



# THE BELLOWS

Volume 06 – nr. 01 | January 2021

Cover Photo credit: Ben ter Huurne

# Happy New Year 2021

THIS IS A SHORT SPECIAL EDITION TO WAVE 2020 GOOD BYE AND TO GREET 2021

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### - *Ed's note*

2020 has left a mark – that is for sure. Much have been said about it all. It is at this point that I want to rather look at 2021 and focus on the new opportunities the New Year brings.

I am so excited to start fresh – New crisp clean diary on my desk, a new calendar on my wall – it feels like a new year back at school. New teachers, new new! new! new! – everything is fresh and new. Here we are - It is my wish, as Editor and as member of this photography family, to begin a new year – 2021 – with purpose above all. We have a brand new chance to grab opportunities to learn and grow.

*"Learning is  
experience –  
everything else is  
information."*

*– Albert Einstein*

*Let's do this!!*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear TygerTogs!

I am sure that many of us are waving goodbye to 2020 with a massive sigh of relief. The challenges, struggles, joys and tears have made this last year one of the most difficult in a very long time. The clock rolling over to a minute past midnight on New Year's Eve, while hugely symbolic, doesn't change a thing at all - and we would do well to remember the lessons (many of them painfully) we learned these last few months.



Each of us has our own story to tell, and tell it we must! Use your photography to tell these stories - the old and the new. Use your camera as a means of documenting these challenges, as well as the joys, and preserve those memories.

For many of us 2020 has reshaped our lives and our thinking. Here at TPS, the committee has embraced that challenge and are raring to go, as we aim to make this new year jam-packed with excitement, learning and fellowship. We have already brought about several innovations toward the end of 2020 (the Image Review Evening and the #LEVEL.UP programme) and intend to build upon that success.

As I welcome you into the new TPS year, I want to introduce our intention for 2021:

**COMMUNITY BEFORE COMPETITION** - Traditionally, competition is what has driven TPS and has helped place our club firmly at the top, and as your leadership team for 2021, we want to introduce the spirit of greater community ahead of the drive to just win for winnings sake. We want TPS - collectively - to win!

This has led to a huge focus on education, the sharing of knowledge and the call for commitment from each of us. We have streamlined our processes, realigned strategy and done some out-of-the-box thinking, and all we ask is that for 2021 you commit. Commit to attending our events, whether virtual or physical as context dictates. Commit to working on your craft and submitting your very best work. Commit to supporting each other, supporting our initiatives and to help make this amazing club even greater!

All of these initiatives will be shared in due course so stay tuned, get excited and dust off your gear - TPS is about to LEVEL UP!!!

I wish you and your families a blessed and jovous festive season, and a fabulous new year!

*All my love, Lynne*



“Sometimes, reaching out and taking someone’s hand is the beginning of a journey. At other times it is allowing another to take yours” – Vera Nazarian

As photographers, artists, creators, each of us sees the world in a different way – what we see is what we feel – and what we feel is expressed in our work. Our work is appreciated by those that understand the expression. Those who can’t see can’t be reached by your vision, your message, your expression. Reach out to those who see, as they will take your hand. Those who don’t see your work, sees something else, and that’s OK!. – *Ed’s note*

## 2021 SET SUBJECTS – TPS CLUB COMPETITION

JANUARY	-	Abstract
FEBRUARY	-	Monochrome
MARCH	-	Portraits with hats
APRIL	-	Minimalism
MAY	-	Nature/Wildlife
JUNE	-	Still life
JULY	-	Architecture
AUGUST	-	Shadows/Silhouettes
SEPTEMBER	-	Scapes
OCTOBER	-	Long Exposure
NOVEMBER	-	Sport/Photojournalism/Street



## DID YOU KNOW??

At the end of 2020 TPS has 72 members

Only 24 members (33%) are members of PSSA

5 of our members have other clubs as their Main Club – in other words, TPS is their 2<sup>nd</sup> club

TPS have attracted only 3 new members in 2020

- Sharon Nowacki-Olsen
- Frik Heine
- Piet Swart

And then, a 4<sup>th</sup> “half-new” member – Johan Viljoen switched from Social member to Full member! Welcome to all of you!

The person who has been member of TPS for the longest period - 19 years, is Bennie Vivier

After Bennie, 3 members are with TPS for 15 years – and then follows the rest of us!



