

THE BELLows



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WINNERS ANNOUNCED!



DID YOU KNOW?

Many speculate that Valentine's day has its origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery.

The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our modern **day** of love. Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named **Valentine** — on Feb. 14 of different years in the 3rd century A.D. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. **Valentine's Day**

In truth, the exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under the date of 14 February." One was a priest in Rome, the second one was a bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Italy) and the third St. Valentine was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

Legends vary on how the martyr's name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love. On these occasions, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia, and he declared that February 14 be celebrated as St. Valentine's Day.

Source: www.britannica.com





FROM THE PEN OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Tyger Togs,

We've just blinked, and 2021 is already in February! The pandemic has just seen it's "second wave", and those who are in the know are predicting a "third" in the next couple of months. We face the year filled with anxiety and uncertainty. Our schools have delayed the start to the academic year, parents are trying to balance childcare and working from home, many of us are operating under severely stressful conditions as we watch and pray for those family members and friends who have fallen prey to this virus. Even more of



us are faced with job uncertainty, some of us pushed way out of our comfort zone in trying to pivot our businesses so that we can keep at it as our world changes before our eyes. In quiet moments, I wonder if all those futuristic science-fiction movie script-writers had any idea that they had forecast a world unthinkable. And yet, there is always hope. Us humans are resilient, stronger than we know. The random acts of kindness, the glimpses of compassion, the previously undiscovered steely backbone of the many who selflessly stand between us and the virus, gives us hope. The determination to find that silver lining, the intentional decision to always choose to do good, to do right, to be better... that is what makes us creatures of wonder.

So, how does this relate to us here at TPS? I am so glad you asked, let me tell you 😊

In 2020, most of us were pushed into a new virtual world, whether we wanted to, or not. For most of us, platforms like Zoom and Teams were the stuff of movies, and we had to get on board very quickly or lose ourselves in the era of disconnectedness that came about with Lockdown. We trialed, we errored, but we got there. We sat out a month or two of club competitions, and then realised that this "thing" was not going away in a hurry.

So we got on board. Tentatively at first, and then like a kid entering a swimming pool in the middle of summer, we just canon-balled our way into this incredible virtual world. Even our not-so-tech-savvy members are now experts at logging in to these virtual get-togethers. They have figured out webcams and microphones, chat boxes and sharing screens... they have shown resilience. I raise this specifically because we have accepted this new virtual world as normal now, but we need to acknowledge what it has taken for most of us to get there.



...FROM THE PEN OF THE CHAIRPERSON CONTINUED....

We have understood the accessibility that this allows us, to be able to engage with our members who live far away, to be able to offer more and more to you, at no extra cost or inconvenience, and for that I want to express huge admiration to the committee for understanding and taking on the possibilities that became available to us. So please, take advantage of the fact that for the foreseeable future, our get-togethers are hosted in the comfort of your own home. You can pour a shot of your favourite tippie, get out the snacks and spend some time connecting with fellow photographers from your armchair!

Through this convenience, we have included the extra Image Review evening, which happens the Thursday evening right after the Monthly Competition Evening. We have about 30% attending to the tally of the monthly meeting at the moment. I would urge you to join in!! At no other meeting do we have the time to allow for conversation around images. We discuss, ask, question and comment on the images of the night before, we look at the genre and whether we managed to interpret that properly. In other words, we have created the space to hang out and chat photography! Pop in!

JAP (judging Accreditation Programme) also kicks off virtually this month! The introductory meeting happens this Saturday, 6th February at 9am via Zoom. This 2 year programme is an absolute must for anyone wanting to get into the photographic judging arena, as well as for those who are interested in growing their knowledge in the different genres. All 3-star (and above) members are invited to sign up, even those who have done the course before and are wanting a refresher! The cost is R150 per session and is hosted on the first Saturday of every month except for December and January.

I also just want to highlight again our change from 4 submissions per competition month to a maximum of 3 entries. Please refer to the email sent out last week if you are unsure.

The salon calendar for the year is up on the PSSA website, and I want to encourage our members to participate and enter! The salon results and information are included in this newsletter, so please do have a look at that. I just would like to highlight our newest Husband-and-Wife team, Frik and Alida Heine. Frik joined TPS late last year, and only uses his cellphone for photography at this point, and has already entered salons and RECEIVED TWO ACCEPTANCES!!!!

No excuses chaps, you can do this!! Alida has also recently walked away with an International Silver Medal, so this dynamic duo is to be congratulated for their contribution to TPS.



