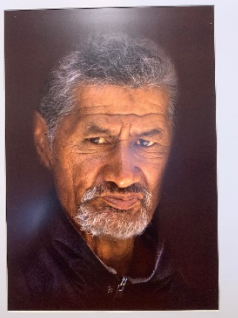


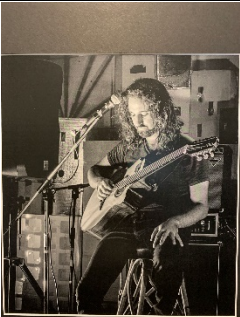



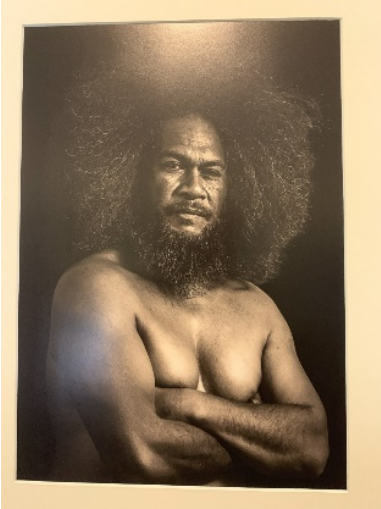
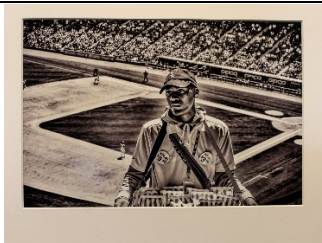







	Title		Feedback	Result
	BS			
B1	Busker inside the tram building		This portrait portrays well something of the character of this person. Nice natural lighting. Good processing to eliminate what may be distracting detail. The title leaves me disappointed that I can't see that this is a busker inside the tram building. But one shouldn't let the title effect the appreciation of the photo itself... and I think this is very well done.	HC
B2	Hanging out with me mates...		A lovely humorous photo. The inclusion of onlookers in the background, slightly amused, is also very good. The photo may be pushing the set-subject guidelines a bit for this set-subject.	M
B3	Harmony		A beautiful picture of this beautiful little person. Nice and natural looking, even though likely to have been staged as a little. Dark background is excellent. The colour is in my opinion a bit too strong and warm (colour temperature). Gorgeous smile.	M
B4	Lucky		Musical instruments nearly always make great props for portrait photos. I wonder why the musician is at rest or in contemplation. What is he thinking? I like the anticipation this creates. Nice framing of the subject.	M




B5	Lyneke		I have met Lyneke, so recognise her. She is a very athletic woman. This is a great portrait of her in the environment that she enjoys so much. Great to have the soft natural light.	Honours
B6	Marigold		<p>“Soft focus with background colour reflecting her name and the colour of her hair.”</p> <p>Marigold is a very attractive young woman and makes for a good model. I like the ‘shutter-blind’ background, and the necklace. Nice to have the head slightly turned to reveal the shape of her right-cheek. Okay lighting. Perhaps a little flat. The artist statement explains the colour choice well. I’m not sure if the statement “soft-focus” is an after-thought or intentional at the time of making the image. It does give a very 70s look to the image in my opinion. I prefer some of the face to be sharp, and selectively softening skin. Hard objects, like the necklace, in my opinion don’t look so good being soft/blurred. The print is however very nicely done.</p>	M
B7	Plumber Dan		<p>“On the job” (Artist Statement... better as part of the title). The bearded man... and what a beard it is! Your main challenge here was making this photo in direct sunlight... always a massive challenge for the portrait photographer, and usually to be avoided. Take care with the background too.</p>	A
B8	Primary focus		<p>“A day in the life of a primary school teacher, this eagle-eyed individual watches over 30 children and casts his influence upon them. The dark casting shows how his 14 years of experience has aged him over time,” (Artist Statement).</p> <p>The inclusion of a hand or hands in a portrait nearly always adds meaning or purpose. Here, the hand strokes the subject’s beard... a sign of contemplation and the word ‘focus’ in the title (perhaps more so than the “eagle” eyes.). Very nice monochrome print. It is now a scientifically proven fact that people become aware that they are being looked at from behind (check out the work of biologist Rupert Sheldrake). I can imagine his students are aware of his gaze casting his influence over them.</p>	HC




