

CAPE CAMERA

November/December 2017

Official Newsletter

CAPE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

CAPE CAMERA

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On the cover

Our front cover image this month, titled *A glimpse of sun* by Joletta Frahm, was one of the winning images in the Open Subject category. "It was shot in the Upper Antelope Canyon in Arizona USA, which is located in the Navajo Nation territory and is not open to the public unless you book a tour and hire a Navajo-licensed guide who must accompany you throughout to see this wondrous place. It is located just east of Page, Arizona and runs north, across HWY 98, into Lake Powell. The Navajo call Upper Antelope Canyon Tsé bighání-líni, which means, 'the place where water runs through rocks'. The canyon is approximately 200 meters long and about 36 meters at its deepest. That said, it is one of the prettiest rockways in the Southwest, and one of Mother Nature's most spectacular masterpieces.

"It is truly an amazing 'in-awe' feeling to walk through the narrow pathways with these colourful sandstone walls stretching that high up and all around you. At every turn of a corner new and different textures and colours reveal themselves, it is just breathtakingly beautiful. The hues and colours of the sandstone are the

richest in the early mornings and late afternoons, although if you would like to take in the canyon's famous beams of light, the best time is heading in and starting around high noon - especially during summer. We did the hike in August and at 11h20.

"This was certainly the most difficult photo session I did. It was high season and crowded. At that time there were about four tours hiking in this narrow canyon and therefore the guides rushed us through in an hour in-and-out! The most famous words from the tour guide were, 'move on' since the next group was already on our heels and the front group in our path. You have only a few minutes at a good spot where the guide stops and gives you a minute to focus. The light is extremely difficult, some areas are very dark, and others a ray of direct sunlight, and a light breeze at the top of the canyon causes fine sand sifting down into the crack. The canyon is quite unique, and if you don't mind the crowds and guided tours, it is a must. Additionally, the entrance and entire walkway are flat, making this trail hike accessible for all. This is a not-to-miss tour!

"I used two cameras, because I found my Nikon struggled to focus sometimes, but my not-so-fancy Sony DC-T100 did the trick. I did not shoot in raw and used Photoshop manipulation only for crop and levels, no other manipulation or editing was done. Exposure 1/25 sec, ISO 400, f3.5 and that's it," explains Joletta

News from the council

Two major events have happened since our last issue, the Interclub Competition and our Annual Awards Dinner. Both are reported on fully elsewhere in this issue of Cape Camera, but I want to publically thank all those who put so much effort into them to make them a success. Our Awards dinner was organized by a team of Anna Engelhardt, Lesley Parolis and Joyce Goldschmidt, who did a fantastic job on the venue, décor, menu and awards. An unsung hero, however, was Nicol, who purchased the wine and champagne, and got his daughter Carin to design and print special CTPS labels (with our new logo) to be pasted onto the individual bottles. Nicol also went to a lot of trouble in minting CTPS medals that went to winners of our competition. Thanks to all for giving us an unforgettable evening.

The other event was the Annual Interclub Competition. Although we only came fourth, three of our AV members (Margaret Collings, Jenny Powis and Len van Wyk) walked away with a first, second and third prize respectively; Kim Stevens' 'Enchanting Sleeping Beauty' was judged second best print of the competition – the same as Jeanette du Toit's PDI of 'Movement'. Heartiest congratulations to all of you – we are proud of you!

At our own Awards evening, many certificates were given out to winners in each category, too many to mention here, but well done to everyone who entered the competition. Kim Stevens achieved the most overall points for the year, with Jeanette du Toit and Jean Bradshaw being the winners in the PDI and the Print competition respectively. Lesley Parolis won the Gold Medal in the Annual CTPS Competition. A special mention must be made of Pat Scott being awarded the President's Award for all her work in organizing the CTPS Exhibition earlier this year. The rolling slide show of all the prints that scored 22 and above in our competition evenings of the past year served as a splendid backdrop throughout our dinner.

Carrying on with my theme of letting our members know what the various Council members contribute to our society, it should be appreciated from the above two events that Lesley Parolis does an incredible amount of work for us behind the scene. Our members see Lesley so effortlessly running our monthly competition evenings, but we need to stop and think about how much 'homework' that entails. To produce a slide show for the Awards Dinner means she had to capture hundreds of competition images and then sort those who scored 22 and above. Quite a task! For us to enter the Interclub competition, Lesley had to assemble a team of judges and once again go through all the images entered throughout the year and whittle them down to 24 images. An immense task! And then to manage our own Annual competition, Lesley had to find four or so external judges, get the entries to them, get the results back and then design and create individual certificates for each prize winner, some of them also featuring the winner's photograph. Thank you Lesley for all your efforts – they are truly appreciated by all of us.

What could also be classed as another major event was the amazing talk by Obie Oberholtzer that Nicol organized for us on the 4th November. The auditorium at Detlef's Science Centre in Observatory was packed and for two hours Obie showed us how to make amazing images from what was before a very ordinary scene, simply by varying the angle of shooting, the light, and very often adding something quirky in the background. All came away entertained and inspired, and I am sure will approach their image making quite differently from now on.

Happy shooting!
Richard Goldschmidt
 President



Our winners of the Annual CTPS Competition

Highest points scored overall (PDI & Print combined)

1st Kim Stevens	874
2nd Jeanette du Toit	855
3rd Anna Engelhardt	805
4th Joan Ward	794
5th Nicol du Toit	755
6th Steff Hughes	746
7th Neels Beyers	690
8th Richard Goldschmidt	685
9th Lesley Parolis	679
10th Jean Bradshaw	676

Highest PDI points scored

1st Jeanette du Toit	596
2nd Steff Hughes	538
3rd Keith Bull	501
4th Nicol du Toit	495
5th Kim Stevens	494
6th Mike de Villiers	475
7th Mo Bassa	472
8th Neels Beyers	464
9th Joan Ward	462
10th Crighton Klassen	461

Highest Print points scored

1st Jean Bradshaw	561
2nd Lesley Parolis	466
3rd Anna Engelhardt	446
4th Jenny Cole-Rous	440
5th Stephen Gibson	428
6th Kim Stevens	380
7th Mireille Landman	372
8th Haralambos Parolis	357
9th Arnold Castle	336
10th Joan Ward	332

Themes for 2018

Month	Set Subject	Competition Date	Entry date
January	From the top	17 January	10 January
February	Churches and cathedrals	7 February	31 January
March	Human portraits	7 March	28 February
April	Macro photography	4 April	28 March
May	Low key photography	2 May	25 April
June	Panoramas	6 June	30 May
July	Dramatic skies	4 July	27 June
August	Sports photography	1 August	25 July
September	Curves of the human form	5 September	29 August
October	Graphic design	3 October	26 September
November	Monochrome	7 November	31 October
December	Altered reality	5 December	28 November

Outing schedule for 2018

Proposed diary - subject to change

Sunday 11th Feb	Triathlon event at the V&A and the Green Point Stadium
Sunday 18th Mar	Steam train to Stellenbosch (or Simonstown) whatever is running?
Weekend 20/22 Apr	Weekend in Hermanus
Sat 19th May	Late afternoon on Llandudno beach
Sun 17th June	Groot Constantia vineyards and a cellar tour
Sun 22nd July	Milnerton beach/lagoon/lighthouse/bridge – early morning or late afternoon?
Sun 2nd Sept	Philadelphia and surrounding canola fields
Sun 7th Oct	Green Point Park, the Stadium area
Sun 4th Nov	The Cathedral / The Gardens/ Centre of the Book/ Art gallery and museum area.
December	BoKaap walk about

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IN THE NEWS

National & International Salon Results

Congratulations to all our members who regularly enter these highly competitive events and walk away with such impressive results!

PECC International PDI & Print Salon 2017

Some 761 images from all over the world were entered in this particular salon, which makes the success of our four CTPS members who had entered quite spectacular. Kim Stevens could claim a host of medals: the FIAP Gold Medal for Best Image in a Category with *'Enchanting Sleeping Beauty'*; a PSA Gold Medal for *'The Blue Room'*; and a PSSA Gold Medal for the best panel of four accepted images – plus another five acceptances. Jeanette du Toit received a Certificate of Merit for her *'Daisy Daisy'* and five acceptances; Chris Coetzee got three and Nicol du Toit one.