...FROM THE PEN OF THE CHAIRPERSON CONTINUED...

Huge thanks to Marleen la Grange for managing the stats and putting together our results each month!

On another note, I would also like to pay tribute to Martin Kleingeld and David Barnes for the smooth handling of the transition of the Photovault responsibility. As always, Bennie Vivier is hidden behind the scenes from where he offers advice, support and encouragement. Thank you gentlemen, your effort is noted and appreciated!

Stephen Burgstahler has also been rather busy putting together an amazing lineup on the education side! Please do look out for the outings and Learn & Share events in our calendar! The next outing takes place on Sunday, 7th of February at Vergelegen in Somerset West. John Read will be conducting a 50mm challenge (so you will need either a fixed 50mm lens or a zoom lens that you can set at 50mm) that will be explained when you get there. Please come prepared for great fun and fellowship! On Thursday, 11th of February, we will have the Learn & Share session via Zoom, and the topic is Portraiture - which will be hosted by yours truly!

And not to leave out Ohna and Michael, I want to remind everyone that the annual fees are due so please get in touch with them to arrange. The fees remain unchanged for 2021 and are as follows: R275 for members, R200 for scholars and those over 60, R75 for social members. Please also let them know, as a matter of urgency, should TPS **NOT** be your main club for 2021. This is important as it impacts whether we, as a club, are allowed to use your images for inter-club competitions or not.

As I end off this report today, it is with fondness that I remember Ivor Thompson, who passed away recently. Ivor, and his wife Helene, have been long-standing members of our TPS family. They were always present at our meetings in the hall, always supportive and always ready with a kind word and smile. Ivor was 82 at the time of his passing, and right up to lockdown they were regular attendees at our meetings and events, sharing our love for photography and the joy that the camaraderie of fellow photographers bring. Helene, you have our love and support, always.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage you to keep shooting and to keep creating, despite the challenges we all face at this time. Please reach out to each other should you feel overwhelmed or isolated, we are a family and are here for each other.



STAY SAFE, LYNNE



JANUARY CLUB COMPETITION

Our January Club competition took place on Wednesday 27th January via Zoom. A total of 34 members attended this live session – the best attendance since we started the zoom meetings!

For Set Subject – Abstract – there were 62 entries and for Open category 68 images were entered.

From 2021 there will be a separation in winning images for Junior Members (1 to 3 star), and Senior members (4star+).

Set subject: Winning image by Gary Scholtz, titled “Media in a Mess”
(This image was also the Senior winning image)
Runner up was David Barnes with “Catch me if you can”

Open Category: Winner was Gary Scholtz with his image titled “Reflecting on fickle times”
The Runner Up and Junior Winning Image was that of Ben ter Huurne titled “It is my turn now”

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR **GALLERY ON PAGE 10** TO VIEW THESE AMAZING IMAGES

WHO WAS THE JUDGE FOR JANUARY COMPETITION?



Celia Fouche was born a “Valie” in Vanderbiljpark and obtained her Higher Education Diploma after which she was a teacher for 7 years.

Then she went to start a new career at SANLAM and retired in 2020.

Her photography journey started in 2009 when she started to live her creative dream.

In 2009 Celia was awarded the Beginner of the year Award at TAF club and served on their management team for two years, 2010-2011.

In 2011 she received an award for having received the most salon acceptances of TAF club and also received the award for Photographer of the year. After this she reached her Master status in club photography.

Over just a few years Celia has become much accoladed within PSSA and is a Salon medalist both locally and on the International front.

In 2012 she established the WCJF – Western Cape Judging Forum, and to date the Forum has successfully delivered 3 groups of judges with PSSA accreditation.

In 2013 Celia received a Service Medal from PSSA for her excellent contribution and devotion towards photographic skill development.

After this she had set her participation in club photography on ice for a while due to increased responsibility at work. It was in this point of time that she decided to continue with her photography journey once she retires.

Now that Celia is retired she often participates as club and salon judge.

It is evident in her personal gallery of images that there's a soft spot for abstract photography. Below are two of Celia's favourite images.



