

Results October 2013
Open A Grade



Arctic Fishing Village

Helena

I find it interesting that though there is not a person in sight this image is given a sense of movement and action simply from the presence of those wheel tracks in what looks to be a recent light fall of snow. I have been within the Arctic Circle in Northern Norway and note the similar use of bright red and other colours to combat the drab colours of nature at these latitudes. There is a lot to study in this commonplace but very tidy scene and I award it a **Highly Commended**.



Darkness Exposed-ambient light at night

Cassandra

Always an interesting experiment to conduct and your image looks like just that. A very simple scene without a great deal of composition required. What this image gives you is a starting point to try more ambitious compositions. As a stand-alone image, we get from it the way that the light has a subtle softness not to be found in daylight and of course the way that the long exposure deals with the motion of the sea. I like the contrast between the static pebbled beach and the motion of the sea. Oh how the digital camera has simplified this sort of photography. When I had a burst of enthusiasm for this work fifty or more years ago we had to wait until the film was developed to see what we had got! **A Merit image**.



Hokitika_Time

Tracey

Competitive Photography requires that special point of difference which cries out to the viewer 'Come look at me.' This image does just that. Love it or hate it we all have to admit that it is different. Different enough that we have to stop and think, what on earth has the photographer done to create this? The inclusion of the yellow bit at the top tells me that you were very much in charge of how you thought your image would impact on the viewer. A brave decision to include it. The moment I saw this image I felt that it was something special and my opinion has not changed. Well done.

Honours for your originality.



A Matchbox Row

Cushla

Oh dear, How the world has changed in the past 80-odd years. I grew up in a world where Wax Vestas matches were the norm. They came in a tin box with a rough surface on the bottom to strike on. Or strike them on any rough surface like the tightly stretched seat of a small boy's pants! Did a six year old need to be told on the packet how to strike a match safely? Nah, of course we learnt by doing.

Your image makes a neat juxtaposition of the image and the reflection and it grew on me with study. Even the fact that the packet is now devoid of colour which might attract young children is a fact of life in this day and age. **A Merit for this one.**



Who's the Queen of the Castle?

Liz

What a laugh! The kids in the foreground are all playing their part according to script, the boy in background likewise but that girl is something else! Her whole attitude and facial expression could not have been scripted by any other than the consummate actress that she obviously is. Every time we look at this one she brings us a laugh.

However, if the photographer has gone to the trouble of setting up this shot in the middle of a field he/she could have

chosen a location without that background of the hockey goal or whatever which is a distinct distraction. If the photographer is into Photoshop it would be a simple matter to remove it and while you have the brush in your hand also remove the children's play apparatus on the left so that we are not distracted from the obvious subject. Just little points to tidy up. For that amazing 'Woman with attitude' this has to be **Highly Commended**.

Well that seems to be all your Open entries so now it is on with the first of your Set Subject which is.....

Theme Inner workings A grade



An Inside Job.

Helena

May I start by offering my congratulations for a superb image which not only meets the subject but brings great joy to anyone who understands the craftsmanship, (or do I mean craftspersonship) which has gone into this entry. The figure is perfectly placed and sized to be a credible driver of this mechanism. The insertion of the figure behind the hands has been achieved with infinite care. Then too the image of watch alone, without the engineer, has been perfectly crafted. Definitely an **Honours for this one**.

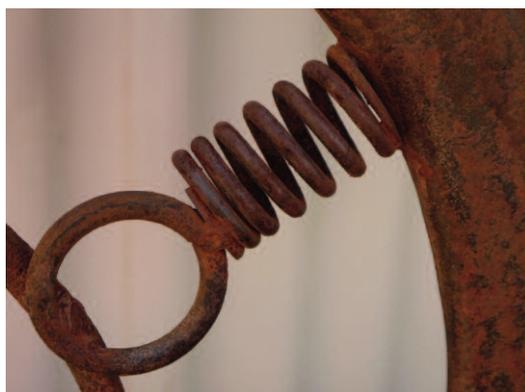


Bike gears.

Cushla

I feel that I would like to have seen the part that is cut off at the bottom but I am sure you had good reason to exclude it. I feel that although you are starting with a subject of uniform grey you could have made more use of lighting to introduce some contrast. In this day and age we tend to be less concerned with absolute fidelity with the original subject than how you present it to the viewer. If you were unable to get more contrast at the time of exposure it is just a breeze to introduce it through Photoshop to create very real improvement. I did also wonder if the subject could have been angled diagonally across the format for a little more variation.

An acceptance in my mind.

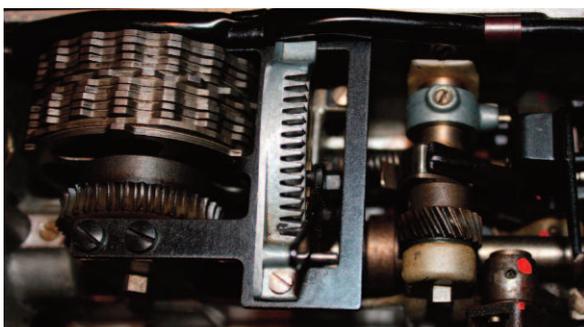


Coiled.