Best Panel of four accepted prints by Kim Stevens



Glacial Blue by Kim Stevens



Daisy Daisy by Jeanette du Toit

5th Swartland PDI & Print Salo 2017

In this salon, Karyn Parisi received a Certificate of Merit for her 'Solarised Bubble Waterdrop'; Jeanette du Toit achieved seven acceptances, Christ Coetzee five and Arthur Fitt two.



Solarised bubble water drop by Karyn Parisi

Another tailor-made tour to Namibia in June 2018

NEELS BEYERS, who led 12 photographers in six cars on a very successful venture into the southern part of Namibia last year, is planning another trip to this fascinating country during June this year. This time it will be to the north-west and northern part, including the Etosha Pan. The tour starts on Saturday 9th of June 2018 and ends on Tuesday 26th June 2018; and is open to all photographic clubs in the Western Cape. The accommodation cost per person is R16 000 (single) and R13 000 (double). Participants will have to provide their own transport.

The tour will first head towards Damaraland and include Khorixas, Twyfelfontein (a site of ancient rock engravings), Ugab terraces and the famous Vingerklip before heading further north to the spectacular Epupa falls of the Kunene river - the boundary between Namibia and Angola. This is followed by a week at the world-famous Etosha Pan, with stays at the Okaukeujo and Halali rest camps (to wet your appetite read Pat Scott's Travelogue in this issue of Cape Camera).

There will be an option (at an extra cost of R1700/R1560 pp) to extend the tour by two more days to stay at the Norotshama River Resort on the Orange River and visit the famous Fishriver Canyon from there, before heading back to Cape Town.

Neels Beyers can be contacted on 082 656 0660 or beyersneels@gmail.com.

Opening of member's studio

GMT Photography, a business venture of CTPS member Darlington Mukumbi, was officially opened on Saturday, 11th November 2017 at 3 Loubess House, 3rd Avenue, Maitland, Cape Town. There to cut the ribbon and wish him future success was Pastor Joel Muhindo of the House of Prayer Church, Dr Sebastian Petersen, deputy director Community Outreach at the Department of Correctional Services and PSSA Western Cape director Nicol Du Toit.



Warm welcome to new members



Christo and Marleen La Grange used to be members of CTPS, but discontinued after a while because they felt bad about not being able to attend regular club activities, including our E&D evenings.

They have decided to join again and not only because they have more time on their hands, but also because of one of their main interests is Macro photography - for which our club is known to have a special interest group.



"We retired five years ago and started taking courses in the different aspects of photography, which opened a whole new world to us. We were also inspired to take up the judging course and obtaining our LPSSA. We are now actively taking part in Salons with more success than we could wish for," says Marleen

Annual Award Ceremony & Dinner - *An elegant affair*

To celebrate a year of wonderful achievements and sharing it with like-minded friends who are all passionate about photography, some 60 CTPS members and their guests attended this very special event on Friday 17th November. Our sincere congratulations to everyone who won an award for their photographic achievements. Congratulations must also go to Pat Scott who won the President Award for her work in organizing the CTPS Exhibition, and the new honorary life members Malcolm Jones, Jeanette du Toit, Elmara Willis and Neels Beyers – thank you for your dedication and loyalty to our society for so many years.

According to Keith Bull, "the dress code was 'smart' which was essential to complement the delightful new venue at Welgemeend. Tucked away in some charming gardens, this listed Cape Dutch manor house with a fascinating history of some 300 years was a perfect setting. Pre-dinner drinks served on the vine-covered terrace, were a precursor to a memorable evening. Dressed for the occasion, we sat down at tables glowing with candles from candelabras, and a red rose for every guest. The starter for the meal was a work of art in itself, followed by a most enjoyable buffet and dessert. Specially chosen wines, branded with the new CTPS logo added to the occasion!

"Throughout the evening, PDI's were screened showing those images that were awarded 22 points or above during the past year (I even saw a couple of mine!). The formal part of the evening with handing out the awards to members went like clockwork - thanks to the skills of Lesley Parolis and our accomplished President!

"All in all, it was a truly elegant affair, thanks to the hard work of Anna Engelhardt, Joyce Goldschmidt and Lesley! Certainly I would recommend we return next year to the same venue ... but only provided the fantastic team agrees to manage the occasion again!"



Exquisite starter



Alison & Keith Bull, Barbara & Detlef Basel



Dining room at Welgemeend



Andre Wijne, Ariane Jenssen & Nicol du Toit



Rob & Louise Tarr, Jonathan & Wendy Burchell, Lesley Parolis, Marianna Meyer & Jeanette du



Joyce & Richard Goldschmidt



Mireille Landman, Robert Maginley & Judith Dodds



Richard & Joyce Goldschmidt, Jenny Powis, Svenja Garrard & Anna Engelhardt



Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Fitt



Peter Haarhof, Antenie Carstens & Alicia Greyling



Gayle Salter, Malcolm Jones & Trudi du Toit



Steff Hughes, Marianna Meyer & Ariane Jenssen



Jeanette du Toit & Richard Goldschmidt



Pat Scott & Jack Charteris



Coleen & Mike de Villiers



Anna Morris, Margaret Collins & Mireille Landman



Andre & Vanessa Mouton



Richard Goldschmidt & Kim Stevens



The beautiful gardens of Welgemeend



Andrew & Gina Denny



Jack Charteris, Roger Trythall & Lambe Parolis



Duncan Miller, Kim Stevens, Svenja Garrard, Federica Za & Doug Stevens



Melanie & Sean Neethling



Johan Greeff & Jeanette du Toit



Alison & Keith Bull



From the lavish buffet



Jenny Powis, Johan Greeff, Marianna Meyer & Roger Trythall

Latest News from the Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

AV group

About 17 people attended the November AV meeting at which the latest AVs from four members were shown and discussed: Jeanette du Toit's - In the mist; Arthur Fitt's - Creation; Ken Woods' - Flight of the Bee Eaters; and Robert Maginley's - Grossglockner.

In addition to accessing members' new AVs, JOY WELLBELOVED explained in detail what selectors and judges for Salons and AV Honours look for when assessing them. The four main criteria they use are:

1. **Communication** - the strength of the audio visual medium lies in its ability to communicate with people, to register feelings, ideas, facts and opinions. Success is measured by how well the judge receives the intended message or has the intended reaction.

2. **Visuals** - the visuals are assessed in the context of an AV. The visuals do need to at least fulfil the basic technical criteria in terms of exposure, focus, post processing etc. Generally the audience was not present when the photographs were taken so they do not have the same feeling for the occasion. It is therefore up to the AV maker to share the experience by using the language of visual elements and design principles to convey information, emotions, thoughts, ideas, concepts or feelings. How well the AV maker achieves this will dictate the score awarded to the visuals.

3. **Audio** - audio is to be considered an integral part of the presentation and not just a mere accompaniment to the visuals. The technical quality of the Audio is important - the way it starts and ends, the volume etc. - all need to be considered. A successful soundtrack, be it simple or complex, should communicate a feeling and an atmosphere and furthermore this mood should fit in with the images, pace and rhythm of the AV.

4. **AV Techniques** - AVs are stories, even though the subject may not be a fictional tale. There should be a progression, each image carrying the viewer a step forward. The means of moving from one image to the next, i.e. the transitions used are Audio Visual techniques which dictate the rhythm and pace of the AV, where the rhythm is determined by the length of time an image remains on the screen, and the speed of the transition between images and the pace is the rate at which new information is provided to the audience.

FUTURE MEETINGS

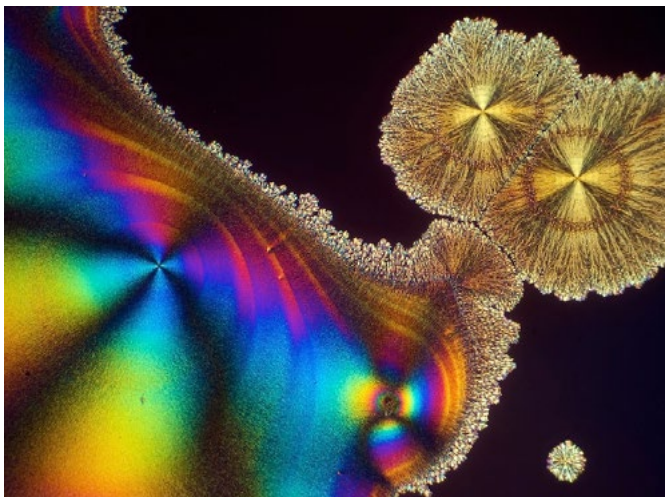
13/12/2017 – Screening & comments on members AVs

14/02/2018 – Screening & comments on members AVs, plus visit by Ingrid Fraser (to be confirmed)

14/03/2018 – Screening & comments on members AVs, plus Antenie Carstens – Sound in AVs (to be confirmed)

Macro group

Six members of the Macro SIG met at JOY WELLBELOVED'S flat on Sunday afternoon, 19th November to discuss "Cross polarisation photography of birefringent crystals". She first explained in detail how polarisation, cross-polarisation and refraction work to arrive at an understanding of how to approach this very different type of Macro photography.



