

Grade	Image Title	Comments	Award	Trophy
A Grade	AO After The Rain	For some reason, I felt that I wanted to shed a tear when I started looking at this image. I have no idea why, except that lilies are often used at funerals. May be I was echoing the water droplets which rest neatly on the open trumpet of the flower. These add mood to the monochrome treatment which seems appropriate to me. In my opinion, the main subject is quite dominant within the frame and I suggest the photographer considers a variation from this situation which might improve the composition. The lighting has been handled very well and the photographer has kept all the highlights in check.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AO Branching Out	The title certainly speaks about the image and is very appropriate. I found that my eyes were being drawn away to the RHS, where there is a large white area of sky. The tree trunk nearest the edge of the frame within that piece of sky, seems to me to have a bluish hue/halo effect running around it. I believe this could be rectified in PP. I recommend that the photographer considers taking another look at the composition. I feel it could be enhanced if the image was reframed so that the amount of branches showing on either side of the trunk were reduced in length. For example; shorten the RHS side by two thirds and shortening the LHS by about a half. Such a crop would remove the white area on the right whilst simultaneously strengthening the impact of the story being told. You might also find that by lifting the shadows of the woody parts of the tree would add more detail in those areas.	Merit	
A Grade	AO End of the Road	This collection of vehicles seem to be from the 1940's & 1950's. They're definitely showing signs of deterioration in keeping with their age! It's hard to visualise how beautiful these cars would have been when they were new. [And probably only cost one or two hundred dollars!] I feel the composition rather central and it might help if a little was cropped off the top. This would effectively increase the visibility of the roadway which acts as a leading line into the image. Sharpness and exposure are good throughout.	Merit	
A Grade	AO Framed by The Whanganui Tree	I can totally see why this image appealed to the photographer. Standing at that location with the autumn colours visible across the river, I think I would also have wanted to capture the moment. For me, the 'Whanganui' tree actually seems to restrict the view rather than frame it. Being dark, with little detail in the branches creates something of a hurdle which viewers need to negotiate in order to enjoy the extent of the autumn colours beyond. I suggest that the photographer considers lifting the shadow details in the branches and also adds a little saturation to the yellows, greens and reds of the background. I think the ripples in the water add an extra element of enjoyment to the scene.	Merit	
A Grade	AO Magic Mushroom	With the sole exception of the near-rim of the cap, everything is in soft focus. There's plenty of information to suggest the location and the environment in which the plant grows. And the lighting seems to have been well controlled. The composition is bold, very central and definitely red. The fungi is unquestionably the centre of attention and yet, as presented, the image fails to excite or retain my interest. Whilst there is evidence of good camera skills, for me, it is the storytelling which lacks finesse. I would love to have seen much more detail within the mushroom and I feel as if an opportunity has been missed. There is however, a warm glow emanating from the image.	Accepted	
A Grade	AO Paradise Duck Pair	Paradise Dusks can often be seen flying in pairs or grazing together. I enjoyed the composition here. Although the ducks are looking in opposite directions each has the required space to complement that action. I feel that had the photographer selected a smaller f stop [larger number] both ducks might have been rendered with the same degree of sharpness. I feel the male duck is extremely sharp and the white halo which surrounds his outline and the wood he's standing on tends to imply a possible compilation of two images. I would recommend that the photographer removes the band of colour running along the top edge of the frame, it tends to be a little distracting. The colour of the ducks and their distinctly different plumage have been well captured.	Merit	
A Grade	AO Spider Pearls	There is a moment of splendour within this image which makes me stop and reflect on the beauty of the smaller things in life. The globes and their reflections, together with the minute globules which seem to be attached to the silky threads of a spiders web provide a sense of wonderment. When shown against a black backdrop, the strings seem to stop abruptly where the frame ends. I would ask the photographers to consider adding a thin line [possibly grey in this case] to indicate the extremities of the image. I feel that would enhance this particular image.	Highly Commended	

Grade	Image Title	Comments	Award	Trophy
