, adorned with a captivating array of old objects, seems like a portal to a forgotten world. The weathered books, their pages whispering tales of centuries past, provide a glimpse into the intellectual pursuits of yesteryears.

The crystal candle holder, casting flickering shadows across the desk, adds an eerie yet enchanting ambience. Nearby, an ancient map unfurls its secrets, inviting us to embark on a journey through uncharted territories and hidden treasures.

But it is the old and intricate magnifying glasses that truly steal the show. With their ornate details and a hint of tarnish, they exude an air of curiosity and enigma. What secrets lie beneath their lenses? What mysteries await discovery?

And then there's the enigmatic centrepiece, a big metal spider, its presence both intriguing and unsettling. It stands as a silent guardian of this enigmatic realm, weaving threads of intrigue and wonder throughout the scene.

This image beckons us to step into a world where time has stood still, where each object holds a story, and where the darkness only serves to amplify the sense of mystery. It's a tableau that leaves us yearning to unravel the secrets hidden within this intriguing and beautifully haunting tableau.

Highly Commended

AS A Hint of Autumn

The intentional camera movement has created a mesmerizing, almost dreamlike quality that truly resembles a beautiful painting. The soft, blurred lines and subtle transitions of colour give the scene an ethereal and calming atmosphere.

The accents of warm, autumnal colours scattered throughout the composition are a delightful touch, hinting at the impending change of seasons. It's as if the trees are whispering secrets of the coming autumn, and the viewer is transported into a serene world of nature's transition.

Highly Commended

AS A New Species

This abstract rendition of Iris flowers is a stunning blend of artistry and nature. The manipulation of colours has transformed these familiar blooms into a captivating image. The vibrant hues and playful patterns seem to dance across the canvas, creating a sense of wonder and intrigue. A gentle moderation of the background design would grant the flowers the spotlight they deserve, harmonizing the composition.

Merit

AS Buskers - Dunedin

This image of the busker is captivating! The intentional camera movement adds a mesmerizing element to the scene, creating the illusion of multiple individuals blending into one rhythmic performance. It's as if the music has transcended the boundaries of a single person and transformed into a collective energy that radiates from the street artist. The dynamic swirls of colour and light convey a sense of fluidity and harmony, mirroring the harmonious sounds that must be filling the air. This photograph beautifully captures the essence of street performance. Highly Commended

AS Clash Of The Titans.jpg

The sight of two mighty dinosaurs on the brink of an epic battle against a backdrop of orange, billowing clouds creates an atmosphere charged with tension and drama. It's as if nature itself has conspired to set the stage for an unforgettable showdown. The sheer power and majesty of these ancient creatures are on full display, reminding us of the incredible history that once roamed our planet. The vibrant colours and intense emotions captured in this image make it a great image, leaving us in awe of the prehistoric world and the incredible stories it has to tell.

Highly Commended

AS Connections.jpg

This image is a dance of abstract patterns intertwining shapes and colours. The way these elements come together creates a symphony for the eyes, inviting the viewer on a visual journey filled with intrigue and wonder. The intricate connections between the various forms hint at a deeper narrative, leaving room for interpretation and personal reflection. To enhance its impact and reduce the overwhelming effect of the shapes and colours, I would opt for a square composition, creating a distinct focal point.

Highly Commended

AS early morning glory.jpg

This image beautifully captures the magic of the early morning hours as the sun gracefully ascends over the tranquil ocean horizon. The warm, harmonious hues seamlessly blend together, creating a mesmerizing palette that instantly soothes the soul. The Intentional Camera Movement treatment adds a layer of subtle textures, evoking a sense of gentle motion and mystique. What truly stands out in this image are the dominant horizontal lines, which imbue the scene with a profound sense of peace and solitude.

Highly Commended

AS Fantasy Forest.JPG

"Fantasy Forest" is a captivating and enchanting image. The multi-composite image seamlessly weaves together elements, drawing viewers into a journey of discovery. The use of various elements creates an intriguing narrative that sparks the imagination. To enhance the prominence of the hidden elements and immerse the audience even further, cropping the foreground is an excellent suggestion. This adjustment would enable the hidden gems within the forest to shine and encourage viewers to explore the depths of this magical world. Highly Commended

AS Floral fizz.jpg

This image of a bouquet featuring vibrant red, sunny yellow, and serene blue flowers adorned with accents of lush green is a true explosion of colours and shapes. The creative treatment of this composition exudes a sense of dynamism and energy, as if the colours are bursting forth in a joyful celebration of nature's beauty.

