

Swan Trophy 2021			
Theme:	Portraits	Type:	Digital
Number of Entries Maximum; 3 (unless Committee advise otherwise)			
<b>Presentation Maximum; 1400pix longest side</b>			
Entry Rules; Submission to this competition means the image is only eligible for further entry into open competitions. Repeat entries (i.e. an image which has already been submitted to an earlier internal competition) are not allowed			
Places for 1st - 2nd - 3rd and Appropriate Number of Highly Commendeds			
Judge	Dawn Stobart	Date	15.06.20
Image No.	Title	Comments	
1	A Hard Day for Tommy	Really pops. Drop saturation in background a little because of the brightness in the bricks. Brilliant details. Nicely composed on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	
2	A Lovely Lady	Some wonderful detail – and it looks natural, rather than over processed. Crop is good, and she has a nice expression. Maybe darken the background or desaturate to allow the lady to take centre stage.	
3	Are You Coming Too	Nice as mono – no detraction from the face. Feels like the child connects with the viewer. Might be tempted to darken the background a tiny bit, and the clothing in the rhs of the face.	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4	Are You Ready To Play	A really strong vignette – maybe more gradation on it. Nice colours and the framing of the child is nice.	
5	Bonnie Lad	The creases catch my eye, so I might crop in a little on the sides, and gently vignette to allow the young man to pop out and maybe desaturate the clothing. The colour in the boy's face are lovely and natural.	
6	Bonnie Lass	My biggest suggestion here is to tone down the brightness I like the natural look though – she does not seem too posed, and if the focus was just a little crisper, I could see this as a fashion portrait.	
7	By The River	I like that the subjects disability is not hidden. The boat takes up a lot of attention, so might be softened to allow the young man to shine. The composition is really nice in this image, and the square crop works nicely.	
8	Chimney Sweep	I wish I could see his eyes better. The greens are a bit frisky – maybe tone that down? Would the brush take a little dodge and burn to make it slightly darker? The crop works nicely –	

		would a soft vignette be useful? The crop and composition seem to be an oval, so this might fit.	
9	Coal Miner	I like this. Clear, crisp and wonderfully focussed – a clean image, despite the subject being dirty! Soften the background or crop in? I might crop into show his face and lose some background. I might want to lose the string though!	HC
10	Dr Voodoo	I would think about colour for this image. This is a great idea – and I can see this popping and being spectacular – bright reds and blacks. The composition is good, and the pose works nicely too – and the vignette is ideal.	
11	Ellie	The composition here is good – the pose and the hair falling creates an appealing portrait. I might try to put some more definition in the black top to show the difference between the top and the background. Maybe a crop to focus in on her – the light colours of her hands and jeans are a little distracting.	
12	Enjoy	The positioning of the subject makes her face look long and elegant between the two strong black frames of the background. The colouring is lovely and warm, and the author has chosen a lovely background for the image that is complimentary. Personally, I might think about the background – straighten the lines of the frames maybe? – Even just a 2 degree tilt.	
13	Enjoy Your Day	I like the lens flare on the lhs. There are a couple of places where the author might need to zoom into the image to get the edges right in processing. The subject himself is handled sympathetically – he looks natural and shows good detail. I would think about trying to darken the hair, which seems to be quite bright and takes my eye a little.	
14	Girl In The Mask	Nice composition – maybe show all her hair as frame and the necklace. The mask makes the subject's eyes quite intense, and whilst I think the white is quite bright, it doesn't seem overly blown out.	
15	I'm Ready	Nice action shot – looks natural. Mono works well. A beautiful clean action shot. I might want less of a vignette, if it were my image, but it is really nice.	HC
16	Jade	Vignette distracts my eye. Would a softer one work? However, the oval of the vignette works well to highlight the shape of the image. The pose is nice and shows the subject really well. The composition is nice, leading up to her face and any parent would be happy to have this on their wall.	

17	Lady in Red	I like this. Tells a story, maybe not a nice one but... I'm getting a bit of a Lady Macbeth vibe from her. The composition is nice – as is the focus and sharpness. I think the processing is great – and really helps to make this image, as does the quite limited colour palette.	3 <sup>rd</sup>
18	Lockdown - A Self Portrait	I'm going to ask that this goes in the dictionary as the definition of lockdown! Look at the expressions! I like the splash of colour of the daffs and the composition. I do think the reflections in the right side might be toned down so they don't catch my eye.	
19	Lollipop	That is a sassy person! There is some great detail. The contrast of the background works well with the subjects skin tones. Would darkening the floor be an idea?	Commended
20	Lorraine	Does the umbrella take up all the space, leaving the portrait person as secondary? My eye is being drawn to the colour of the umbrella and I am not being drawn to the face of the subject. This is a really well taken image though, and the detail is amazing! I might want to crop some of the black out, especially at the bottom of the image, the lady looks almost disembodied.	Commended
21	Lost in Thought	Is this barbie? I had to look a couple of times at this as I was almost sure this was a mannequin, but the details made me question this – her hand etc. I LOVE the colours, they are all complimentary, and the background works wonderfully.	
22	Love Is	I love the child's expression – but, would have liked someone to be shown fully. The man's head takes up a large portion of the image, and as we cannot see him, this is eye catching. Would cropping him out be useful, or would it detract? The colours are great – although I might desaturate the arms at the bottom, or a soft vignette?	
23	Man of God	I like this composition – maybe straighten up lines in the background. The light has been used really nicely in this image, with the white of the robes and the background being handled nicely and not overly bright. I like the focus in this – and I think the author has brought out the man wonderfully. I like that he is not central in the image, with the candle on display.	
24	Market Girl	The subject's face is reasonably lit, and in focus. There is a lot of darkness in the image, and I might consider a different background or a closer crop. I know I am going off piste slightly, but would a reflector on the model light her up more (especially the hair) to avoid her merging	

