



ISSUE 02

MARCH 2024

IGNITION TIMES

learn . inspire . inform

A NEW WAY TO REVIEW

IMAGES ON SHOW

THEMES FOR 2024

**ONE IMAGE PER
MONTH**

STEVE TRIMBY

**DON'T BE AFRAID TO
REVEAL YOUR
ARTISTIC SIDE**

TIME TO LEARN

Image by Gary Scholtz



www.ignitephotographicclub.co.za



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MESSAGE

FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



Dear IPC Community,

Kicking off our new year saw a major change to our – thus far – traditional club competition evening. By focusing on our core value of empowering our members to become courageously creative while still striving for the highest standards of skill and technique, we saw the need to slow down the evaluation and critique process and pay special attention to the feedback of the images in order to best highlight areas for personal growth and development. In order to do this, we implemented the following:

Single Entry each month for Image Review

By focusing on a single image entry each month per member – as per the theme, no open section unless designated as an “Open” category - rather than the multiple submissions that is more common in club photography, we have tasked our members to consider 10 important elements prior to submitting their work for review. These criteria are based on the elements considered necessary in visual art and design and are critical to the evaluating of images. Consequently, we have devised a spreadsheet (still experimental and subject to continuous improvement) for both the members AND our evaluators to use. The monthly submissions do not necessarily form part of the Body of Work created for the annual exhibition.

So, what does this criteria consist of?

1. Focus/Depth of Field
2. Composition
3. Lighting
4. Styling/elements/setup
5. Technique used
6. Posing
7. Connection/Expressions
8. Post-Production
9. Story-telling/message/Impact
10. Presentation

We ask that the evaluator considers both the technical and creative application of each of the above, and to consider how effectively these have been utilised in expressing the individuality of the artist, as well as the impact/message of the image.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

While consensus is that art cannot be subjected to a checkbox, we offer the following reasoning for our framework:

- An attempt to standardise the process regardless of proficiency of the artist, so that evaluator/genre/content bias is minimised
- An opportunity to constantly review our work alongside the guiding principles of GREAT art and photography
- An unequivocal stance that creativity/story-telling/impact is no excuse for sloppy work, and that as photographic artists we must continually be looking to grow and improve our skills
- To slow down the process of “judging” and to be able to offer considered feedback, while simultaneously allowing room for discussion (after the evaluator session)
- To provide a measured framework for self-monitoring and analysis so that follow up education and learning can occur
- A pathway where IPC can promote the highest possible standards of photography within our club

As we well know, there is no flawless method when it comes to critiquing images, and whilst our approach may appear controversial or cumbersome, we believe that the outcome is worth the process.

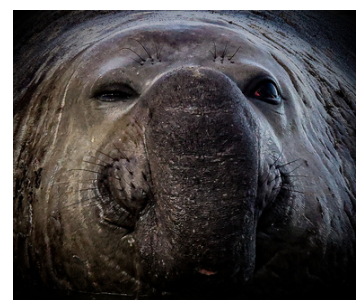
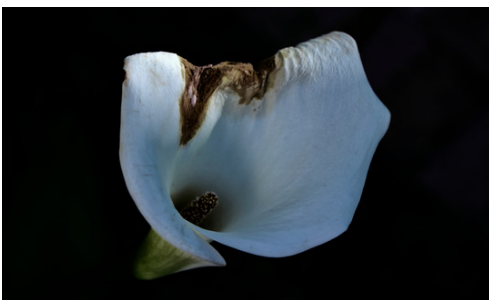
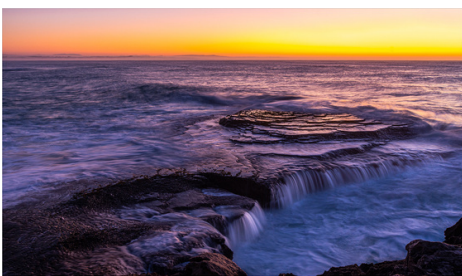
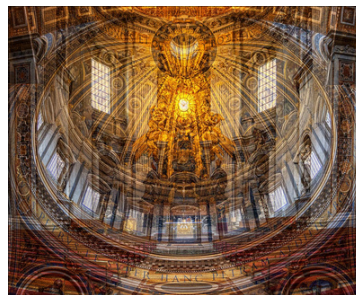
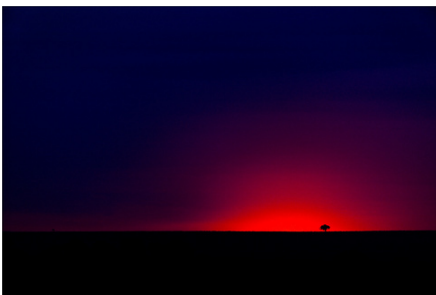
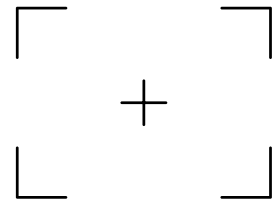
For both January and February, we tasked our own members with testing the concept in our Image Review (formerly known as Competition Evening) and the result was an eye-opener to both the evaluators and our members alike. On both sides of the coin, we were forced to slow down, consider each criterion, and measure our output against it. In short, the outcome of this process was incredibly well received, with much learning and understanding of the accountability we hold as photographers and artists in producing quality work.

