



SEPTEMBER 2022

Set Subject : Drama of Light

Winner : Mike Hodgson: "Woodland Wonder" : Set Subject : 27 Points

Judge : Rachel Gemmel



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 2nd Place : Antenie Carstens : "The Observer" : Set Subject : 27 points



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 3rd Place : Peter Dewar : "Canola Season" : Set Subject Print : 27 Points

ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIR

The Club has experienced highs and lows this month. David Damp, a popular and talented photographer, former Committee Member and Club Chairman, passed away after an illness bravely fought. He and Maggie never gave up hope, and it has been heartening to experience the support they received from our members. We will continue to support Maggie during this difficult time.

Riel Tredoux's wife, Louize, passed away recently after her fight with the same affliction that David had. She and Riel loved going to the game reserves, and a few days before her death they were somewhere observing wild animals – their favourite hobby. We continue to support Riel.

The ongoing load shedding debacle has left many of us feeling low and frustrated. Let's turn it into a 'high' and change those 'lows' into opportunities to tackle some photography – be it in your garden or on your balcony.

A definite 'high' this past month was our visit to the Overberg canola fields. Several members went independently ... everyone, but everyone came back with wonderful images! Wessel and Marelize did an outstanding job as host and hostess – it was a perfect day! Remember that harvesting in the Overberg takes place mid-October – grab the opportunity and go there!

We congratulate Rachel Gemmel and Jerry Steyn for completing the JAP Course – Rachel 'got her judging feet wet' at the last club meeting when she did an excellent job in judging 'The Drama of Light'.

Our next Set Subject is 'Environmental Portrait' – don't leave it too late – this theme could take some time to plan and execute.

Until next time, best regards : Nettie : 26.9.22

AUDIO VISUALS

30 November : the last AV meeting of the year. Topic to be decided.

A good Zoom meeting was held Wednesday 28 September. Fiona shared a creative and close to her heart Karoo AV and I showed my 'Glass' attempt. We also reflected on our 2022 activities and asking ourselves, what could be our aims and challenges for 2023.

There is a strong feeling to meet more in person again, and Nettie suggested, instead of Wednesday night meetings to get together from 09h00–12h00 on a Saturday morning.

Stunning pictures were captured in the most recent Kogelberg weekend—reflection of days in good company. We are so blessed to have beautiful nature reserves so close by, where one can walk and take photo's for hours in safety.

~ Irmel ~

OUTINGS

Steve Trimby is the person to contact re last minute arrangements for the Struisbaai/Agulhas getaway 7-9 October. Enjoy everyone ...

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FEATURE
JUDGES' ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME
Rachel Gemmel

JAP's life began in 2012 as the Western Cape Judging Forum, initiated, compiled and run by Antenie Carstens, Alicia Greyling and Celia Fouche.

HPS stalwarts, Izak and Paddy were two of the first graduates of the course.

Ten years later, JAP's emphasis remains on training photographers to evaluate the images they are presented with in an ethical way, it doesn't just concentrate on the "rules" or "requirements" for the different genres of photography, although candidates do receive excellent training in this regard.

A judge, or evaluator, should be an empathetic communicator, whose remarks include both substance and guidance. If a judge performs the task well, photographers should be encouraged, learn and enjoy the process and never feel disheartened or, worse still, humiliated.

You could say judging or evaluating should actually address the questions the authors should have asked themselves, prior to taking the shot!

Questions like:

Does the image have a message, purpose or feeling?

Is the subject presented effectively?

Is there a fresh or creative approach... or is the image merely documentary?

How's the storytelling?

What about the lighting, direction, intensity?

Is the angle or shooting position the best it could be?

Are there distracting elements?

Does this shot have the power to move a viewer?

AND, the BIG QUESTION....is there a WOW factor?

Then, of course, there has to be a check on the technical issues, basics like:

Focus

Exposure

Composition

Depth of field

Noise

Appropriate crop or orientation

JAP encourages participants to evaluate kindly and with sensitivity but from a basis of sound knowledge and an understanding of the different genres and the respective judging criteria. By applying objective criteria to the images JAP graduates evaluate, ahead of any subjective temptations, all participants in a competition will be on an equal footing... judges' personal biases or style preferences must be left at home!

