THE BELLOWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO LOVE THEIR GAME

Judge's Choice - March 2021 Club Competition SERENITY - by Marion Jackson

WHAT'S INSIDE:

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE- 3

MARCH WRAPPED UP page 4

SALON RESULTS page 5

SEE WHAT IS IN STORE FOR APRIL - page 6

MINIMALISM STEALING THE SHOW - page 7

MEET MICHAEL STRUBEN- page 9 A VISIT TO OUR GALLERY - page 10 WHAT IS CONTRAST **ACTUALLY?- page 13**

NEWS SNIPLETTS - PHOTOSHOP NEWS - page 15

page 16

AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR STORIES -

APRIL - A VIEW AT TRADITIONS

BY ALIDA HEINE

The true origins of April Fools' Day remain unknown and are probably lost to history, but theories abound, of course.

One story goes that April Fools' Day began with France's 1564 Edict of Roussillon, which decreed that New Year's Day, historically observed on Easter by Christians, was moved to January 1. Easter is a movable, lunar-based date but often falls in April, so it's said that early adopters dubbed people celebrating the old New Year "April fools."

Good one, guys.

Another theory suggests that April 1st became the fool's holiday due to Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th century collection, The Canterbury Tales, wherein Chaucer includes a playful reference to "32 March," or April 1st. However, most scholars consider it to have been a mere copying error.

April fools' Day celebrations across the world in some cases seem bizarre. Here's what happens in France:

Alongside Easter, French children follow April Fools' Day traditions in Spring. On 1 April, people use paper fish to play an April Fools trick. This involves sticking a paper fish onto the back of as many adults as possible. And then running away yelling "Poisson d'Avril !" (April Fish!). Yes, you better check your back if you happen to be in France on that day!



In the USA there is a celebration every day of April, some of which will fit in perfectly with our South African likings:

1st April is National Peanut butter day when they enjoy peanut butter and jelly (I suppose this is our IAM) sandwiches.

3rd April is Chocolate Mousse Day!

April 4th - World Rat Day (have you ever! - Ed)

April 5th - USA National Caramel day, dating back from the 18th century.

April 6 - National Twinky day - enjoying those creamy centres in soft cake

April 7th is Naional Beer day

April 8th is Draw a picture of a bird day

April 9th - Shop something antique

The list goes on with National Siblings day, cheese toast day, Pecan day, Roast Ham day, Look-alike day, Picnc day etc.

Back on home ground, Christians celebrate Easter in belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although a holiday of high religious significance in the Christian faith, many traditions associated with Easter date back to pre-Christian, pagan times.

Easter Sunday and related celebrations, such as Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, are considered "moveable feasts," although, in western Christianity, which follows the Gregorian calendar, Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter typically falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox.

Non-religious Easter traditions include Easter eggs, and related games such as egg rolling and egg decorating. It's believed that eggs represented fertility and birth in certain pagan traditions. Egg decorating may have become part of the Easter celebration in a nod to the religious significance of Easter.

Many people also participate in Easter egg "hunts," in which decorated eggs are hidden. Perhaps the most famous Easter tradition for children is the annual White House Easter Egg Roll, when children roll Easter eggs down Capitol Hill

- Source - History.com

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE -

BY LYNNE KRUGER HAYE

Greetings TygerTogs!

I am not sure about you, but I for one am definitely starting to feel a slight chill in the early mornings as we say goodbye to March. Last year this time, we had just entered what we had hoped would be a short-lived lockdown. Today, as I write this, we are now at Day 368 – and counting!

This milestone is significant in so many ways, for each of us. Much has been written, discussed and pondered about our "new normal", but for me personally the last year has been about own growth, understanding what exactly the craft of photography means to me, and how my portrait business impacts the lives of my clients. The drive to do better, to be better, has never been so strong and it brings me immense joy to see each of you stepping up and keeping at your craft despite the challenges we face in our world today.

I especially salute our members who have dared – and succeeded – in achieving their PSSA Honours this last round. To Erik Seket and Mariana Visser for achieving their LPSSA respectively, we congratulate you on an immense achievement. For those who tried and didn't quite get there, don't give up. Achieving recognition at the Honours level is a journey of hard work, deep disappointment from time to time, but ultimately rewarding – so keep going! We are here to support and encourage you!

