

Christchurch Photographic Society

PI4 Judges Comments

8 Floors Up

not accepted

I like the idea behind this image. It is very abstract. I do find though that it is a little flat and lacking in drama.

Aerial Ballet – NZ

Acceptance

This is a delightful image and well titled. I love the light on the seagulls and they do have the look of doing a ballet dance. The unfortunate thing is that the light is also very strong in the background. Maybe if you darken this down it would make the seagulls stand out more.

Arnie's Cops' Motorbikes

Acceptance

A well seen image and it creates some interesting patterns. I like the unusual viewpoint.

Autumn Fandango

Acceptance

I applaud your creativeness. You have used very strong colours and the spinning effect suits the subject.

Autumn RE NZ

not accepted

This is a lovely scene and the exposure and composition has been well handled. The image though does not have the impact I am looking for. There are some lovely images within this image. I hope you took some others closer in.

Avalanche Creek Waterfall In Arthurs Pass NZ RE not accepted

I like the angle of view of the image and the way you have used the creek to lead into the bridge. Unfortunately there are some weird purple colours happening in the shadows – the long exposure may have caused this. I would also like to see the top cropped off to get rid of the sky showing between the trees

Baaroong – The Mythical Beast

Honours

I like the way you have gone in nice and close and showed us just the essential information of the scene. You have also created a feeling of drama with the darkened edges.

Baby Annabelle

Acceptance

A lovely natural portrait. I particularly like the soft focus which matches the softness of the baby.

Blind Faith – NZRE

not accepted

You have managed to capture the drama of the race but I find the cars in the background to be very distracting. I wonder if you cloned more dust over them whether it would work better.

Bygone Glory – NZ

not accepted

I like the fact that you have got down low for this image but there is too much sky. I would have liked to have seen you concentrate on the colour tonings of the grass and the brickwork.

Canterbury Colours – RE

not accepted

The composition of this is good but the shine on the petals distract from the colour and beauty of the flowers. I wonder if you used a polariser to cut down the shine.

Chasing Shadows – RE

Acceptance

This image captures the feeling of the race. I like the blurriness which gives it movement. The shadows give it extra interest and creates a pleasing diagonal in the image. I think that it needs a little more headroom at the top of the image.

Cling On

not accepted

I like the idea behind the image but the balance within the image feels not quite right. Maybe it would have been better to take it with the droplet towards the camera with the flower behind.

Curves

Acceptance

This image gives me a feeling of someone who is very comfortable with her body and is happy to celebrate her pregnancy. Technically I find the image a bit flat. I would have liked to have seen stronger shadows and maybe some kind of backlight.

Descending Flow

not accepted

I feel that if you are going to manipulate an image there has to be a point to it. Although you have created a lovely pattern I am sorry but it does not have a lot of meaning for me.

Did You Hear About Ned

not accepted

Yes, I can see that the horse seems to be whispering in the ear of the other. Well seen. To make the image better you could have moved around to the other side of the white haired horse and showed the faces of both horses. The bland sky in the background does not do a lot for the image.

Dove Of Peace - RE NZ

not accepted

To lift this image into the next level, place the plane a bit higher in the image. We do not need all that empty sky and placing it higher would give the impression that it was flying a lot higher. I do like the blurred propellers but the longish exposure has also blurred the plane slightly.

Elegance

Acceptance

I applaud you creating a panorama with this image. It concentrates the eye on the main subject. I like what you have taken. I can feel the horse eyeing you up over the ridge. The only thing that worries me is that the horse looks like it is growing out of the grass.

Element not accepted

This is another image that has had a strong filter put over it. The same comment apply to this one. The patterns created are interesting.

Gannet Action NZRE Acceptance

I really like the way you have captured the movement of the bird while keeping the body, particularly the face, sharp. The lighting is a little flat but there is good detail in the feathers.

Glacial Serenity not accepted

This is a very nice scene but a little overexposed. Personally I like to see a lot more drama in landscapes. The tree intruding at the top of the image is distracting.

Golden Landscape – N not accepted

The colours of the crops are amazing. Even though you have cropped to a panorama I feel the sky is still doing nothing for the image. There are some lovely textures in the fields and concentrating on this may have produced a stronger image.

Gone To Ruin – RE not accepted

I can see what attracted you to this scene. There are lots of interesting things – the textures of the walls and door and the rustic wheels. It would have been nice to have had lovely slanting light across the front of the building.

Hats and More Hats Acceptance

This image has a very interesting arrangement of patterns and textures. I like the composition and the quirky feel of the image.

Heading West – RENZ Honours

I really like the unusual take on an old subject. The symmetry is broken by the offset sail and the light is just superb.

High Flier – RE Acceptance

You have done well to have the kite surfer looking at the camera. The guy is well lit and good action captured. I would like to have seen a little more space at the top of the image.

Iris Acceptance

This image has been technically well done. The black background is very harsh for the delicate flowers. I think that a more natural or even a darkish green background would have been more in keeping. Good composition and balance within the image.