Some crystals like Calcite have the unique property of splitting the light entering them into two different paths, usually polarised in different directions. This property, called birefringence, can create very interesting and colourful abstract images when the crystal is placed in between two crossed polarising filters, and the crystal causes the polarisers to no longer be perfectly crossed, thereby creating random colourful designs which spring to life when viewed through powerful macro lenses, or microscopes.

To photograph these crystals you need a cool, bright light source with a polariser in front of it, then a white diffuser, then your crystals, then another polariser that you rotate until it goes black except where the crystals are.

Many household kitchen baking aids such as Borax, Epsom salts, ascorbic acid, citric acid and tartaric acid make beautiful crystals when dissolved in water and allowed to dry out on a clear glass surface. "I use my old 6x6 or 35mm slide mounts," says Joy. "Some substances like salt make lovely crystals but do not create any colours. Be prepared for surprises - crystals are like snowflakes - no two are the same."

Ascorbic Acid by Joy Wellbeloved

Sports Group

ANDREW DENNY reports that there were two very unusual sports on offer in Cape Town during November that have been on the Sports SIG radar for a couple of months. "One was the Cape Town Colour Run where runners wear white T-shirts and fling copious quantities of powder paint in the air until the fun-run ends in rainbow colours. (The race entry should come with laundry instructions!) We were a little concerned that our weather-sealed cameras might not be entirely powder-paint proof and we didn't take the chance!

"The second event was the Torpedo SwimRun – only the second time ever such an event of this kind was held in Africa. Both events were on the same weekend as the CTPS Annual Awards Dinner, one of the busiest weekends of the year, and the SIGnificants were unfortunately fully-booked, double-booked and even triple-booked!

"SwimRun started in Sweden about 10 years ago as a sort of macho pub-crawl and has evolved into an official sport with its own World Series. The Torpedo SwimRun in Cape Town started on the dunes above Sandy Bay at 06:30 and finished on Clifton 4th Beach between 2 and 5 hours later. The water is very cold

(11 degrees on race day) so wetsuits were compulsory. The catch is that there are no transitions, so you have to swim in your wetsuit and running shoes and run in your wetsuit and running shoes! SwimRun is a team event. Each pair has to stay together the whole way and you swim 6 times and run 6 times. FINA rules do NOT apply. Hand paddles, pull buoys and even bungee cords are allowed if you feel strong enough to tow a weaker teammate.

"I was 50% of "Team Chill", so I couldn't take photos. Gina Denny was our team photographer and biggest fan, following our progress from a very bumpy landing on Llandudno beach, along Victoria Road, the swim from Oudekraal to 12 Apostles, to the finish on Clifton 4th.

"The water was crystal clear and there were some amazingly arty shots taken in the water by divers with GoPro cameras. On land, the spectacular sun-rays on the trail up from Llandudno to Victoria Road also presented a great photo opportunity – just not for us participants," complained an exhausted Andrew.



All photographs by Gina Denney

Portrait group



The last meeting for 2017 was held at the Parolis home on the 13th November where the film "Life through a lens" about the life and work of Annie Leibovitz was screened. The film was directed by her sister, Barbara, and traces the artistic self-realisation of Annie Leibovitz - from childhood to the death of her friend, Susan Sontag. It included images of the sixties when she toured with the Rolling Stones, a mentorship

by Hunter S. Thompson, and later, capturing the last moments of John Lennon's life with Yoko Ono.

"I've always been more interested in what people do than who they are, and I hope that my photographs reflect that. I always try to develop a close rapport with my subjects to capture a little piece of their personality in my photos," explains Leibovitz.

The next meeting of the Portrait Group will take place sometime in January when the group will discuss the way forward for the year.

Other SIG Groups

The **"Monofanatics" Group** had a short break (due to the main motivator and organiser - Kim Stevens being overseas), but will be back soon with new challenges for the New Year.

The **"Learning from the Masters"** Group used the lecture by Obie Oberholzer in November as their monthly dose of inspiration

E & D News/Update

The talk by Roger Trythall on 15th November 2017 about Iceland and the science behind the northern lights was very successful and well attended. Watch out for future presentation by him where he will take us to other exotic places he has visited during his extensive travels.

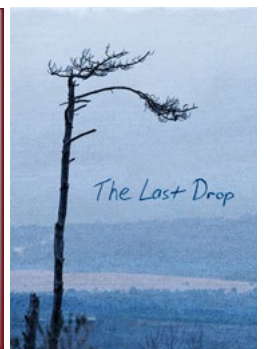
Future Plans: Kim Stevens informed us that the first E & D evening will take place in February and will probably be in the form of a Lightroom/Photoshop teaching session.



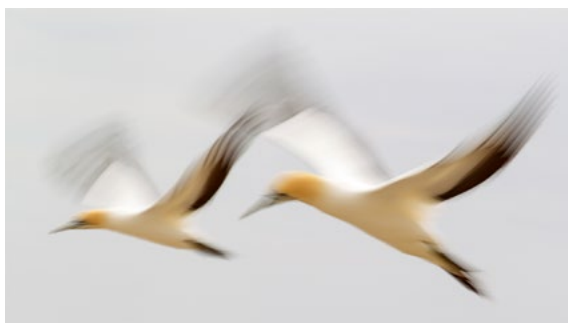
Interclub competition 2017

The Annual Western Cape Interclub Competition took place on the 3rd November at the CR Louw Auditorium, Sanlam Head Office in Bellville. The competition was won by Helderberg Photographic Club, followed by Tygerberg in 2nd, Tafelberg in 3rd place and CTPS in 4th place – quite a step down from ours previous years. However, our individual stars of the evening rescued some of our pride when the AV members Margaret Collins achieved a 1st for her AV “Impressions of Summer”; Jenny Powis a 2nd for her “Birth of the Tumbleweed” and Len van Wyk a 3rd for his ‘The Last Drop’.

Kim Stevens’ beautiful ballet image “Enchanting Sleeping Beauty”, was one of five prints to receive 27 points. Two of the judges, however, voted that Christo Gilliomee image “Goodnight” from Tygerberg should be the winner, while the third judge’s vote meant that Kim’s print became the runner-up. In the PDI section, the image “Power Falls” by Johan Beyers from Tafelberg came first with 27 points, but Jeanette du Toit’s image, “Movement”, was one of five that received 26 points. The judges decided that her evocative image would be the runner-up.



1st place Margaret Collins; 2nd place Jenny Powis; 3rd place Len van Wyk

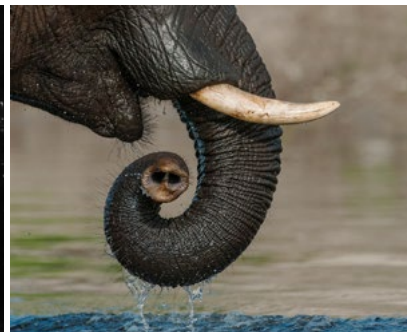


2nd place PDI: Movement by Jeanette du Toit; 2nd place Print: Enchanting sleeping beauty by Kim Stevens

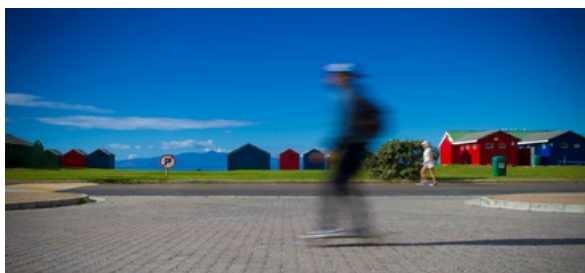
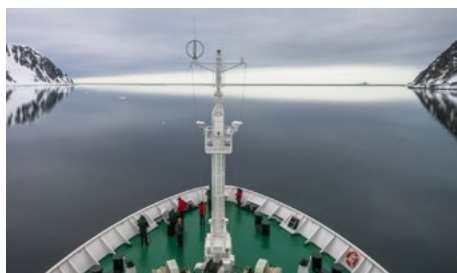
Our competition PDI entries:



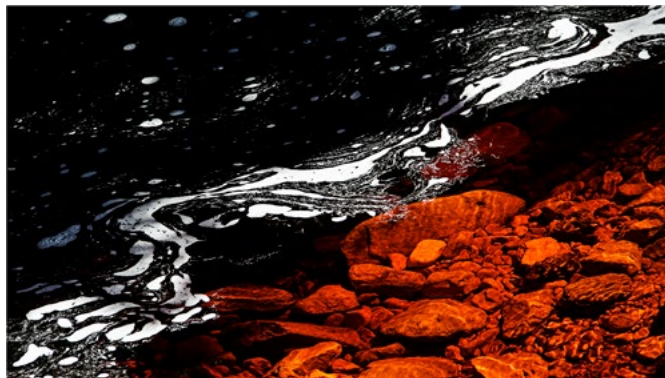
A portrait of Richard by Lesley Parolis; Big toe versus the brands by Nicol du Toit; Black eye in a pink eye by Andrew Denny



Chappies traffic by Andre Wijne; Chestnut vendor by Mo Bassa; Cooling system by Pat Scott

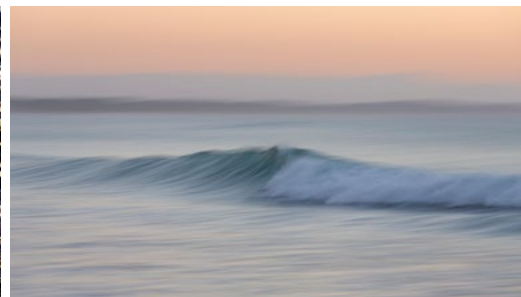


Diaphanous by Arthur Fitt; Exploring the Arctic by Louise Tarr; Fifteenth by Crighton Klassen

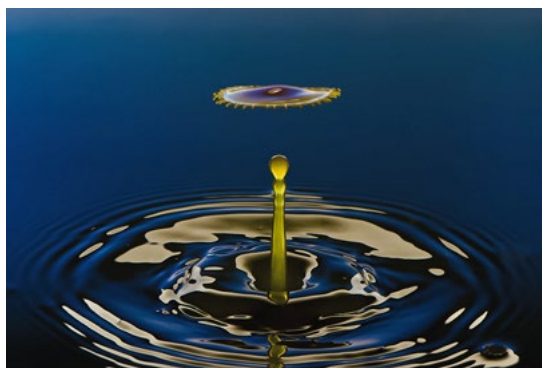


Finger on the latch by Nicol du Toit; Unique Cape water space by Jeanette du Toit

Our competition print entries



Earth meets sky by Kim Stevens; Exquisite danger by Mireille Landman; Incoming wave by Jean Bradshaw



Levitation by Arthur Fitt; Moraine Lake Alberta by Haralambos Parolis; Mysterious fairy circles by Anna Engelhardt



Parental frame by Pat Scott; *Promenade* by Stephen Gibson; *Structure in the water* by Jean Bradshaw



The dog walkers by Lesley Parolis; *Tulip* by Jacoba van Zyl

The making of award-winning Audio-Visuals

Those of you who were privileged to view the AVs at the Interclub Competition will agree that they were superb and well-deserving of their awards. We asked the authors what inspired them to produce such artistic and emotive work; here is what they had to say:

"Impressions of Summer"

Margaret Collins explained: I used pastel colours and motion blur of my long exposure pinhole images together with Yurima's expressive piano playing (from The very best of Yurima – River flows in you), to capture the mood of a peaceful seaside village, beach and harbour, with the intention to invoke precious memories of a restful and gentle summer holiday.

"Birth of the Tumbleweed"

Jenny Powis explained: Two years ago my friend's garden produced a spectacular display of Tumbleweed flowers. The whole garden was a carpet of coral colour. I added my macro lens to my camera and crawled right in amongst the flowers. It was then that the magic started to happen and the idea was born to capture the growth and development of one single plant from the time it burst through the earth to when it reaches maturity. I placed a stone near the young plant and went back every day to capture its growth. I used the instrumental music "Reflections" by Hennie Bekker because of its peaceful quality, which I found most suitable for my subject.

"The Last Drop"

Len van Wyk explained: The Western Cape is in the grip of a terrible drought with the eminent dread that we might run out of this life-giving source very soon. One late afternoon I took these photos of dead trees against a grey sky near Kleinmond. These together with my crude charcoal drawings and a haunting Ennio Morricone song is used to express my concern over the deepening water crisis.



All Images on this page were taken by Jeanette du Toit, Richard Goldschmidt and Pat Scott

Outing in October

Sharing sunset magic on Signal Hill

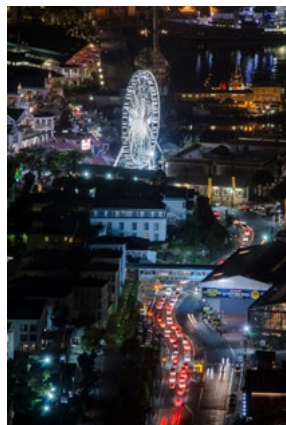
On Friday evening the 6th October the full moon rose in the East shortly after the sun set in the West. I thought we were pretty smart to have realized that, and hence nine members pitched up at the top of Signal Hill to capture the solar happenings. However, we were horrified to find out that half of Cape Town had also arrived, and access and parking was a nightmare, reports RICHARD GOLDSCHMIDT.

Hundreds sat on the enormous matting that the hang gliders use as a launch pad, facing the setting sun - with a glass of wine in their hands or a picnic basket next to them. A bit of exploration later, we found a quite spot on the very top of the hill, from where we could see towards both the East and the West, and with very few people about.

We set up our chairs and cracked open a bottle of wine and waited for the sunset. Whilst waiting, I noticed some of our members asking members of the public to jump off rocks into the air, walk on the skyline for silhouettes, taking pictures of Table Mountain and zooming into the city buildings below. Obviously, the crea-

tive juice were flowing freely!

Sunset was a bit disappointing, as we had a clear sky, so we turned the chairs to face the East and waited for the moon. Trouble was we were unsure of exactly where it would rise from. Eventually we saw a slight sliver of light above the mountains in the Stellenbosch direction and got busy with the cameras as the moon came into view in all its glory, and the lights of the city below started to come on. Soon we had taken all that we could in the darkness, and so with a cool wind blowing we headed back to the cars and home.



Next Outing – February 2018

This will take place on Sunday 11th February 2018 in the early morning to coincide with the Cape Town leg of the ITU Triathlon World Series that will be held in the V&A Waterfront and at the Cape Town Stadium. The event will cover swimming, running and cycling, and therefore be ideal for the sports subject competition - scheduled for later in the year. More details will be sent out in a Snapshot early next year.

Annual CTPS Competition

All CTPS members were invited to enter this competition with images that were taken during the year from October 2016 to September 2017, and were eligible even if they had not been entered in a monthly competition. A total of seven digital (PDI) images were allowed, but only one per category - Nature including Wildlife; Photojournalism; Art photography; Portraiture; Scapes; Macro and AVs. Disappointingly, only 22 CTPS members entered the competition but this does not take anything away from the top quality entries that were received. The overall winner (Gold Medal) was Lesley Parolis and Joint Runner up were Kim Stevens and Karyn Parisi. The individual awards were handed to the winners during the Annual Awards Dinner.

