



## Monthly Newsletter: June 2026

### June

June already... somehow the year is moving faster than our shutter speeds, and here in the Helderberg we've fully settled into winter. The mornings are slower, the evenings arrive earlier, and there's that unmistakable crispness in the air that makes you reach for a jacket... and maybe a second cup of coffee.

But winter has a way of changing how we see the world, and that's where creativity begins. This season brings its own photographic magic, dramatic skies, moody light, reflections in rain-soaked streets, misty mornings, and those spectacular winter sunsets we're lucky enough to experience. It's the perfect time to experiment, see differently, and challenge us to create images that tell a story.

June also gives us the perfect excuse to talk about something photographers love almost as much as cameras... rules. Photography is filled with them. Rule of Thirds. Leading Lines. Frames Within Frames. Patterns and Symmetry. Fill the Frame. Diagonals. Use the light. Watch your backgrounds. Keep horizons straight.

And yes, these "rules" are incredibly useful. They teach us how to guide the eye, create balance, add energy, and strengthen composition. But here's the interesting part...

Some of the most memorable photographs happen when someone ignores the rulebook completely.

A centred subject that somehow works. Motion blur that creates emotion. Negative space that feels bold. A tilted horizon that adds drama. The image that breaks every guideline but captures a feeling so perfectly that none of the rules matter anymore. Photography has always been about more than technique. It's about creativity, storytelling, curiosity, and seeing the world in your own unique way.

Looking back at June's meeting and all the fantastic images shared, we're reminded again that there is no single formula for creating something meaningful. Thank you to every member who continues to submit photographs each month, your enthusiasm, effort, and willingness to share your work are what keep our club inspired and growing.

So, for June, we have a challenge: Learn the rules. Understand the rules. And then... break them.

Because sometimes the best photograph is the one that dares to do something unexpected.

*The editor*



## **June Results**

Our June club evening reminded us once again why photography keeps pulling us back month after month one room, a hundred different ways of seeing the world.

We kicked things off in timeless style with our **Black & White** session and wow... what a way to start the evening. No colour, nowhere to hide, just light, shadow, texture, and storytelling at its finest. Some images whispered, some shouted, and a few made us stop and stare just a little longer. Then it was time for our regular club evening and things became beautifully unpredictable.

### **Open Category.**

This category is always a little like opening a mystery box, you never quite know what's coming next. Wildlife drama? Tick. Quiet landscapes? Tick. Tiny creatures doing important tiny creature things? Also tick. Architecture, mood, adventure, moments of stillness, it felt less like judging photographs and more like wandering through a gallery where every frame had its own voice.

That's the magic of Open, there are no limits except imagination.

### **Street Photography - with only a cell phone.**

Yes, we took away the giant lenses, parked the camera bags, and asked everyone to trust the most underestimated piece of gear photographers own: the thing already sitting in their pocket.

And wow, our members absolutely delivered.

Street photography has a funny way of changing how you see the world. Suddenly coffee stops become photo opportunities. Reflections become artworks. Random strangers become characters. Office windows become frames. Sidewalks become stories.

There was humour, atmosphere, beautiful observations, and those little moments that normally disappear before anyone notices. We laughed, squinted, leaned closer and probably said "ooh I like that" more times than we can count.

The best part? It proved something we all secretly know but sometimes forget: Great photography isn't about the camera. It's about the eye behind it.

Congratulations to every photographer who submitted images this month. The standard was exceptionally high and for the first time in quite a while we had so many photographs tied on points that selecting second and third places became a serious exercise in decision-making (and possibly mild emotional damage for the judge).

A huge thank you to our judge, David Barnes, for your time, thoughtful feedback, and for somehow managing to make difficult choices look easy. Your comments always give us something to think about and occasionally send us back to editing software with a slightly bruised ego and a much better crop.

Now for the stars of the evening...

