

BATTLE PHOTOGRAPHS 2019

1. BOATHOUSE BY THE LAKE

The composition is good, with nice framing on the right, but it is a little central with the horizon in the middle.

The focus is fine and the exposure is good, however the image has been slightly overdone in post processing. It has perhaps a little too much saturation and clarity. It is a nice scene, with good reflections.

Score - 14

2. FUENGIROLA FERIA MASS

The composition is good, the action filling the frame, and nice framing to the left and the right.

The shot is in focus and is a good exposure, considering it would have been difficult to achieve with the high dynamic range, possibly a little bright at the top.

It is a great capture of a moment in time. I like the highlights, and the contrast of old and new, created by the mobile phone in the shot.

Overall you can get a real sense of the mood created by this image.

Score - 17

3. LOOP THE LOOP

Great composition, with the frame being filled by the action and the spiral leading line created by the smoke from left to right.

It is a good exposure, and in focus with just the right amount of movement in the propeller.

It is a great capture of the moment in time and gives you a good sense of the action.

Score - 17

4. DAILY LIFE IN CHEFCHAOUEN, MOROCCO

This is a nice vertical composition, with the subject being nicely framed. The drainage provides the leading line to the lovely lit courtyard.

It is all in focus, exposure is good, if not a little bright to the right of the archway, this has a tendency to draw the eye. The colour is good.

Despite there being many photos of this particular place out there, this is an original moment with nice storytelling.

Score - 18

5. BATTLE MEDIC

This is a well-staged portrait, with the subject filling the frame, with the negative space created by the black background emphasising the subject.

Good lighting, good exposure and in focus.

This portrait left me wanting to ask many questions - who does the tag belong to? Has he just lost a friend? What is he thinking about? Great Portrait.

Score - 19

6. ANT STRUGGLING WITH A CENTIPEDE

This shot is filled with action. You can clearly see the environment the insects are in, with a good use of shallow depth of field, emphasising the ant.

The focus is good, with great lighting, good exposure and the timing of the shot.

It is a good factual shot, a dramatic scene that you might see in the likes of a David Attenborough programme.

Score - 17

7. MOUNTAIN MIST

This is a great shot of mist filled valleys that goes to show not all landscape photos need to be landscape orientation. The viewer is forced on a journey through the image by the sweeping leading lines of the sunlight mist. The different shades of the mountains create the illusion of distance, with the horizon correctly placed in the top third.

Good exposure, however the focus may be a little soft but perhaps this helps the image.

Unique moment in time, well seen.

A great atmosphere, nice highlights on the village, point of interest created by what may be a bonfire. A nice warmth from the morning sun.

Score - 19

8. SEMANA SANTA, MALAGA

Composition is good with the frame being filled by the action. Good use of the rule of thirds. There is a nice balance in the foreground by the two figures appearing to look at each other, however the detached head of the child is a little disturbing, perhaps the artist could have stepped back a little to include more of the child.

The focus is good, but we do have overexposure in the top left of the frame, but again this might have been lost by repositioning the shot. Overall the image is a little flat, a little more contrast may have helped.

It is a good capture, well seen of that particular moment. It is very atmospheric and moody created by the light beams in the smoke.

Score - 16

9. MY BEST FRIEND

Composition, this is a lovely balanced shot with the frame being filled with nice diagonal lines. Very good sharp focus, good exposure, great use of light with a lovely mix of shades of grey.

Well staged, great black and white shot, the matt finish of the print really helps this pleasant image.

Score - 20

10. ABOVE ARDENNES

This is a good composition using a 10 by 9 crop (letterbox), with leading lines left to right. It's a pity about the electricity cables, perhaps these could have been removed in Photoshop.

Exposure is good, nicely focused throughout, overall colour feels natural. What appears to be a map is a little problematic, as this part of the image is a little overexposed causing it to bleed into the building, however this could be as a result of the printing, as in the digital image you can clearly see the definition between the map and the building.

Nice view, well seen. Nice landscape.

Score- 16

11. STEAMPUNK

Good representation of the Steampunk genre. Filled frame all be it a little busy, with the subject placed according to the rule of thirds.

This shows a large degree of Photoshop skill. I wonder how many layers this is made of? I like the use of grain on the various metallic elements but not sure it works on the organic parts.

Very creative in the Steampunk style, the whole thing is well thought out/put together, it so easily could have been overdone.

Score - 18

12. THIS LIFE

Nice composition, good use of the rule of thirds and good use of shallow depth of field for the background. The subject is looking into the frame.

Colours are good. The focus is clear and sharp, nice catch lights in the eyes. Overall good lighting.

A moment in time, well seen, leaves the viewer wanting to know more - what is he thinking about? - What is his story?

Score - 18

13. ORCHID

This is a great composition. I love the square crop, nicely centred with the black background emphasising the orchid.