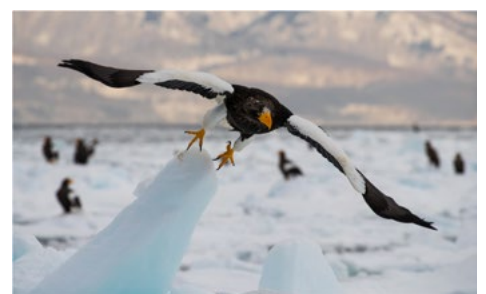
Winning Images

Scapes (Judged by Paul Bruins) – 21 entries



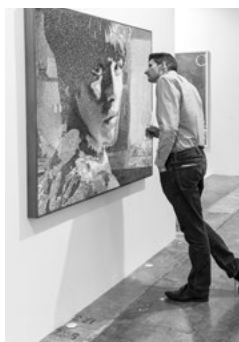
Winner: *Platteklip* by Andrew Denny; 2nd *Herbert Lake in the Canadian Rockies* by Lesley Parolis;
3rd *Quiver trees at Sunset* by Neels Beyers

Nature (Judged by Bennie Viviers) – 20 entries



Winner: *Fish for lunch* by Neels Beyers; 2nd *Erongo mountains* by Jacoba van Zyl; 3rd *Stellar eagle take off* by Karyn

Photojournalism (Judged by Leon Oosthuizen) – 19 entries



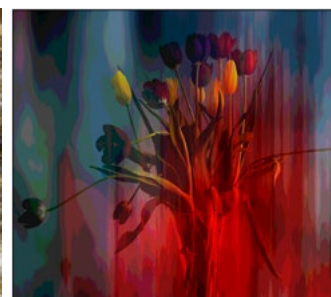
Winner: *Real and imagined* by Lesley Parolis; 2nd *Big toe vs the brands* by Nicol du Toit; 3rd *Entangled whale* by Rob Tarr

Portraits (Judged by Eugene van der Merwe – 19 entries)



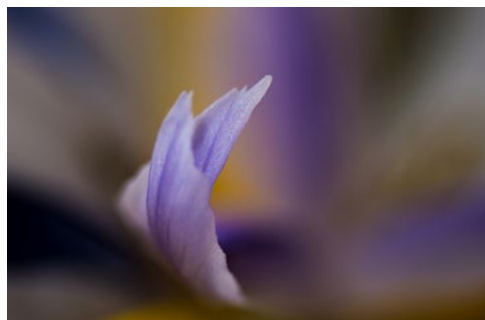
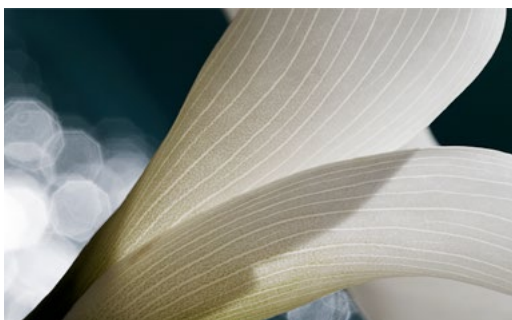
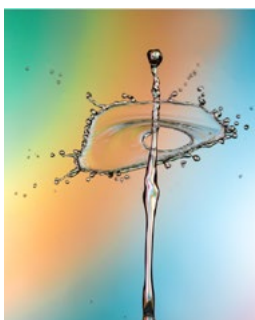
Winner: *Fever* by Kim Stevens; 2nd *Snow monkey moments* by Karyn Parisi; 3rd *Guitar man* by Lambe Parolis

Art Photography (Judged by Eugene van der Merwe) – 19 entries



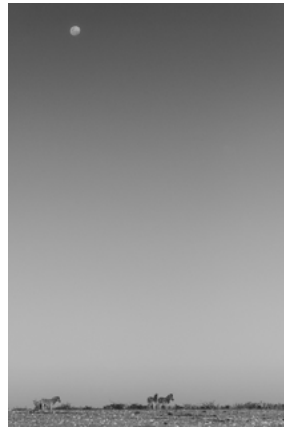
Winner: *Song to the moon* by Kim Stevens; 2nd *Splashing dog tail* by Johan Greeff; 3rd *Still life* by Anna Engelhardt

Macro (Judged by Bennie Viviers) – 17 entries



Winner: *Hoola hoop water drop* by Karyn Parisi; 2nd *Arum Lilly* by Jeanette du Toit; 3rd *Petals* by Jacoba van Zyl

Monochrome (Judged by Leon Oosthuizen) – 21 entries



Winner: *Maligne Lake Canadian Rockies* by Lesley Parolis; 2nd *The moon watches over the zebras* by Carin Hardisty;
Old grille by Steffne Hughes



A member's Travelogue



ETOSHA

- a dream comes true!

by Pat Scott

After much planning, and saving, Jack and I spent two wonderful weeks in Namibia, with 10 of the days in the Etosha National Park. What an exhilarating experience it was to witness the vastness of the Pan and the abundance of the game.

There is no doubt that my main objective for this trip was to see and photograph the wildlife in different settings, and it was precisely these "different settings" that was so breath-taking. The Etosha Pan covers 4,760 square kilometers, being roughly 130km long and it is as wide as 50km in some places; covering about a quarter of the Park's area. It is hard to describe the colour of the Pan, which ranges from a creamy white to a grey/green with grey/brown cracked mud in some areas. The hyper-saline condition of the Pan limits the species that can permanently inhabit the Pan itself which is very dry for most of the year; yet one still finds animals, particularly Gemsbok and ostriches, quite far out into the Pan.



The word "Etosha" means "Great White Place" and it is a truly unique experience to see this spectacular gift of nature. Unfortunately the photos I took do not even begin to capture the stark beauty of this awe-inspiring expanse of apparent nothingness surrounded by grassy edges and a few bare bushes.

We drove into the park at the north-east and spent three nights at Namutoni before going on the Halali and then driving more south-west on to Okaukuejo, which is probably the best known camp. Before going on to share our wildlife experiences with you I must say a few words about the roads. While the main roads are quite good as far as Park roads go, the smaller side roads were really bad, in fact impassable in places; and the road signs are poor, ranging from amusing to annoying. Nevertheless the maps are good and as there is no need to drive great distances one can find oneself around without any problem.

Due to the vast open areas of the savanna one is able to see the animals fairly easily. However, it is at the waterholes that one sees "everything"! There is an amazing ebb and flow of small groups and large herds as they come to the water to drink and frolic. What really impressed us was the calm interaction of the different species as they wandered to and fro at the water areas.

But not all is friendly all the time with "rough play" often within species rather than between species! Fortunately we didn't witness anything too serious!

At one particular natural spring, Okondeka, we parked for about three hours and calculated that we must have seen over 1000 animals - all watched by two lionesses and two teenage cubs, with interest but without apparent intent. During this time span we observed the coming and going of some 300 Wildebeest, roughly 300 Zebra and over 500 Springbok, about 30 Gemsbok, a few Ostriches and a Black-back Jackal. What a privilege to be

able to see such wonders of nature all within their natural environment. While this session was extra special, we had similar sightings of smaller mixed groups every day. It truly was remarkable. Hopefully the few images that could be included in this article will give you some idea of how fortunate we were to enjoy so many incredible sightings.

From a photographic point of view some may think that it was unfortunate that there were no clouds in the sky, but in fact the steely grey/blue skies are part of the unique atmosphere of Etosha, and they contrast beautifully with the picturesque soft golden grasses. With this absence of clouds one would think that there would be no chance of capturing a good sunset or sunrise, but again Etosha has its own magic, as due to the dusty haze the sun has a distinctive red glow and appears much larger.

While we have all witnessed animals swimming to cross rivers, and drinking and frolicking at water holes, Jack and I were amazed at how many Springbok and Gemsbok waded into the deeper water of some waterholes and clearly enjoyed actually swimming around in it.

There is no doubt that one of the greatest thrills of the trip was seeing several Black Rhinos, nine in all with two young ones, and all looking blissfully at peace (long may it last ... please protect our precious Rhinos). Although we did see a few during the day most of our sightings were in the evening or at night at the camp water holes.



One special moment, and photographic opportunity I missed, was that of a two meter long Banded Cobra, which slithered passed Jack in the Halali viewing area because I was concentrating on taking a Rhino in the sunset. However, I wasn't too upset about missing "Jack's snake", as I am not too keen to get up close and personal with snakes!!

We were a little disappointed with the bird life though, maybe just because we expected to see so much more up in the skies. Although we did have a few good sightings, such as a Kori Bustard eating a Dove, a lovely juvenile Snake Eagle hunting in the grass by the Pan, and several big flocks of quellas, but generally there was a scarcity of birds throughout the Park.

So often when one looks forward to a special treat the event doesn't quite live up to expectations, but our trip to the Etosha National Game Park exceeded all expectations! We are still recalling our enjoyment of that spectacular Pan and the profusion of game mere meters in front of well-appointed viewing decks within the main camp areas, and at many of the waterholes at the edge of the Pan.

All in all it was a truly wonderful experience which I have enjoyed sharing with you, and hope it wets your appetite and inspires you to start saving.



