

Theme

Gold – 6, 14

Silver – 5, 16, 20, 28

Bronze – 1, 7, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26

01_carolyn_carson_theme_1 – Bronze – Great use of a slow shutter speed to capture the movement and power of the waves! To improve this image and take it to the next level, I would revisit the location around Golden Hour, on a day with sun amongst the clouds, it will give a little more punch and vibrancy to the scene which can be difficult to capture on a grey, cloudy day.

05_jackie_evans_theme_1 – Silver – Ah, there's nothing like that dreamy Golden Hour light, perfectly captured here, yet contrasting with the obvious wild weather! A fantastic unique juxtaposition! The reeds in the foreground create great interest and lead out eye through to the city bathed in afternoon sunshine.

06_jackie_evans_theme_2 – Gold – Love, love, love! Moody, painterly, soft, dramatic, great capture! I'd have loved to also see an alternative with the ship in the sun rays, but also like the slightly ominous overtones of the ship being in shadow. The photographer needs to print this for their wall!

07_jackie_evans_theme_3 – Bronze – Great creativity, as well as a great story within the image. I am wondering how that boat got there, and what type of person owns it. I believe the image could be improved further if the light source hit the boat and helped it become a stronger focal point and bring it out of the shadows.

13_john_lutz_theme_3 – Bronze – Great action shot! How muddy did the photographer get shooting this? It's lacking in sharp focus, improvement in that would take it to the next level.

14_kerry_binks_theme_1 – Gold – I love a moody landscape and this is so subtle, yet powerful at the same time. I can feel how it was a calm still day, yet that ominous cloud formation is going to change that all shortly. Great contrast between the red of the Northern Landscape and the turquoise of the ocean, and then the greys of the impending storm.

15_kerry_binks_theme_2 – Bronze – Visually appealing image, fantastic capture of the dramatic sky and sunlight glistening off the beach, however it is a touch underexposed with the texture lost in the bushes.

16_kerry_binks_theme_3 – Silver – I find it hard to go past a dramatic sky and this was seen and captured wonderfully. To improve, I would work on avoiding blocked up blacks. A little more texture in these areas would help lift the image that much further and also some foreground interest, perhaps a figure, would bring some scale, dimension and visual interest to the scene.

19_lesley_shadwell_theme_2 – Bronze – Photographer did a great job noticing the artistic potential of these tiny rain drops and has created a beautiful, serene image of nature in winter. Image would benefit from an improvement in sharpness and clarity and a clear focal point.

20_lubin_dinnie_theme_1 – Silver – Fantastic image of a lightning storm. Love the dramatic clouds, the tonal texture within them is stunning. Also, very impressed with the impeccable timing to capture multiple lightning strikes in the one image! Improvements could be made through increased sharpness and clarity. A tighter crop could possibly improve this image, removing approx. an inch on the left to bring the eye to those two main strikes.

21_merrelyn_hunter_theme_3 – Bronze – That's one nasty storm heading towards those boats! Great story behind a stunning image. To take it to the next level, improvements could be made via overall sharpness, although in this case, the softness does lend a painterly feel to the image.

23_peter_le_scelle_theme_1 – Bronze – Good image showing the power of waves, and the light coming through those clouds is well captured, highlighting the wave and making no question where our eyes should fall. I feel the image could have been further improved by following the rule of thirds, with the wave to the left third so there is negative space where our minds could imagine the wave crashing.

24_peter_le_scelle_theme_2 – Bronze – Another powerful wave image. The light is hitting the top of the wave is amazing, and the mist coming off beautifully captured. The play between light and shade throughout the whole image is stunning.

26_phil_ashton_theme_2 – Bronze - Cute and quirky image that made me laugh!

