

The Bellows

Official newsletter of the Tygerberg Photographic Society



Still smiling by *Desmond Labuschagne*

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Proud member of the
**Photographic
Society of South Africa**

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Wildlife is something which man cannot construct.

Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

Joy Adamson

Rob's Ramblings

Hello everyone,

The highlight for me last month was Christo Gileomie's presentation on Nature/Wildlife, held at the NG Kerk in Panorama. As someone who has never really been into wildlife photography, it gave me, apart from a lot more insight into the complexities of the category, a far better understanding of what makes up a high-scoring wildlife photo.

When I did the JAP course a couple of years ago, we covered a lot of ground, but I must say I learned more from Christo's presentation than I did at the course. I have often looked at a beautiful image of, e.g. an eagle on top of a tree (the proverbial "voëltjie op 'n stokkie"), and could never understand why it received a fairly low score. Christo has clarified all that confusion.

In summary, the most important part of a nature image is the nature story it tells! And as per the Photographic Society of America's guidelines, nature images can be broken down into 4 basic levels. In the "This month's subject" later on, I list these 4 levels and the criteria he mentioned that are needed to obtain good scores in the category. It's really worthwhile stuff and well-worth the read.

During the presentation, Christo highlighted the fact that manipulation is not allowed in nature and wildlife photography. However, he made the point that while you might not have the perfect wildlife photo, you might well have one after a bit (or a lot) of manipulation, and you are then quite entitled to enter the manipulated image into the Open category.

To close off this particular subject, remember that even if the scene you have captured contains everything to qualify it as a high-scoring image, high technical standards are still expected, and the image must look natural. If any of the critical parts are slightly out of focus, or the image is not sharp where it needs to be sharp, then all you have is a great memory of capturing the shot, but you won't get the photographic recognition of having done so.

Again - my thanks to all those who have contributed to the content this month - it's been a great help, and is appreciated.

To close, if there are any changes that you think would improve the communication to members, please email me at robminterza@gmail.com.

Till next month...

Rob.

Chairman Chatter

Hi there Tygertogs

Winter is almost here, as one feels the cold in the morning, and it's still dark outside, although we have not had much rain as we did last year.

No new members this past month, but we do have 3 regular visitors who have shown interest in joining TPS.

Please make sure you familiarise yourself with the updated rule 3.2 Monthly Competition Entries, in our House Rules, about similar images. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss with the committee.

Our 9th digital salon closes on the 12th October 2024. Please visit the PSSA website and download the brochure.

Congratulations to Rob Minter on being awarded his DPSSA, well done Rob.

This year's Celebration of Photography, which replaces the Interclub competition, will be hosted by Paarl Photographic Club, with the opening event on Saturday the 9th November 2024.

For our L&S on Tuesday 18 June 2024, Christo Giliomee presented to us a short presentation on our July set subject, Nature/Wildlife, at our venue in Panorama. The evening was well attended.

Our July set subject is on Nature / Wildlife, with Margie Botha judging the images.

More info on this follows further on in the magazine.

I have tentatively pencilled in an outing to Spier estate on Sunday 14th July, meeting at around 09:00. I believe there will be many opportunities for different types of photography. More to follow on our WhatsApp forum.

Our June meeting at the NG Kerk in Panorama was attended by 10 members, 1 visitor and the judge with 12 joining us via zoom, of which 2 were visitors.

Congratulations to our June Club competition winners, all photographs and details can be found in the following pages.

A huge vote of thanks to our sponsor - ORMS.

Until next time, cheers and keep on snapping.

Michael

June 2024 Competition Winners

Set Subject WINNER

Still smiling
by
*Desmond
Labuschagne*



Set Subject RUNNER-UP

Hullo Mr Darcy
by *David Barnes*

June 2024 Competition Winners (cont.)



Open WINNER and JUDGE'S CHOICE JUNIOR

Spreading my wings by Kobus Mouton



Open RUNNER-UP and JUDGE'S CHOICE SENIOR

Fiery sunrise by Desmond Labuschagne

General TPS news and information

June competition

June is the first month in quite a while where there was a smaller number of entries in the Set Subject category, compared to in the Open category.

- 34 images were entered in the Set Subject category. The winning score was 26, with the average score being 22.1, and 22 being the most common score. A full list of the Set Subject scores can be found by clicking [here](#).
- 41 images were entered in the Open category. The winning score was 27, with the average score being 21.9, and 22 being the most common score. A full list of the Open scores can be found by clicking [here](#).

Photos

Marleen la Grange once again came through last month as our Bellows news photographer extraordinaire! Thank you Marleen for taking the time and trouble for all of us.



Marleen has got to be unique in having been able to take a photo of Christo Giliomee, seen here with Francois du Bois. This is one of the rare images you will find of Christo on the internet!

Our judge last month, Lynne Kruger-Haye, with our Chairman Michael, and her husband, Erwin.



General TPS news and information (cont.)

PSSA Salons

Last month we had what has to be a new first for our club. One of our youngest members, Gareth La Grange, actually won a PSSA salon acceptance! He's 15 years old!! The salon in question was the recent PSSA 25th Up and Coming Salon. Well done Gareth - may this be the start of an exciting journey for you!

This is the image that won him the acceptance:



Fuji X-T10, 18-55mm kit lens, $f4.0$, 1/160sec, ISO 400

On the subject of salons, at present we don't have that many members participating in salons (which is a shame), and unfortunately none of us who did enter received COMS or Medals. So the "Special Images" section at the end of the newsletter features images from last month's competition that all received a score of 25, in other words, the highest score received apart from the winning entries.

This month's set subject

Nature / Wildlife

Definitions

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation.

Wildlife photography is further defined as one or more zoological or botanical organisms, living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Landscapes, geological formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or any zoological or botanical species, taken under controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food, are not allowed.