What truly sets this image apart is the clever use of pastel tones that beautifully balance the exuberant explosion of colours. These soft pastels gently temper the vibrancy, creating a harmonious and soothing visual experience.

Highly Commended

AS Henley Lake Swamp.jpg

This photograph beautifully captures a moment of serenity in the natural world. The image of two ducks engrossed in the meticulous task of grooming their feathers is truly heartwarming.

The reflection of the surrounding colours on the lake's surface adds a touch of enchantment to the scene, creating soft patterns that draw the viewer in. This interplay of colours lends an almost dreamlike quality to the image, making it even more captivating.

As for the semi-submerged branch in the foreground, it presents an interesting choice. While it does add a layer of depth and texture to the composition, removing it through cropping might indeed intensify the sense of intimacy between the two ducks.

Highly Commended

AS Horror in the Park.jpg

"Horror in the Park" is undeniably a captivating and atmospheric image that manages to evoke a strong sense of drama and tension. The contrasting elements of the orange sky, ominous silhouettes of birds in flight, and the eerie presence of two isolated trees in the foreground all contribute to a palpable feeling of foreboding.

However, there are some elements in the image that seem disconnected or confusing. The presence of a dog under a tree, seven swans in a lake, and three butterflies on the left side of the composition raises questions about their relevance to the central theme. It's essential for an image to have a clear narrative or focal point to engage the viewer effectively.

To enhance the impact of "Horror in the Park" and create a more coherent scene, simplifying the composition or refining the relationship between these elements and the woman in the foreground could help in conveying a more concise and powerful message.

Acceptance

AS Hung out to dry.jpg

This captivating image of a pair of trousers swaying gently on the clothesline carries an air of mystery and whimsy. What immediately draws the eye is the unexpected sight of two bare feet protruding from each trouser leg, a surreal twist that piques one's curiosity.

The juxtaposition of the ordinary and the extraordinary in this scene evokes a sense of wonder. What story lies behind this peculiar sight?

Honours

AS Lavender in Ice .jpg

This image of a cluster of lavender flowers encased in a block of ice is interesting. The ice lends an enchanting texture, almost like a frozen moment in time.

What makes this image even more intriguing is the air of mystery it exudes. The ice shrouds the lavender in an enigmatic aura as if it's guarding a secret or a story yet to be unravelled. It's as though we're peering into a hidden world, inviting us to contemplate the wonders of the natural world and the intricate dance of the elements.

Highly Commended

AS Lip-smacking.jpg

The lush, tall grass forms a beautiful backdrop for the lip-smacking cow. The play of light and shadow adds an intriguing dimension to the picture, especially with the shadow of a person present. It almost seems as if the cow is curiously contemplating the human shadow to become its next meal.

Highly Commended

AS Locked in Conversation.jpg

The background, adorned with an intricate pattern of metal bars and padlocks, serves as a poignant metaphor for the barriers and constraints we often encounter in our lives. The juxtaposition of the women engrossed in dialogue against the backdrop of confinement adds a layer of depth and symbolism to the scene. It reminds us that no matter how confining our circumstances may appear, the power of human connection and communication can break through the barriers.

Highly Commended

AS Marigold.jpg

This captivating black and white image beautifully captures the essence of a Victorian young girl adorned with a crown of bright orange Marigold flowers. The juxtaposition of the monochromatic backdrop with the vivid burst of Marigolds creates a striking visual contrast that immediately draws the viewer's attention.

The choice of Marigolds as a crown is symbolic, as these flowers often represent warmth, creativity, and celebration. The vibrant hue of the Marigolds against the muted background evokes a sense of nostalgia and brings to mind the beauty of a bygone era.

Highly Commended

AS Matariki Wellington.jpg

This image transports us to a dreamscape where the boundaries between reality and abstraction blur. The vibrant city skyline at night, drenched in a kaleidoscope of colours, takes on an otherworldly quality through the use of ICM treatment. The result is a captivating and almost ethereal portrayal of urban life.

Just as Matariki represents a time of renewal and reflection, this image prompts us to ponder the city's constant evolution and the stories it holds beneath its vibrant exterior.

In "Matariki Wellington," the cityscape becomes a canvas for the imagination, inviting us to explore its every hue and curve.

Highly Commended

AS On the Beach.jpg

This image of a beach captivates the essence of serenity through its bold graphic treatment, reducing the bustling shoreline to striking silhouettes of people. The approach accentuates the pure simplicity of human presence against the vast canvas of nature. The contrast between the sharp angles of the silhouettes and the soft curves of the beach and ocean creates a dynamic visual harmony, inviting us to reflect on the harmony of nature and humanity.