28_steve_morris_theme_1 – Silver – Some great elements in this image – the texture and colours in the rock have been handled beautifully, the lighthouse exposed perfectly (potentially difficult!), that dramatic sky and the intriguing figure all fuse together to create many a backstory. The image could benefit great from a much tighter crop. The lights, water to the left of the frame detract from the main elements. If the opportunity presented itself to reshoot, I'd shift the

entire composition to the right.

Theme Modified

Gold – 1, 4

Silver – 5

Bronze – 3, 6, 7, 11

01_alex_nesbit_theme_modified_2 – Gold – A perfectly quintessential Winter's image. Great use of a large depth of field, great sharpness and clarity whilst also achieving some motion blur in the waterfall. Great work!

03_alex_nesbitt_theme_modified_1 – Bronze – I enjoyed the monochrome tones of this image, in fact I had to look twice to double check whether it was black & white or colour! The subtlety of tones through the bird's feathers are stunning, great job to retain that in difficult exposure conditions!

04_bruce_fraser_theme_modified_1 – Gold – Exquisite! I love everything about this image, the glassy water, the undeniable Perth skyline in the distance, the early morning mist giving just the hint of winter, and those birds – amazing! For a moment I paused to contemplate whether the “No Diving” should have been edited out, but somehow that feels part of the image, of someone where to dive, it would ripple and completely ruin the perfect stillness of this moment.

05_bruce_fraser_theme_modified_2 – Silver – Similarly beautiful like the previous image, I very much enjoy this scene. The birds and sun are highlights for me, but I find my eyes wandering around trying to find a focal point. Only narrowly missing a gold for this reason.

06_bruce_fraser_theme_modified_3 – Bronze – The gentle edit of this portrait is truly beautiful, as is the model's serene expression. However, the over “cooking” of the model's eyes is in stark contrast to the subtlety of the portrait and do not work in this instance in my opinion. A natural edit of the eyes would complement this image beautifully.

07_cara_riley_theme_modified_3 – Bronze – Amazing sky, well spotted and photographed. I feel with some further time spent on the edit, this image could really pop!

11_leanne_masson_theme_modified_1 – Bronze – Creatively interesting approach to this month's theme. I love that you have thought “out of the box” to create this abstract image!

Open

Gold – Nil

Silver – 1, 12, 16, 18, 20

Bronze – 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 19

01_cara_riley_open_1 – Silver - I appreciate the technical complexity in photographing this piece, and the photographer has handled it well. A little more rim light on the back of the cat figure would give it just that little more separation from the background.

02_cara_riley_open_2 – Bronze – Great graphic abstract image. Monochrome edit suits it perfectly. Focus could be a bit sharper overall.

03_daniel_messom_open_1 – Bronze – Wow, well done capturing a fox, and that eye contact is intense! Technically it could be improved with sharp focus and a lower ISO/less noisy, but incredible moment captured.

04_jayne_palmer_open_1 – Bronze – Great attempt at capturing the night sky! I love the fish eye take on this genre! To improve, I would have liked to see more above the top crop, it is currently cropped just where the sky gets interesting, and a sharper focus in the foreground.

05_jayne_palmer_open_2 – Bronze - Another great attempt at Night Sky Photography. Improves on the two points I mentioned previously (wider crop on the sky and sharper foreground).

08_julie_watt_open_2 – Bronze - I am a dog lover and this image speaks to me, with this dog memorial adorned in flowers and offerings, far more than any human gravesite behind, it tells of the importance of our furry friends in our lives. Great documentary capture.

11_lubin_dinnie_open_2 – Bronze – The photographer has found a great location and seen something in the graphic lines and shadows in this image which are very pleasing to the eye. I'd head back and explore this location further, I think there are some photographic gems waiting to be discovered!

12_merrelyn_hunter_open_1 – Silver - I am awarding this as a silver as it's visually striking, shot in beautiful golden light and one of my favourite of this month's images. However it appears out of focus. If it were sharp it would be outstanding.