Our processes remain focused on growing our members, and we embrace the journey while we constantly evolve as a community and family.

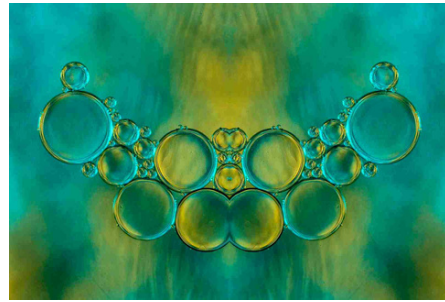
Be bold, be courageously creative,

Lynne

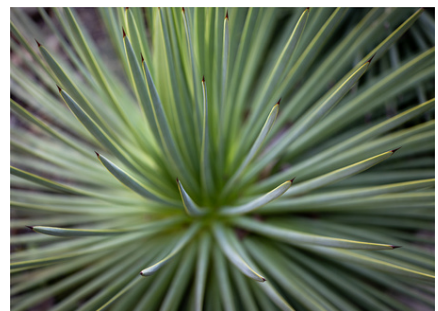
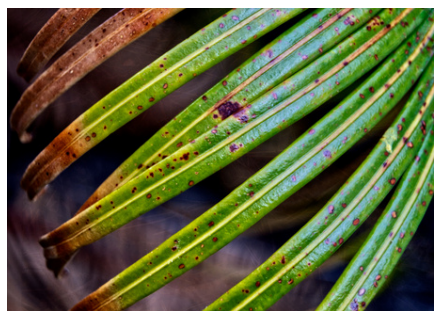
MEMBERS' GALLERY



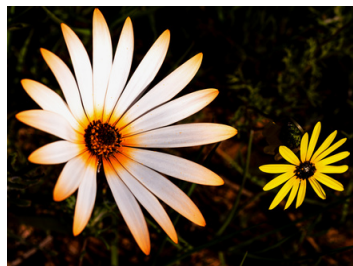
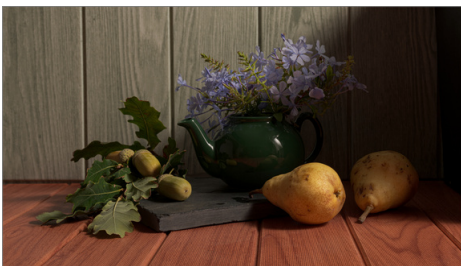
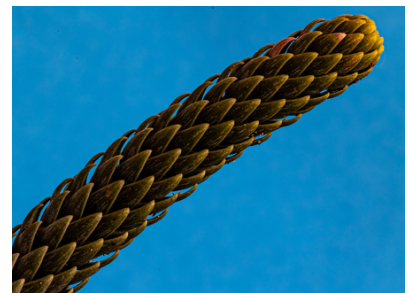
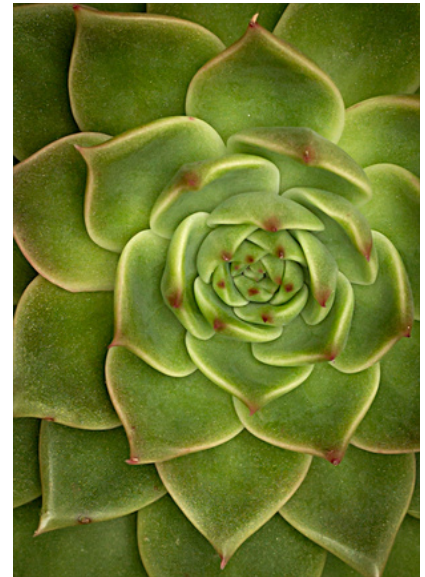
MEMBERS' GALLERY