SALON RESULTS

SALON RESULTS: DECEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021

DECEMBER 2020							
SALONS: 6th Centurion, Midlens, Light&Shade, PSSA Up and Coming, Open Belgian, Sonar Banglo, Rise Earth, Southern Suburbs, 5th Campina, Cross Continental, Baku Azerbaijan, and Kladuvo							
CLUB MEMBER	Local Salon Acceptances	COMS	Runner Up	First Medal	International Acceptances	COMS	Medals
NEELS BEYERS	6				18 ★		
STEPHEN BURGSTAHLER	4				1		
MARLEEN LA GRANGE					8		
DERRICK SMIT	5	1			6		
MARIANA VISSER	3	2			22 ★	2	
LENEY STIPP	16 ★	2					
JOHAN VAN WYK	5	1					
BENNIE VIVIER	7	1					
CLIFFORD WYETH	2						
LYNNE KRUGER HAYE	8			1			
COERT VENTER	1						
FRIK HEINE	2						
TOTAL	59	7		1	55	2	

JANUARY 2021							
SALONS: 5th Campina, Heritage Loop, 1st Paralelism, 1st FIP Intl Print, 3rd Tajik Photo Art, Brandpunt and Desert Fox							
CLUB MEMBER	Local Salon Acceptances	COMS	Runner Up	First Medal	International Acceptances	COMS	Medals
Alida Heine	2				1		1
Mariana Visser	3				6		
Derrick Smit					4		
Neels Beyers		1					
Stepheb Burgstahler	3						
Desmond Labuschagne	3						
Leney Stipp	4						
Pieter Swart	3						
Bennie Vivier	7						
Francois du Bois	4						
Barbara van Eeden	1						
TOTAL	30	1			11		1



Congratulations to Neels Beyers, Mariana Visser and Leney Stipp for grabbing buckets full of those Salon Acceptances and to the winners of Certificates of Merit and the medal. See our gallery for some of these amazing images.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY?

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday 7th February – Photo challenge at Vergelegen Wine Estate, Somerset West – ideal for Monochrome theme for this month!

Thursday 11th February – EDUCATION evening – PORTRAITURE
Presented by Lynne Kruger-Haye

Sunday 14th February – Valentines Day – Spoils are in order

Thursday 18th February – #Level.Up TEAMS meeting

Friday 19th February – Entries for February club competition closes

Wednesday 24th February – Club Competition evening via Zoom

Thursday 25th February – Image Review Evening via Zoom



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

02 February – Marion Jackson

16 February – Gary Scholtz

17 February – Sonja Grünbauer

SALONS TO ENTER THIS MONTH

13 Feb – Bloemfontein National Digital Salon – [click here to enter](#)

27 Feb – WC Photographic Forum Intl PDI&Print Salon – [Enter here](#)

And no less than 24 International Salons to choose from

– [See the PSSA list of FIAP accredited Salons for 2021 here](#)

Special Invitation: Enter to the BOKEH Digital Circuit (Serbia, China and New Zealand) – [Enter here - CLOSING DATE 4th Feb 2021](#)





MORE ABOUT FEBRUARY

SET SUBJECT FOR FEBRUARY CLUB COMPETITION: MONOCHROME

Monochrome category rules:

A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the various shades of grey. A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white category. On the other hand a black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category. Manipulation is allowed.

Ed's note:

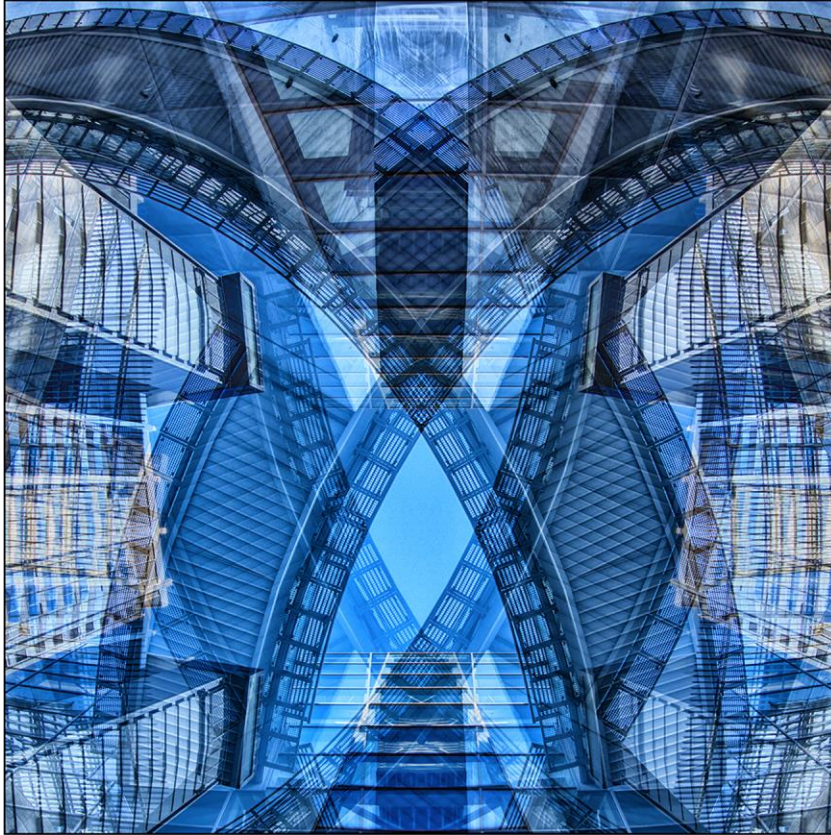
Black and white photography is something that will never go out of style. While the bright colors of contemporary photographs are eye-catching and visually appealing, there's something about looking at a black and white photograph that really allows you to feel connected to the image. Perhaps it has something to do with the distinct lack of color; without having an array of bright colors to focus on, viewers are forced to look deeper into a photograph – into the expression of the subject's face, into the lines and shapes that make up the subject, into the distinct differences between light and shadow. There are plenty of aspects of photographs that go unnoticed when looking at a photograph in color. By reducing it to its black and white state, more is observed.