A Grade	AO The Mutant Way Of Mothernature	The title draws attention to the unusual kink in the stem of the flower. It is quite pleasing to see something a little different within this genre of photography. However, it also tends to distract from the features of the main flower. In my opinion, the stem and the majority of the flower head is slightly soft. It seems to me that the sharpest part of the image is at the top of the flower where half a dozen small seed heads protrude upwards. The image also has no defined edge and when viewed on a black background the stem appears to stop abruptly. The purple hues in the stem neatly compliment the purple stalks within the centre of the flower.	Merit	
A Grade	AO Time Flies	On first viewing this image, I felt the need to reach for the insect spray! But then I realised, the flies were not as real as they first appeared. I think the photographer has presented an interesting concept using a play on words. The shallow depth of field on the far side of the watch/clock face suggested to me the blurriness of times past. I first thought it odd to have the 12 o'clock position nearest the viewer however, this does tend to add an interesting drama to the composition. Again I felt that the frame cut the edges of the image on left and right HS. The rusty texture of the clock hands did not go unnoticed and they seem to very complementary the story.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AO Under the Leaf	I immediately became interested in this triptych image. The overall scene is presented in a kind of order. From left to right, we are shown a lone insect, followed by another minute creature with a million legs! [I didn't actually count them!] which, in turn, is followed by both creatures in the same frame. It is rare that we get to see this activity in a triptych. To me, it appears as if the larger insect is about to eat the fatter one. But is that just a figment of my imagination? I would love to have received more information about this story which the photographer may have been able to communicate via the title. Nevertheless, the triptych is well presented. It has a natural left to right flow and the background colours of black and cream seem to hold everything together without being overbearing.	Merit	
A Grade	AO Waitahinga Tree	I am not familiar with this tree or its location. However, as presented, it has a certain appeal and I can understand why the photographer wanted to make the image. The composition, in a square frame, works well to my mind. I enjoyed the clouds which have been exposed to ensure that considerable detail is retained within the highlights. I feel there is an unnatural colouration of the clouds which changes from being almost monochromatic at the top, down to the bluish/green hues at the bottom. It's as if a gradient brush may have been used. At the very bottom of the image there is a dark brown spot on the edge of the frame. Once seen, it becomes quite a distraction and I recommend the photographer removes it in PP. Allowing for the artistic nature of the image, as apposed to a straight record of a landscape image, I do feel intrigued by the presentation which has grown on me over time.	Merit	
A Grade	AS Across the Awa	This image clearly indicates an autumnal feeling of the yellow leaves as they begin to deteriorate and fall from the tress. I feel the image has overexposed highlights in many of the tree trunks and branches. This might have been overcome by the use of smaller f stop or faster shutter speed. Although the bridge is part of the scene, it constantly tended to draw my eyes towards it. The river in the foreground seems to be flowing quickly and is indicative of the possibility that heavy rain may have preceded the brightly illuminated foliage.	Merit	
A Grade	AS Autumn Afternoon	Whilst there is a pleasant feel to the afternoon colours within this image, the scene is rather contrasty with deep blacks in some of the shadows and pure whites in some of the tree trunks. The most dominant area for me, is the collection of dwellings situated in the top LH corner of the image. The bright colours here tend to draw my eye and then pull me out of the frame. A possible solution might be to consider making a 16 x 9 ratio crop of the lower part of the image which could remove the majority of the houses.	Accepted	
A Grade	AS Autumn at the Cottage	I am immediately drawn to the cottage which is the dominant feature within the image. However, I found it difficult not to observe the out of focus rusty wheel on the left hand side which is quite intrusive as presented. To me, there seems to be evidence of over sharpening which appears in the twigs and branches of the tree and reveals itself as a white outline. The grass in the foreground is overexposed and tends to detract from the lovely rustic stonework of the cottage. I feel that this scene is really about a cottage and other manmade objects rather than about the landscape to which they belong. Possible another perspective of this scene taken from a greater distance might have resolved that issue.	Accepted	

Grade	Image Title	Comments	Award	Trophy
A Grade	AS Autumn Explosion	The ICM technique has been well demonstrated in this image. However, the composition is rather central and I feel that the colder blue colours, together with large areas of blank canvas detract from the warmer autumn tones of yellow/orange. The misty effect between the main subject and the distant hill/mountain seems to create two separate parts to this image rather than a cohesively bringing them together.	Accepted	
