

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT 'BATTLE' MARCH 2018

Scores and remarks by Paul Yaffé: FRPS. FBIPP. FMPA. HON.PFP(N)

Entries marked out of five on: Impact – Creativity – Composition –
Technique: Giving a grand total, for each print, out of 20

- 1 BLUE MOON $3 - 3 - 5 - 5 = 16$
Well-executed image. Whilst maintaining the rule of thirds, a little more space in front of the aircraft and a slight tilt upward would have proved beneficial
- 2 A DAMP NIGHT OUT $4 - 3 - 4 - 4 = 15$
Good manipulation of light and colour. Subject well placed in street lighting. Foreground chairs could have been better placed. Overall sharpness causes the viewers eye to drift somewhat.
- 3 ENCHANTED WOOD $2 - 2 - 1 - 3 = 8$
Somewhat difficult to find the area, or centre, of attention combined with a muddy quality of print have let this image down. The special effect and shading could have been improved.
- 4 CURIOUS CAT $5 - 3 - 4 - 4 = 16$
This image, full of impact, could have been improved with a square format, cutting out the tree, which draws almost as much attention as the cat. Excellent quality on the cat!
- 5 LOVE IS IN THE AIR $3 - 3 - 3 - 3 = 12$
The contra positioning of the flower in the hand and the flowerbed itself is nicely thought out. However, body detail (with the exception of the girls hand), general positioning and placement let the image down.
- 6 CORK V WEXFORD $5 - 4 - 4 - 5 = 18$
A great 'sports' shot. Nicely executed, if just a little tight in the frame.
- 7 FRENCH GRILL $3 - 4 - 2 - 3 = 12$
The multi-directional shadows do not help this image and the details in the reflections are difficult to view. Perhaps 'cutting out' the items and controlling the exposure in the reflections, during postproduction, would have helped.

- 8 FOOD TIME $5 - 5 - 4 - 5 = 19$
What a superb wildlife image this is! Perhaps a little more space and some additional attention to the small elements of wing, top right, would have been beneficial. One of the top scorers!
- 9 YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD $5 - 2 - 2 - 3 = 12$
Full of 'zest' and impact, but the tight cropping has let this image down. Also the skin colour appears rather orange
- 10 DROP IN A BUCKET $4 - 5 - 3 - 5 = 17$
Technically very well executed... and showing good imagination! I feel the main element of the image is a little too tight and central in the frame. Perhaps the introduction of a small amount of additional colour, perhaps in the highlight, would have created more impact.
- 11 GLASSES $5 - 5 - 3 - 5 = 18$
Great impact on this shot, technically very well executed! The base of the right wine glass is a little 'unclean' on the retouch or cutting out (?) I would have preferred a little more space to the top and right of the image. Nevertheless ... a high scorer!
- 12 KAYAK & TURBULENCE $5 - 5 - 4 - 5 = 19$
A stunning sporting activity picture! One of the very high point scorers... I would have been proud to have shot this myself!
- 13 SHY LADY $3 - 2 - 2 - 3 = 10$
A great subject, with a wonderful expression! But 'over tight' print cropping combined with muddy print quality have sadly reduced the score in this image.
- 14 JOUN $4 - 5 - 3 - 3 = 15$
A fantastic subject to photograph. The positioning of the dancer, with additional space to the right, would have been complimented, more effectively by the guitarist in the background.
I also feel that the special effect has been used a little too aggressively.
- 15 GUERNICA $5 - 5 - 3 - 5 = 18$
Fascinating subject matter, which has been very well employed by the photographer. Full of impact and good high key lighting. I would have been inclined to reduce (or remove) the shadows under the figures.... Another high scorer!