On the salon side, I want to express again my deep appreciation to Marleen Is Grange who battles with the spreadsheet each month to try and keep our tally up to date. The information does not always flow from the competition side, so she has to rely on members notifying her when the numbers don't add up, especially

On the International side of things. Marleen, we know that trying to manage the flow of information is highly frustrating, and we thank you for keeping at it despite the difficulty.

This last month was especially interesting as there were a whole host of International salon competitions, and our members did exceptionally well! Congratulations! A special mention must of course be made to Johan van Wyk for achieving TWO GOLD MEDALS at the WCPF International Salon, and to Derrick Smit for his FIAP Ribbon, also achieved at the WCPF International Salon. We are so proud of you and your achievements – WELL DONE!!

On the home front, we would like to encourage you to join in at our outings, as this is the only time we are able to meet up in person for now. Keep an eye on the communication channels for details of our next event.

I wish you well for the month ahead, and would like to urge you to stay safe over the Easter weekend. Take care and keep shooting!



MARCH WRAPPED UP



March was not short of excitement as our members are shining bright here in SA as well as abroad.

We have a number of SHINING STARS in our midst - and we need to make special mention of the following members:

Lynne Kruger Haye - APSSA Mariana Visser - LPSSA Erik Seket - LPSSA



Johan van Wyk was awarded 2 x Gold Medals at WC Forum Intl Salon Derrick Smit was awarded a FIAP Ribbon at the WC Forum Intl Salon and a Salon Diploma at the Sombrero Fest Intl Salon, Guatamala.

CLUB COMPETITION EVENING (Set Subject: Portraits with a hat)

The club competition evening was held via Zoom on Wednesday 24th March, and the Judges for the evening was Lynne Kruger Haye for Set Subject, and Stephen Burgstahler for Open Category. Many thanks to them for evaluating and commenting on the entries.

The evening was filled with creative top notch images from our members. 26 members and 3 guests logged in via zoom.

The full list of results can be viewed here: http://www.tygerphoto.co.za/downloads/

THE WINNERS WERE:

- WINNER SET SUBJECT: David Barnes with "I waited all night"
- RUNNER UP Roanne de Haast with "Brown eyed teen"
- WINNER OPEN CATEGORY: Pieter Swart with "Peace be Still" COM
- RUNNER UP: Rob Minter with "Stationery City" COM
- JUDGE'S CHOICE for Senior photographer Marion Jackson with "Serenity"
- JUDGE'S CHOICE for Junior photographer Roanne de Haast with "Brown Eyed teen"

Huge contratulations to our winner and runner up for the Open Category in March - as both these images, the winning image as well as the runner up have been awarded Certificate of Merit! Well done gentlemen!!

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR GALLERY ON PAGE 10 TO VIEW THESE AWESOME IMAGES!

.... a bit more about March

TPS OUTING MARCH 2021

The outing to Stellenbosch Botanical Gardens on Saturday was successful and 12 members attended - we can look forward to some awesome images of this outing popping up in future club competitions!

MARCH 2021 SALON RESULTS

SALON RESULTS: MARCH 2021

Western Cape Forum Intl Salon, PITCO, MM, TIKAL, Mental Health, Hexagon, PAMIR, JPS, Kicevo, Sombrero Fest, Lion City, and Iris

| NAME | SA Salons | | | | International Salons | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|-------|
| | Accep- tances | сом | Runner-Up | Medal 1st | Accep- tances | сом | Medal |
| CAROLYN KEWLEY | | | | | 4 | | |
| DAVID BARNES | | | | | 2 | | |
| ALIDA HEINE | | | | | 17 | | |
| FRIK HEINE | | | | | 2 | | |
| MARLEEN LA GRANGE | | | | | 3 | | |
| LYNNE KRUGER-HAYE | | | | | 11 | | |
| DERICK SMIT | | | | | 11 | FIAP RIBBON | |
| LENEY STIPP | | | | | 3 | | |
| PIETER SWART | | | | | 22 | | |
| FRANCOIS DU BOIS | | | | | 2 | | |
| MARIANA VISSER | | | | | 7 | | |
| JOHAN VAN WYK | | | | | 5 | | 2 |
| NEELS BEYERS | | | 1 | | 6 | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | 96 | 1 | 2 |

Congratulations to everyone - well done - keep TPS's name high!



Proud member of



SEE WHAT'S IN STORE FOR APRIL

DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Tue 06th April</u> - TPS Committee meeting - if you have anyting to raise with the committee, please let us know in the Monday Suggestion Box post on Monday 5th!