13_merrelyn_hunter_open_2 – Bronze – Stunning landscape image. Sky has been beautifully captured, and I also appreciate how the photographer has managed to expose the lights correctly without completely blowing them out. Could be improved with a sharper focus and detail in the blacks.

16_paul_shadwell_open_3 – Silver - Another in the Night Sky genre, this one awarded as a silver for the foreground interest that gives it that bit more of a back story. It has a Doctor Who feel to me and I can see figures in the tower that has my mind thinking of all kinds of creepy scenarios! Image does appear soft which makes me feel it may have been a windy night that shook the tripod?

18_rob_britza_open_2 – Silver – Crisp, pin sharp, striking wildlife image! Slightly overexposed as it is, but bringing that down and pumping up contrast, along with tightening up the crop on the left hand side a touch would produce a great image the photographer should be very proud of.

19_rob_britza_open_3 – Bronze – Stunning portrait of a wildflower/orchid? I love the fine detail in the spiderwebs off of it. It is only slightly off a silver for me, I would have liked to see a crisper focus overall and the dark purple area closer to the camera in focus as well.

20_steve_morris_open_1 – Silver – Great capture that I'm just putting up to a silver, for it's spot on composition, stunning colours and cool subject. Could be improved with less grain/noise, upping the exposure slightly and a sharper focus.

Open Modified

Gold – 1, 2, 4

Silver – 5

Bronze – 7

01_graeme_barrett_open_modified_2 – Gold – My favourite of all of the Night Sky images! Captures that vast, overwhelming feeling that we are just a speck in the universe you feel when looking at a crisp, clear night sky perfectly. Congratulations to the photographer.

02_graeme_barrett_open_modified_3 – Gold – Brilliant wildlife image with the extra element of a story via the fish remains he is holding/consuming. Crisp, clean without any distracting backgrounds, perfectly captured.

04_lubin_dinnie_open_modified_3 – Gold – Close call, but this may just be my favourite image of all this month's entries. Simple, yet so powerful. I love the 50/50 horizon (sometimes breaking the rules is the right thing to do!), monochrome tones and flat light. Just a little tip, watch that dodging aura around the man.

05_pamela_punshon_open_modified_1 – Silver – Beautifully lit and edited series of portraits. I particularly enjoy the eyes being hidden, an unusual choice that works so well in this series.

07_pamela_punshon_open_modified_3 – Bronze – Great attempt at recreation of portraits from days gone by. I'd love to see this image with some further post processing, lifting the pale tones of the model's skin, and adding a touch more contrast, I feel it needs an extra pop (but not too much!). The photographer has captured catch lights in the eyes though, giving life to a serious pose.

Novice

Gold – Nil

Silver – 1

Bronze – 2

01_cara_allen_novice_1 – Silver – Great image! I love the bokeh and the warmth of the image, yet it still manages to portray a winter's night. To improve, I'd love to see a story told within the image. For example, if the figure had been captured a little earlier, with his head down appearing forlorn, we could begin to wonder his/her story and the image would have that added depth.

02_cara_allen_novice_2 – Bronze – I love the soft similar tones in this image, and believe with a few technical and post production changes, it could be something special. A stronger focal point to capture our eye initially would be great, at the moment the image is a little soft and our eye wanders. Perhaps even a longer exposure could have created an abstract image that would be beautifully soothing with those soft tones, or even a large depth of field making the foreground ripples sharp to capture our eyes initially and then draw upwards to the Grain Terminal.

Appraisal Only (No Award)

03_cara_allen_novice_3 – This image effectively captures a windy day in South Perth! I feel as if I would be blown off that jetty! To improve I would like to see the fisherman on the jetty to the left of the frame, so they are not looking out to the edge of the frame, rather in to the centre of it. Perhaps play with a shallower depth of field to isolate the fisherman against the iconic Perth skyline. That amazing sky could be played with in post-production to bring out that “wow” factor. This image is a great starting point, a few improvements could create an image that really pops.