Cushla

My immediate thought is 'Inner workings, of what? The nearest I can come up with is that maybe it is part of a wheel for the car when the oil industry runs out of artificial rubber. I am happy to concede that whatever it is that you have shown us is indeed sharp and clear.

Accepted



Inner workings, Bernina.

Liz

This is an interesting image of quite a complex piece of mechanism and satisfies the subject brief well. My eye can roam around this image for ages to figure out the interaction between some of the parts portrayed. I wondered why some bits that I thought should have been sharp were out of focus. I looked at your metadata to discover that you have used a 4.5 f-stop where I would have thought that f16 would have been more appropriate for this subject. Lighting is fine. **Highly Commended**

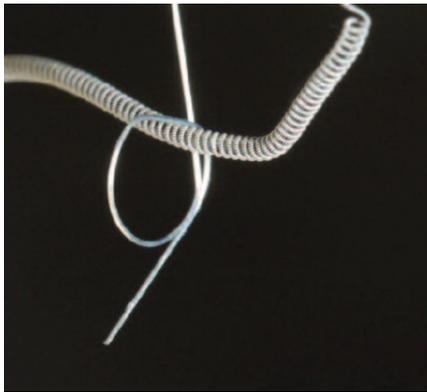


Inner Workings, Piano.

Liz

Plainly speaking, I do not consider this to be a workmanlike presentation of the subject from an A Grade worker. I gather that it is lit with flash on camera where I believe that the subject needs careful placement of lighting. Your lighting has resulted in a shadow across the top of the image where I believe that dark area should be clearly portrayed. I do not believe that any part of the image is truly sharp. So much more needed to be done with lighting to bring some quality to this image.

An acceptance



Let there be light.

Cassandra

What this has to do with 'Inner Workings' I do not know but I would be tempted to say that it does not meet the subject but for the fact that it may just be my ignorance which prevents me from seeing the obvious.

Looking beyond the Set Subject, from the composition point of view I feel that I am left dangling, almost as if there was more to come to complete the picture. If your intent was to create an enigmatic image to utterly confuse the viewer you have surely succeeded.

An acceptance.

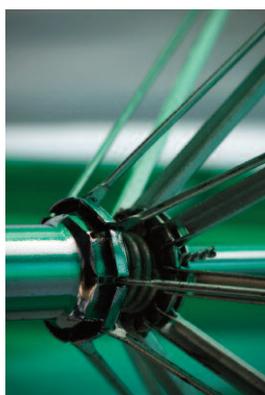


Neither up nor down.

Cassandra

I may be getting a bit picky but does this image really show us the inner workings? That question apart it is a very clever presentation of what the lens does. Well, sort of. You still have to work it out for yourself. I believe that a lot of thought has gone into getting the image in the lens plus the lens body agreeably sharp. I note aperture priority and an aperture of f22 to get this result. For producing a thought provoking and workmanlike image, I award this a **Highly Commended**.

B Grade

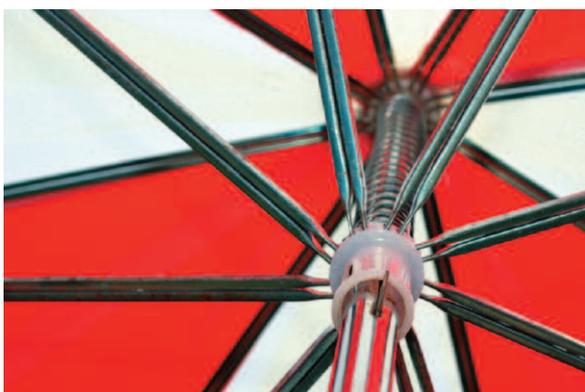


Branches.

Esther

Yes, I guess that this is inner workings for though it is in plain view it is something we take for granted unless it fails. Clean and sharp with the radiating spokes forming a tidy composition.

A Merit for this one.



Intersect.

Esther

Everywhere we look there are triangles, making for quite an interesting composition. For good measure, in this shot we can see the release mechanism lacking in the previous image.

Another Merit

Well, that's your lot so likewise that's my lot too.

I believe you set your members quite a difficult challenge in the set subject. If you really get down to the basics there were not many images which met what I believe to be the criteria. That apart you showed us some very nice images. Oh yes, don't forget that no matter how much we endeavour to be impartial every judge has preferences. If we all thought alike what a dull old world it would be.

The trick in entering your work to be assessed by another is that if you disagree with the judge then you are perfectly entitled to believe the judge got it wrong. The real value of that judgment is when you finally see that the judge does not always get it wrong and maybe there are sometimes some little grains of truth in the assessors remarks.

Thank you for the honour, yes it is an honour, of allowing me to make comment on your work. Enjoy your night in the company of other likeminded people. Good night from Stan Long of Stratford Camera Club in New Plymouth