NO MANIPULATION ALLOWED

As promised in the "Rambling" earlier, here are the 4 basic levels of story telling for judging and scoring purposes.

Level 1 - Images limited to just showing information about the subject, e.g. "voëltjie op 'n stokkie", lion lying down, etc. The story telling here is minimal and the images should not receive a high score in nature photography.

Level 2 - Images that illustrate typical behaviour of the subject or tell a story about part of its life cycle, e.g. a bird in flight, animal gathering food, etc.

Level 3 - Images showing how same species creatures interact with one another, e.g. baboons grooming, bonding between parents and offspring, etc.

Level 4 - Images showing more than one species, e.g. a cheetah stalking its prey.

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Judge

Our judge for the month is Margie Botha. She holds FPSSA and AFIAP honours.

Other news and information

From the Photographic Society of South Africa:

Join the PSSA 70th birthday celebrations!

On 24 July this year PSSA turns 70! We would like to celebrate this milestone by showing the whole country the excellent quality of the work produced by our members. This will be done with a prestigious travelling print exhibition featuring a selection of work from our members. The aim is to select images from as many members as possible to illustrate the wide variety of photographic genres favoured by PSSA photographers.

You are therefore invited to submit by **July 15th** up to four of your best images via a special *PSSA 70th Birthday Exhibition* portal on PhotoVaultOnline (PVO). You can find it under My Entries – PSSA Specific.

The dimensions for entries on PVO will be the same as for salon entries, namely either **1920px wide or 1080px high** and in colour and mono. But there is a difference: you must please have a **high-resolution** copy available that can be enlarged to A3 print size (maximum 18×12 inches), portrait or landscape format, if your image is selected for the exhibition.

From these entries, **60 images will be selected before July 24th** to be included in the exhibition. Apart from the quality of the work, selection criteria will also be to show diverse genres and work from a variety of photographers.

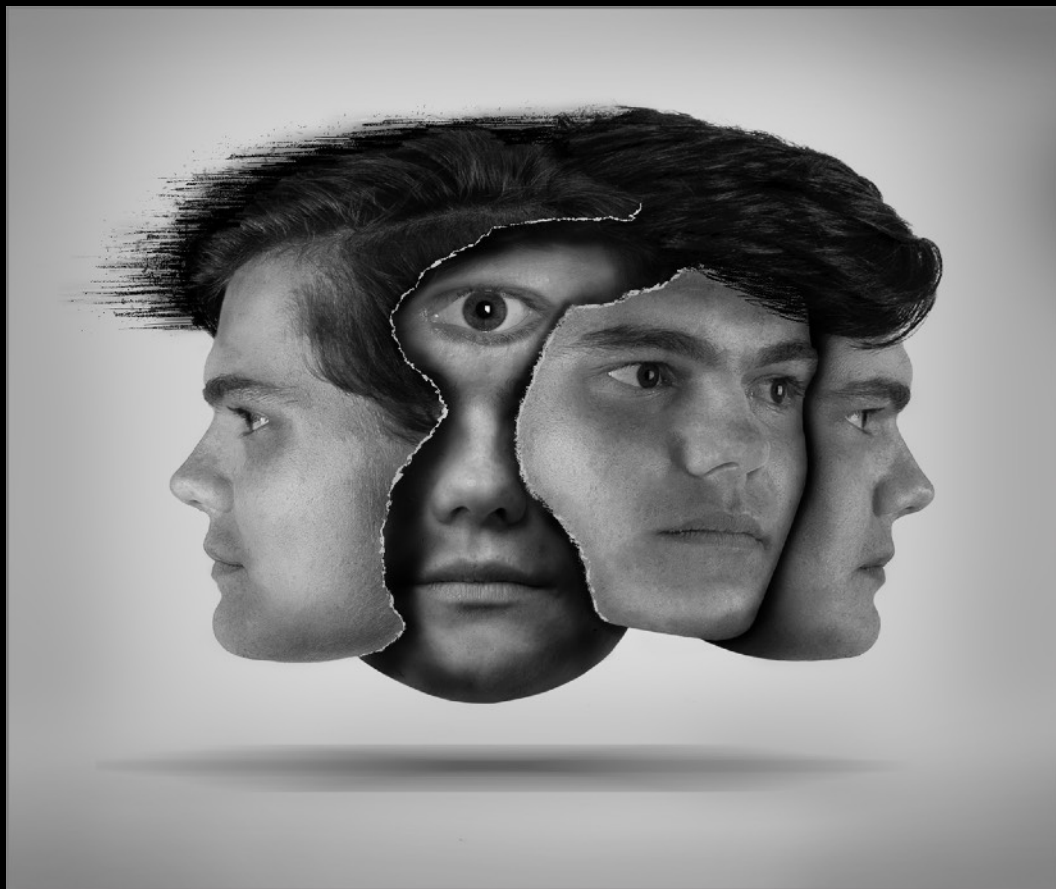
Most PSSA regions have committed to host the travelling exhibition, which will be launched by the Eden Photographic Society in the Garden Route, who secured an exhibition spot as part of the Music and Arts Festival in Mossel Bay from Monday 23 to Friday 27 September this year. The exhibition will next be hosted by the Central Societies at the PSSA National Congress in Parys from 30th September to October 4th.

Website link

There is also a lovely article by Nicol du Toit on the subject. It's on the Western Cape Photographic News blog, and you can access it [here](#).

Special images

Hello Polly
by
Brian Moffat



The inner eye by *David Barnes*

Special images (cont.)



Mouse in the garden *by Bennie Vivier*



Love song *by David Barnes*

Special images (cont.)



At the end *by Pieter Swart*

And then leaving you with a thought for this month's challenge.....