We have sharp focus in the front, nice use of shallow depth of field. Nice colours, a well-lit, good exposure.

This is a well thought out image of an orchid that for me has a wow (a touch of Salvador Dali).

Score - 20

14. SNACK TIME FOR A RARE RED SQUIRREL

The squirrel is nicely placed in his environment with room for him to move. Good use of shallow depth of field emphasises the subject. Nice balance of negative space.

Good focus showing all the detail. Good exposure, nice light and colour. Catch light in the eye.

Nice scene, well captured, a good wildlife photo.

Score - 17

15. WAITING PATIENTLY

This is a great composition, with the little girl placed correctly using the rule of thirds. She is looking into the frame with room to move and a very natural pose.

Good exposure, good focus, great lighting. Nice colour balance between her and the background.

Good story telling, well seen, showing the poverty. Great moment in time.

Score - 19

16. WATER LILIES

Nicely filled frame, nicely centred with good use of shallow depth of field between the two lilies.

Nice black and white photo with good focus and lighting.

By taking the colour distraction out of the flowers, the viewer is forced to consider the texture and patterns, nicely put together.

Score - 17

17. AUTORRETRATO EN BUCLE

I like the square crop. I love the negative space on the left of the frame and the clean black background helps to emphasise the subject.

Sharp focus and good colour. A good example of editing skills using Photoshop.

Although not an original idea, but a great deal of work has gone into producing this unique in itself image.

Well thought out and I like the little touch of reflection at the bottom of the image.

Score - 20

18. AT THE GOAT FARM

Great composition with the subject filling the frame, with just the right amount of space, left of the nose. Nice triangular composition.

Good light, sharp focus showing a lot a detail, however the background has distraction in it.

Nice animal portrait, well captured.

Score - 16

19. LOST SOULS

With regard to the composition, I would have liked to have seen more room at the top, cutting off the dune has removed the sense of scale.

Good clean, sharp focus of the trees, exposure is good with lots of texture and detail in the trees.

A well photographed location.

For a landscape photo, it feels it is missing something, but I can't put my finger of what! However there is lovely detail in the trees.

Score - 14

20. WILD SWANS

For composition, when you have a nice reflection it works to have the horizon in the middle. What also helps this composition is the one swan centred and the other off to the left with room for both of them to move. The foreground interest is the ripples in the water.

The focus is okay and the light is nice.

Despite the purple and green being opposites on the colour and therefore a good balance, I am not sure why the artist chose to use this effect on what is a lovely wildlife scene.

Score - 14

21. PLAYING WITH FIRE

Love the square crop with the frame being filled by the subject. A nice balance between the flame and the face. A nice clean, black background emphasising the subject.

Great, sharp focus on the flame that isn't overexposed. A nice transition of shallow depth of field between the foreground and background. Great use of lighting.

Nice use of colour and ultra violet light, well thought out.

Lots of emotion and attention grabbing.

Score - 20

22. MILKY WAY AT CAPO DE GATO

This is a nice composition making the most of the drama in the sky, by having the horizon on the lower third. The image is nicely framed by the rocks, your eye is drawn to the centre by the light on the rocks, which is nicely placed in line with the galaxy.

The image is a little noisy, which is to be expected with this type of long exposure and the focus is a little soft due to the long exposure and the movement of the earth. However when viewing the image from a distance it does not detract from the drama.

There are many examples of galaxy photos around, but this particular image must have been well thought out and researched in order to be there at the right time of night and right weather conditions in order to capture this particular scene.

Great to see the wonder of space!

Score - 16

23. NOCTURNAL SWIMMER

Good use of the rule of thirds, as a leading line in the shape of the pier but lacks foreground interest. It is a good, clean, sharp focus, nice light although the bright lights in the top left of frame are a little distracting.

It is a good capture of a moment in time. It is a nice use of the blue hour.

Score - 16

24. TEAR DROP

This is a good example of less is more? A nice, clean, uncluttered image. The horse's eye is bang on the rule of thirds and nice use of shallow depth of field.

Good sharp focus, nice light, good exposure with some great detail showing the eyelashes and teardrop.

The moment of the tear was well seen and a good capture.

Score - 20

25. KHADI FROM SENEGAL

The eyes are placed on the top third, however the subject would be better placed slightly to the right to allow the subject to look into the frame.

Good exposure, nice light and good use of shallow depth of field. However due to the shallowness of the depth of field, her eyes are not sharp focus.

A nice portrait, well seen, really quite happy and jolly.

Score - 15

26. REFLECTIONS

The square crop works as it cuts out any potential clutter from the side. Nice framing and leading lines.

Good exposure in difficult lighting conditions. The focus might be a little soft.

It is a great shot of architecture, taken off centre instead of straight on leaving the viewer to wonder where the doorways lead to.