B9	Ray of light		<p>"Eager for a chance in the spotlight my subject is fascinated by fairy lights and all things magical. The deviant look says it all by her magical discovery." (Artist statement).</p> <p>This is a very well-made portrait. Great lighting and colour for what it's all about. The head angle is great for maximum shape and that deviant and I think mischievous look. It pushes the angle to the point where another millimetre or two of angle would lose the right eye.</p>	HC
B10	Ryan		<p>Ryan is a delightful little person. Great natural lighting and square framing. The very shallow depth of field has worked well for a lovely soft bokeh and isolated background. It also makes for a nice sharp zip on the jacket. The entire face is however not in focus. This kind of works to soften the face just a little, and is not in my opinion distracting... unless you look at the print very closely.</p>	HC
B12	Young woman resting		<p>"Vintage Weekend" (Artist Statement... better as part of title).</p> <p>Portraits where the subject is looking directly at the camera always beg the question... what is the subject experiencing when looking at the camera? Is she being herself or posing? Etc. So what do I think? I think this is a fairly self-conscious look from an introverted shy personality, which domesticated women were expected to be in colonial 'vintage' times!. So as a photo depicting vintage times... it works well.</p>	Merit
	BO			




B13	The old pine tree		A lovely dramatic image of a location that is familiar to many of us (the road out to Ototoka Beach). Very good strong contrast, almost infra-red style photo with the near black blue sky, and near white green foliage... to create this dramatic effect. I like the overall composition, the placement of the 'old pine tree' in the frame, and the road and fence leading to it. On a personal level for me, I think I would pull back on the contrasty processing on either the top sky half, or the bottom land half. Not sure which. It's great as it is... which is what I'm supposed to be evaluating! Kind of surreal.	HC
B11	The World through Bubbles		A delightful photo of bubbles and the creator of these many little worlds. The big planet is seen through many lesser transparent 'planets'. What I love is the apparent contrast between the bubble planets that last for seconds, and the earth planet that has lasted for about 4.5 billion years. I love the composition... more so if a few inches were taken off the top. The is a creative and thought-provoking image... well it is for me.	HC
	AS			
A14	Alex This is the trophy winning Portrait image.		<p>This is a fabulous portrait photograph.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The angle at which this is taken shows respect, and also increases the perceived mana of the subject looking downward. • The lighting is nicely controlled and positioned, probably because it is made in a studio. Perhaps one large soft-box to the photographers right, and a small low powered strobe to the left as fill-in... I see a nice little highlight in the eyes, which also gives it that nice little sparkle of life. • I really like the high-lights on the dark oily skin... especially the face. • Alex's hair is glorious, with lovely light-toned-strands mingled in it like veins. • I think the photographer has done a marvellous job maintaining the edge of the dark hair-line (circle) against the black background. It has a great effect of the person being connected to the dark background, but also separate from it. Had I been the photographer I think I would most likely have ruined the picture by adding a hair light in the studio. • Fantastic detail and sharpness in this portrait, most likely resulting from a small aperture under flash lighting (and having a great lens). <p>Having said all this, the most important thing about this portrait, for me the viewer, is the experience of encounter with this person. I feel like I'm in the presence of someone with authority or mana and with understanding and gentleness. Alex may in</p>	Honours




			fact be a very different person than this, and be seen by others in very different ways. This is the powerful and ambiguous nature of this photograph.	
A15	At the ball game		This photo has the lovely 'in-the-style-of' Jack Michalski feel to it... which is a complement to the photographer, whoever it is! I love the contrast between this slow-moving somewhat dazed looking boy, and the focused sportsmen on the field and masses of energized and focused spectators in the stadium. So... a great composition and very expressive portrayal of the subject. I'm rather amused by invisible reverse-sunglasses... brightening the eyes where there should be shadow from the cap!	HC
A16	Barry		This is a very interesting portrait, and wonderfully composed. Barry has a beer, and a minder. Or is the character behind him more sinister and threatening? Barry doesn't care... he's in another world (is that his first beer?). I wonder what or who Barry is looking at, and whether or not that too is the concern of the character behind him. As you can tell... I'm feeling a bit like the proverbial 'fly on the wall'!	Honours
A17	Brooke		I sometimes think it is just not fair entering portrait photos of gorgeous little people like this into photo competitions... because who does not love these divine creatures. I speak as a soon-to-be grandfather! This photo is very well exposed for the bright conditions. Nicely done as small print too. Sharp 'as-a-tack' also.	M