A Grade	AS Autumn Reflections	What a peaceful scene to just sit and admire whilst contemplating life in general. The colours are pleasing and the stillness of the day is reinforced by the calmness of the water. The shoreline is just about central and I wondered if the composition might be improved if the photographer removed a small amount of sky from the top of the scene. A close look at the water reveals a couple of spots which I recommend are removed in PP to reduce the chances of these becoming a distraction. A very relaxing image.	Honours	
A Grade	AS Autumn Taumaranui Back Country	I feel sure that in-the-moment, this vista of yellow/orange colour would have appeared visually delightful on a what appears to be an overcast kind of day. The subject matter is appropriate for the Set challenge. The lighting appears a little flat to me and I wonder if adjusting the contrast in PP would help. The sky has no detail. In it's self, this is not an issue, however being the brightest part of the scene, it draws viewers away from the centre attraction. The trees may have benefited from being photographed from a different perspective or a change of composition and these are areas which we, as photographers, need to consider when framing our subjects.	Accepted	
A Grade	AS Autumn Trees	The rich orange colours in the centre are very impactful and draw viewers into the scene. I can just imagine sitting on the seat beneath that tree. I would suggest that the photographer considers cropping down from the top sufficiently to remove the lighter area in the top RH corner. The vertical presentation works well in this instance.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AS Buller Gorge in April	A rather peaceful vista which reflects the mood of an April day. The photographer has managed the composition and exposure competently and I enjoyed seeing the tonal range within the clouds. Near the top righthand third, you will see a mark which seems to be a horizontal grey line in the cloud. I recommend that this item is removed in PP to avoid distraction. Seeing the sharp pebbles in the foreground helps the eyes to move into the overall scene.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AS Burst of colour	My first visual impression of this image was to see that very bright area of orange situated in the top RH third. It just seemed to draw me towards it. From here I moved to the light area above it and to the right. Here you can see a bluing effect around the branches of the pine tree which appear a little unnatural. The foreground tree is sharp however the leaves on the branches and those which make up the carpet of orange seem to be very softly focused. This may be slight movement on the camera or possibly a gentle shift in the breeze. I recommend reframing the image to remove the tree on the far left. I believe the effect would improve composition by shifting the central tree to the lefthand third.	Merit	
A Grade	AS Colours of Autumn	I would certainly enjoy a walk at this location. The mature trees appear to be quite majestic, particularly as they begin to shed their leaves. I think the image is slightly over exposed which makes it feel lighter than it might be in reality. Try to remember that photographers should consider exposing images for the highlights, whilst developing for the shade. This will permit more control in PP. If there are no details in the light areas they cannot be recovered. Shadow areas generally contain significant detail which can be recovered. The composition is pleasing and the subject matter fits the competition requirements.	Merit	
A Grade	AS Cultured Cultivation Kaipara.jpeg	Quite by chance I watched a TV program this week about NZ's best architecturally built homes. This view and that structure were featured in part of the show. The issue here seems to be the question of how significant the man-made artwork becomes apropos the vista. For me, the art work immediately draws me towards it. This is mainly due to it's dominating location within the composition as well as the curiosity manifest in an architectural structure of this size. Sadly, the beauty of the surrounding landscape is overwhelmed and do not receive the attention they might otherwise deserve. You will also notice the halo effect which runs along the ridge line and trees standing along the horizon. Lighting on the structure is pleasing and the exposure is well handled.	Merit	

Grade	Image Title	Comments	Award	Trophy
A Grade	AS Danseys Pass in Autumn	The hard rocks emerging through the rustic colours of the grassy foliage help to bring this image to life. In some ways the rocks tend to complement the skyline. Whilst I respect the photographers composition here, I wonder if another perspective could be located nearby which would bring the rocky stream into a stronger position within the story. The proportionality of sky to land is pleasing and exposure is good.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AS Fallow Fields	The title suggests that the image is about fields which have been ploughed and then left "Fallow" for a period. However, the subject matter is, to my matter, more about the structure on the top lefthand side. I found that I was drawn to it and my eyes kept moving between the brown field and the water tank[?]. There is large swath of greenish coloured crops and other areas of yellowish looking heathland, both of which overpower the fallowed field in the foreground. I feel the focus is very soft in the lower half of the image. This may have been caused by a shallow depth of field. By comparison the water tank is very sharp. In some ways I think this image speaks of coloured patterns rather than the visible landscape.	Accepted	