Sun 1th April - TPS OUTING - 06h30 - 07h00 - Sunrise Shoot at St. James Beach

and oghoo - Meet at Bootleggers Coffee Co, Kalk Bay

Thu 15th April - #Level-Up evening

<u>Tue 20th April Learn&Share</u> - Robert Johnson - Still Life Photography

Fri 23rd April - Photovault closes for club entries

Wed 28th April - TPS Club Competition

Thu 29th April - Image Review evening

TPS SET SUBJECT FOR APRIL 2021 - Minimalism - remember, in this instance - LESS IS MORE! More about this on page 7

S.A. SALONS TO ENTER IN APRIL

2nd Kosmos Photography Club Salon - Closing on 03/04 - This salon has an interesting category: "Mother and Child"

1st Creative Camera Club - Closing on 10/04 - Including an "Abstract" category

4th Hibuscus National Salon - Closing on 17/04 - Interesting category: Poprtraits - Human or Animals

2nd Klerksdorp National Salon - Closing on 24/04 - Offering a category for Altered Reality as well as Photojournalism/Sport

Our very own TPS Salon, closing on 1st May - including a category for Macro/Close-ups

Also early in May, is the Durban Camera Club Centenary (100th!!) Salon, offering a category for Plantlife and Flowers, and maniplation is allowed.

JUST LOGIN TO YOUR PHOTOVAULT PROFILE TO ENTER ANY OF THESE. GOOD LUCK!

To view <u>International Salons</u>, please visit the PSSA website. There is a variety of salons to enter for April. Here is a link to less expensive Salons - all under 25Euro - BY by Philip de Lange:

https://westerncapepssa.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/fiap-international-salons-2021-free-and-less-than-25-euro-27122020.xlsx

MINIMALISM - STEALING THE SHOW

Minimalism in Photography is defined in so many ways, but in the end it all boils down to terms such as "simplicity" or "less is more" or "clean photography". I can write about this for days without end, but tried to offer some insight on a number of articles that I have put together for this edition. --Ed's note

<u>Minimalism – source - PhotographyLife</u>

As people look at photos on smaller and smaller screens, there has been a growing trend towards taking photos that are more and more minimalist. Especially on platforms like Instagram, minimalism is exploding; it's everywhere, and it has been for a while now. There are some pros and cons of minimalism, and there are mixed feelings about how common this trend has become, but there's no denying its popularity.

This article covers some of the main reasons you'd want to capture minimalist photos, along with some tips for using this style of photography as effectively as possible.

One of the first recommendations is to hone in on your message. What do you want the photo to say? Which emotions or thoughts should your viewers have while looking at the photo? And, most importantly, how can you simplify that message and communicate it as effectively as possible?

For a lot of photographers, minimalism is the answer — and it's not a bad answer at that. If your goal is to depict a pristine sand dune, without any footprints or other distractions, a photo that shows the arc of a single dune against a blue sky could make for a very striking image.

Let's have a look at typical characteristics of minimalist photos:

- First, their color palettes are not distracting; there are usually only one or two main colors drawing attention, or the photo may be monochromatic.
- They also tend to have large regions of "negative space" empty areas in the photo where people's eyes won't naturally fall.
- Also, the main subjects tend to be small, low in detail, and well-defined, with sharp transitions setting them off from the background.

When taking macro photos, you may find minimalism tends to creep into the final frame, whether you want it to or not. That's because a lot of these elements are present in the macro world — unified colors, significant negative space (due to the thin depth of field), and very well-defined subjects. Not every macro photo is minimalist, but it's a good example of a field where this type of image is common.

Still, minimalism can happen in any genre of photography, so long as you're able to find a lot of negative space. If you want to take minimalist photos, that's the first thing to look for — empty areas that you can use as a backdrop for your main subject. If your final photograph includes just one or two subjects against an unobtrusive background, you've hit the nail on the head!





....MINIMALISM CONTINUED...

MINIMALISM WORKS WELL ON SMALL SCREENS - IT IS SOMETHING WE CANNOT DENY

People are using phones to find content far more than ever before, and a lot of photographers have changed their styles to suit the new medium.

When you're looking at a small screen, minimalism works really well. The tiny area of phone screens means that there's not much room for complex details and areas with a lot of interest; instead, a single subject against a monotone background will stand out much more easily.

On one hand, this is a bit sad, because it's nothing like the experience of viewing a large print of a detailed landscape close-up. At the same time, people will always be changing, and it makes sense that photographers would adapt accordingly.