A18	Cheers		<p>"Bill celebrates his 100th birthday with the whiskey that he had kept for many years anticipating a special occasion!" (artist statement). That is a great artist statement, enabling me to really understand the importance of the photo.</p> <p>A precious photo of a precious moment. One century old, one tooth remaining. Such a great photo. Top marks for getting the colour temperature and colours right.</p>	HC
A19	Emi		<p>A beautiful portrait of this young girl. She comes to us, through this portrait, as a confident and strong young woman. The henna paint on her left forearm is a nice compliment to her same coloured freckles. Lovely lighting (perhaps a single large softbox?). Just the right DOF for pin-sharp facial details and focus fall-off on the back of the head and hand.</p>	Honours
A20	Esther		<p>Did you know that this is rarest of natural hair colours in the world? European redheads almost always have much fairer skin too. Back to this photo... This is a very lovely portrait. Love the composition, the pose, and the hat. Lovely soft natural lighting. I like the green foliage background, which is such a wonderful colour as a background for red-heads.</p>	Honours





A21	Girl with the acorn		<p>The coloured acorn as the only colour on this image works very well in my opinion, and the print is well titled to reflect that. The square frame and centred subject also works very well. Love the black core on the matt. I think the lighting of the subject is great for this subject... bright soft lighting, with the key light to the left and a fill light straight on (yes... I can see the reflections in the eyes).</p> <p>This is one of those pictures where the more I look at it the more I like it. It's nice to imagine what may be the significance or meaning of that little acorn and it's relationship to the girl.</p>	HC
A22	Kelly		<p>"The resurrection of a 30+ year old photo" (Artist Statement)</p> <p>It is so important to know what is said in this very brief artist statement. I now appreciate the work and challenges which the photographer has faced, presumably working on his or her own 30+ year old photo. It is a difficult job for me to evaluate this print... and not the original print. The presentation is great. There's a lovely softness to the image. One cheek and eye are overexposed and have lost detail, which is almost certainly because that is feature of the original photo or it's deterioration and can't be restored.</p>	M
A23	Let's dance		<p>"She invites her new husband for the first dance as newly weds, with all the excitement and anticipation of their future life together." (Artist Statement).</p> <p>Once again... the artist statement is so important in appreciating this image.</p> <p>The hands are great in this picture, and the connection with who she is looking at. A great composition and choice of focal length. Nice to see a slow shutter speed while using flash. The presentation is impressive.</p>	HC



A24	Loving the music		A very interesting and entertaining subject. I can see Gail Imhoff, the photographer, reflected in the sunglasses. I believe it's Gail, because her name is on the back of the print! This is a superb black and white print... sharp as a tack where it counts. Really great to see the subject engaging with the photographer while he/she/they love the music.	HC
A25	Marko		I immediately think of the ancient mariner... the white beard, the salt-hardened skin, and of course the sea behind. Okay... he might be an accountant or lawyer who sits in an office most days, but it is clear that the photographer is portraying something otherwise, and most likely true to who the subject really is. Very well exposed for the conditions, and lovely colour balance.	M
A26	Michael		The context and the clothing really set the scene for this portrait and the genre of music you can hear when looking at it. Superb lighting, which appears to be natural. Lovely wide-angle lens capture, which has allowed for a large DOF at probably a medium to large aperture. So, lots of good camera technique choices made here, including the composition.	HC

A27	Morgan		<p>A striking portrait because of the sharp detail, and the lovely warm colours in the photo. Just the right amount of strong orange shirt. Lovely complimentary matt too. I especially appreciate the lovely secondary light source to the left of the model, providing some nice highlights on the left edge of the face. The green sunglasses on the head are excellent and provide a little more colour interest. This portrait is superb and worthy of an 'honours'. Having said that, I have two further comments in the quest of perfection (a) Over-sharpening is evident in some parts of the print, and (2) I would carefully remove the horizontal highlight on the nose.</p>	Honours
A28	Nicky		<p>Beautiful natural-light looking portrait, with what appears to be light reflected off a large low reflector to the right... casting golden light up to his face and under his hat. The sun itself is to the left of the photo. Nicky is portrayed as a confident young man... maybe slightly arrogant... looking down at the camera over his shoulder. Very effective. Nice bokeh background. I find the blur on the edge of the hat a little distracting.... most would not notice.</p>	HC
A29	O for only one eye		<p>There is no artist statement. I know Ashlee. She works at the Vape Merchant at the top end of Victoria Avenue. I buy my vaping liquid from her.</p> <p>There is something beautiful and surreal about capturing smoke shapes, and here a smoke ring. Ashlee demonstrates the technique.</p> <p>I like the soft lighting.</p>	M