A Grade	AS Golden vines of Bannockburn	In some ways, this image reminds me of Monument Vally in USA. That area of course is quite arid by comparison. On the other hand, it's monolithic structures are in many way similar to this ancient formation. I enjoy the scene of the rolling vines in the foothills of the rocks. The colours are pleasing and scene allows the viewer to observe the conditions in which some vines are commercially grown. The colours are pleasing and the composition layers the scene into three distinct areas; foreground, centre rocks and sky. The clouds are well exposed and retain lovely detail in the highlights.	Honours	
A Grade	AS James McGregor Memorial Park	There is a real sense of autumnal colour in this image. The composition seems to be well balanced because we are shown three trees [good use of the rule of odds]. The two trees which form the left and righthand boundaries have similar colour tones whilst the centre tree is different and becomes something of a focal point. There is now question of the scene being interrupted by the inclusion of any sky, and the shadow area beneath the background trees bring depth to the image.	Honours	
A Grade	AS Kowai Park	I felt the contra jour aspect of the image works very well. It reminds me a late afternoon in June. I believe the exposure has retained much more detail and I would recommend that the photographer explores the use of this information in post production. Try lifting the shadow areas on the tree trunks to reveal the textures in the their bark, [particularly in relation to the dominate lefthand tree]. I suggest you include the foreground grasses too in that process. Possibly increasing the colour temperature by a fraction might also bring increased enhancement to the overall appeal of this image. A simple yet very pleasing landscape.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AS Mt Ruapehu in Autumn	Mount Ruapehu as seen on a mild, calm looking day. The colours seem quite sombre and for me, they don't immediately suggest the appeal of autumn. I felt the composition was rather central and a little static in appearance. I also felt that in this instance an additional element could improve the composition. [e.g. an animal or hiker provided they do not dominate the scene.] Exposure and lighting have been well handled.	Accepted	
A Grade	AS Piha Beach	The natural beauty in the lighting of this image creates an immediate impact to this scene of Piha Beach. The light falling on the rock face immediately draws the eye and has a very appealing presence. Unfortunately, I feel that the first row of three people walking right to left across the scene combine to distract from the overall impact of the landscape. On the far righthand edge, just to the rear of the rock formation is a significantly bright area which really draws the eye away from the main area of interest. I suggest that the photographer considers selectively darkening this area in post production. The placement of the rock within the frame is excellent and the visible spume below the distant cliffs really adds to the mood of the scene.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AS Ruapehu Realm	The bright colours of autumn shine strongly in this image. The mountain is sharp to my eyes whilst the foliage in the foreground is a little soft. I feel this is connected to the aperture setting or possibly the lack of a tripod. Nevertheless the composition is strong and the title carefully mentioned the 'Realm', which indicates the photographer has surreptitiously directed viewers towards the foliage as opposed to the mountain.	Highly Commended	

Grade	Image Title	Comments	Award	Trophy
A Grade	AS Taihape	I can imagine gently strolling through this attractive glade of trees. For me, the main tree on the left 3rd and the shrubs near to the lefthand edge seem to be a little dark. I recommend the photographer lifts the shadows in post production. Please remember, what we see with our eyes is far more detailed [at present] than what camera optics are able to capture/replicate. Thus we naturally often expect to see more in those areas than are typically shown. The composition works very well and the sloping ground tends to lead the eye to the exit point on the right where we see the continuation of a pathway.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AS View from Robert Ridge	I would love to be standing by the photographer in real time in order to observe this magnificent vista. Fortunately, that won't be necessary as they have captured the moment very successfully within this image. There is plenty of detail to absorb, the shadows have retained sufficient detail and there is just the right amount of sky to complete the environment. Good depth of field from front to back and highlights well controlled.	Honours	