While all early photographers were forced to shoot in black and white before color film was invented, there are some that were more influential than others. And in a day and age where color photography is everywhere you look, there are still modern-day photographers who appreciate the beauty of a simple black and white photograph and choose to continue its use. Some modern-day photographers are even still photographing with black and white film!

Ansel Adams is widely known for his large, beautiful, black and white landscapes taken between the 1920s and the 1960s.

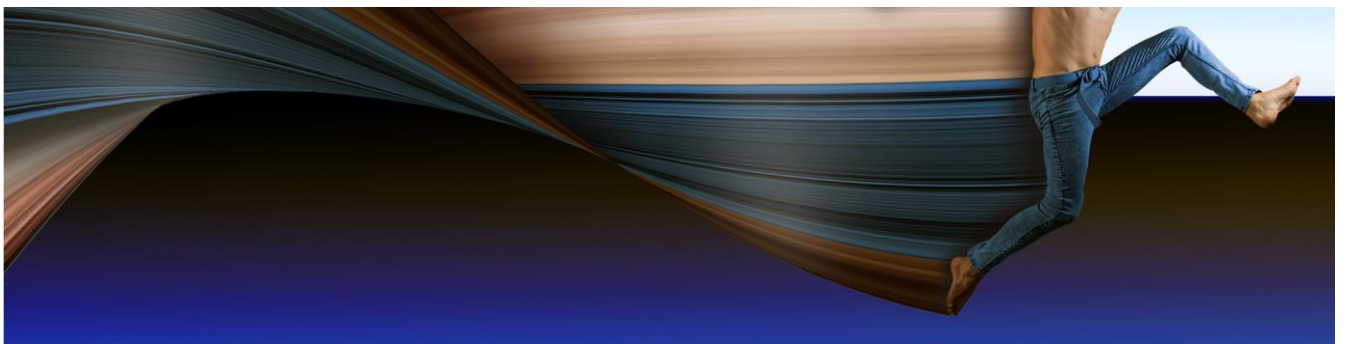
Source: Smashing Magazine

GALLERY



Media in a Mess -
by Gary Scholtz

Jan 2021 Set Subject
And Senior Winning Image



"Catch me if you can" – by David Barnes
Runner up for Set Subject January 2021

"Reflection on fickle times"
by Gary Scholtz
Winner of Open Category Jan 2021



"It is my turn now" by Ben ter Huurne →
Runner Up for Open Category and Junior
Winning image – Jan 2021



"Walking with Giants" – by Alida Heine
– Silver Medalist at Desert Fox International Salon, Kenya



"Juvenile Bateleur" by Derrick Smit

Certificate of Merit at 18th Up and Coming PSSA Salon

"Young Lion" by Bennie Viviers
Certificate of Merit at Midlens Salon



ABOVE: "The eye of a secretary bird –
And RIGHT: "Thirsty"

Both images by Leney Stipp, both received
Certificates of Merit at the 18th PSSA Up
and Coming salon.



MORE GALLERY.....



Zeits Dome by Neels Beyers
Certificate of Merit
At Brandpunt Salon



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Thank you to our official sponsors:



TPS members are reminded that annual membership fees are due at the latest by end February 2021.