- 16 LEFT TO RUST $5 - 3 - 3 - 3 = 14$
These really old and neglected vehicles are great to photograph. Much more space is required in this image to place is more towards a golden third. A touch more depth of focus would also have been an advantage, along with more contrast.
- 17 SAFE HARBOUR $5 - 5 - 5 - 4 = 19$
What a beautiful almost 'impressionist' image. Only the lack of sharp focus especially on the boat, possibly intentional, has in my view let this image down. Still... a very high scorer!
- 18 LANGSTONE MILL $5 - 5 - 4 - 5 = 19$
What a lovely 'constable' like image this is... Beautiful and tranquil, with the elements which are really well placed. I just found the heavy or oversaturated cloud at top right to be somewhat troublesome. However another very high scorer!
- 19 HUMO Y COPAS $5 - 5 - 3 - 3 = 16$
A really interesting project, difficult to execute well, but a good effort! However the studio light reflections and out of focus foreground eggs, have taken their toll on the overall score.
- 20 LEONIE $4 - 5 - 3 - 5 = 17$
The dancers lovely 'split jump' has been perfectly arrested in this image. I like the elegance of the dress and the rough graffiti to be an interested combination. But, the background is rather troublesome and takes the eye too much. Also there is some confusion in my eye, when I look at the very sharp foreground at the bottom, running too suddenly into a very blurred background.
- 21 ROOSTER RESTING $2 - 2 - 2 - 4 = 10$
This image is let down by the complexity of the surrounding area and lack of sharpness on the rooster overall. Also the positioning of the rooster is too large for the framed area. A nice idea, but sadly not pulled of really well. Better luck next time!
- 22 MACHINIST AT WORK $4 - 4 - 3 - 5 = 16$
A nice study, of a man at work. More space above the hair would have been better. A straightening of verticals and more contrast would also have been helpful in this image.

- 23 MARIPOSA JAPONESA $5 - 4 - 5 - 5 = 19$
This image would look great on the wall of any home! Well positioned.
Simplicity of the setting and Complexity of the Butterfly all go towards making
this picture a very high scorer!
- 24 LEOPARD $4 - 3 - 4 - 4 = 15$
Great subject matter and pin sharp where it's needed. I would have preferred
to see both ears and a little more space.
- 25 WORLD IN A RAINDROP $5 - 4 - 4 - 5 = 18$
Discrete use of colour to effect, and lovely interest in the main raindrop. A
fascinating concept, well executed! I think using a square format and losing
some of the left side and bottom of the current picture may have improved this
image.
- 26 MOD'S RIDE $4 - 5 - 4 - 4 = 17$
A little more space to the top and right of this image would have been better. I
would have preferred a little more vibrancy and contrast in the colours.
- 27 NARA $5 - 3 - 5 - 3 = 16$
Whilst full of impact, this would have been greatly improved by the use of rim
lighting, or at least a little background light... to create separation between the
subject and the background.
Also the head diminishes in size compared to the legs: which are too close the
camera and therefore look too large. By twisting the chair away from the
camera, this would have resolved this issue.
- 28 LONESOME $4 - 3 - 3 - 5 = 15$
A super 'gritty' effect, on this winter tree. A little more space and less centrality
would have improved the image overall. There then may have been opportunity
to darken some of the sky over the top of the tree... as on right and left?
- 29 LADIES CONFERENCE $2 - 2 - 1 - 2 = 7$
With interesting image content; it can be easy to forget technique. This picture
requires more space around the four figures, or cropping to just two figures.
Print quality is sadly way too flat and muddy to make any impact.
- 30 MOJACA PARADE $5 - 4 - 4 - 5 = 18$
Great sharpness, with some useful movement to the blade, combined with out
of focus background; make this image quite striking! The expression is also

highly commensurate with the character. I would have preferred a little more space above and to the left of the figure.