### AGE DEMOGRAPHICS OF TPS MEMBERS:

Age group:

- <20 – 1 member (1,5%)
- 21-30 – none (0.0%)
- 31-40 – 4 members (5.5%)
- 41-50 – 5 members (7%)
- 51-60 – 23 members (31%)
- 61-70 – 23 members (31%)
- 71-80 – 13 members (17%)
- >80 – 3 members (4%)

A total of 1179 images were submitted by members from January to November 2020  
Of these,

- 452 were awarded Gold (28,3%)
- 622 were awarded Silver (52,8%)
- 100 were awarded bronze (8,5%), and
- 5 received no award (0,4%)

The average score for an image was 22,1

- *Kindly prepared by Rob Minter*



The Human eye has an f-stop of F/8.3



## ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHY – SET SUBJECT FOR JANUARY CLUB COMPETITION

**Abstract photography**, sometimes called non-objective, experimental or conceptual photography, is a means of depicting a visual image that does not have an immediate association with the object world and that has been created through the use of photographic equipment, processes or materials.



In a way, abstract photography can be described as the breaker of the medium's own rules. In fact, it is this very fact that makes up the core of its creative process. Because it is never just pointing your camera and shooting, and in this case especially, photographers explored **all the technical possibilities** of their camera, the photographic paper, as well as factors such as light and time.

Reality had to become something else, so the photos were submitted to treatments like solarization and multiple exposure.



Of course, when it comes to the very act of shooting and creating the abstract image with a camera in any given location, there are many possibilities that depend on the kind of result the photographer wants to obtain.

Since it's all about color, shapes and lines, artists use tools like **selective focus**, to draw attention to a particular detail within a composition.

Another important visual aspect is the **blur**, as it emphasises the abstraction, and in technical terms we can talk about **panning, zooming, focus** with **details, lines, forms, textures**, all created by **contrasts** and colors within the frame, and very often these photographs hide in **close-ups**, rather than wide shots - narrowing down an existing element of reality until it becomes an independent, abstract matter.



**Abstraction is everywhere**, all you need is a camera and an adventurous spirit.

*Source: WIDEWALLS – Contemporary Art*

Abstract photography is flourishing in ways no one could have predicted. The invention of digital cameras and photo editing software have equipped photographers with the means to make almost anything abstract. **IT HAS BECOME THE TREND:** There are currently more than 10 million photographs on Instagram posted with the hashtag #abstract. For comparison's sake, #fineart is tagged 5.5 million times, and #photojournalism has only 1.5 million.

Abstract photographers give us peeks into the universe as others see it. Objects too small for the human eye can be revealed with a lens. Long exposures or multiple exposures allow us to see the passage of time in a way our brains are incapable of registering. We can see through space and onto the surfaces of other worlds.

*Abstract photography goes against many photography rules. It gives you the freedom to take a photo of anything that grabs your attention and allows you to express your artistic nature.*

## 6 KEY ELEMENTS FOR A GOOD ABSTRACT PHOTO

-source: 42West

### 1. Simplicity

At first glance, abstract photos may seem a little confusing and cluttered. However, once you understand what "abstraction" does, you will realize that a lot of subtraction actually goes into the process. Distracting and useless elements that don't trigger emotions and may confuse viewers are eliminated from the image, especially since what is included in the image won't be easily recognizable, thus resulting in a cleaner abstract image that is visually lighter and easier to interpret.

### 2. Composition

While many commonly observed photography rules don't apply, a good abstract photo always has a clear, structural design. A lot of thought goes into the order, placement, and balance between shapes, patterns, textures, and even colors within an abstract image. These factors greatly affect the visual weight of the photo, establish and complement the point of interest, and influence how viewers look at it. A well-composed photo uses these visual elements to achieve a common goal and output.

### 3. Angle of View

Like composition, the angle of view determines how the subject will be represented in an abstract image. Choosing the right angle of view involves looking for the best vantage point that will complement your subject and keep distractions out of the frame. Aside from shooting at an unusual angle, some abstract images are even flipped or rotated during post-processing to come up with different views and orientations.

#### 4. Lighting

Lighting is a major element in virtually any photography style. Depending on how it is used, it can emphasize, dramatize, or give prominence to subject forms, details, or areas within an image. The direction and power of the light source can also play a huge part in directing the presentation of the subject and setting the tone for the shot. You'll find that many of the most mysterious and intriguing abstract images have silhouettes, backlighting, and interesting shadows.

#### 5. Harmony

Photographic elements in an abstract image tend to be limited, but they usually work together by **creating visual balance and proportion**. When there are strong colors in an image, for example, they are usually balanced out by other muted colors. This way, they don't fight for visual attention or confuse viewers. They co-exist harmoniously by relating to each other and complementing the focal point, thus creating a cohesive abstract photo.

#### 6. Mystery

Abstract images trigger emotional responses and imaginations by including an element of mystery and intrigue. This is how abstract art gives viewers a sense of wonder. This, in turn engages and encourages them to appreciate even the most complex but inviting pieces of art.

*Here are a few easy tips that can help you take your abstract photos to the next level:*

##### 1. Start with everyday objects

Abstract photography involves a lot of looking at things in a different way. It can help if you start with things that you already have at home to practice. Once you get used to seeing mundane, everyday things beyond their usual framework, you'll be able to think and see things abstractly wherever you are.