A Grade	AS Virginia lake scape	This feels like a very tranquil setting. It reminds me of some of the English canals which crisscross the countryside. For me, I felt there was a blue colour cast to the image which makes the view seem rather unreal. The composition works but I feel that it might be stronger if the photographer concentrated the viewers attention to the left hand 2x3drs of the image. I'm not convinced that the right hand edge adds much to the overall story of the beautiful reflection and colours on the left. The ducks, although dark, do add an additional element to the scene.	Merit	
A Grade	AS Waiau Uwaha River Valley	There is something beautiful about this scene. I feel as if it might be the calm before the storm. Even though the sky looks threatening, there is beauty in the river, foreground trees and distant mountains. A couple of small distractions caught my eye; firstly there is a bright spot in the sky just to the left of the mountains. There seems to be no detail within that area which results in it being brighter than elsewhere in the image. I feel this could be adjusted in PP. On a similar note, to me the image gives the appearance of not being completely straight. I believe this is caused by the angle of the bridge. It may be just an optical illusion, but once noticed it's hard not to revisit the area again and again. The tonal range of colours and hues is very pleasing	Merit	
A Grade	AS Wanaka in autumn	In spite of the warm colour tones, I have a feeling this may have been a very cold time to take a photo! I do actually feel a part of this scene and I can imagine standing on the lake shore to admire the view. Two observations quickly became obvious. I feel the saturation levels are a little 'hot' for the scene, particularly the foreground blue water. I recommend reducing this effect in PP. My other observation is that I feel there is too much foreground and I would ask the photographer to consider turning the top of the image into a 16 x 9 ratio, as I feel this would improve composition. There is good definition in the trees and distant shore. The mist raising from the valley in the foothills is, in my view a great additional element which lifts the image. The ducks also help a bit.	Highly Commended	
A Grade	AS Warrumbungle Mountains	I immediately enjoyed the panoramic effect of this presentation. It made me want to read the image from left to right and take in all that was presented to me. I wondered if this was a stitched image or a cropped view; either way, the result is pleasing. The darkened patches have been created by shadows formed by strong sunlight on the clouds above. At first I thought this tended to distract a little, however, there is just the correct amount of visible detail within those areas which can be enjoyed by viewers. There seems to be an endearing quietness about this scene.	Honours	
A Grade	AS Where else but Arrowtown	This image reminded me of the last PSNZ Convention held in Queenstown. I have revisited Arrow Town on a number of occasions because of it's natural beauty. This image certainly captures the autumn colours of the area. I enjoyed the brook babbling away in the foreground however I feel this image might be enhanced further, if there was another element for viewers to be drawn to and/or rest their eyes on. Perhaps a slight change of perspective to bring the stream a little more into the frame could do the trick. The image is well exposed.	Merit	

Grade	Image Title	Comments	Award	Trophy
A Grade	AS Woodbank Rd Hammer.jpeg	The impact received on opening this image is definitely all about the autumn colours. Whilst the contents just about fit the set subject criteria, I felt that the composition was not as engaging as it might have been. Whilst the road acts as a leading line, it is rather dominant in the scene and due to the position of the white fence at the end, the road looks to stop abruptly and prevents the viewer from proceeding further. The line of power poles on the left draw attention to themselves. This feeling is probably exaggerated further due to the 4th pole along being very white/light compared to the others. I also wondered if the photographer had tried to make colour adjustments in PP, because there seems to be something of an unnatural mismatch effect on the shadow line running across the mountains. The rain water on the road surface looks as if it could be snow.	Accepted	
A Grade	AS Autumn along The Awa	The placement of this tree is very central and dominates the entire image. The river in the background together with the far bank, add interest and I wondered if the photographer could have chosen a more balanced perspective to improve the composition. The colours are of green and yellow which again reflect the time of year. There is a white tip to one of the wooden posts just to the left of the tree. This is a little distracting and I recommend it be corrected in PP. The sky adds to the feeling of autumn.	Accepted	