## 🏆 OVERALL WINNER

### Kalk Bay Depiction

Photographer: **Peter Dewar**

Mark: **14/15**

A huge congratulations, Peter. This image stood out for all the right reasons and captured something special that clearly resonated with everyone.

## 🌟 TOP 3 – OPEN CATEGORY

- 1 Winner: Kalk Bay Depiction – Peter Dewar (14/15)
- 2 Runner Up: Exorsized – Hilldidge Beer (13/15)
- 3 2nd Runner Up: Honeybee on Purple Pink Flower – Riaan van den Berg (12/15)

## 🌟 TOP 3 – SET SUBJECT: STREET PHOTOGRAPHY WITH A CELL PHONE

- 1 Winner: Lunch Time – Carima van den Berg (14/15)
- 2 Runner Up: Office with a View – Hilldidge Beer (13/15)
- 3 2nd Runner Up: Coffee and Bike – Peter Dewar (12/15)

Thank you to everyone who entered, shared, experimented, and put your images out there. Whether your photo landed on the podium or not, every image helped create an evening full of stories, laughter, inspiration, and a reminder that photography is supposed to be fun.

Until next month, keep chasing light, keep seeing differently and since June is all about breaking the rules, maybe ignore one of them on purpose.



## June Winner: Kalk Bay Depiction – Peter Dewar

The morning light had just begun to stretch across the harbour, brushing the pink cabin of the little boat with gold. It sat quietly, anchored in the calm water, as if holding its breath before the day began.

Behind it, the houses of Kalk Bay climbed the hillside, layered like memories, each window catching a whisper of dawn.

Fishermen's ropes hung slack, gulls called from the pier, and the reflections rippled like oil paintings come alive. The boat seemed to wait, not for the tide, but for a story. Perhaps it had carried laughter, salt, and secrets across these waters for years.

Peter Dewar captured that stillness, the moment between motion and memory, where the harbour rests and the world feel painted in light.



### Top 3 – Open Category



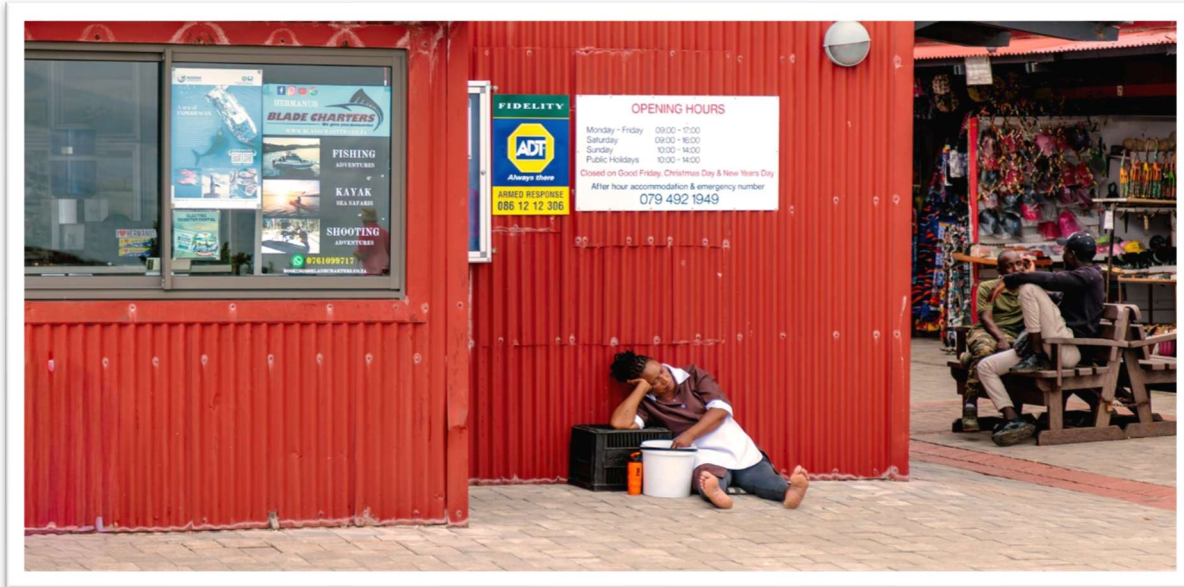
Winner: Kalk Bay Depiction – Peter Dewar (14/15)