All photographs by Pat Scott

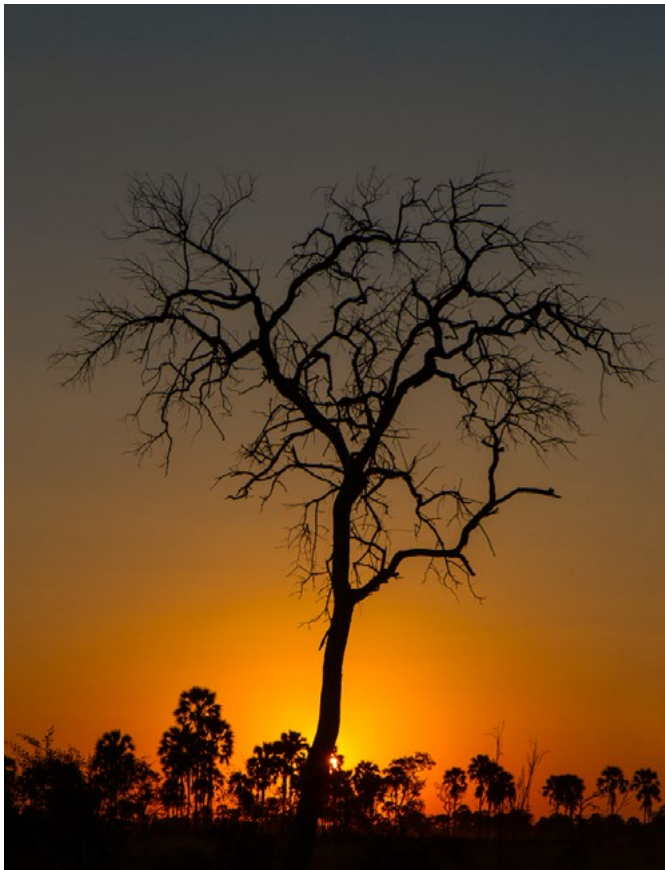
Winning images from November

Set subject: Silhouettes

The theme for the November Competition proved to be very popular with 40 of the 88 images entered being in the set subject. The judges for the evening were Marleen and Christo La Grange from Tygerberg Photographic Club. Christo scored the Set subject and Marleen the Open category, reports LESLEY PAROLIS.

Below are the winners in the various categories together with the judges' comments.

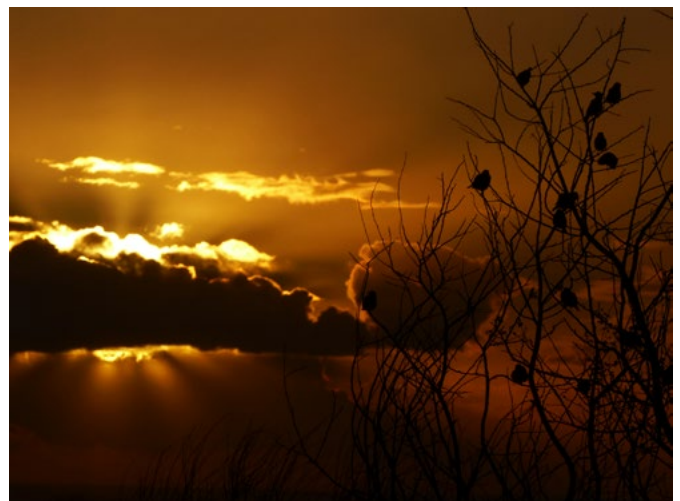
Set Subject



Winner PDI Set (Master) - *Okavango silhouette* by Nicol du Toit (25). A beautiful silhouette against a dramatic background. The distant trees provide an excellent base for the image. Although the main subject is in the middle, it worked because of the symmetry. Try to leave equal space on both sides.



Winner Print Set (Master) - *Enlightenment* by Kim Stevens (24). Well seen by the photographer and a very successful conversion to black & white. A lot of drama is captured in this image with the details in the sky.



Winner PDI Set (Beginner) - *Birds at Sunset* by Antonio Chavry (22). The silhouette of the birds is almost overwhelmed by the dramatic skies with the result that they become less obvious. The image would be stronger if the photographer could have moved to the right to get the birds between the Sun and the Camera. Still a very successful sunset image



Winner PDI Set (Salon) - *Monument Valley Sunset* by Karyn Parisi (25). This is a very successful image with a beautiful sunset against a majestic rock formation. Using a very small aperture, it was possible to get a beautiful starburst effect of the sun's rays.



Winner PDI Set (Beginner) - *Silhouette of a tree* by Paramasivam Saravanakumar (22). A partial silhouette with a colourful background – although slightly over-saturated. The image can be further improved by darkening the trees even further and removing or darkening the lighter areas at the base of the tree.



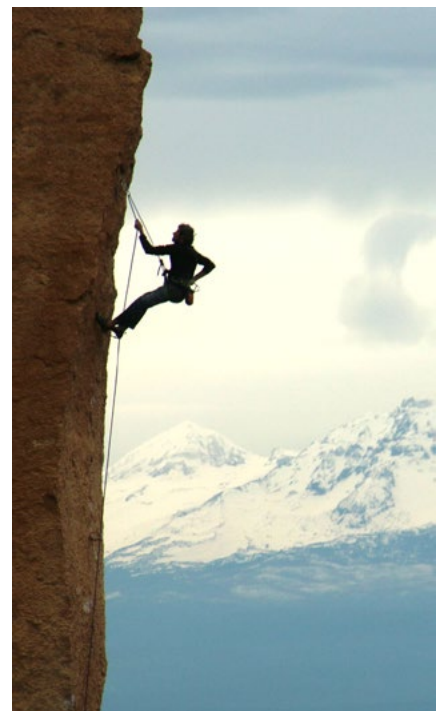
Winner PDI Set (Salon) - *Utah Arches National Park* by Karyn Parisi (25). Well executed image with interesting rock formations in the moonlight. Small aperture helps to get a dramatic moon burst effect. Shutter-speed was kept within the limits to prevent visible movement of the stars due to Earth rotation.



Winner PDI Set (Intermediate) - *Young love* by Crighton Klassen (25). A very romantic moment is well captured in a successful silhouette. The image could be further improved by cloning out the blown-out area between the feet of the couple.



Winner PDI Set (Advanced) - *Masi burnout* by Andre Wijne (25). Well seen by the photographer and all the drama of an out of control fire is successfully captured in this image.



Winner PDI Set (Advanced) - *The rock climber* by Mireille Landman (25). A beautiful story-telling image that was captured at the right moment.



Winner Print Set (Beginner) - *Lioness at sunset* by Louise Tarr (23). Very nicely executed image. The forms are harmonious to each other, but the picture could be made stronger by selective cropping close behind the lioness on the left side and by removing 10% of the sky on top as well. The cloudless area would be less and the focal point (the lion) larger.



Winner Print Set (Advanced) - *Ride at first light* by Mireille Landman (24). Beautiful image that is very successful in conveying the message of tranquillity with its simplistic style, composition and conversion to b & w. The image can be further improve by cropping some of the dull sky on top and make it even more of a panoramic orientation.



Winner PDI Set (Salon) - *Sunset stroll* by Rob Tarr (25). Very strong image and beautifully executed against a dramatic sunset.

NOVEMBER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Louise Tarr who gains promotion to Intermediate and to Marianna Meyer who gains promotion to Advanced



Winner Print Set (Intermediate) - *Triumphal Arch Volubilis Morocco* by Roger Trythall (20). A Partial silhouette with still a lot of detail visible on the stones and the clothes of the person. The image can further improve by selective darkening of the mentioned areas. The composition is well-handled. The person under the arch is essential to provide scale.

Open Subject



Winner Print Open (Advanced) - *Colourful marching band at Obs festival* by Jenny Cole-Rous (22). Colourful street photography scene, perhaps too busy as it has no particular focal point.



Winner PDI Open (Advanced) - *A glimpse of sun* by Joletta Frahm (26). Superb details in the lines and structure of the rock formation with beautiful warm light shining through from the background.



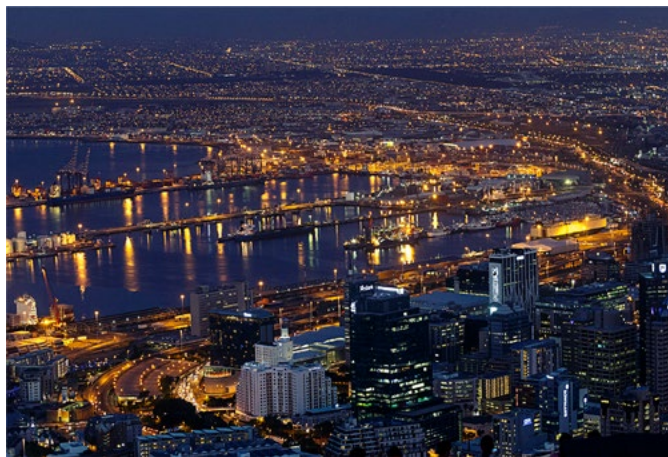
Winner Print Open (Salon) - *The beauty of a rose* by Lesley Parolis (27). Absolutely beautiful. Nice forms, circles and the softness make the image a winner.