A30	One for the road		<p>Good title... which begs the question “one too many?”</p> <p>It’s 4:15, probably pm given what appears to be daylight through the door behind. So, perhaps the subject is being taken on a wine-trail tour. The hand-on-chin may suggest he is a connoisseur assessing the quality of the wine. The redness of the face may suggest though... that he’s not spitting it out. So, I really like the story which my imagination creates when looking at this photo.</p>	M
A31	Photograph me		<p>“Vintage weekend brought out the would-be models looking for opportunities to display their charms.”</p> <p>A very charming portrait of two good-looking models, the girl and the car! Lovely exposure with what appears to be just the right amount of fill-flash for the face (flash reflected in chrome). Nice glamorous pose from the model (feet position, angle of the head).</p>	HC
A32	Sammy		<p>A very charming portrait of a distracted driver. The steering wheel in the picture is great for perspective. Both hands on the wheel indicate this is serious business, and the Ferrari red shirt is for speed.</p>	HC

A33	Sarah		<p>This is an excellent studio crafted portrait. The colours and skin tones are perfect. The position of the hands, holding the loose garment, is very well done. Sarah comes across as a very engaging person. I find myself transfixed by her gazing directly into my eyes. The red is gorgeous.</p> <p>It is great to see a portrait of a woman where the make-up is well done, and not overdone, and where the photographer has made no touch-ups obvious. My only suggestion, which is a personal choice, would be to remove the highlight on the nose and lower lip.</p>	Honours
A34	The busker		The busker is a jovial character with that classic 'hard-case' Maori expression with squinted eyes while laughing. Nicely composed photo, and good job of hazing out the distracting background.	Merit
	AO			
A35	Aratiatia rapids		Downstream from the Aratiatia Power Station on the Waikato River near Lake Taupo (according to Google)... and is said to be very dangerous. Fantastic colour in the water. Nice flowing movement in the water, which I imagine was only possible with a ND filter with this amount of light. Well done.	HC
A36	Peace		Very lovely light reflections on the water in this photograph, and a lovely range of brightness tones. I like the monochrome effect as natural colour. It is a good composition. For me the main interest is in the top half of the picture.	Merit

A37	Pretty bird		<p>"No more my Gardening friend finding grubs in newly turned soil, No more the song from tree tops after rain, My pretty friend has taken the final migration." ... a poetic and very beautiful artist statement, which adds a touch of meaningful magic to this photograph. For me this is a very sad picture... not only a dead bird, but babies in the nest without a mother. Very powerful and effective image. Everything about the print is perfect. So many wonderful techniques used here that demonstrate the photographer is a master craftsman (or rather craftswoman) with this style of photography. For me this is the top image in this competition.</p>	Honours
A38	Rock Domes at Kings Canyon		<p>I googled this place... Northern Territory of Australia. A very rugged place, where life clings on to a few moist crevasses in the rocks. The picture portrays well this barrenness. I think your camera exposure is good for the very bright conditions. It is pushing the extreme ends of shadows and highlights in this high contrast scene. I imagine this place would have looked very different after sunset, and mostly likely easier to photograph.</p>	M
A39	The Seven Sisters		<p>A very lovely sunrise/sunset photo. I'm intrigued to know where. Couldn't find it on google. Somewhere in Australia perhaps? Lovely gradation of sky colours. Excellent colour treatment for the foreground to horizon. While I think the composition is very good with the placement of the horizon line, I do find the silhouette of the top of the tree in the middle distracts from the otherwise unobstructed mountain top. It may not have been practical make the photo from an elevation of further meter or two.</p>	M
A40	Three doors down		<p>Very regal looking doors. Parliament house? Very well composed and shot in the camera and perspective correction on the computer (if needed). Very nice to have the green back-lit windows over the doors in the middle. It really gives the picture a lift. Lovely detail. In my opinion it could do with a little more exposure without losing the colours.</p>	M

A41	Threatening weather		I very much like this simple composition, especially the white light line across the bottom quarter, and the plane being small in the environment. I also like silhouettes like this, where the plane could be coming or going. Beautiful sky.	HC
A42	Waiting for lunch		Another simple and strong composition. I like the way the spider's web almost looks like the cracks on a hard-smooth surface it is sitting on... so very two dimensional. I also like the reflection of the flash on the spider's body which makes it three dimensional. Good that it is not cropped any closer. Very lovely print and well presented (not that I would hang it on my wall!).	HC