Jabbar

Acceptance

You have caught a lot of feeling in this image and it is good to see a little of his surroundings. I do like the white vignette. I like the expression on the gentleman's face but it looks to have been a little over sharpened.

Light At The End of the Tunnel

Honours

This is a very well seen and well captured image. There is good balance within the image and all the abstract qualities work well. You have managed to bring a sense of movement and harmony to such a simple subject.

Loneliness

not accepted

I do like the composition of this image and placing the bird over to the right emphasises the open space. For me there is too much sky and the image is lacking in good modelling light.

Look Mum No Hands – RE

not accepted

Congratulations for pressing the shutter at just the right time for the action. I like the row of spectators watching the show but the space above the rider is a bit cluttered. To me it looks like the rider is being supported by the three poles above his back. These could have been cloned out and the house could have had trees cloned across it to simplify the image.

Lucas Eyes

not accepted

I really like the fact that the dog is looking straight at the camera creating an instant connection. There is something funny going on with the colours. The shadows are purple and the light coloured fur is a very strong yellow. Good sharpness in the eyes.

Mad Dash – RE

Acceptance

I like the look on the competitors face. You can feel her pain. I also like the blurred water and hands showing the movement of her running.

Made In The USA

not accepted

You have elected to bring attention to the flag by keeping it in colour but I find the building to be of more interest. I would also like to have seen a more creative camera angle to emphasise the building. As it stands a quarter of the image is blank sky.

Magic Of Autumn – NZRE

not accepted

I agree that Autumn is a magical time and you have caught it's colourful qualities here. The image shows competency in camera craft but I like to see more creativity in landscapes.

Market Day In Hoi An – RE

Accepted

The person in this image has a lovely quality about her. She is giving someone a cheeky look over the flowers. I like the foreground being out of focus, which breaks the rules but here it forces the eye to look at the face.

Mickey's Lonely Years

not accepted

This image would not look out of place in a fashion magazine. Personally I am not getting the message or the relationship between the girl and the painting.

Mt Cook from Tekapo River – NZ not accepted

I do like the clouds in this image. It gives a bit of mood to the scene. It would have been nice to have seen a stronger foreground and a bit more sharpness in the mountains. The image also needs a little bit of lovely light.

Mt Cook – NZRE not accepted

I like the trees used as a foreground. Unfortunately your viewpoint does not show the majesty of the mountain or its imposing grandeur. I think this is because the mountain has been placed in the middle of the image. Placing the mountain higher up towards the top of the frame would show the height to some degree.

Music Man not accepted

The subject here is extremely interesting. He has the most character filled face. I also like the out of focus background so the man stands out. The image though suffers from not enough contrast. The position you have taken the photograph from is also less than exciting. Maybe if you had got down low and put him on an angle or looked right down the neck of the instrument into his eyes.

Natures Magnifying Lens Honours

This image is great. I like the off centre composition and the background gives us a hint of its environment. The shallow depth of field is ideal and the plant holds my interest. It is very simple but effective.

Neinke Draughting not accepted

I like the way you have got in close to your subject but it would also have been good to see the bike. The white sky in the background is not necessary and could be cropped out.

Night Study Honours

The first thing that hits you about this image is the light. I love the colours. The composition is good with the seat leading in to the man and the reflection with the red poster acts as a full stop so your eye does not go out of the image.

Oamaru Sunflowers – NZRE Acceptance

What a lovely colourful place this is. You have captured it reasonably well. The horizon needs to be straightened. I would like to have seen the shed a bit further in from the side of the image. I like the larger flowers making a strong foreground. The slide is far better than the digital version.

Oden Icebreaker & Mount Discovery not accepted

The strength of this image is its location. I like the boat placed where it is as it shows the ice that it has to get through. The image suffers from being too light. If you had underexposed a little it would have created more dramatic atmosphere.

Off The Rails

not accepted

These old rustic relics make great subjects. I feel that you have not made the most of the setting here. The treatment you have given it has darkened the wagon too much and the highlights in the background are very distracting. I do like the textures in the wood.

Old Dagging Shears and Tally

Honours

This image has been well seen. Most people would walk past this and not notice it. I like the fact that one of the shears is a different size and another is set apart from the others. They have been framed well with the wood.

On The Other Side

Acceptance

I like the light filtering through onto the stones. I also like the viewpoint which is different from what we normally see if we just stand up and look around. The only thing I would like to see is something a little different in the foreground to break the monotony of the stones.

Panorama Dawn

Acceptance

There is a lovely feel in this image. The clouds on the mountains are particularly lovely giving them an ominous mood. I think that there is too much on the left hand side that is not contributing to the image and there may have been a little more on the right so the roundness of the foreground snow was not cut off.

Past Its Best – NZRE

not accepted

These old run down buildings make great subjects but you need to do something different with them rather than stand in front and take the photo. There is not a lot of interest in the white cloud so that could have been eliminated by a different viewpoint.

Peaceful End To ACC Protest

Acceptance

This is a very good photojournalism image. It show us the story featuring the main character and the supporting action that is happening around him.