Winner PDI Open (Intermediate) - *Kogelbaai* by Marianna Meyer (27). Outstanding image with lots of mood in the clouds, lots of detail in the mountain and beautiful softness of the receding water.



Winner Print Open (Intermediate) - *Snouted Tiger Moth* by Jonathan Mark Burchell (24). Beautiful sharp image. However, it could do with a bit more space in the foreground.



Winner PDI Open (Master) - *Cape Town City by Night* by Jeanette du Toit (25). *Pin-sharp image throughout. Beautiful balance between the different colours of the lights. Stunning overview.*



Winner PDI Open (Beginner) - *Childhood pleasures* by Paramasivam Saravanakumar (24). *The two figures are placed correctly on a third and at the correct spot of a stunning sunset. Very pleasing image.*

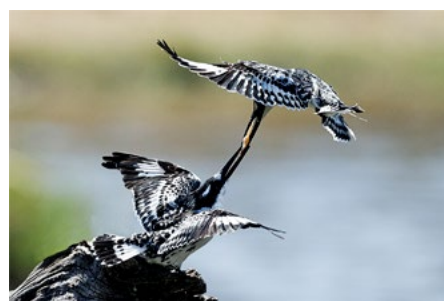
Other high-scoring images from **November Competition** (24 & above)



Climbing the Dune at Sunrise by Jean Bradshaw (24)



Looking up and looking down by Steff Hughes (24)



Mating Gift by Jeanette du Toit (26)



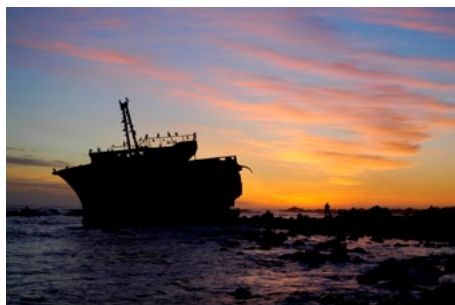
Mushrooms by Shaun Laishley (24)



Three owls by Haralambos Parolis (24)



Smoke and Mirrors by Arthur Fitt (24)



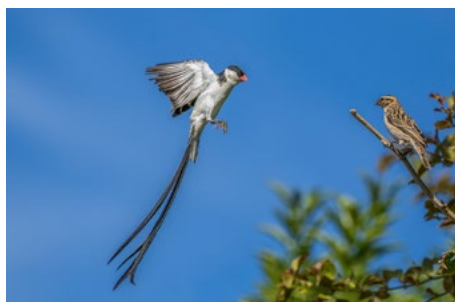
Wreck by Detlef Basel (24)



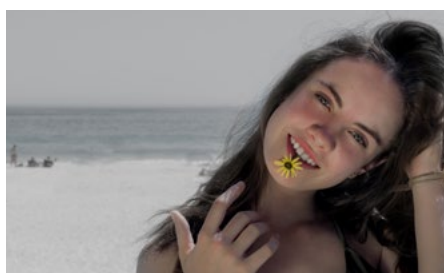
Theewaterskloof dam by Arnold Castle (26)



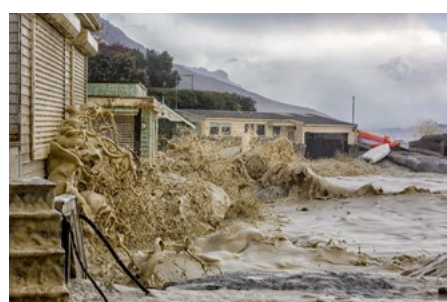
Maligne Lake Reflection by Haralambos Parolis (24)



Courting Pintail by Pat Scott (25)



Mabel by Paul-Boer Putter (24)



Cape Town storm Bakoven by Rob Tarr (24)



Shadow Play by Anna Engelhardt (24)



Appelkose by Neels Beyers (24)



Teenage fun by Pat Scott (24)



Roots Shoots and Leaves in IR by Kim Stevens (24)



Last light by Arthur Fitt (24)

Winning images from December

Set subject: Water

The theme for the December competition was immensely popular with 68 of the 118 images entered being in the set subject. It was intriguing to see the many aspects of water that members chose to photograph. The judge for the evening was Paul Bruins; one of Cape Town's well known landscape photographers. 118 was a record for the number of images entered in a monthly competition and reflects the growing number of new members and the keen enthusiasm of our current members. Paul kept his comments short and so we managed to get through the evening on time, reports LESLEY PAROLIS.

Below are the winners in the various categories together with the judges' comments.

Set Subject



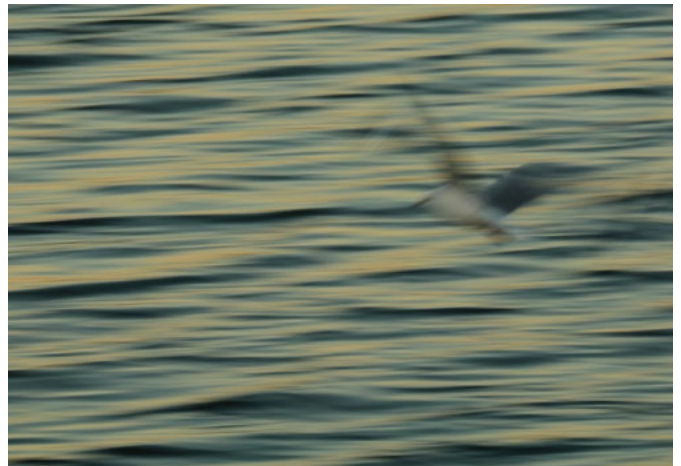
Winner Print Set - (Beginner) *Crash Force* by Ashleigh Olsen (20). *This image oozes energy; crashing waves always provide this element, however, a photo of a wave should either be quick and sharp or slow and streaky, here we have neither. Tilting the camera down to include more of the rocks in the foreground would have improved the composition.*



Winner Print Set - (Salon) *Thundering water* by Lesley Parolis (25). *Excellent black & white conversion, showing great contrast, tones and texture. The twiggy bottom right foreground is slightly distracting. Recomposing the photo without the twigs and with more of the trees might be better.*



Winner Print Set - (Intermediate) *Guillemot splash* by Louise Tarr (24). *For me, the best part of this photo is that the splashes are shaped like the wings. It also made me smile. However, the composition feels slightly unbalanced with too much dead space in the top right. Cropping closer on the bird would improve the impact of this image.*



Winner PDI Set - (Advanced) *Tranquility* by Mike de Villiers (24). *This could so easily have been a bird photo, but the barely-recognizable shape makes it a water photo with a hint of a bird. The white balance doesn't seem quite right. Adding a slight vignette effect would improve the image.*



Winner PDI Set - (Intermediate) Paradise in Porterville by Crighton Klassen (25). *Fantastic mood, sharpness, contrast, saturation and good all round image quality. Waterfall a bit too high in the frame, as a result the composition feels a bit awkward. Suggest to crop off the bottom 5th of the image to improve it.*



Winner PDI Set - (Master) Water Dwellers by Kim Stevens (26). *This is my personal favourite image of all the images in the competition. It made me look twice, and then three times, and then again!*



Winner PDI Set - (Beginner) Arches of Stone and Water by Marek Vincenc (20). *The lines and shapes are nicely arranged with great texture in the stones. However, this interpretation of the set subject is not obvious enough. Clone out some spots in the reflection, and any other small distractions.*

DECEMBER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Alison Bull, Jonathan Burchell and Crighton Klassen who gain promotion to Advanced.



Winner Print Set - (Advanced) In the shallows by Marianna Meyer (23). *A well-lit image with a good approach to a slow shutter speed to smooth out the water. The heavy foreground and the evidence of a motor car in the left background are distracting. Recompose and crop to shift the wreck into the third and thereby eliminate some of the distracting subjects.*



Winner PDI Set - (Beginner) Water Jet Germany by Antonio Chavry (20). *This is a very good example of the set subject, however the sky is blown out and the building is distracting. It should also include either the whole sculpture or a smaller part of it. Recompose to eliminate the distractions.*



Winner PDI Set - (Beginner) Jump for joy by Paramasivam Saravanakumar (20). *Well composed image with a great sense of energy and joy. Framing is a bit tight and some distractions of the seaweed in the foreground. A more visually exciting composition could be achieved from a lower point of view.*



Winner PDI Set - (Salon) *Firefighting team-work* by Rob Tarr (26). A visually engaging image with lots of interesting things to observe. It looks slightly hyper-realistic and HDRish, and the composition feels a bit tight. Standing back or shooting wider would have provided more space around the edges.