B Grade	BO Chocolat!	As a chocoholic, I immediately felt the urge to give up chocolate due to the size of the chocolate gorilla in the window display. I do hope I never get to be quite that big! I think this image is a reflection of one of those moments enjoyed when on holiday. I mean, when else can you indulge yourself a little! I do enjoy the street-image effect of the reflections in the windows. However, I really wanted to concentrate on one or the other. The image seems to pull my eyes in different directions. It would be wrong to suggest a crop in this instance because I think whichever way was chosen would not actually add to or improve the image. I feel the image might have been improved slightly had it been grounded. [i.e. showing where the shopfront joins the footpath] The french words on the sun blind and elsewhere in the image indicate that the chef was awarded a medal in a national competition for his/her skills in chocolate manufacture.	Accepted	
B Grade	BO Oh is this your car	As much as I love everything nature, I feel I would have needed to restrain myself from shooting the bird away had this been my car! The thought of costly scratch marks on the bonnet do not appeal to me. However, the bird is sharp and there is a pleasant catchlight in the eye. These birds are known to be inquisitive and not unfriendly towards humans in some areas. The reflection is a bit of a bonus and provides more information about the location and circumstances. If the photographer planned to enter this image into a regional or national salon, I would recommend that it would be worth spending a little time on removing the dust spots on the bonnet. [Excluding the reflection of the bird's eye]. There is a certain humour/irony within the image.	Merit	
B Grade	BS Autumn on Lake Wanaka	The view is undeniably the lake at Wanaka. I think the photographer's choice to include the beach has improved the composition by providing balance to the image. That said, I do feel consideration should be given to removing some of the sky. I think that a crop down to [and possibly including some of the LH mountain] would emphasise the lake in its setting. Personally, I might also consider removing some, if not all, of the marker buoys which tend to be a little distracting.	Merit	
B Grade	BS Moods of Autumn	Mist and trees always pair together well in my opinion. In this case I can almost feel the stillness often associated with this kind of environment. The placement of the trees, left and right, act as a 'visual stop' and help to prevent viewers from leaving the scene prematurely. I recommend that the photographer considers using the dehaze adjustment in PP to increase the feel of the mist further. They might also consider taking a little saturation out of the green grass which would enhance the chilly feeling associated with the season. A good, moody, yet simple subject with a pleasant composition.	Highly Commended	
B Grade	BS Road to Hanmer Springs	This image definitely speaks of the autumnal season. The placement of the road acts as a leading line which takes viewers into the scene. To my mind, I do feel that it's rather dominant, yet also effective in this instance. The sky, being white with no detail, tends to overpower the real point of the image. I recommend that the photographer considers reframing the image into a square crop by lowering the top edge down to a suitable point a little above the protruding branch of the pine tree on the left. I believe this will increase the value of the mist and add that much needed depth to the image which the white sky currently overpowers.	Merit	

Grade	Image Title	Comments	Award	Trophy
B Grade	BS VANCOUVER IN AUTUMN	<p>I realise that I have mentioned composition frequently during my feedback, I do so because feel this is an area which, when mastered, can significantly improve the work of photographers. This image presents an acceptable view. The bridge on the left, together with the small pedestrians, tend to act as a leading line into the scene. To the the left of them is a red tree, in front of them are several yellow trees and to the right, about 2/3's of the way along the river bank, is another single red tree. I will return to this shortly. For the moment, move your eyes up to the top of the pine trees where they meet the white sky. You will see a blue halo effect running between the green trees and the white sky. This may have been caused by either adjusting the vibrance of the trees or changing the colour of the sky. Either way, this seems to detract from the image because it's not what you would normally see with the naked eye. Returning to the composition, the easiest way to deal with the blue/halo issue, is by reframing the image to remove the sky and trees tops from the scene. However, just removing the top of the image changes the whole perspective of the scene. To rectify this, my suggestion to the photographer would be to change the composition. Personally, I would suggest making a crop from the top down to a point just above the yellow trees. [Leave a little of the green trees visible] I would then suggest cropping in from the right up to the red tree. Leave that tree in place to act as a stop on that side of the image. The resulting composition will be balanced because of the revised locations of the two red trees [one on either side]. The remaining green, orange and yellow tones will become far more dominant in the image and to my mind this would enhance the autumn colours which are present. I do hope this rather long explanation was useful.</p>	Accepted	