🥈 Runner Up: Exorsized – Hilldidge Beer (13/15)



🥉 2nd Runner Up: Honeybee on Purple Pink Flower – Riaan van den Berg (12/15)

### Top 3 – Set Subject: Street Photography With A Cell Phone



1 Winner: Lunch Time – Carima van den Berg (14/15)

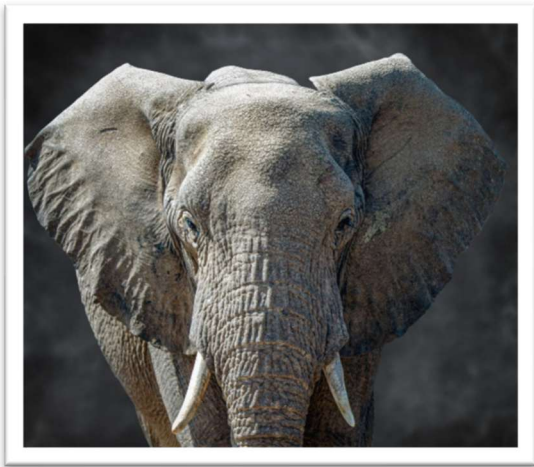


2 Runner Up: Office with a View – Hilldige Beer (13/15)

2nd Runner Up: Coffee and Bike – Peter Dewar (12/15)