Score - 15

27. HUNGARY STARLING FEEDING

Being centred does not work for me, if the bird was placed more to the right of the image he has room to move. The shot is a little confusing with the main image of the starling blending into the feeder and a second bird.

It is a nice, clean and bright exposure, with good use of the shallow depth of field. The shutter speed used provides a nice motion blur in the wing, however the feeder is in sharp focus as opposed to the bird.

Well seen, but demonstrates how difficult wildlife photography can be sometimes.

Score - 14

28. WHARF SHED AT OKARITO LAGGON

Good use of the rule of thirds, we have foreground interest in the shed, middle ground interest being the bank on the other side of the lake and far ground interest being the mountains and clouds, all of which are in focus. At first it may be difficult to see the leading line, but it's there in the form of the pier and the view, complemented by the fall in the forest level and the mountain range.

Good exposure, sharp focus, the light blue hue gives a feeling of calm and peace. Lovely reflection. It's a nice long exposure shot.

Score - 20

29. FLAMENCO SHAWLS

This is a good composition, the frame being filled by all the action with quite a strong central point of her face which is in focus. Bright and colourful and well exposed. At first glance it may seem a bit cluttered but the combination of the three exposures prevails the drama and the movement. There is a little bit of digital noise in the surround, probably due to the high ISO used in the low light situation, but it does not detract from a great idea.

Score - 18

30. LAST TRAM HOME

The square crop helps to focus the view of the train, complemented by the leading lines and the soft focus used in most of the image. With the train being in sharp focus and well lit, it immediately draws your eye.

A great use of shallow depth of field and I like the creativeness of the sepia effect with the colour of the train popped.

A nice concept.

Score - 19

31. GI-ANT

The ant is nicely placed within its environment, with good use of shallow depth of field, with room for him to move. I like the tight crop, revealing more of the ant and less of the background.

Good lighting, good exposure with the ant being nice and sharp and in focus.

A text book natural history photograph and credit to the photographer for waiting around to get that moment.

Score - 17

32. PUENTE ROMANO, CORDOBA

For a landscape shot it has the leading lines and good use of the rule of thirds. It has foreground and middle ground interest and clouds in the distance.

There is a sharp clean focus throughout the fore and middle grounds with the clouds being slightly softer, but as a black and white image it is slightly over exposed and lacks contrast.

Probably one of the most photographed scenes in Cordoba. Less exposure and more contrast would have given the image more drama.

I like the soft sky and the reflection in the water.

Score - 14

33. SUN VOYAGER

It is a great composition with the subject filling the frame, horizon on the lower third, taken at a nice angle.

Good exposure with nice little catch lights, nice sharp focus throughout. Good light

This is a great capture but one of many taken of this subject.

I love the warm light, a nice contrast against the cool blue.

Score - 17

34. POWER OF STEAM

For composition the image has filled the frame with the workings of the train. A good use of highlights and the close crop really shows the workings. Overall the focus appears to be a little off, needed to be sharper.

However it is a good concept that portrays strength and power, helped by being a strong contrast black and white image and movement in the steam. Love the industrial feel.

Score - 16

35. BEE BUSY IN CHUMBA

This is a nice tight crop showing the bee in its environment, with a nice balance between the insect and the flower.

Good exposure, nice light and the bee is in sharp focus showing a lot of detail. The light reflecting on the wing is a little distracting but can't be helped. Good use of shallow depth of field to emphasise the bee.

Bees make good subjects and are often photographed, and again this makes for a good textbook shot.

Score - 16

36. FOUR DANDELION SEED HEADS

It is said that a good composition is made of odd numbers, however it's good to break the rules occasionally. A nice square crop with a clean plain background that highlights the subjects and given even more emphasis being in black and white. The matt print also helps.

Good lighting with sharp focus on three of the dandelions but the tallest being caught in the shallow depth of field gives a slight sense of depth to what would have been a flat image.

A nicely thought out image with subjects well placed to create shadows and connectivity and I love the isolation. This makes for a great fine art image.

Score - 19

37. HE'S MY BROTHER

Good composition with subjects at the bottom right hand side, good use of a slight shallow depth of field. Nice framing and good use of negative space in top left hand corner.

Exposure is good, bright and colourful, I like the light on the girls face. The focus is good but I am not sure about the blue light on the boys left leg and to the left of his face, it is a little distracting from what is a great shot.

This is a well seen moment in time with lovely storytelling.

Score - 19

38. SPIDER WITH PREY

Well placed in the scene with a strong shallow depth of field. In this case there is no need to see the surrounding environment because the main focus is on the colourful spider.

A good exposure, sharp focus and vibrant colours. It looks as if this was shot with a macro lens. using such a shallow depth of field it can be quite tricky to get the subject in the focal plain.