**Believe it or not, literally anything can be a subject in your abstract photos. Choose a random object or set of things, such as kitchenware or a single light bulb, and try to figure out how you can photograph it in a different yet appealing way.**

*This sounds like fun!!*



## **2. Use elements of design to your advantage**

The composition of different photographic elements—line, shape, form, texture, pattern, and color—can influence your viewers to appreciate and look at your photos in many different ways. Lines and curves, for example, add interest by leading your viewer's eyes across an image, perhaps towards the focal point in the shot. Patterns and textures are always interesting to look at. You can blow your viewers' minds if you include a zoomed out shot of what it really is and where it came from. Similarly, you can use colors to highlight the point of interest or just to add visual impact to your image. Seek out these elements around you and use them to create compelling abstract images.

## **3. Go macro**

One of the most common methods of capturing abstract photos is to move in closer. You can do this either by zooming in or going macro. While it's perfectly fine to use zoom lenses, they only make distant objects look closer up to a certain extent. To achieve a much closer focus that can magnify tiny objects or details and capture a life-sized (or even bigger) image, use a good macro lens.

## **4. Shoot through objects**

Using a makeshift lens "filter" can help you achieve truly unique and abstract images. Colored filters and gels, for example, can save you from having to edit your photos just to give it an interesting color tinge. Shooting through translucent glass, water, or even a car window on a rainy day can result in distortions and light diffractions that will create unusual but visually interesting images. Don't hesitate to experiment with other kinds of things you can shoot through. You can then find out how they can affect your image.

## **5. Capture motion**

Many photographers frown upon subject blurring—but not abstract photographers. By simply moving your camera at the moment of taking the shot, you end up with a mix of different colors, lines, and patterns. This looks similar to painting brushwork, depending on the direction of movement. Start with one direction, then left to right. Experiment with circular movements and wiggles. Understand how it affects your images and see what kind of patterns you end up with.

Remember to use a slower shutter speed of 1/10th of a second or slower to successfully capture motion blur. If your shot ends up overexposed, you can go on Shutter Priority mode or use a lower ISO level and/or a tighter aperture.

## 6. Practice the art of subtraction

To keep your images simple, you need to get used to literally removing or keeping elements out of the frame. You may need to experiment and think about which ones you will remove. But it's equally important that you remember why you're doing it. Sometimes, simply taking out a second object from the equation can make your viewers focus on and contemplate the remaining object. Thus, you're adding more mystery to your photo.



## 7. Customize your lighting

Changing the direction and adjusting the power of your light source can provide different effects that yield unique images. Focused lighting on your subject, for example, can emphasize and make it the focal point of your photo. Placing a strong light source on one side can create shadows that will accentuate textures. Even and diffused lighting lessens the drama but can make your viewers linger and really look at different parts of the image, as opposed to just one specific area. You can try backlighting and silhouetting, which partly involves placing the light source behind the subject.

These are just some of the many ways that you can manipulate your lighting to create shadows or highlights that add depth, mystery, and interest to your images.

## 8. Experiment with different shooting styles

Be willing to shoot out of focus, play with your depth of field, or shoot from very weird angles. You can also rotate your photos, or even change the white balance of your images. Try out methods used in product, outdoor, and even sports photography to create abstract results. This is the part where “anything goes,” and you’re encouraged to exercise your artistic freedom.

## 9. Post-process your images

Aside from exercising your freedom to manipulate your results and create your very own abstract imagery, feel free to go crazy with the post-processing. When it comes to editing abstract photos, there’s no such thing as “too much”. Abstract photographers are encouraged to digitally improve their work later on. You can do this through recoloring, cropping, reshaping, distorting, or flipping images.

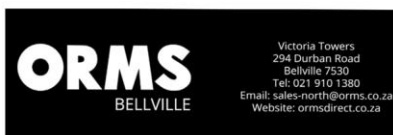
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Have fun!*



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# Adobe Photoshop & Lightroom Courses

## Adobe Photoshop Beginners Course

This course is presented as easy as possible by teaching the tools and techniques that you will need to complete your image. With the course you will receive **Training Videos** that was especially made to assist you if you struggle. You don't need to have any previous experience of Photoshop. **The following will be covered in the course:**

- Photoshop Menus • Levels • Hue Saturation • Black and White
- Cropping for Prints • Cropping for Digital • Resizing for Digital
- Straighten Horizons • Removing Red Eyes • Spot Healing with content aware • Healing Brush • Patch Tool • Sharpen – Smart Sharpen
- Typing on your Images (Copyright) • Free Transform Tool • Borders

Includes **FREE**  
Training Videos

**R1 400-00**

## Adobe Photoshop Advanced Course

This course builds on the Beginners Photoshop Course by working in layers, learning to use layer masks which are crucial to edit an image in a non-destructive manner. Making an image black and white and only leaving selected objects in colour, editing it in a manner which can easily be changed at a later stage. Learn to blend images to achieve a higher dynamic range.