MEMBERS' GALLERY



MEMBERS' GALLERY



THEMES

FOR 2024

JANUARY

OPEN – COLOUR - Anything in colour – Manipulation allowed

FEBRUARY

BOTANICALS Anything botanical – Manipulation allowed

MARCH

CREATURES All creatures great and small – No Manipulation

APRIL

MOVEMENT Show an image that depicts movement – Manipulation allowed

MAY

3 COLOURS ONLY Only 3 colours allowed, subject matter open - Manipulation allowed

JUNE

OPEN – MONOCHROME A single-toned image, subject matter open – Manipulation allowed

JULY

RAINBOW NATION A single image depicting South Africa – Manipulation allowed

AUGUST

“F”IS FOR... Any subject matter starting with “F” – Manipulation allowed

SEPTEMBER

THE UNCELLFIE SELFE A self-portrait NOT taken with a cellphone – Manipulation allowed

OCTOBER

TRIPTYCH 3 separate images presented as a single frame – Manipulation allowed

NOVEMBER

END-OF-YEAR SALON An opportunity to re-enter all 10 categories for 2024, submitting either an improved version of your previous entries or brand-new images.



EXHIBITION TIME



AT CONSTANTIA WINE ESTATE

IGNITE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB joined 21 other photographic clubs in the Western Cape for an exhibition in the Tasting Cellar of the Groot Constantia Wine Estate from November 2023 to January 2024. The event was hosted by CTPS and was called “Celebration of Photography” with a large variety of amazing images on display. Martin Barber opened the exhibition as keynote speaker and also presented two workshops the following day.