This kind of photo has been done many times, but still this image has been well seen and well taken. Would make a good documentary type of photo.

Score - 18

39. FLAMENCO DANCER

Great composition with nice framing by the stools and the red walls. The subject is placed nicely to the right, balanced by the negative space on the left. Exposure is good for this style of low key photography. Great use of light on the subjects face, strong dramatic colours.

This is well staged with the sense of drama in her face or is it the reaction to the naked statue where your eyes are instantly drawn at first due to the light. Artistically I like the balance created by the black roses.

Score - 20

40. SUNSET OVER LAKE

Horizon in the correct place, top third with the sun slightly off centre and the foreground interest of the silhouetted and reflected plants. Good composition.

It is brave to shoot into the sun as you risk over exposure and the eye being drawn to the brightest part can detract from the rest of the image. However, this is a good exposure with nice colours and good use of silhouette and reflection.

This is one of those unique moments in time, well seen and a good capture giving a sense of peacefulness.

Score - 18

41. GLASSES

This type of shot lends itself to this composition, centrally lined up, with the glasses perfectly in line both vertically and horizontally with the camera at a perfect right-angle to the subject. I like the little bit of room at the top of the frame.

The exposure is good and the focus is sharp, nice lighting with a clean black background with just a hint of texture at the base that gives the glasses some grounding so as not to appear to be floating in space.

A well-constructed still life, a good recreation of what has been done before. A nice piece of still art.

Score - 18

42. SWANAGE PIER

A photo from my old stomping ground, nice to see a picture of the new pier instead of the over photographed old pier. A nice filled frame in the foreground, providing a perfect leading line that draws the viewer on a journey down the pier. Nice straight horizon, well placed in the top third.

Good exposure, good focus and a nice contrast of colours despite the weather conditions. There is a tendency to change the image into black and white when the light is poor.

This shot has been done before, but normally everyone goes for the old pier. The wet boardwalk helps make this image by providing nice reflections.

Score - 18

43. HARVEST MOUSE

Great capture of the mouse in his environment, the frame is filled with the subject placed in the centre.

Good exposure, good use of shallow depth of field that highlights the subject. In sharp focus where it matters, that being the eye of the mouse. Nice, sharp detail.

Has been done before, but all credit must go to the photographer for time and patience needed to capture this image. A beautiful wildlife shot.

Score - 19

44. THE WASHING LINE ALONG THE RIVER GANGES AT SUNSET

Composition is a little too central for the horizon, perhaps a little less sky. The main focus of the image is on the right as it should be.

A little over exposed as the eye is drawn to the really bright sun. There is colour noise in the foreground and the washing. I suspect in post processing an attempt to recover detail in the shadow was made, revealing the digital noise. Perhaps a more silhouetted approach with less exposure and a little more contrast could have improved the shot.

A good shot that could have been a great shot in silhouette

well seen, a great capture of river life, lovely storytelling, enabling the viewer to imagine being there.

Score - 17

45. FLAMINGO

The placement of the baby's head using the rule of thirds is good, the frame is filled but if it wasn't for the title I would struggle to see that it is a flamingo, but does it matter, not sure! The image has been converted to something more artistic with effects added in post processing. Unfortunately, it is over exposed in the top right of the image which has caused a loss of detail and draws the viewer away from the subject.

A good spot, and certainly a unique shot of a baby flamingo and has some impact when first viewed.

Score - 15

46. IMPERFECTION

For me this image has a very retro 60's feel. It is a nicely filled frame and I like the use of the negative space on the left. Sometimes it is good to only photograph part of the subject, because this leaves the viewer to make up the rest in their mind. A simple, uncluttered composition.

A good exposure but it feels a little flat, could use a little more contrast to bring out the highlights. The background could be a little brighter instead of the dull grey (this could be down to the print process). Good use of natural light, in focus and I like the catch light in her eye.

Well thought out and a good reproduction of this existing style of photography.

Makes a good artistic black and white photo.

Score - 18

47. FLAMENCA

This is a lovely example of black and white photography. Composition is spot on because the eyes and the nose are perfectly placed in the intersection of the rule of thirds. The subject is well posed looking straight at the camera.

Sharp focus, uncluttered shot, good use of light and contrast. The little bit of noise helps age the photo.

Well staged with a slightly moody feel, leaving to viewer to wonder about her thoughts, and not having the distraction of colour, the viewer is forced to consider shades and texture.

With amazing detail, stunning!!

Score - 20

48. LIFE IN MINIATURE

The frame is filled with the subject with a nice border. For me it lacks something to hold the viewer.

It is a good clean shot, sharp focus, well exposed with a nice colour and contrast.

Well seen, however if the window had been slightly open, it may have created a little more interest and intrigue but I appreciate this was outside the photographers control.

A nice photo.

Score - 17