Highly Commended

AS Oscar and Charlie visit Whanganui. JPG

This image captures the essence of generational connection and heritage. The wooden figures, representing a father and son, gaze with admiration and respect at the symbol of Whanganui. It's a reminder of how traditions, culture, and values are passed down from one generation to the next.

Highly Commended

AS Our warming world.jpg

This captivating image of a tall yet dwindling waterfall, embraced by parched, orange grasslands, serves as a poignant reminder of the profound impacts of global warming. Nature's delicate balance, once lush and vibrant, now finds itself teetering on the brink of transformation.

Highly Commended

AS paint flowers.jpg

This image transports me to the world of Vincent van Gogh. The withered sunflowers in this picture, their golden petals now faded to rustic hues, seem to echo the passage of time and the fleeting nature of beauty.

The applied filter creates an enchanting atmosphere reminiscent of Van Gogh's masterpieces, with bold, swirling brushstrokes that infuse life into the scene. The play of warm, earthy colours against the cool, tranquil background adds depth and emotion to the composition.

In this image, the sunflowers may be nearing the end of their life cycle, but their essence remains captured in this artistic homage.

Honours

AS Squabbling gulls.jpg

This captivating image perfectly captures the essence of nature's drama in action. The two seagulls locked in a mid-air squabble amidst the backdrop of a wave create a scene of raw intensity. It's as if these graceful birds are engaged in a fierce dance,

The frothy wave, frozen in time, adds an extra layer of dynamism to the composition, emphasizing the contrast between the tranquillity of the ocean.

This image evokes a sense of wonder at the beauty and complexity of the natural world, where every moment, no matter how fleeting, can tell a story of survival and determination.

Highly Commended

AS Strange New World.JPG

The post-processing treatment has transformed this familiar scene into something straight out of an alien and strange new world. The colours and lighting give it an otherworldly quality that's both surreal and captivating. It's as though we've stumbled upon a hidden paradise on another planet, where the sand glows with an ethereal radiance, and the ocean reflects a sky unlike any we've seen before. The people on the beach add a sense of wonder and scale to this fantastical landscape, making it feel like an adventure waiting to unfold.

Honours

AS Strelitzia.jpg

The contrast between the vivid, fiery hues of the Strelitzia blooms and the inky darkness of the background creates a striking visual impact. What truly elevates this composition is the skilful post-processing that infuses an abstract quality into the scene. The flowers seem to dance in a mysterious, dreamlike realm, their contours softened and edges blurred, as if they're reaching out from a distant memory. This blend of the real and surreal captures the essence of Strelitzia's unique beauty in a way that's both enchanting and thought-provoking.

Highly Commended

AS The last frontier.jpg

The futuristic portrayal of two people travelling through space and time encapsulates the boundless possibilities of human exploration and adventure. It's as if they're riding the currents of the cosmos, transcending the limits of our known universe.

The sleek, streamlined spacecraft and their spacesuits convey a sense of advanced technology and preparedness for the unknown. As they venture through the fabric of time, one can't help but ponder the mysteries they might unravel and the wonders they'll witness.

Highly Commended

AS The Roar.jpg

This image captures the raw power and untamed beauty of nature. The slow shutter speed effect is shrouding the scene in an enigmatic atmosphere. The blur of motion combined with the deer's intense pose creates a sense of mystery and awe.

Highly Commended

AS The Third Season.jpg

The slow shutter speed employed here has worked its magic, transforming a simple scene into a beautiful, almost dreamlike spectacle. The illusion of falling leaves is both enchanting and serene, evoking a sense of tranquillity and nostalgia. Each leaf appears to dance gracefully in the gentle breeze, creating a poetic moment frozen in time.

Highly Commended

AS The Wedding Invite.jpg

This wedding invitation exudes timeless elegance and romance. The choice of delicate white flowers gracing the design adds an air of purity and grace, symbolizing the beauty of the love story about to unfold. The typography, with its graceful and flowing script, perfectly complements the floral motif, evoking a sense of sophistication and refinement.

Highly Commended

AS Time Check.JPG

This image beautifully captures the juxtaposition of old-world charm and modernity. The multi-reflection of the old building in the sleek, glass structure creates a visual contrast that tells a story of the passage of time and architectural evolution.