People Propagation Phase 1 – NZ

Honours

A very good imaginative image. I like the way you have put this together. It tells a story, is well composed and the lighting is excellent.

Pink Flower Opening

Acceptance

I like the crop of this and the very shallow depth of field which is blurring the background right out of focus but gives us a bit of information as to where the flower is. The off centre composition is good and the slight angle of the flower makes the image more interesting.

Rachel

not accepted

There is nice soft light on the lady's face. I feel that she has been placed a little too far to the right. By moving your camera further right you would eliminate the brickwork in the background. Normally I do not mind someone looking away from the camera but in this case it looks like she is posing for someone else.

Rangatata Dawn – NZRE not accepted

You have got up nice and early and have been rewarded with a lovely scene. For this image though I feel you have given us too much. The most interesting part is the lovely mist and giving us just this would have made the image a lot stronger.

Ready For The Blue Yonder – RE not accepted

To make this type of picture work well you need an unusual angle or very striking light. I like the patterns and the bright colours in the hot air balloons.

Reefton Stream – NZRE not accepted

There is a lot to look at in this image. It is very busy but I do like the way the river flows through the image. I particularly like the way it changes direction on the left hand side. The blurred movement is also good. I find the greens to be a bit too saturated and it seems to have been taken in sun shine. This type of image is better taken in overcast conditions to eliminate highlights.

Rural Light NZRE Acceptance

The light on the paddocks is beautiful and gives the image a very serene feel. The pale sky is taking a little away from the scene as the eye tend to go up there instead of staying within the main part of the image.

Safe Harbour Acceptance

The yellow light makes this image. The composition is good with the dinghy off to one side. I find though that the heavy pole in the corner partly obscuring the dinghy gets in the way a bit.

Shag Lightning not accepted

This has been reasonable captured with plenty of room for the shag to fly in to. I feel that it is lacking in excitement which better light may have provided.

Sky City and Suburbs – NZRE not accepted

A very clever title. The image, although pleasant does not have the impact required to be successful. A more dramatic sky may have helped. You are too far away from the scene to make out what it is on the hills.

Staring Into the Noise Acceptance

I like the fact that you have tried to create something edgy. Showing us only half the girl is good and I also like the little white spot on the right which acts like a full stop.

State Protected Vandal – NZRE

Acceptance

I like the unusual view of this bird. It is good you have shown us its behaviour. The only thing is that the eye of the bird is not sharp – the sharpest part is the nose.

Structural Study

not accepted

This is a good study of shapes and lines but it has not got that special something that lifts it into the next level. I find that the use of space does not work and perhaps if you tilted your camera and put it all on a diagonal slant it may have worked better.

The Beggars Baby

not accepted

I really like the subject and composition of this image. The bright sunlight has not helped and there is something strange happening like it has been over sharpened.

The Eyes Have It

Acceptance

This is quite a nice study of a lady and her pet. The eyes are striking. I would like to have seen a shallower depth of field to blur the background.

The Hero – RE

not accepted

There are a lot of interesting things happening here. As with some of the other images the bright sun has not been your friend and the image has been overexposed. It also looks like it has been over sharpened.

The Meeting

Acceptance

A cleverly seen image. I like the implied relationship between the two models. The image has a very avant-garde feel.

The Semi Final – RE

not accepted

You have done well to have caught the guy on the left in mid air. The white sky through the trees is not helping the image and the busy background also intrudes.

The Watchers

Acceptance

I really like the relationships in this image. I like the implied suggestion of a couple of guys watching a girl walk by. The only thing that spoil it is the black thing at the top of the image. If that had been cropped out it would have scored higher. Good composition.

Tyler 1

not accepted

She is a very nice looking girl. Her pose is quite natural but the sunlight is too bright and blown out the highlights in her hair and on her arms. I would like to have seen her eyes sharper too.

Waiting For Grammy Award

not accepted

A very witty image. It tells a good story but the image itself suffers from being too bright. Perhaps if you had presented a crop of just the top of the car and the shop window and veranda it may have told the story a bit stronger.

Waiting For Papa

Acceptance

I like the way you have treated this image, focussing us on just what is necessary. I also like the way the fire hydrant balances the boy on the bike on the other side. It is a shame that the boy and bike are facing away from the scene.

Water Stirring

Acceptance

Although this is a little bright I like the simplicity and the feeling of speed in the image. You can see the tension between the two riders as they race along.

We Call Her Poppet

not accepted

What a sweet young poppet. I like the hairstyle. Although I do not mind a portrait where the sitter is not looking at the camera I feel she is looking too far away from it showing us too much of the white of the eye. There also seems to be a magenta cast in the skin.

West Coast Morning – NZRE

not accepted

This does portray a very bleak day. I would like to have seen you try something a bit more creative like getting down close to the stream or using the fence line as a lead in.

Winter Pink Morning – NZRE

not accepted

This image has a lot of promise. The time of year (winter) and day (sunrise or sunset) it has been taken is very good. I find the foreground to be too cluttered and there is too much empty sky. I do like the contrasting colours of blue and pink but feel the image is in the mountains on the left.