**Open Category – Members Photos**



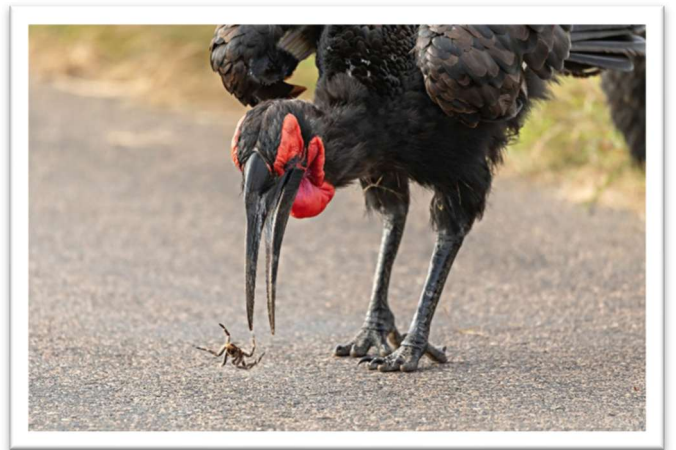
Silent Authority - Carima van den Berg



Rainbow near Worcester - Neels Beyers



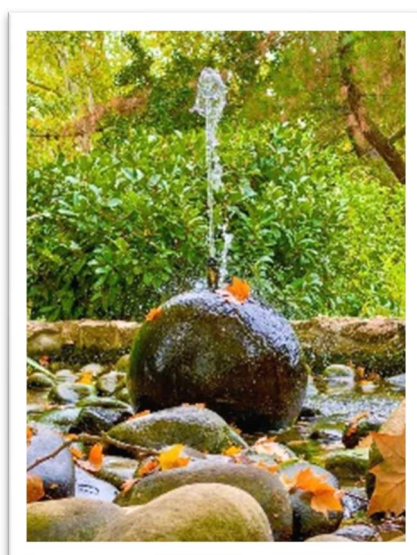
Windward Path - Hannes Van Der Walt



Baboon spider snack - Issi Potgieter



Reflections - Ester Du Plessis



Autumn - Sandra Snyman



Shattered but Strong - Carima vd Berg



Nuy landscape - Neels Beyers



Misty fight - Issi Potgieter



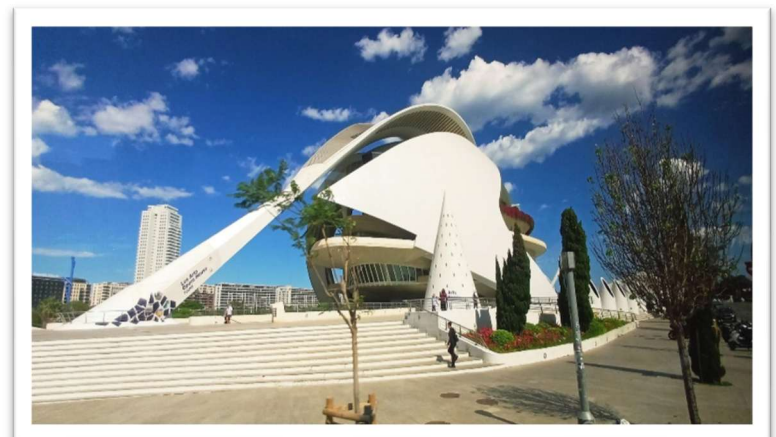
Slangkop Lighthouse - Peter Dewar



Tranquility - Hannes van den Walt



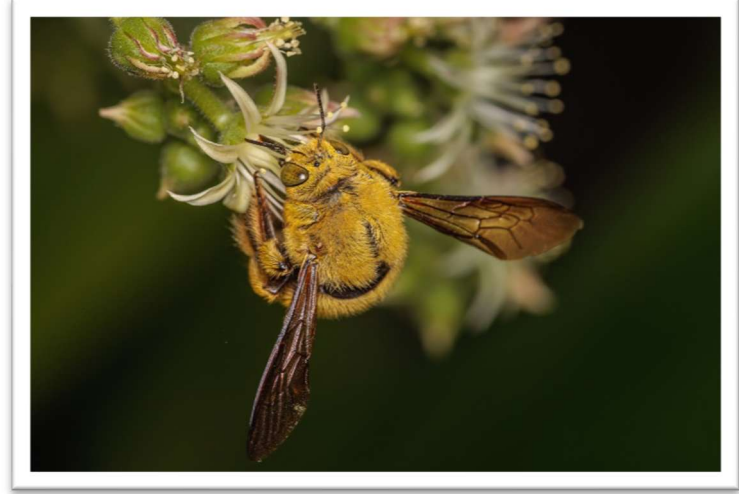
Just in case - Hilldidge Beer



Opera House - Wynand Muntingh



Building material - Ester Du Plessis



Bumble bee on small flower - Riaan vd Berg

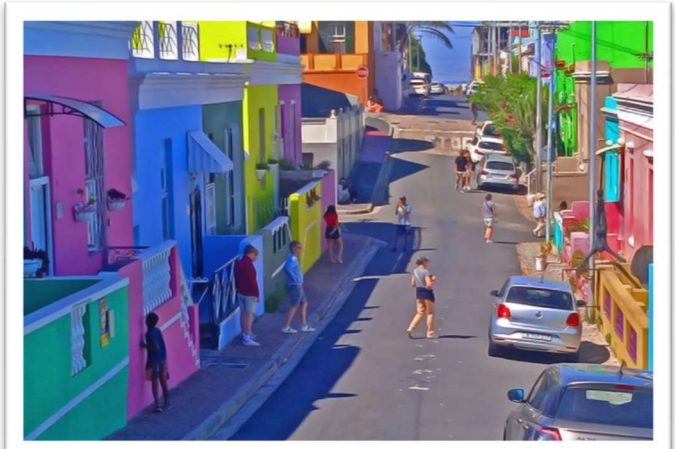


Palace - Wynand Muntingh

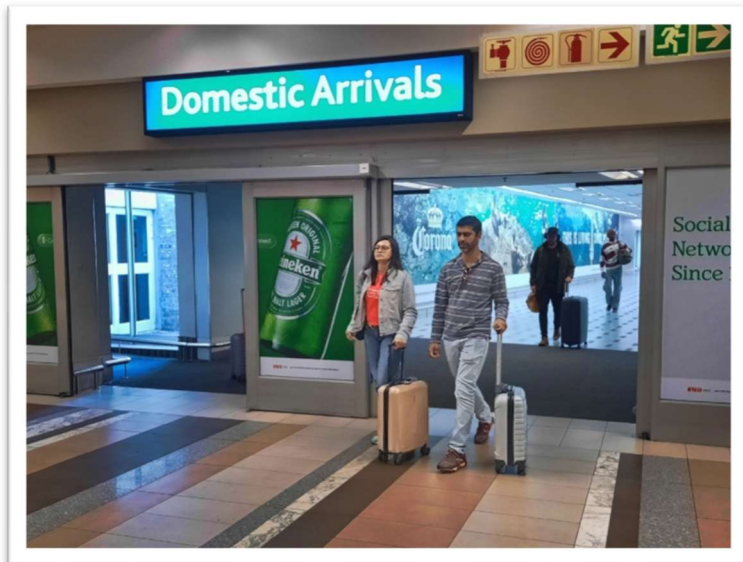
**Set Subject: Street Photography (Cell phone) – Members Photos**



Middle of the city - Wynand Muntingh



Visitors in BoKaap - Neels Beyers



Domestic Arrivals - Peter Dewar



The Uber is here - Ester Du Plessis



Street in BoKaap - Neels Beyers



Selling my food - Ester Du Plessis



People Walking - Wynand Muntingh

**Club Meeting Information:**

Our next meetings will be on the following dates in May remember the closing dates of Photo Vault (PV)

Meeting	PV Closing Date	Meeting Date	Set Subject
Club Normal	10 July 2026	14 July 2026	Light house
			Human Portrait

**Outings, Workshops and Courses**

**Outings**

Velddrif Kuifkop Weekend 25-28 August.  
 Self-catering midweek break, bird cruise on Cracklin' Rosie,  
 maybe wildflowers are in bloom ect ect.  
 Contact Nettie for more information

**Next JAP training starts 10 Oct 2026**

A general application form will be available to download from this section of the PSSA website as from 18 June 2026, closing date is 30 July 2026

