



IPIP Photographic Club

April 2023 Newsletter

Theme: Selective Colour

Image By



Hilton Stone

It is probably true to say that the NL represents a combined effort by the members for the information and enjoyment of the members and it is arguably the diversity of content and style which makes the NL a good read.

Without member participation across the board, the publication runs the risk of becoming a sterile document containing mainly repetitive inserts.

Members' contributions are in no way a test of their literary prowess, which is incidental to the main aim of *sharing* our experiences, technical knowledge, notice of forthcoming events and other photographic "snippets", with our fellow members.

The committee accordingly reiterate their appeal to members and encourages all to submit contributions. If your name does not appear in CHAIR'S task list please feel free to "jump in" and submit your input anyway, at any time. ***If listed folks are unable to submit contributions, it will be most helpful and considerate if they would advise CHAIR timeously, so that alternate arrangements may be made.***

Please Email articles to me at pdk.main@gmail.com or to the IPIP address.....Ed

Calendar

Meeting Date	PV Submission Date	Theme	Theme Cut-off Date	MC Cut-off Date
2nd May	Midnight 22nd April	Flat Lay	1st April 2022	1st February 2023
6th June	Midnight 27th May	Old Signs	1st May 2022	1st March 2023
4th July	Midnight 24th June	Chiaroscuro (Light/dark)	1st June 2022	1st April 2023
1st August	Midnight 22nd July	Vanishing Point	1st July 2022	1st May 2023

5th September	Midnight 26th August	Time	1st August 2022	1st June 2023
3rd October	Midnight 23rd September	Abandoned Buildings	1st September 2022	1st July 2023
7th November	Midnight 28th October	City 'scapes	1st October 2022	1st August 2023
5 th December	Year-End Function			

Set subject Theme Definitions

Theme	Definition
Flat Lay	Flat lay photography refers to photos where subjects are arranged on a flat surface and photographed from above. The flat surface and the camera sensor are perfectly parallel; therefore, all objects are captured using a top-down view. This is still life photography (<i>See the separate attachment to the newsletter</i>).
Old signs	These can be road signs, advertising, signs on a wall, that show wear and tear or are quirky or full of character. They should look old. This does not include graffiti.
Chiaroscuro (Light/dark)	Chiaroscuro, is an Italian term that refers to the intense contrast of light (chiar) and dark (oscuro) to create a strong and dramatic mood. The images must have a strong contrast between light and dark, use extreme low key and high-contrast lighting to create distinct areas of light and darkness.
Vanishing Point	The vanishing point is a point in the image where parallel lines appear to converge in the distance.
Time	Clocks, watches or any item that depicts time. This can include sundials, calendars, egg timer, stop watches etc. It cannot include an aspect of people aging or crossing a finishing line.
Abandoned Buildings	A single structure or a group of buildings. Interiors or exteriors (or both) must convey a sense of dereliction and decay.
City 'scapes	Image to have a visual appearance of a city or urban area; a city landscape. A single building would be regarded as architecture and not a city scape.

IPIP Website

Members are reminded that our Club website www.ipip-photoclub.co.za has been up and running for a while now. This is a first-class professional landing site full of interesting information and striking images, which we hope will attract newcomers to our Club.

PhotoVault Submission

All our monthly photo submissions are handled via Photovault at www.photovaultonline.com. A separate document explaining how to access Photovault is available on request. When submitting your images ensure that you receive an Email confirmation from PV within, say an hour, to the effect that your photos have been received. If not, you need to "re-finalise" your submission.

Please remember that at least one of your images must be in the Mono genre.

Salon Acceptances

It is possible that glitches can occur between the time that advice of acceptances are automatically transmitted by Photovault and the receipt of such advices by the IPIP Committee. As a "safety net", I would have no objection if members were to copy me the relevant images for inclusion in the NL Ed

Club Submissions for 2023

The following guidelines are applicable to this year's submissions:

- One of your 4 photos must be in Monochrome
- In future, SS judging details will be presented at the meetings – these results will still be forwarded to members by Email together with the MC results, which will be remotely judged as before.

Matters Arising from the March Club Meeting

Our meeting on 4th April was attended by 24 members.

The following members received acceptances in the 7th SSCC PDI Salon :
Sandy van Vuuren - 5 acceptances, 1 Com, Winner of a Category Medal
Deon Heyns - 1 Acceptance

Our congratulations to these members.

Our Club submitted 5 Junior and 10 Senior images in the Interclub Competition (See the pics at the end of the newsletter). The results will be in the next newsletter.

Our set subject for May is "Flat Lay" and CHAIR projected a number of tips and sample pics, which are replicated in an attachment to this newsletter.

The Committee and members thank Jacques Kammerling for his agreeing to act as our outing convenor.

Submissions to be in by Saturday 22nd April. Online 4 Star judging training on Wednesday 26th April. Next meeting 2nd May.

Membership Fees

The 2023 fee structure remains unchanged.

Payable in advance for the year before the end of February – R300 or pro-rata from the month of joining the club @ R30 per month. Plus a fee per meeting to cover meeting cost – R30 per person – you are welcome to pay for all meetings in advance (R600) but we cannot refund any fees if members miss a meeting.

Members' Star Level Advancement Guidelines

One of the main points of being a member of a photo club is to challenge yourself and to climb the ranks by taking amazing photos. The following basic guidelines indicate what you need to achieve in order to move to the next star level. A [separate document](#) providing a full description of the advancement guidelines can be obtained on request.

From 1 to 2 star – 10 Club Gold Awards

From 2 to 3 star – 25 Club Gold Awards

From 3 to 4 star – 50 Gold Awards plus 10 Salon Acceptance

From 4 to 5 star – 100 Gold Awards and 25 Salon Acceptances

Merv's Challenge

Submissions are now open for Merv's Challenge 2023. You will need to submit a portfolio of 6 images **before 31 October 2023**.

Please let our Chair know once you have chosen a topic, you can then start photographing that topic from the day you messaged her. You must also submit a short essay (200 to 500 words) on your topic including why you chose the topic, what you learnt and what the challenges were.

Please remember that the rules for 2023 have changed:

- Only one category to be submitted;
- No repeats of previous themes;
- No repeats of previous image types/genres;

Try something you have never done before, challenge yourself !

Task Lists for 2023

The tasklist for members' forum and biopic contributions can be found as a separate attachment to the newsletter.

To clear up possible confusion: The month listed against member names indicates the month of the newsletter, which is distributed shortly after the regular meeting of the same month. Accordingly, it will be appreciated if members would submit their contributions during or before the last week of the previous month Ed

Events and Outings

We would like to hear from members regarding future happenings or events of which they may be aware. This will assist with the planning of future Club outings.

Weekend Away

Watch out for the May newsletter, when Sandy will post a write-up of our photographic "hi-jinks" during the outing.

Photoshop and Lightroom tutorials

Beginners in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom are invited to join training sessions. Photoshop will take place between 17 and 20 April 2023 and Lightroom between 24 and 26 April 2023, dated to be confirmed.

Future Events

The following activities are scheduled to take place in the near future.

Wildlife Glow Festival Johannesburg 2023

The venue for Glow Fest Johannesburg, is Central Square Sandton, 5 Lower Rd, Morningside, Sandton, 2057 from the 3rd March to 12th April 2023. To book online please follow the link below. <https://johannesburg.wildglowfest.com>.

The event will feature more than 50 displays made up of more than 2,000 intricate lanterns with more than 100,000 LED lightbulbs and silk material. More details may be found at the link below:

<https://johannesburg.wildglowfest.com/event/wild-glow-fest-johannesburg---saturday---1st-april-2023---700pm>

Zwartkops Raceway

Motorsport enthusiasts, make a mental note of the following:

Saturday 15th April - Historic Tour

Saturday 20th May - National Extreme festival

Equipment News and Reviews

Nikon News

Rumour has it that Nikon will release the Z8 FF camera soon and rather than competing with "sports-centric" models like the EOS R3, the Z8 will be a slightly more "sedate" model, geared toward landscape and still-life genres. A hi-res viewfinder and mega-pixel sensor, perhaps 61MP, is apparently not out of the question.

Canon News

Canon has issued Firmware Version 1.8.1 for its EOS R6 mirrorless camera, providing a trio of enhancements and fixes. At the recent 2023 Corporate Strategy Meeting, Canon executives confirmed, inter alia, their commitment to “enhancing the EOS R System”. The Company can be expected to release plenty of excellent RF-mount products over the next couple of years, including updates for higher-end camera lines, additional APS-C and hobbyist cameras, and a variety of lenses for professionals and amateurs alike. Should we keep an eye out for the EOS R5 Mark II, the EOS R1, and the EOS R7C?

Memory Card News

A plethora of high capacity, high speed SD and CF cards are now available. As an example, the SanDisk Extreme PRO® SDHC™ or SDXC™ UHS-II 512GB card offering 1400MB/s can now be purchased for around R14,000.00. According to a British publication, a CF Express “Cobalt” 650GB card will set you back more than 800GBP. (Who would have thought that our memory cards would one day cost almost as much as an entry-level camera!).

Technical Feedback and Training

HDR Photography

How often have we not seen judges’ comments like “no detail in the shadows” or “highlights overexposed” ? This usually occurs in images which have an exceptionally wide dynamic range and is due to the inability of camera sensors to capture - in a single exposure – all the detail in the almost pure white and almost pure black limits of the tonal range.

To overcome this drawback and ensure more “keepers” we use a techniques known as HDRi (High Dynamic Range imaging).

Members who wish to explore this genre or sharpen their existing knowledge, will find the following link useful.

https://digital-photography-school.com/getting-real-hdr/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Mar-1623&user_id=pdk.main@gmail.com

An alternate approach is to use a so-called Graduated Neutral Density Filter and the following link will run a Youtube video which, although somewhat long-winded, provides a thorough explanation of how to choose the correct ND Grad for a given set of conditions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18Gpw0ON-t0>

Flat Lay

An article by Fabienne Jardim.

Our May set subject - Flat Lay - is probably new to most of us and in addition to the notes in the attachment, the following article from a member who has had extensive practical experience in this genre, will no doubt go a long way in stimulating the “creative juices”Ed

“Flat lay images have been around for years. These beautifully organised and planned images give a person a “bird’s eye view” on the subject/s. They are popular, because they are easy on the eyes, and they convey a clear and effective message to consumers. They appeal to buyers because they’re fun, fresh and adaptable. This is a very worthwhile skill to develop.

What equipment is needed?

- A good light source.
- A tripod will certainly make your life easier
- A camera – in this case ANY camera will do. A cell phone is very well equipped for this type of photography.

Basic tips for flat lays

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- It is very useful to enable the grid guide on your camera or phone to make sure that you are correctly aligned.
- Make use of those lines to compose your image.
- Remember to shoot STRAIGHT DOWN.
- Make sure your lens does not distort your subject, it is important to use the correct lens or focal length.
- A 50mm lens is generally a good choice

1. Play with colours and try different backgrounds

Don't just shoot on black or white backgrounds, use eye popping colours. Fresh and bold colours attract attention and make your photos stand out.

If you are planning to make flat lay a part of your photographic skill set (especially if you are thinking of shooting food, wedding details, or products for example), then consider acquiring a wide assortment of backgrounds to fit any mood or concept.

Coloured paper, wood, canvas and fabric will work well and can easily be stored and used over and over again. It is probably a good idea to ensure that the backgrounds are not too busy as they will take attention away from the elements you are capturing.

2. Master the light

Natural light works really well and placing your flat lay objects near a large window is most likely enough light. Add a reflector or a bounce board across from the window to lighten your shadows. Use baking paper on the window or a diffuser to soften the light if shooting in bright light.

Use reflectors, flash, lamps or torches, but make sure to tilt the light diagonally down towards your arrangement to create interesting shadows. Be creative with your lighting. Have fun.

3. Keep it minimal

Less is more when it comes to flat lays. Negative space is an important visual element. Play with composition, symmetry and design elements. Use of shadows can be just as compelling as your main subject. Shadows are able to give your flat lay photos mood and atmosphere. Long shadows capture the atmosphere of sunset or golden hour, while strong shadows remind us of a sunny day. Soft shadows can also add a feeling of stillness and peace to your work.

4. Think outside the Box

Use Pinterest, magazines, Google and Instagram to keep track of trends. Be inspired BUT avoid copying. Try something new, experiment with colours, shapes and unconventional techniques in lighting or composition. Experiment; collect props, plan and change plan!

5. Find beauty in the mundane

You don't need to re-invent the wheel; the real magic is displaying something ordinary and making it look extra-ordinary. Make sure your props are attractive. Food should be fresh and ripe, cutlery and crockery polished and free of dust and fingerprints. Watch for fine hairs, insects and damaged backgrounds. Make use of photo editing to polish your image.

In conclusion

Let your Flat lay tell a story – travel, fashion or food. Bring in the elements, the materials, textures and colours and play with composition.

This is an easy, at home, fun project. Experiment with light, shadows and photographic equipment.

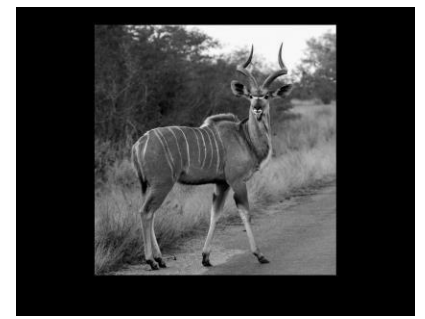
Remember your depth of field has a lot to do with the success of these types of images. Focus stacking should not be necessary here, but good focus is critical to a successful image. I suggest that you use an f stop of around f8 to f16, keep your ISO as close to 100 as possible and adjust your shutter speed to acquire correct exposure. Make use of that tripod.”

HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

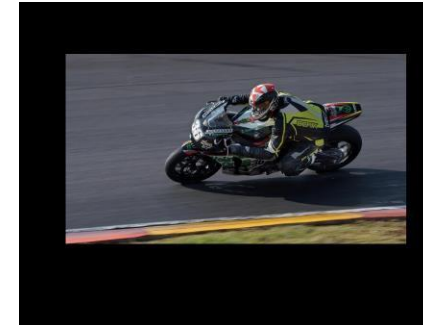
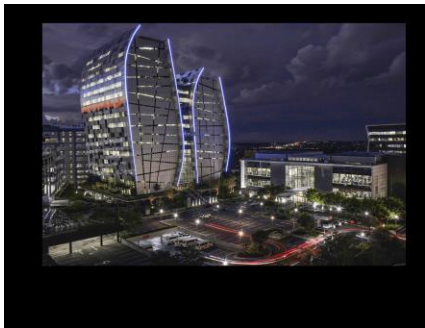
HAPPY SHOOTING

IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Members' Images – April 2023
Interclub Competition Submissions



Members' Images – April 2023
Interclub Competition Submissions



Members' Images – April 2023

SS – Judges' Vote (and Peer Vote)

1-3 STAR WINNER & Peer vote winner

Duo Tone Guitar – Dave Brimson (39)



Members' Images – April 2023

SS – Judges' Vote (and Peer Vote)

4 STAR WINNER and Peer vote winner

Itchee Scratchee (39) – Pierre de Klerk



Members' Images – April 2023

SS – Judges' Vote (and Peer Vote)

5 STAR WINNER and Peer vote winner

Squaring up – Dutchy Goldenhuys (40)



Members' Images – April 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

1-3 STAR HIGHEST SCORE - Tie

DAVE BRIMSON

Sing It (37)



ANTJE HIGGO

Before the Rain (37) & Peer Vote Winner



Members' Images – April 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

4 STAR WINNERS – TIE

Go Slow (Nikki Twomey) (38)



New Beginnings (Sacha Fermor)



Members' Images – April 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

5 STAR WINNER

Dust, Sweat and Gears – Sandy van Vuuren (39)



Members' Images – April 2023

MC – Peer Vote

**PEER VOTE WINNER – 4 STAR
DESTINATION (Geoff Twomey)**



Members' Images – April 2023

MC – Peer Vote

PEER VOTE WINNER – 5 STAR

Twilight Beach – Dudley Schnetler