The aged building, with its intricate details and historical significance, seems to whisper secrets of the past. Its reflection in the polished glass structure symbolizes a bridge between the traditions of yesteryears and the innovations of today. The reflections, like echoes of history, showcase the harmonious coexistence of the past and the present.

Honours

AS Treasure Hunt.jpg

This image captures the essence of childhood wonder and the magic of winter. The child, wrapped in a vibrant red jacket and adorable gumboots, stands as a symbol of joy. The way soft, stylized filter creates an almost dreamlike atmosphere, turning a simple act of snow-picking into a scene straight out of a storybook. It's a moment frozen in time, where the innocence of youth and the beauty of nature converge.

Highly Commended

AS We are not alone.jpg

This black-and-white image of an old cemetery, juxtaposed with the surreal addition of floating, vibrant rectangles and a piercing eye, is a captivating blend of the past and the otherworldly. The stark contrast between the grayscale backdrop and the vivid, almost dreamlike shapes creates a sense of eerie wonder.

The cemetery's aged tombstones and the history they hold seem to coexist with these mysterious, levitating forms, evoking a sense of timelessness and a connection between the mortal and the unknown. The watchful eye gazing out from the midst of this ethereal landscape adds an element of curiosity and intrigue, as if it's inviting us to explore the mysteries that lie within the boundaries of life and death.

Honours

AS-Bored-to-Death.jpg

"Bored-to-Death" is an image that evokes a profound sense of contemplation. The juxtaposition of a skull, an open Bible, and an orange bird's necklace creates a striking visual narrative. The skull, an emblem of mortality, serves as a reminder of our finite existence, urging us to ponder life's deeper questions.

The presence of the open Bible beside it suggests a search for meaning and purpose, symbolizing the quest for answers in the face of mortality. It's as though the book's pages are a pathway to understanding and enlightenment.

The orange bird's necklace introduces an element of vibrancy and contrast. Its vivid colour amidst the grayscale composition hints at the resilience of life and the potential for transformation and renewal.

Highly Commended

AS-When-Toys-Dream.jpg

As we look at this image, we can almost feel the nostalgia and longing in porcelain eyes, as the dolls seem to be dreaming of the joyful days when they were the companions of giggles, imagination, and endless adventures.

This image invites us to pause and reflect on the simple joys of the past. It reminds us of the importance of treasuring the connections we form, even with inanimate objects, and how they can carry a piece of our hearts forever. These old-fashioned dolls, frozen in time, continue to speak to us, whispering tales of love and laughter and reminding us that the magic of childhood lives on in our memories.

Honours

BO Lake Lefroy.jpg

This image of the lake resembles an abstract image painted by nature itself. The vibrant interplay of colours and shapes on the water's surface evokes a sense of wonder and intrigue. The bold contrasts between the deep blues and white elements challenge our perception and ignite our imagination. It's as if the lake has become a canvas for the universe to express its creativity, reminding us of the boundless beauty that surrounds us in the natural world.

Highly Commended

BO Long Wait.jpg

In this poignant image, we see a person in a white hoodie waiting at a bus stop, their body language revealing a sense of weariness and anticipation. With their legs resting on a white suitcase, it's as though they are carrying not just their luggage but also the weight of their hopes and dreams. The desaturated colours and the person's slumped shoulders suggest a moment of quiet introspection, perhaps a pause in their journey where they contemplate the road ahead. It's a powerful reminder that life's journeys can be filled with both waiting and uncertainty.

Highly Commended

BS After Monet.jpg

The delicate play of colours and the soft, dreamy quality created by the slow shutter speed and intentional camera movement (ICM) transport me to the enchanting world of Monet's paintings. The ethereal blurring of the lilies and their reflections on the water's surface lend an almost otherworldly quality to the scene. The vibrant hues and the interplay of light and shadow evoke a sense of tranquillity and harmony, inviting the viewer to immerse themselves in the serenity of this aquatic haven.

Highly Commended

BS Agra Umbra.jpg

The soft focus skillfully applied here not only adds a touch of mystery but also evokes a sense of wonder. The way the light gently caresses the delicate curves and contours of the Agra Umbra creates an almost ethereal ambience, making it seem as though this remarkable object is shrouded in secrets waiting to be uncovered. The soft focus draws the viewer in, encouraging us to explore the intricate details and hidden depths of this beautiful piece.

Highly Commended

BS All by Ourselves.jpg.

