

Helderberg Photographic Society – Monthly Meeting Judging

Month: October

Judge: Riaan van den Berg (APSSA, EPSSA, DPSSA(CIs), DPSSA(Vers))

Overall Winner

Title: Baker Street

Photographer: Steve Trimby

Mark: 14/15

Top Entries – Open Category

Baker Street - Steve Trimby 14/15

Post Bank Client - Peter Dewar 13/15

Camouflage in Stillness – Issi Potgieter 13/15

Top Entries – Set Subject: Night Photography

Nightlife in London – Steve Trimby – 14/15

Canal by Night – Peter Dewar – 13/15

Singapore by night – Sandra Snyman 13/15



Baker Street - Steve Trimby



Nightlife in London – Steve Trimby

Open Category

That is good news – Alida Heine (Score: 12) Brilliant storytelling, loving the facial expression and wrinkles. The overexposure on the hand is a little distracting. Well done.

Pretty Flamingo – Bernard Seymour Hall (Score: 11) Brilliant sharp close-up of this flamingo. The over saturated colours is a bit much, Well done on opening up the shadow areas. Watch out for the over exposed area on the forehead, that needs to be looked at closely in your post processing.

The Forgotten Man – Carima van den Berg (Score: 12) Very good portraiture work, black and white works well on your subject. Look at your aperture as the subject is not sharp from nose to ear. The closer you get to your subject the larger f-stop number is needed to bring everything in sharp focus.

I will make Blackbeard run – Hannes Vaa Der Walt (Score: 10) A good candid moment of the entertainer, The extreme central composition makes for a static image that does not add to the storytelling. Try a different crop. Eye contact with the performer would have helped to pull this image to a higher level.

Milk time – Hilddidge Beer (Score: 11) A well seen moment in time, the focus is on the milk jug and tells a well enough story, the very close crop detracts the story by amputating the knee and the very bright spot on the left screams for attention. Well done on sharpness and colour saturation

Eyes of the Wild – ISSI POTGIETER (Score: 12) An amazing sighting of this leopard, the eyes are critically sharp and the central placement works well. The out of focus branch in the front is unavoidable, but the out of focus branch in the right is inexcusable, try cropping it out.

MontPellier Chapel – Neels Beyers (Score: 11) A great location and amazing composition. It unfortunately suffers greatly from extreme halo effects caused by shooting into the sun and straying to get detail into the darks. The sun has been overprocessed and create unnatural halos of green light and banding in the sky. Embrace the fact that this should be a more silhouette shot and develop it accordingly.

Post Bank Client – Peter Dewar (Score: 13) A brilliant portrait of this old man, saturation on the front hand is looks too much and the focus is problematic on the hand, if the hand was not so prominent and possibly a little lower it would be fine. Watch out for pushing the blacks too hard around his neck as his head is beginning to separate from his body. Love the processing on the face and beard.

Clouds on fire – Sandra Snyman (Score: 11) A very nice sunset with golden colours over the ocean, the 3 umbrellas add to the story. The ship is not adding to the story and can be taken out. Love the flag pointing at the sun. The foreground is not adding to the storyline and could possibly be turned into pure black silhouette.

Baker Street – Steve Trimby (Score: 14) Brilliant storytelling with excellent symmetry in the building detail offset by humans going about their business. The central man gives movement to the entire image and the signs gives unmistakable context to place with the clothing giving context to time. Well done.

Dragon trail – Alida Heine (Score: 12) A well spotted dragon, Use dodge and burn on the image to focus the viewers eye to the exact parts you want them to focus on, as it stand you are leaving the viewer to search for themselves and not guiding their eye. I see snoopy, do you see him

Resplendent Humming Bird – Bernard Seymour Hall (Score: 11) A great shot of this very small sunbird, the exposure was well handles and the colours on the bird was expertly developed. It is very difficult to get the iridescence spot on and you did well. Watch out for halo artifacts around the feather edges. The bright spot on the twig in the top is distracting. Well done keep it up.

Lightnings Indigo Glow – Carima van den Berg (Score: 12) A very minimalistic shot of the jetty with an approaching storm. The pastel colours works well and is in stark contrast with the harshness of the lightning. The slow shutter movement in the water and clouds is also in contrast with the static and very crisp lightning. A very nice panoramic feel.

Embrace of Grace – Hannes Vaa Der Walt (Score: 11) Well done on getting the timing perfect. The lighting was handled very well and there is even eye contact with the dancer. The crop can be improved, the attention is on the dancer, fill the frame with her. You can darken the background even more. The light on the flow works very well to show the hight of the jump. Well done.

Sussies – Hilldidge Beer (Score: 10) A nicely spotted intimate moment between siblings, the exposure and colour saturation is expertly handled. The extreme crop adds to the story telling but is not strong enough to carry it on it's own against other strong competition contenders. Try and look for stronger stories and you will be rewarded. Great work keep it up.