Dangers and pitfalls are also brought to participants' attention, both in the comments that are made and the manner in which they are delivered.

It's important for a judge's comments to flow and not be hesitant (this, we're assured, comes with practice) and also for your tone to be positive and encouraging. During her presentation on judging Street and Travel Photography, Evelyn Gibson described her judging technique as the "sandwich method", she'll start with what she enjoyed in an image, note problem areas and offer advice on possible improvements, then conclude her comments on a positive note.

Danger areas in comments include making too many assumptions, for example, by assuming it was possible to take a step to the left or right, or assuming knowledge of how an image was created - ICM? multiple exposures? - also delving too deeply into an assumption on what editing techniques may have been used can be thin ice for a judge.

The lectures over the 2 year course covered photographic genres that you could expect to come across at club competitions or salons and were articulately presented by a host of wonderful JAP "guest speakers" who should all be commended for their generosity in sharing their expertise and insights.

Genres covered were:

Nature and Wildlife

Landscapes

Sport

Portraits

Street/Travel

Mono

Abstract

Altered Reality

Birds

ICM

Architecture and Symmetry

.... plus a session devoted to the technique of Macro Photography and how it can be utilised within the different genres.

We enjoyed lively debate around some of the more controversial issues and have also learned the importance of reading the description or definition of a set subject or category as well as inwardly digesting and adhering to what the competition or salon rules state is or isn't allowed.

To sum up, JAP aims to arm prospective judges with a sound understanding of genres and their requirements, plus a good base of knowledge of the technical aspects of photography, as well as helping to develop visual literacy and aesthetic appreciation.

In addition to nurturing these skills, JAP aims to provide a pool of judges capable of leaving their personal preferences behind and giving constructive feedback to their fellow photographers in a responsible and empathetic way that respects the artist and their art and is cognisant of the privilege of being asked to do so.

I have learned a tremendous amount and really enjoyed the course... even if you can't see yourself judging regularly, the benefits to one's own photography are substantial, just another reason to get involved in a future course!

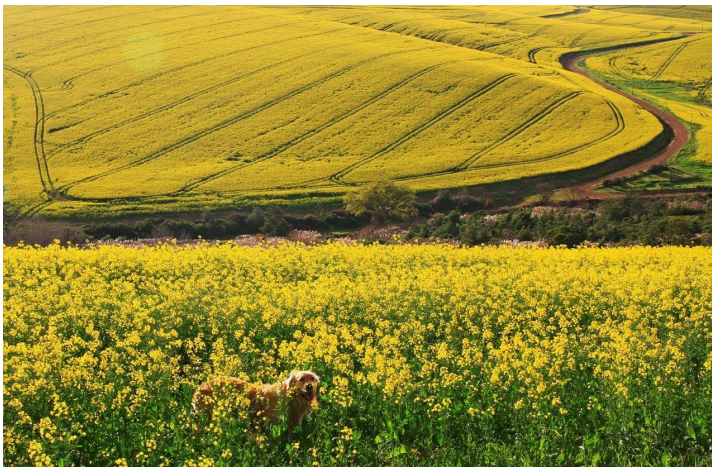
Note: CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel on successfully passing this programme. Was there any doubt from those who know her?!



Marelize



Marelize



Nigel



Collaboration : Steve T/Rachel?



Steve T
Christine



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Orms Invoice available from advertiser

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Contact person : Elizma Duvenhage

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Fujifilm Instax : never been used

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WORKSHOP

Exposure-self Workshop : Exploring creativity within the medium

22 October 2022; Stellenbosch

See email sent to HPS members on 30 September 2022

2022 COMPETITIONS

January	Reflections	July	Autumn
February	Silhouettes	August	Patterns in nature/abstract
March	Photography as art	September	Drama of Light
April	Mood or atmosphere	October	Portrait (environmental)
May	Piers or docs or bridges	November	Camera on the ground
June	In the forest		

October 2022—Portrait (environmental)

The set subject for this month includes people, pets or animals in their natural space.

A good portrait is a representation of a person, in which the face and its expression are predominant.

Expand this concept to also show more about the character, emotion, personality and/or environment of the subject in your portrayal.



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