Banking details: Standard bank, Branch code 026509, Acc nr 274893142

'N MAN MET 'N PLAN - MEET PIET SWART



'n Warm welkom aan Piet Swart, wat in Desember sy tuisklub Swartland Fotografieklub verruil het vir TPS, wat nou sy hoofklub is. Welkom Piet!

Ed's note I asked Piet to write a short biography so that I can introduce him to our members, and was yet again overwhelmed by Piet's natural down to earth nature. What he did not include in his Biography was that he was Photographer of the year at Swartland in 2020.

Piet wrote: "My interest in photography already started at a young age in my schooldays. I can't remember when I bought my first "mik-en-druk" camera, but it was in my high school days. I always used to take my camera with when going on holiday, or when watching cricket at Newlands.

From standard 2 (grade 4) I attended school at Swartland Primary School (Malmesbury) and matriculated at Swartland High School. When I left school, I travelled around for work and ended up at Yzerfontein Local Council in 1996. After the municipal elections in 2000, Yzerfontein was included in the Swartland municipal area, and I was back in Malmesbury. Currently I am the Supply Chain Manager at Swartland Municipality.

In 2015 I bought my first DSLR camera. I started to take more photos and got more interested in photography. I wanted to learn more about photography and joined the Swartland Fotografieklub in Malmesbury in 2016. I realised that I first had to know how my camera operates in order to capture better images. At the club meetings I received valuable tips from the judges. I also bought a few photography books to read and to learn more. I love taking landscape photos.

Photography is my way of relaxing. After a busy week, I can't wait to go somewhere over the weekend to relax and switch off next to a river or by the sea and capture some images. Photos are my memories of that specific moments that I have enjoyed. For me there is nothing more enjoyable than to watch the sun rise in the morning and feel the freshness of the morning light. One of my favourite places to watch the sun rise in the morning is Bokkomlaan in Velddrif."

"A few months ago I started getting interested in bird photography. It is quite interesting to watch the behaviour of birds. I often go to Intaka Island on a Saturday morning to sit in the bird hide and relax, while capturing a few images. Photography let me switch off and get my mind off work.

I enjoy nature. Since I started taking photography more seriously, I realised what I have missed before, and am going to places now where I've never been before. As a photographer you learn to see things and places from different angles.

To take photos is a continuous learning process. There is always something you can improve on."



Piet shared a few of his favourite images with us. This one is rightfully titled PAINTED SKY.

When he was on holiday at Sedgefield he captured this incredible image because he was "surprised by the beauty of it" - *Ed's note* - *Wow, Piet, we hope that you will continue to discover surprises like this!*

In Piet's own words:

"This image was taken at sunrise at the Swartvlei Lake near Sedgefield on a very cold morning. This morning it was 4°C. My hands got so cold that after a while, I could not press the shutter release. I had to warm my hands in my trouser's pockets before I could continue taking photos."



FUNNY HOLIDAY PHOTO COMPETITION



Results

Thank you to everyone who played along and sent in their funny holiday photos. The judges were Jan Theron, Marius van der Westhuizen and Tielman du Toit, and they had done a splendid job pointing out the winners.



WINNING IMAGE

"This is hilarious"

By Derrick Smit

Derrick and his family wins an awesome underwater family shoot with John Vowles

This prize is worth at R3500.00

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

2ND Place goes to Izak Venter for his image
Called "Elvis the Pelvis" – Izak wins a
microlight flight to the value of R650.00



THIRD PRIZE – "Good laughs"

By Sharon Nowacki-Olsen. Sharon won a
Justine gift to the value of R350.00





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There is also room for a CLASSIFIED SECTION where you can place your small ads as members of TPS free of charge – as a once off photography related advertisement. This is meant for swops or selling of camera gear and accessories.

Or even better – advertise your business here for coverage to all our members and also to the WC Photographic Forum.



WHAT'S NEW AT TPS?

IMPORTANT NOTICE

From February 2021 members will be restricted to a maximum of 3 entries per competition.

Categories are: 1 – Set Subject
2 – Open Category

And a new addition – a **THIRD CATEGORY**, namely **Cell Phone Category**.
Cell phones have evolved and some really brilliant photos are taken with cell phones.

The spread will work as follows:

A maximum of two images can be entered into Cell phone or Open Category, but **THREE** images may be entered into the Set Subject category, allowing for a total of three images overall.



WE'RE NOT NEW - BUT HERE'S YOUR TEAM:



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