**30 Day Challenge**

Who will show their photos next? Thirty days? That sounds manageable. Until day two arrived! Some members quietly waved the white flag early on (we see you... no judgement), Some challenges inspire participation. Others inspire people like Steve Trimby did and all we can say is WOW

### Steves Trimby's 30-Day Challenge

Steve had a different approach. He planned. He committed. He pushed through the difficult days when inspiration didn't come easily and picking up the camera felt more like discipline than fun. Day after day, he kept going.

And at the end of the 30 days, Steve didn't just complete the challenge, he proudly showcased his collection of photographs at the club, giving us all a glimpse into his journey, creativity, and perseverance. What started as a personal challenge became something that inspired all of us and reminded us that growth often happens one photo at a time. Well done, Steve, your dedication and passion inspired us all!



A Spoonful of Music

STZ



Friendly Dog

STZ



Treasure Flower

STZ



## **Light & Lens Monthly Article**

by Carima van den Berg

### **Break the Rules: Why Great Photography Doesn't Always Play Nice**

Photography has always had rules. Rule of thirds. Perfect exposure. Razor-sharp focus. Straight horizons. Correct white balance. If you've spent any time learning photography, you've probably heard them all. These guidelines are valuable, they teach us balance, technical control, and visual storytelling. But here's the secret many experienced photographers eventually discover:

Rules are not laws. Some of the most memorable photographs ever created happened because someone ignored the "correct" way of doing things and chose creativity instead. The trick is simple: learn the rules first... then break them on purpose.

#### **1. Forget the Rule of Thirds (Sometimes)**

The rule of thirds is often presented as photography's golden law: divide your frame into nine sections and place your subject along the lines or intersections. And yes - it works.