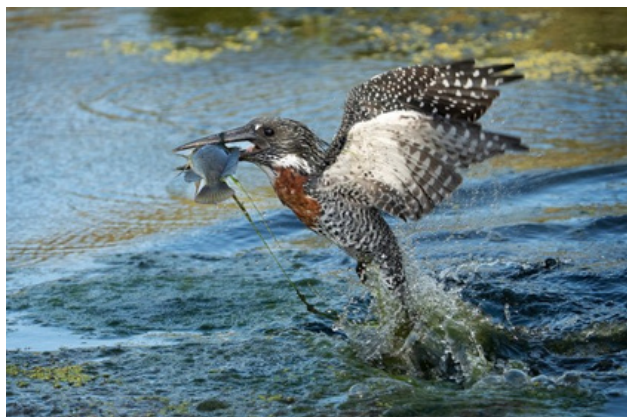
Charl Tait - Curro Large



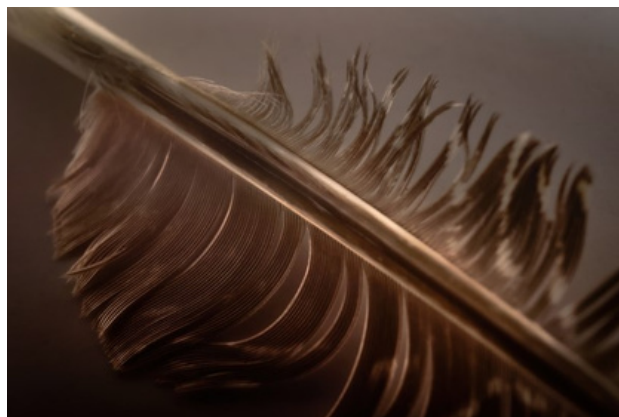
Jayesh Hargovan - Lounging Leopard

EXHIBITION TIME

AT CONSTANTIA WINE ESTATE



Francois Retief - Splash & Catch



Warwick Winterbach - Plume



Karen Donaldson - Pink & Yellow



Esme de Beer - Into the Light



Peter Henochsberg
- Man with Tattoo



Hennie Blignaut - Windswept

STEVE TRIMBY

DON'T BE AFRAID TO REVEAL YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE



Please do not misunderstand me. I have every respect for those hard working individuals who have taken the time and trouble to become qualified judges for our club competitions and I have learned so much from their valued comments. There has to be a set of guidelines to judge an image, but I feel that if we try too hard to score points we may just kill our creativity. Fortunately Ignite is a progressive club where creativity is encouraged and it is accepted that sometimes rules are meant to be broken.

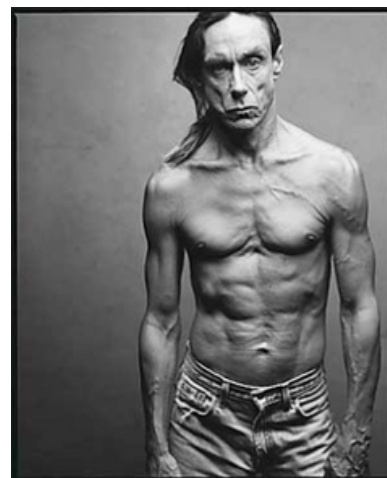
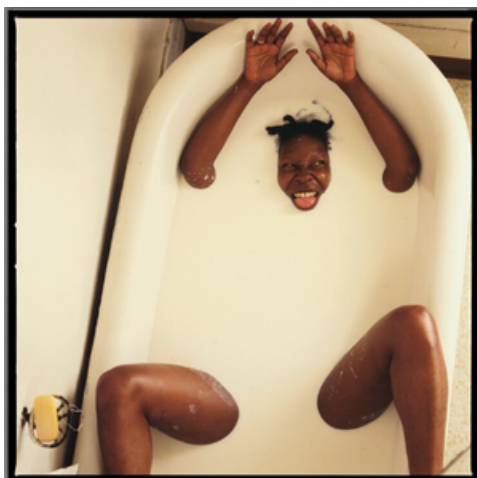
I love Annie Leibovitz's work. Of course, much of the appeal is that subject is often a celebrity. Andy Warhol famously said, "I think anybody can take a good picture. My idea of a good picture is one that's in focus and of a famous person doing something unfamous." Nevertheless, Annie Leibovitz's images have great appeal for me, probably because they are different and quirky. Below are some examples which I think would have scored terribly if the subject was not famous and if I had submitted the images for a club competition. Look how Iggy Pop, Whoopie Goldberg, Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger and Anthony Hopkins have been placed in their pictures. Cate Blanchet has an aircraft hangar on her shoulders. The edge of the backdrop has been intentionally left in the photos of the Williams sisters. Sophia Loren's eyes reveal excessive sclera for a typical club judge. And John Lennon is nude! (BTW, I love DB's approach to nudity and I know that there is a fine line which can only be gently prodded in most clubs. I believe Ignite is much more liberal).



Images by Annie Leibovitz

STEVE TRIMBY

DON'T BE AFRAID TO REVEAL YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE

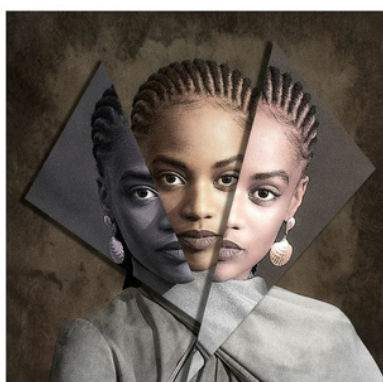


Space is limited, otherwise I could post many great photos from other famous photographers which would be pulled down for being too grainy, having distortion, horizons not level etc.

So what is the answer? I love the warm feeling I get when I score 25 or more for an image and I appreciate any constructive criticism, but I am starting to develop my own style and I am prepared to enter images which I know may be marked down for technical details which I can't, or don't want to, fix in the hope that my artistic interpretation will be appreciated. For me, when a judge looks beyond the details and gets excited about the bigger picture, it is worth more than a high score for following all the rules.



The Art Photography by Steve Trimby



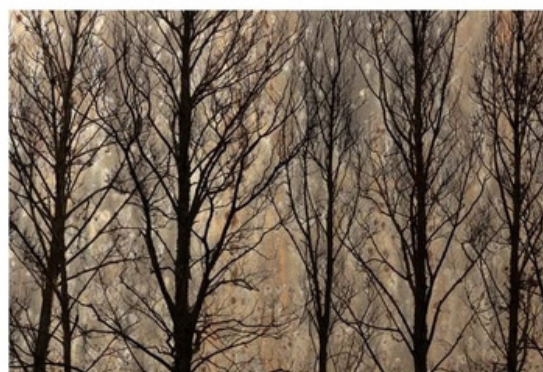
Beneath the Mask - Steve Trimby



Images by Steve Trimby

STEVE TRIMBY

DON'T BE AFRAID TO REVEAL YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE



Images by Steve Trimby

THREE EXERCISES

TO LIMIT YOURSELF AND GROW AS A PHOTOGRAPHER

Today's digital cameras are marvels of modern technology, allowing even the most inexperienced photographer access to state-of-the-art imaging systems that were the domain of supercomputers, and research institutions only a few decades ago. With prices plunging continually lower, and more devices equipped with cameras than ever before, photography has reached the point of ubiquity: cameras are everywhere, and anyone who wants to take photos can do so. But sometimes, the best thing you can do to grow as a photographer is to take the opposite approach and set some strict limits for yourself. By operating within the bounds of some simple constraints, you will often find yourself exploring new photographic possibilities that you had never realized were there before.

1. Limit the number of shots you take

Memory cards are extraordinarily cheap. It's tempting to buy the biggest card you can afford in order to ensure you can fill it with thousands of pictures and not worry about running out of space. But not too long ago, photographers were limited to just a handful of pictures at a time. Each roll of film (i.e. memory card) could hold 36 shots at most, and they were crazy expensive by today's standards. Imagine paying four dollars for a memory card that could only hold a couple dozen photos and only be used once! Nevertheless, for decades our photographic forefathers were able to churn out amazing images by working within these limits, and so can you. [75DJI Mavic 3 hands-on review: The long-awaited return of the king](#)

The next time you go out to shoot, limit yourself to only a handful of pictures—set the number beforehand, and stick to it. In doing so, you will have to be much more purposeful about what you photograph. Rather than take the “spray and pray” approach where you shoot hundreds of photos now and find the good ones later, take a more measured and intentional approach by really studying your subjects and finding the best shots through careful planning. You might be frustrated at first, but will soon find that you develop a much more intimate relationship with your subjects, the lighting, the composition, and other elements of photography. Limiting yourself to only a few pictures will help you make each shot count, and help you shoot for quality instead of quantity.

[I limited myself to only a few pictures, and doing so helped me take time to study the surroundings and work on composition and framing.]



THREE EXERCISES

TO LIMIT YOURSELF AND GROW AS A PHOTOGRAPHER

2. Limit your focal length

Zoom lenses are a wonderful thing, and are a great way to help you get closer to the action or take in a wide angle of view on a given scene. But zoom lenses on consumer cameras are a fairly recent invention, and not long ago every camera shipped with a simple prime lens, meaning it could not zoom at all. Imagine not being able to zoom in and out! You would have to physically move yourself to get closer to the action—not at all what people expect nowadays. But by limiting your focal length you can, ironically, find yourself stretching your photographic muscles in ways you never thought possible.



[By limiting my focal length I was forced to look for new ways to photograph some flowers and in the process I found a little red spider who seemed happy to pose for me.]

When you allow yourself only one focal length, it forces you to look at the world with a different perspective and see new opportunities for pictures. Let's say you are out with your kids at the park, but instead of standing on the side and zooming in, try locking your lens at one focal length such as 24mm or 35mm and physically walking around to get closer. You will soon discover new perspectives that you overlooked, because you were relying on the zooming capability of your lens. Or if you normally like to take photos of nature or architecture at a wider settings like 18mm, try setting your focal length to something like 55mm and see what happens.

True, the pictures you take will look nothing like what you are used to, but you will see the world from a new perspective and find all sorts of different photographic opportunities you never realized were there. If the temptation to start zooming in or out strikes, don't give in. Move yourself around and look for ways to work within the limit you have set, and you will be surprised at what you can accomplish.

THREE EXERCISES

TO LIMIT YOURSELF AND GROW AS A PHOTOGRAPHER



[: Normally I would focus on the entire child playing with a toy, but I think the image of the spinning top with hands in the background is just as effective.]

Of course the best way to limit your focal length is to buy a prime lens, which I highly recommend. Not only will you learn to maximize the possibilities afforded by a single focal length, but you will get other benefits like a much larger aperture which means better photos in low light, and nice blurry backgrounds too.

3. Limit your subject

We've all heard people tell us to take time to stop and smell the roses, but what about taking time to photograph them? Or, specifically, one single rose. That's the idea here: rather than taking pictures of many roses, trees, buildings, sculptures, or people – focus on just one subject and look for new and interesting ways to capture it on digital film. Study it from every possible angle, and find ways of positioning it (or yourself) that might not seem so obvious. Try returning at different times of day, or seasons of the year, and see how it changes. You might end up with dozens or even hundreds of pictures that are boring, uninteresting, or just not all that good. But you will also likely end up with some gems that are far beyond what you thought you could accomplish before.

THREE EXERCISES

TO LIMIT YOURSELF AND GROW AS A PHOTOGRAPHER



[by sticking with only this one tree I was able to find a new way of photographing it that I had never considered before.]

Limiting yourself, in a world with limitless photographic opportunities, might seem counterproductive at first. But if you give it a try, you will find that putting some constraints on your photography will help stretch yourself in new ways and find interesting picture opportunities that you might have overlooked hundreds of times before.

A Post By: Simon Ringsmuth on <https://digital-photography-school.com>

Simon Ringsmuth is an educational technology specialist at Oklahoma State University and enjoys sharing his enthusiasm for photography on his website and podcast at Weekly Fifty. He and his brother host a monthly podcast called Camera Dads where they discuss photography and fatherhood, and Simon also posts regularly to Instagram where you can follow him as @sringsmuth.

ABOUT IPC

Ignite Photographic Club is a virtual photographic collaboration.

OUR MISSION

To develop photographic artists.

OUR VISION

To provide a safe creative space that empowers photographers to push beyond the ordinary in order to discover their personal creative voice, and to utilise that to produce a body of work to the best of their technical and creative ability.

REDEFINING CREATIVITY

We see creativity as the way you think about your message that you want to bring to the world through your body of work, and not as an editing technique or camera skill.

NEW TO IPC?

Reach out today to find out more and get linked up. We would love to hear from you!

Chairperson

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ABOUT IPC

FIRST IPC SALON

Ignite Photographic Club invites all members of the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA) world wide and all photographers resident in South Africa to participate in their National Digital Salon of Photography.

Closing Date: 20 April 2024

More info: <https://pssa.co.za/2024-04-20-1st-ipc-pdi-salon/>

MEET THE COUNCIL



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