If an area of beautiful, complex features in a large print appears as a bunch of chaotic pixels on a two-inch screen, there's a good argument against photographing beautiful, complex features — or, at least, against posting such photos onto social media.





For certain subjects, it conveys the essence of the scene much better than any other style of photography. Minimalism can add a sense of deliberateness that your photos may not have had before, making you think more carefully about composition.

But beware - overly simplistic photos are like the tune "Happy Birthday" — catchy, often popular, but not of the same emotional depth as a well-written symphony.

As a whole, it can be nice to have minimalism in your toolbox, so long as you don't overdo it. Minimalism doesn't work well if you have a lot of information to convey, but it's great if you're trying to express a single message as clearly as possible.



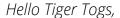


MEET ONE OF OUR GERMAN MEMBERS

Michael Struben lives in Germany and joined TPS in February 2021 on recommendation of Sonja Grunbauer. After evaluation of his images Michael was placed at a 3-star level.

When asked to write to us, a German sweet and short style came out in his short but friendly e-mail.

-Ed'snote - Michael asked me to add text to his words, but I loved his way, so I am giving it to you as is.



My name is Michael Stüben from Lübeck / Germany born in Hamburg 1942. Started photographing in 1969 with own darkroom. I worked for Siemens as an IT engineer for it.



When finished House and Garden work in 2007, I started digital photographing In that I was supported by some retired professionals from UK, Holland and Germany, together we founded the Algarve Photographers.

Back in Germany since 2010.

Now as a Member of "Foto Forum Lübeck"

Currently working with a Canon 5D Mark III.

Used the Spotmatic and the ES II from Pentax in early times,

Had fun with a Rollei SI 66 and the Minolta 7000i too.

At least I worked with a Canon RS N1 and a Mamiya C 6000.

First of all, my favourit tool is my eye, catching Street Shots and people. Architecture, Landscape and BW Llike also.





These are two of Michael's favourite images.



A VISIT TO OUR GALLERY



WINNING IMAGE TPS Set subject for March 2021 "I waited all night" by David Barnes



TPS Open Category for March 2021 Winning Image (COM) by Pieter Swart "Peace be still"



Runner up for Set Subject and JUDGES CHOICE for Junior winnig image -March 2021 "Brown eyed teen" by Roanne de Haast



JUDGE"S CHOICE
TPS Club Competition March 2021
"Serenity"
by Marion Jackson





Gold Medalist at Western Cape Forum International Salon "Booby take-off" by Johan van Wyk



GOLD Medalist at WC Forum International Salon "Turf Tussle" by Johan van Wyk





FIAP Ribbon award "Late afternoon meal" by Derrick Smit

What is contrast actually?

We like to say that photographers truly do have their own language - the *lingo of togs*. Vibrance, luminance, highlights, shadows, contrast—it's a lot to take in, especially when many of these terms are related to one another!

The word "contrast" literally means "difference," and use of the word "contrast" in photography is no different:)

Contrast is one of the most essential components of photography. When used effectively, it creates clarity, texture, shadow, tone, and light in an image. It can help you draw attention to particular elements of a photo or even emphasize your subject.

Contrast is the degree of difference between the tones and colours in a photo. Think of it as the ratio of tones, or the ratio between the light and dark areas of an image.

High contrast and low contrast leave viewers with different impressions and change the mood, the impact and feel of your photos. For example, high contrast photos typically have less noticeable details but more evident textures, whereas low contrast ones possess more visible individual elements.

To create this tonal disparity, photographers can use several methods with high contrast and low contrast. You can adjust camera settings and light, alter your photos' composition, or manipulate it in editing. Two of the most effective of these techniques are colour and tone.

Colour uses interactions between shades to enhance your photos, while tone is the variance of brightness in a photo.

HIGH CONTRAST PHOTOGRAPHY:

A high contrast image has an array of black and white tones characterized by dark shadows, vibrant pigments, vivid accents, and concentrated textures. They feature a complete range of black and white tones from very light to extremely shadowy. These high contrast photos are quite striking with an edgy, energetic, and powerful black and white vibe. Street and nature photographers frequently utilize this high contrast method to make their photos pop and bring out the photo's textures.

In the artist's world the term "notan" jumps to mind. Notan is a Japanese term which literally means "light dark harmony". Artists use "notan studies" to explore different arrangements of light and dark elements in a painting, without having the distraction of other elements like color, texture and finer details.