Camouflage in Stillness – ISSI POTGIETER (Score: 13) An extremely great sighting of this African wild cat. Those eyes are pin sharp and piercing. The saturation and exposure was handled expertly. The Out of focus branches adds to the story of an elusive predator that is seldom spotted and always camouflaged. Well done keep them coming.

Chapel at Montpellier – Neels Beyers (Score: 10) A good photograph of an empty church, exposure was well handled and the converging lines to the end works well. The story is unfortunately not a strong one and leaves the viewer wondering why the emptiness and what makes that interesting.

Showing Off – Peter Dewar (Score: 12) A well seen moment in time perfectly framed by a great backdrop. There are some very weird artifacts in the grass and what looks like repeating similarities in the grass suggesting cloning and or over sharpening artifacts. The giveaway is in the left shoe.

Malaysian vendor – Sandra Snyman (Score: 11) A great portrait of a very characterful man, nice and sharp, the exposure was handled very well and the sharpness and saturation is spot on. The background blur is a little problematic as seen on the right side of the face and in the hair jaggies, if you made the background a little darker and added a vignette it would not have been so obvious. Great job keep playing with it.

Staircase – Steve Trimby (Score: 13) A great spiral of glass and steel, very difficult to handle all the reflections and highlights and keep control of the perfect exposure. Storytelling is strong and the people give movement to a static subject. The hustle of the city just emphasizes the loneliness of everyone in their own world of screens and headphones. Well seen and composed.

Set Subject: Night Photography

Milky way over chapel – Alida Heine (Score: 11) A well executed star and milky way shot. The church as a foreground interest works well and everything seems sharp through the photo, well done. The light pollution makes that the milky way is a little underwhelming but still very well done.

Slangkop Milky Way – Bernard Seymour Hall (Score: 13) What a great shot of this lighthouse and milky way, it almost feels surreal in appearance as you are looking down on the lighthouse and up at the sky simultaneously. Well done on this composition

Forged in Flame – Carima van den Berg (Score: 11) A great night time photography shot of this twirling fire dancer. The silhouette adds to the story, not using a border added to the feeling of uncontained expansion to the fire.

Kerk kat – Hilddidge Beer (Score: 11) A brilliant silhouette of this cat, well done. Try to give the cat more space to move into next time. I love the texture in the stone.

SILENT GUARDIAN – ISSI POTGIETER (Score: 13) A Brilliant night time shot of these baobab trees reaching out to the spectacular star filled heavens. Almost zero light pollution makes the milky way feel that you can touch it. Keep them coming. Try to add a little more saturation and warmth to the image.

Fireworks – Neels Beyers (Score: 12) Well done on capturing the fireworks in crisp detail with enough shutter speed to see curved trails while retaining sharpness in the building. It is unfortunate that the fireworks clipped the top

Light Wand Worker – Peter Dewar (Score: 11) A very interesting light painting. The symmetry works well and the silhouette figure is sharp enough although not critically sharp. The oval border is distracting for me although interesting.

Singapore by night – Sandra Snyman (Score: 13) A great night photo of extremely interesting architecture. The blue and red compliment each other and the horizontal and vertical round shapes tells an compelling story. The blue green sky can be darkened even further. The lights on the left frame edge is a little distracting.

Electric storm over Walker Bay – Steve Trimby (Score: 12) Well done on capturing this extreme event, everything is sharp and the reflections on the water works well. The energy is electric and sends shivers down my spine.

Sunset Elandsbaai – Alida Heine (Score: 11) A well captured sunset, not technically night time photography but close enough. The boat is great for adding to the story. The seagrass helps with the feeling of chaos. Well done, keep them coming.

Scarborough – Bernard Seymour Hall (Score: 12) A well captured nightscape with the milky way clearly crisp and the ocean in long exposure. The front rocks needed to be sharper and could only be done if you stacked the focus, next time try going one step further and stack it :-)

Dance of Sparks – Carima van den Berg (Score: 11) A very artistic development of this fire dancer, the fire dragon is almost fully formed. The lights on the horizon is a little distracting.

Tuscan dawn – Hilddidge Beer (Score: 10) Brilliant landscape with great lines and atmosphere, well captured and developed. Unfortunately not night photography.

Waiting for the moon – ISSI POTGIETER (Score: 10) A good photo of these baobabs. The car is distracting in the photo. There is a weird purple cast in the photo, try fixing it with your colour temperature slider.

Fireworks CapeTown – Neels Beyers (Score: 12) Great fireworks, enough space on top works well. Fireworks are sharp with slow enough shutter to create curves that works well.

Canal by Night – Peter Dewar (Score: 13) A brilliant night time shot with loads of interesting boats and bikes. The lack of humans is haunting. The light reflections works well and adds to the mood. Watch out for over sharpening your image as shown in the tree.

Singapore floating ship – Sandra Snyman (Score: 12) What an interesting building, the red and blue tones compliment each other and works well. Try getting the sky a little darker. The foreground is a little too small. Love the architecture.

Nightlife in London – Steve Trimby (Score: 14) Perfect night time photography with loads of interest and great storytelling. My eye wanders through the image picking out details that is easily missed. Watch out for noise in the darkest parts of the image.