**The following will be covered in the course:**

- Levels Advanced • Vignetting • Black and White • Dodge and Burn
- Advanced Layer Styles • Content Aware Scaling • Layer Masking
- Selective colour with layer masks • Blending Exposures
- Learn to write your own actions • Save time – batch process

Includes **FREE**  
Training Videos

**R1 400-00**

## Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Complete Workflow

In this beginners course we will look at the importance of Lightroom as a powerful workflow tool. Explore catalogs and demystify the Library and Develop modules.

**The following will be covered in the course:**

- Filing System • Importance of your Catalog file • Importing your images • The Library Module • Develop Module - Tool Strip, Tone Curve and Basic Panel, HSL, Black & White and Split Toning, Sharpening, Noise Reduction and Vignetting, etc. • Exporting your images

Includes **FREE**  
Training Videos

**R1 400-00**



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## SALONS TO ENTER IN JANUARY 2021

*Maybe those members who have not yet entered their images into Salons could be brave in 2021 and give it a go? It is truly exciting to enter your very best images, and getting acceptances in Salons is both exhilarating and rewarding – self-rewarding – DO THIS! Challenge yourself! And remember, it is not true that if your images don't fare well at club level that you will not do well at Salons – give it a try – you never know!!!*

*- Ed's note*

09 January 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Brandpunt National Salon [See entry details here](#)

16 January 2021 – 1<sup>st</sup> Amber National Salon [See entry details here](#)

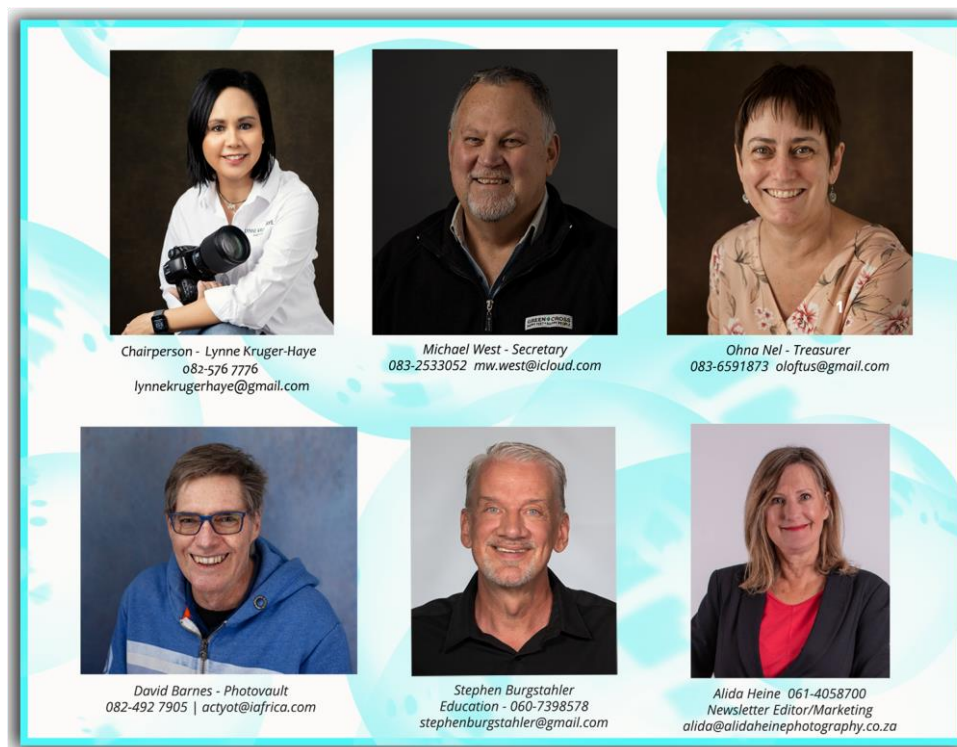
23 January 2021 – 7<sup>th</sup> PSSA National Salon [See entry details here](#)

30 January 2021 – 1<sup>st</sup> Visual Art National Salon [See entry details here](#)

You don't have to be a member of PSSA to be able to enter, but it is advisable, as there are many benefits of becoming a member.

To become a member there is an ONCE OFF Entry fee of R170 and the annual membership fee is R555,00. There is a large discount if you enter with your partner.

[Click here to see WHY you should join!](#)





## A FEW MORE THINGS

### DATES IN JANUARY TO REMEMBER:

1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 – New Year's Day (with Oros – No champagne!)



Friday 22nd January 2021 – Photovault closes for January Club Competition

Wednesday 27th January – TPS Club evening – via Zoom – link to follow

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Image Review evening – Zoom link to follow