But sometimes placing your subject dead centre creates something even stronger. A centred portrait can feel powerful. Symmetry can create calm and order. Positioning a subject awkwardly near an edge can create tension, movement, or curiosity. Try this challenge: next time you shoot, deliberately place your subject where it "shouldn't" be. You may discover compositions that feel more personal and unexpected.

#### **2. Stop Chasing Perfect Exposure**

Photography forums love technical perfection. But photographs are not exams. A slightly overexposed image can feel soft, nostalgic, and dreamlike. Underexposure can create mood, mystery, and drama.

Think about silhouettes at sunset. Moody black-and-white street photography. Bright high-key portraits. These images work because they make us feel something, not because the histogram behaved. Exposure is not just measurement. It's atmosphere.

#### **3. Sharp Isn't Always Better**

Photographers often become obsessed with sharpness. Zoom in. Check eyelashes. Inspect pixel detail. But softness can tell a story too. A little motion blur can communicate energy. Selective focus can guide emotion. Intentional camera movement can turn an ordinary scene into abstract art.

That blurred dancer?  
That flowing waterfall?  
That city scene painted with moving lights?  
Sometimes blur says more than sharpness ever could.

#### **4. Tilt the Horizon**

We've all heard it: "Straighten your horizon." Usually, yes. But occasionally a tilted frame injects life into an image. A slight angle can create movement, excitement, or unease. It can take a sports photograph feel faster or a street scene feel more alive.

Used intentionally, a crooked horizon doesn't look like a mistake. It looks like energy.

## 5. Welcome Lens Flare

Lens flare was once treated like photography's unwanted guest. Today? It's become part of the aesthetic. Shoot into the light. Let the sun spill into your frame. Use flare to create atmosphere and warmth. A controlled flare can make an image feel cinematic, nostalgic, even magical. Sometimes imperfection is exactly what gives an image personality.

## 6. Let Motion Blur Tell the Story

Photography freezes time. Motion blur reminds us that time moves. Slow your shutter speed and suddenly:

- Water becomes silk.
- City lights become brush strokes.
- Crowds become movement.
- Sport becomes energy.

Motion blur creates emotion because it captures more than a single frozen instant, it captures experience.

## 7. Break White Balance on Purpose

Every camera tries to make colours look "correct." But who decided correct is interesting?

Warm tones can create comfort. Cool tones can feel lonely.

Unexpected colour casts can transform ordinary scenes into something cinematic. Try changing white balance intentionally instead of fixing it later.

Photography isn't always about reproducing reality, it's about interpreting it.

## 8. Ignore Traditional Framing

We're taught to frame subjects neatly. But sometimes leaving space, or partially hiding your subject, creates stronger storytelling. Shoot through windows. Photograph through leaves. Leave empty areas in the frame. A photograph that reveals less can sometimes say more.

## 9. Don't Fear High ISO

Noise used to be treated as the enemy. Now? Grain has become style. A little texture can add authenticity and mood. Street photographers and documentary photographers often embrace grain because life itself isn't perfectly smooth. If the moment matters, take the shot.

No one has ever said:

"That image changed my life... but the ISO was too high."

## 10. Break Rules with Purpose

This is the most important rule of all. Breaking rules does not mean random photography.

A tilted horizon should mean something. Blur should tell a story. Overexposure should create feeling.

The strongest photographers understand the fundamentals so well that they know exactly when to ignore them.

Photography isn't about proving you know the rules. It's about creating images people remember.

So next time you pick up your camera, try something uncomfortable. Shoot into the sun.

Blur the subject. Centre the composition. Ignore the histogram. Because sometimes the photographs that win competitions, start conversations, and stay with us for years are the ones that never followed the rules in the first place.

***Learn the rules like a master, then break them like an artist.  
Be bold. Be brave.  
Create the photograph, not the approval.***

# Black

# White

## Bi-Monthly Meeting

### **Finding the Story in Black and White**

This month's Black and White evening brought something extra special to the room, a few new members joined us for the first time, bringing fresh eyes, new ideas, and great conversation. One of the best things about these evenings is that they are never simply about showing photographs. They are about learning, sharing, asking questions, receiving feedback, and discovering new ways to see.