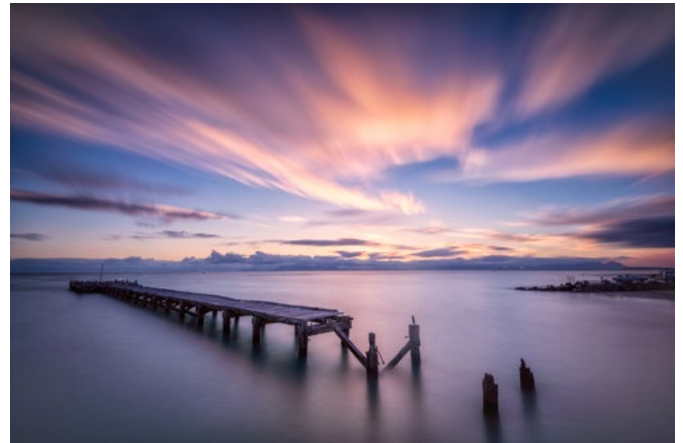
Open Subject



Winner PDI Open - (Advanced) *Illumination 1* by Danie Coetzee (25). This Photoshop effect has transformed this image from a photograph into an artwork. Well done! The blue bottom is slightly distracting and there is not enough space below the feet. Some more time tweaking the above points in Photoshop could improve the image.



Winner Print Open - (Salon) *Shoreline* by Jacoba van Zyl (26). Great leading lines, tones, contrast and mood – a high impact shot! One or two minor distractions at the extreme edges of the frame. Try for a black & white conversion; it might make for an even higher impact shot.



Winner PDI Open - (Salon) *Abandoned* by Jacoba van Zyl (26). Visually exciting image, with beautiful twilight light and colour tones. Long exposure works well to simplify the foreground. There is some evidence of haloes around the poles in the lower right. Horizon on the left seems to be dipping. Tilting the camera down would provide more space below the jetty, which would improve the composition.



Winner PDI Open - (Salon) *Rainbow nation* by Mo Bassa (26). A photo that makes you smile is always a good photo, and this one made me smile. This exact same shot without the elephants in the background would be even better. A slightly faster shutter speed would have ensured every part of the image was sharp.



Winner PDI Open - (Intermediate) *Whiplash* by Crighton Klassen (22). Great example of a water hair-flip, with perfect shape and shutter speed. With this kind of technique, every part of the hair-flip curve should be inside the frame; shooting slightly wider and cropping afterwards would result in a greater success rate.



Winner PDI Open - (Intermediate) *Glowing Decay* by Alison Bull (22). Fantastic light with nice muted colour tones. Good sharpness and detail all round. However, the composition feels a bit tight, more space between the bottom of the rope and the bottom of the frame would be better. Also experimenting with other compositions here, might have helped to better emphasize the primary subject.



Winner Print Open - (Beginner) *Eye of Horus* by Ashleigh Olsen (20). Bright attractive image, arrangement of droplets being interesting and well balanced. However, composition is too tight at the bottom and too central in the frame. Cropping off some of the background would better emphasize the centre parts of the flower.



Winner Print Open - (Advanced) *Floral Ghost* by Mireille Landman (23). Good artistic interpretation of a flower, resembling a fine-art pencil sketch. Shallow depth of field directs attention to the stamens, other parts would be better if they were sharper and a little bit more space on the left side of the image might improve the composition.



Winner Print Open - (Intermediate) *Palmiet Afternoon* by Stephen Gibson (21). Great black & white conversion with good contrast, tones and texture. The lower left of the image is a bit too busy and cutting out some of the foreground and moving closer to the water could improve the composition.

Proudly achieving 'MASTER' status

In 2016 the new ranking of Master was added to the list of categories that CTPS has for grading photographers who enter the monthly competitions.

A photographer who is ranked Salon and who gains 10 gold awards in CTPS competitions, and 10 acceptances in national or international salons, in the competition year (October to September) will be promoted to the rank of Master.

In 2017 five of our members achieved this new ranking:

- Jeanette du Toit
- Kim Stevens
- Anna Engelhardt
- Nicol du Toit

- Arthur Fitt

However, to maintain their rankings they must fulfil the same criteria every year or drop back to Salon ranking. No doubt they will strive to continue with their excellent work to retain their Master status!

Please note: All members, regardless of their rankings, who enter salons and achieve a salon acceptance, are credited with a CTPS gold award towards their next ranking. Therefore, we encourage all our members to participate in salons and in so doing improve their photographic skills by exposing their work to a wide variety of judges.

For our records, please inform Lesley Parolis of any acceptances you may achieve.

Other high-scoring images from **December Competition** (23 & above)



Hunter by Andrew Denny (23)



Up and Down by Vic Els (23)



The Rainmaker by Anna Engelhardt (23)



Quality Control by Joletta Frahm (23)



Shelly Point Lighthouse by Richard Goldschmidt (23)



Okavango fish eagle by Nicol du Toit (23)



Fairview Mountain and Lake Louise by Haralambos Parolis (23)



The smoke that thunders by Louise Tarr (23)



Partially thawed Maligne Lake Jasper by Haralambos Parolis (23)



Ready for the concert by Keith Bull (24)



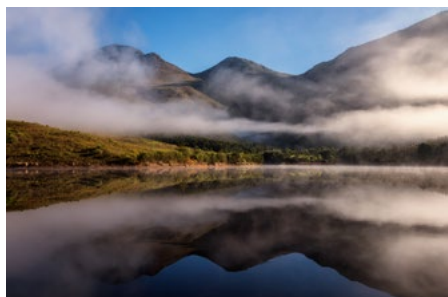
Partial Reflection in semifrozen Bow Lake by Haralambos Parolis (23)



Blyde River Morning Mood by Jeanette du Toit (24)



Royalty by Arthur Fitt (24)



Greyton sunrise by Jacoba Van Zyl (24)



Trio on the move by Pat Scott (24)



Sparkles by Steff Hughes (24)



Wave on a roll by Neels Beyers (25)



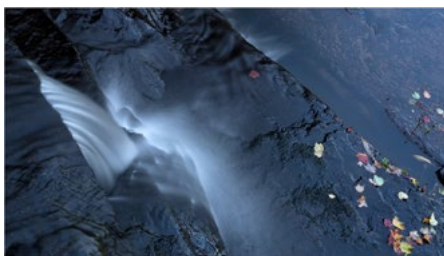
Searching for little treasures by Mireille Landman (24)



After the harvest by Anna Engelhardt (24)



Me and my dog by Shaun Laishley (24)



Autumn Leaves caught in the Waterfall
by Jean Bradshaw (25)



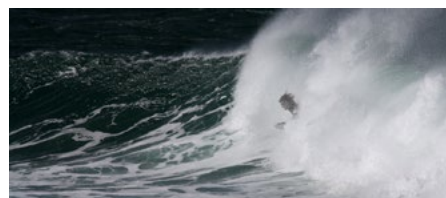
Babcock Falls West Virginia by Catherine Bruce Wright (24)



Sparkling Reflections by Karyn Parisi (24)



Hemel en Aarde by Anna Engelhardt (24)



One with nature by Shaun Laishley (24)



Abstract Reflections by Pat Scott (23)

A memorable encounter- being exposed to Obie's creativity

When the time and the venue for the Obie Oberholzer presentation had to be changed at very short notice there was a bit of panic. However, everything could be resolved in time; and on Saturday 4th November some 76 people attended his memorable presentation at the auditorium of the Cape Town Science Centre. He completely captivated everyone with his humorous and very unusual approach to photography. He talked freely about his unique technique to find ways of creating something special out of practically nothing or from something so mundane that no other photographer would have given it a second glance (see examples below).

"The pallet that I hold in front of my canvas of journeys has on its surface a painterly collection of places and characters. What I paint on that canvas is a small aspect of my attempts to en-

large and capture pictorially, the greater essence of all that surrounds me. I have seen places of great beauty, strangeness and endless vastness.

With people, it is much the same. Sometimes, we just pass through each other's lives and then fade into the past. It takes all kinds to make this world, each one of us with something special hidden somewhere," writes Obie on his website.