- 31 NEW YORK NEW YORK $3 - 3 - 4 - 4 = 14$
The Statue of Liberty is primarily behind the New York skyline, but at the left of the picture, it comes to the foreground, which I find a little confusing, as there is nothing in the story to tell me why. Ideally this should be a brighter picture overall, with nice contrasts.
Also one of the images should be the main one... possibly illustrated by the level of light used on each of the images.
- 32 PORTRAIT OF A HORSE $5 - 4 - 4 - 4 = 17$
This handsome animal has perfectly placed ears, which should not have been vignette out. I feel the same applies to its nose. A little more space to the bottom and left of the picture and less vignetting would have made a big improvement. A 'rim' light or reflector behind the horse would have been good. (Although I know reflectors are difficult with horses!)
- 33 WATCH THE BIRDIE $4 - 4 - 2 - 4 = 14$
A clever idea and great shot of the bird! However, always bear in the mind the 'rule of thirds'. Cropping bottom and left would have been better.
Plus, avoid confusing picture content and especially chipped nail varnish!
- 34 PUFFINS AT SKOMER ISLAND $5 - 5 - 4 - 5 = 19$
This is a stunning picture of a puffin, beautifully lit with top and backlighting. I would have preferred more space under the feet. A picture to be proud of, and one of the very high scorers!
- 35 POPPY $5 - 5 - 4 - 3 = 17$
A very, impactful portrait. I would have preferred a slightly wider crop, with the eyes being placed more in a golden third area. I find the chin to be too close to the camera, which in turn gives more weight to the jawline. The camera right eyelid could have been lifted slightly. Also I am troubled by the way the pink has been introduced to the hair and eyebrows, either by the hairdresser (unlikely) or in postproduction artwork.
- 36 SMILES $5 - 4 - 3 - 4 = 16$
I found this a challenging piece to judge, having no specific criteria. So, on the whole I find it a contemporary piece, which would have been improved by retaining the orange within the framed area.

- 37 AFTER THE FIESTA $4 - 3 - 2 - 3 = 12$
Two story lines between each of two girls only.
For me then, the group of seven does not sit well together. Facial expressions on all lack life and sometimes verge on boredom.
Also the crop is very tight, and indeed cuts into two of the subjects... sorry ☹
- 38 SCHAFFBURG $5 - 3 - 5 - 5 = 18$
A beautiful three-dimensional image with immediacy of impact. Great composition and technique.
- 39 REMEMBER VIETNAM $4 - 4 - 4 - 4 = 16$
A very meaningful image. From a pictorial perspective; I would have preferred more emphasis on the figures and less on the text. I would also have preferred the figures to be smaller in their third, with the text element to be darker.
- 40 JELLYFISH GHOSTS OF THE SEA $5 - 5 - 4 - 5 = 19$
This aptly entitled image is an excellent example of its genre. Beautifully executed and presented. One of the very high scorers in this print battle!
- 41 GRANDDAD $5 - 4 - 4 - 5 = 18$
There is so much emotion about the face and the hands in this picture. However, I would prefer to see more space and not such a tight crop. Also I think that skin colour rendition could be improved.
- 42 TO INFINITY AND BEYOND $5 - 5 - 5 - 5 = 20$
A very dynamic back & white image, superbly handled. Full of impact, creativity, good composition and technique. The understanding of the use of light and selective manipulation of tonal range, bring this image to the forefront of this years photographic 'battle!'
Full marks and congratulations!
- 43 STRIPES $5 - 5 - 3 - 3 = 16$
Good impact and imagination. Slightly let down by the falling verticals and 'questionably' the double face. Nevertheless an interesting concept.
- 44 MILKY WAY $5 - 5 - 4 - 5 = 19$
Fabulous and highly skilled use of photographic knowledge, exposed all the areas of interest. Perhaps a little too central in its placement and tight in its crop. But a real high flyers... and one of the top scorers!

- 45 THE CITY $5 - 4 - 3 - 3 = 15$
Interesting pictures of London, showing a number of its well know features. Clean and sharp, with some manipulation in the sky. I feel that the heavy dark cloud, just off centre however, becomes a distraction due to its density.
- 46 TWO HATS ARE BETTER THAN ONE $3 - 1 - 1 - 2 = 7$
A somewhat simple image, of two hats on mannequin heads. The hat on the right should have been placed correctly on the head. Positioning using a well-tried rule of thirds may have improved the image. I feel the rough background wall has become a distraction.
- 47 THE DAY AFTER BREXIT $5 - 4 - 2 - 3 = 14$
The theme of the image is in its subject strength. However the very poor image quality and tight framing, lets this picture down
- 48 -WHOOSH - HERE WE GO $5 - 5 - 4 - 5 = 19$
A brilliantly dramatic sporting picture, capturing the full force of the ocean and retaining sharpness on the prime subject, makes this a very high scoring image. My one recommendation would be to consider that 'bull's eyeing' the main element of a picture, dead centre, is rarely as effective as using a golden third.
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