		with the background? The title suggests a market – but this is not in the image at all.	
25	Mary	This is a lovely candid shot. The lady looks animated. As a competition shot, I would think about composition. The bags are eyecatching, as is the green behind her. Would a change in setting be complimentary for this image? Maybe outside with a muted background to let her stand out?	
26	Maz	Nice framing. This is a polished image, and the author is clearly confident in what they are doing. I like the diagonal of her shoulders and her hair mirrors this.	HC
27	Melody	This is an appealing small person. The colours in the foreground are lovely, and the focus is spot on. As a competition image, I might think about processing – for example, the teddy's feet and head are quite bright and draw my eye away from the little girl's face. I like the way the background makes her stand out – maybe clone the black out of the bottom left?	
28	Model	I like this mono – it is a strong and well processed image. I like that you can see the material of the clothing, to allow a difference between that and the background. Her eyes are really nice, and they follow me around. I might want to accentuate the material a bit more in the areas that blend with the background.	HC
29	Our Sydney	Fun picture. He looks like a nice guy – and the jaunty angle of the shot helps this. The red of the background is a little distracting. Is his face in focus, or his hair? I might think about processing for this – Sydney's clothes are spot on, but his face and hair might benefit from a little desaturation.	
30	Quick dip	At last – a really handsome model! A nice fast shutter speed for this, which has allowed the framing of the dog by the splashes. I was wondering about cropping out the wooden structure – but the dog needs the space to splash into. Would this benefit from a little straightening of the dog?	
31	Quick dry	Nice speed capture – and an appealing shot. I like the movement in this image but would have liked to see its face – especially as this is a portrait competition. Compositonally, I think the lines of the pier and the dog's movement work nicely.	
32	Ready For The Prom	Like the contrasting colours of the car and dress. The car door works well as a frame and I quite like the distortion of the window stopping	

		my eye wandering. I might think about darkening down the car window and frame on the left side of the image that has caught the light. She looks quite soft in the image, while the car is very clear, so this might be something to consider.	
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33	Rock Chick	Compositionally, this works. I like the guitar leading me into the image and the subject. The hair and the skirt stand out well from the background, but I am struggling with the lady's legs and the back of the guitar. Maybe somehow make this clearer.	Commended
34	Santas Little Helper	Good background, the subject stands out well. The vignette seems to work nicely. Is there a halo around her? The light on the subject's face is a little harsh – can this be toned down to be more complimentary around her cheeks?	
35	Smile	This is really clear and detailed. There is a lot to see in this image. The subject's expression is really striking. I might think about toning down the light on the man's head a little. There is added interest (and scariness) in the man's tattoo's and the blood.	HC
36	Sophie	Ooh. Someone I recognise! It is difficult to take pics on a stage, so well done. I might think about processing for this – the lines of the background – especially the one coming out of her head, and the white on the right-hand side.	
37	Street Vendor	I like the mono treatment here, but there seems to be a few issues with lighting, especially behind the subject's hat. This image suits the square format, and the hand and wooden thing leads to her face well on the left and makes it seem less like a posed shot. However, a closer crop would work too, and show the detail of the face more.	
38	Tiny Dancer	The light from the left is very strong, which might benefit from some processing treatment. The framing of the image is spot on, with the subject well framed. I like that there is definition in the flooring, so it does not look as much like she is floating.	C
39	Toni	She looks a little lost in the image – the material is so strong. However, this is a nicely taken and sympathetically processed image. The colours really stand out and the focus is wonderful.	
40	Welcome to Antigua	Background muted and blurred, which lets the subject stand out. The framing of the	HC

		subject in the background works nicely to show her skin tones. The focus is spot on! I might think about the brown line on the left – can that be cloned out?	
41	Well Earned	I think this is a really nice image. It has been handled really well – the light is not too bright, and both sides of the subject's face are well lit and in focus. I was a little concerned about the space on the right, but the more I looked at this, the more I thought this worked.	1 <sup>st</sup>
42	Where's my sock?	An appealing young man in need of his sock. I would have loved to see the missing sock in the picture, but then it would not be lost...There are some wonderful textures in this image, and the mono treatment shows this off perfectly. As a portrait, I think that getting down to the young mans level would be nice, and maybe a vignette?	
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