Our Black and White evenings are built around curiosity: **How did you create that image? Why did you choose that edit? What could make it stronger?**

Black and white photography has a unique way of opening those conversations.

Colour can sometimes distract us. It can influence emotion before we truly see the image. Remove the colour, and suddenly shape, texture, contrast, light and story take centre stage. Sometimes a photograph that feels ordinary in colour transforms into something powerful, even becoming art once converted into black and white.

This month's set subjects were **Lighthouses** and **Street Photography**, and what an incredible range of interpretations our members produced.

The lighthouse theme gave us dramatic skies, moody clouds, striking coastlines. A lighthouse is more than a structure; it is a symbol. It guides, protects, warns of danger, and stands strong against changing weather and relentless seas. In black and white, those qualities become even more powerful. The contrast between dark skies and light creates emotion and reminds us that sometimes a single beam of light is enough to guide the way.

Street photography brought a completely different energy to the evening. Black and white has a special relationship with the street, it strips away distractions and leaves us with people, emotion, movement and moments. A glance between strangers. A quiet pause. A story unfolding in a split second. Street photography in black and white allows us to feel the moment rather than simply see it.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, especially our visiting members. Your images, feedback and conversations are what make these evenings so valuable.

Because in black and white photography, we are reminded of something important:

**Colour shows us what the world looks like. Black and white shows us what it feels**

# Light house



Lunar Tide of St Helena –  
Carima van den Berg



Agulhas – Carima van den  
Berg



Slangkop Lighthouse BW –  
Peter Dewar



The Tower – Wynand  
Muntingh



From the Back – Wynand  
Muntingh



Agulhas 1848 – Izak van  
Niekerk



Faro Tourinan Spain – Izak  
van Niekerk



Hells Gates Lighthouse BW –  
Peter Dewar

# Street



Lunch Time – Carima van den Berg



Coffee and Bike BW – Peter Dewar



Coffee and Bike BW – Peter Dewar

# Open



Louw — Carima van den Berg



Flat Building — Neels Beyers



Farrier Tools — Izak van Niekerk



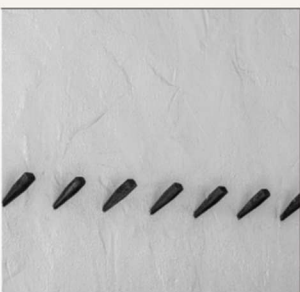
From the Shadows BW —  
Riaan van den Berg



Quayside Reflection BW —  
Peter Dewar



Steam Locomotive — Wynand  
Muntingh



Peg Rail — Izak van Niekerk



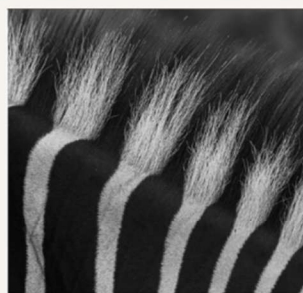
KwaaiWater Hermanus —  
Carima van den Berg



Beauty BW — Neels Beyers



Sievers Point Depiction BW —  
Peter Dewar



Lines — Izak van Niekerk



Silent Authority BW — Carima  
van den Berg

# Open



Three Kayaks BW – Peter Dewar



Stalking BW – Riaan van den Berg



Water Horse – Carima van den Berg



Dune Beauty – Izak van Niekerk



Sievers Point Depiction BW – Peter Dewar



StRand Delapidation BW – Riaan van den Berg



House by the Sea – Wynand Muntingh



Misty Pines BW – Riaan van den Berg

## Additional Information:

Our **website** is being updated regularly, go and have a look.

Visit our **Facebook** page, invite friends to like our Facebook page.

Webpage: <https://helderbergphoto.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helderbergphoto/>