This image captures a moment of pure relaxation on the beach. The subject, comfortably nestled under the shade of an umbrella, appears to be completely absorbed in the tranquil ambience of the seaside. The soft, out-of-focus edges of the frame add an intriguing dimension to the composition as if inviting us to surreptitiously glimpse into this serene moment. It creates a subtle sense of voyeurism, making us feel like we're stealing a private moment of joy from a distance.

Highly Commended

BS Dreaming of our Special Place.jpg

This captivating image of a soft focus, dreamlike building nestled amidst a sea of white trees is nothing short of enchanting. The ethereal glow cast upon the architecture lends an almost otherworldly quality to the scene as if it exists in a realm between reality and imagination. The soft focus technique invites us to embrace the dreamy atmosphere, where the lines between the tangible and the mystical blur, leaving room for the viewer's interpretation and emotions to take flight.

Highly Commended

BS Drews Ave Tinted.jpg

The post-processing filters have given this image a watercolour-like quality that makes it feel like a beautiful work of art. The way the light gently fills the scene is so captivating, creating a soft and dreamy atmosphere. It's as if I've stumbled upon a hidden gem while strolling through a picturesque, quaint neighbourhood. The play of colours and textures adds a unique charm to this corner, making it a delightful sight to behold.

Highly Commended

BS Electric Tram.jpg

The combination of modern technology with the serene beauty of nature is truly captivating. With the tranquil river in the background and the lush greenery all around, it promises an enjoyable and scenic journey like no other. Imagine gliding along those tracks, the gentle hum of the tram's electric motor, and the refreshing breeze from the river—what a delightful way to soak in the natural beauty while experiencing the convenience of modern transportation.

Highly Commended

BS Fun With Sylvester.jpg

Sylvester, the stuffed toy, looks absolutely charming in this image! The double exposure effect not only adds a playful and energetic vibe but also gives Sylvester a unique and artistic twist. It's as if he's leaping out of the cartoon world and into our reality with a burst of fun and excitement. This creative touch truly brings out the whimsical nature of this classic character, making it a delightful and eye-catching image!

Highly Commended

BS Jetski in Action .jpg

Panning techniques combined with a slow shutter speed have brought this jetski image to life. The blurred background, created by the slow shutter speed, enhances the feeling of motion and speed, emphasizing the energy and adrenaline of this thrilling water sport.

Highly Commended

BS Marfa Endings.jpg

This image beautifully captures the essence of time passing. The old, rusty car stands as a silent witness to days gone by, while its weathered exterior tells a story of years of use and neglect. Yet, what truly makes this photo mesmerizing is the way the car's windows reflect the stunning sunset and the dramatic sky. The contrast between the decaying relic of the past and the vibrant, ever-changing sky is nothing short of poetic.

Honours

BS Mitre Peak Sunset.jpeg

The multiple exposure technique used in this image beautifully enhances the sense of depth and texture in the mountain peak. It's as if you can reach out and touch the rugged terrain. The play of light and shadows adds a mesmerizing dimension to the scene. The sunset's pink-coloured sky like nature's own drama unfolding before our eyes. The warm hues create a striking contrast with the cool, earthy tones of the mountain, painting a vivid picture of the transition from day to night.

Highly Commended

BS Neon.jpg

This mesmerizing pattern of blue, magenta, and green shapes immediately transports me to a sci-fi landscape, where an army of aliens stands in perfect formation, ready for an otherworldly encounter. The vibrant colours and precise arrangement evoke a sense of order and discipline as if these extraterrestrial beings are organized and prepared for an unknown mission.

Honours

BS Pohutukawa.jpeg

This image of Pohutukawa red flowers against vivid green is absolutely amazing! The multiple exposure technique used here adds a sense of playfulness and energy that truly brings the scene to life. The vibrant red blossoms contrasting with the lush green foliage create a visually stunning and dynamic composition. It's as if nature itself is celebrating in a joyful dance of colours.

Highly Commended

BS Star Gazing.jpg

The reflection of lights on the surfaces of mirrors creates a stunning illusion of a sky filled with countless stars. It's as if you're gazing up at the cosmos on a clear, tranquil night. The play of light and shadow in the mirrors adds depth and dimension to the scene, making it feel like you could reach out and touch the stars.

Honours

BS Toilet block reflection.jpg

The distorted reflection of the pristine white building in the tranquil lake, surrounded by lush greenery, creates an abstract composition. The interplay of colours, shapes, and textures is simply captivating. It's like a living canvas where reality and imagination intertwine, inviting us to contemplate the beauty that can be found in the unexpected and the ordinary.

Highly Commended