LOW CONTRAST PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photos with less contrast are soft with a smaller collection of tones are low contrast. Low contrast photos work mostly in gray shades, without any highlights or dark shadows. This fusion of shades ends up dulling the low contrast photo's shades and making it appear dreamier.

Portraits, especially those taken outdoors, work well with this type of photography. This low contrast technique can also lend a vintage and more relaxed feel to photos because of its diluted appearance.

HIGH CONTRAST AND LOW CONTRAST PHOTOGRAPHY USING COLOUR

The most contrasting shades appear opposite from each other on the color wheel. Examples include red and green and blue and orange. Placing these shades next to each other will create a striking distinction and add sharpness to your shot. You can also juxtapose warm and cool shades.

For less color disparity, photographers can choose analogous ones that appear next to each other on the wheel, or use shades or tints of the same pigment for just a light distinction.

more about contrast....

HIGH CONTRAST AND LOW CONTRAST PHOTOGRAPHY USING TONE

Tone is most significant in black and white photography that doesn't have any additional input from pigment. High tone contrast comes from the variability between very light and intensely deep tones. To create less tonal variability in photos, photographers can feature an array of middle tones with no true whites or blacks. Similarly, a medium contrast image also has a range of tones but does includes pure ones.



EDITING FOR HIGH CONTRAST OR LOW CONTRAST

When editing for high contrast or low contrast, your decisions will depend on the look or mood you want for each particular shot. If you're going for a severe or mysterious look, high contrast methods fit best. But for a light, laidback vibe, low techniques may be more appropriate.

In your editing software, you can use the contrast slider to increase or reduce the look of the entire image. Modifying the pure black and white tones of your photo can also alter the contrasts of your photo. Making whites lighter and blacks deeper will add disparity. (-Ed's note - this will bring you to Notan)

You can also use a brush tool to focus on particular light and dark areas of the image. All you have to do is paint the part of the photo you want to alter and adjust the slider until you reach your desired effect.

IN CONCLUSION:

Contrast in photography refers to the degree of difference between the tones in an image. High contrast features a wide range of tones, from very shadowy to very light. Meanwhile, photos with less contrast have a narrower array of tones with less distinction in brightness.

When discussing low and high contrast photography, photographers must also understand the techniques they can use to get a low or high contrast, both in a photo's composition and editing.

Tone and color are two popular ways to adjust the light and dark areas in a shot, while editing tools can also help add or reduce contrasts in post-processing.

The best way to develop an understanding of low and high contrast is to experiment with creating and adjusting it to various degrees. Once you master it, contrast will help you improve your photos by enhancing their clarity, texture, mood, and effect on viewers.

- Sources: Coles Classroom, Drawpaint Academy

Thank you to our official sponsors:





NEWS SNIPLETTS

Every so often one of our members' photos would land up in the newspapers. In March this beautiful photo of Rob Minter was published in Die Bolander. Well done Rob, it is always nice to get this kind of recognition.

As we all know, Photoshop is like a language - its intricacies can be daunting and at first it can all seem just too much. In our advertisement section you will see Marius van der Westhuizen's ad for Photoshop and Lightroom Classes. These are excellent classes and can form a great base for you on your path of "learing the language".

-Ed's note - Marius's classes is highly recommended and is true value for money.



You can now read Bolander online at www.bolanderlifestyle.co.za

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP 2021 TOPS THEIR GAME

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP CC continuously develop and update the software - but the question is - does everyone know about this?

An amazing tutorial boasts the top 21 new PS features, neatly broken down in time stamps for ease of reference. Here is the link: https://youtu.be/l3dl5iHUH2U.

Here is a list of the top 21 new amazing features:

21 - Sky replacement with the click of a button

20 - Skin smoothening - Neural Filter

19 - Smart Portrait - Neural Filter

18 - Colorise - Neural Filter

17 - Pattern Preview

16 - Quick Actions

15 - Live shapes enhancements

14 - Discover panel

13 - Reset Search

12 - Version history

11 - Select subject improvements

10 - Select & mask presets

09 - Refine hair

08 - Content aware tracing tool

07 - Easy plugins

06 - Depth-aware haze - Neural Filter

05 - Make-up transfer - Neural Filter

04 - Use cloud documents offline

03 - Reset smart objects

02 - Fast Access to content aware fill

And their **NUMBER ONE** new feature: Brush Tool Search



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 Horisons
 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

R1 400-00

Training Videos

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



M WEST

INVITATION TO TPS MEMBERS -SHARE YOUR TRAVEL STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS



GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM



