



IPIP Photographic Club

April 2024 Newsletter

Theme: Refraction

Image by



Nina Parry

Our thanks to the members who submitted contributions for the April newsletter. Once again may we emphasize that if you have any item of photographic interest - technical or otherwise - which you wish to share, then you are welcome to forward such material either to me at pdk.main@gmail.com or to the IPIP address Ed

Matters Arising from the March Club Meeting

A total of 24 members and two visitors attended the meeting.

Our weekend away, starting on 19th April is all systems go. If you have any ideas of what to do or where to go during the outing, please send these to the IPIP address.

A reminder re the PSSA Congress - Woodlands Country Lodge, Parys 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 – 4 OCTOBER 2024

A recent "Members' Equipment Survey" had a 25/40 (63%) participation and produced the following results:

- 76% Canon users, 24% Nikon users
- 56% mirrorless, 44% DSLR
- 100% have 2 or more lenses
- 28% never photograph with their cell phones
- 100% have a tripod
- 84% have an off camera flash/speed light, of which 38% are Canon, 43% are Godox and 19% are Nikon (1 is Sigma)
- 4% have studio lights
- 60% have a flash diffuser
- 88% have a remote shutter release
- 92% shoot in RAW (2 people shoot in JPEG)
- 60% work on a desktop computer, 40% work on laptops
- 96% use Photoshop and Lightroom
- 92% back up to either an external drive or a cloud. (2 people don't back up at all)

We were treated to a series of wedding photos presented by Mila, a specialist wedding and birthing photographer. Mila covered both the technical as well as the artistic aspects of what contributes towards producing a top-flight wedding photo.

Our thanks go to Mila for her presentation.

Our set subject for May is "Industrial". CHAIR urged members to become acquainted with the definition as listed in the schedule below. "Industrial" excludes images of the outside of a standalone building but can include the inside of a building in which some form of industrial activity is visible. The accent is on industrial and excludes the manufacture of single items on say, a workbench or "home industries" type of activities eg. garment manufacture.

The accent must be on depicting either a manufacturing facility eg. a working factory or machinery and equipment used in a factory or a collection of pipes, tanks, gantries, chimneys, smoke, etc. which are being used as part of a manufacturing process (A chemical factory or a cement plant are good examples).

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.

In 2024, Photovault will be used to track your scores and progress. The rule is that one image can be accepted in three Salons and will count 3 times for IPIP promotion.

It should be noted that there is no possibility of circumventing default Photovault procedures. Thus, late submissions are automatically disallowed and members should ensure that the monthly submission deadlines are observed.

A schedule of monthly submission dates, is included at the end of this newsletter.

Technical Feedback and Tutorials

Water Drop Workshop

To be held on 27th April – Venue TBA

Photographic Composition

How often have we not battled to decide on the best composition for an image. Concepts like Rule of Thirds, Fibonacci Spiral, Vanishing Perspective are all terms which can be present in our minds from time to time.

One of the core concepts of composition is the use of "Visual Weight". Visual Weight centres around the fact that some elements of a composition attract the eye more than others. Certain areas of a photo can have *more* visual weight than others areas i.e. they draw the viewer's attention more strongly.

Members who would like to learn more about this technique, may find the following article of interest.

https://digital-photography-school.com/6-tips-using-visual-weight-to-improve-your-composition/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Mar2824

Equipment for Sale

A friend of Shirley, Ed Aylmer, has the following kit for Sale:

Canon 1DXmk 2

Excellent condition with 14000 shutter count.

Price: R20K

Ed may be contacted directly at 082 566 6984.



Members' Forum

An Article by Saskia Cole

Alternatives to Photoshop

The majority of the members of this Club use Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop to edit their photographs. Adobe's Creative Cloud subscriptions for individuals for Lightroom, Lightroom Classic and Photoshop with 20 GB of Cloud storage is currently \$9.19 or about R173.00 per month depending on the exchange rate.

What are Photoshop and Lightroom and why do most people use them together ?

Lightroom has a catalogue and back-up function, it will sort and file your images as per your preferences, you can tag the images for easy location later and can also rename your images with a unique name for copy right purposes. You can edit the light and colour of your images using masking and it has a good denoising option. You can copy edits from one photo to another if they are shot in similar light. It also does focus and exposure stacking. However, you cannot edit or remove pixels or get creative by merging photographs etc. This is where Photoshop comes in. You can see why most of us choose to use the two programs together.

We recently did a survey of other programs used in the Club and over and above the Adobe Suite, the Nic Collection, Picassa and Topaz were mentioned.

The Nic Collection are plug ins for Photoshop and Lightroom for filter, effects and presents.

Picassa was discontinued in 2018 but is still available for download for free. It allows you to organise your photos, do basic edits such as cropping, light and colour and adding filters. It only runs on the Windows 10 platform though.

Topaz Photo allows for batch editing and has quite good AI functionality where it detects image attributes and applies the correct filters, increases resolution, sharpens or denoise, fixes lighting problems or removes objects. It can be used as a plug-in for Lightroom or Photoshop.

Looking further for free or cheaper editing programs, we came across some options which are worth looking into:

Affinity Photo, which allows for editing, retouching, creating multi layers compositions and appears to be very much like Photoshop. The cost is a once off amount of R999.99 with no monthly costs.

Gimp or GNU Image manipulation program which seems to work very much like Photoshop in that you can edit light, colour, crop and it works with layers and masks but is available for free.

LunaPic does basic editing, blending and has filters and is available to download for free.

Corel Paintshop Pro 2023 is available at R1299.00 once off.

Luminar Neo is available at R199.00 per month or R1199.00 for the year.

PixLR is available for \$7.99 about R150.00 per month.

We have not tried the above programs and look forward to receiving feedback from you on your thoughts.

The next meeting will be on 7th May at the usual venue.

To assist members, a schedule of Photovault submission due dates is included below.

Hope you enjoyed the April newsletter
HAPPY SHOOTING
IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Set Subject Calendar for 2024

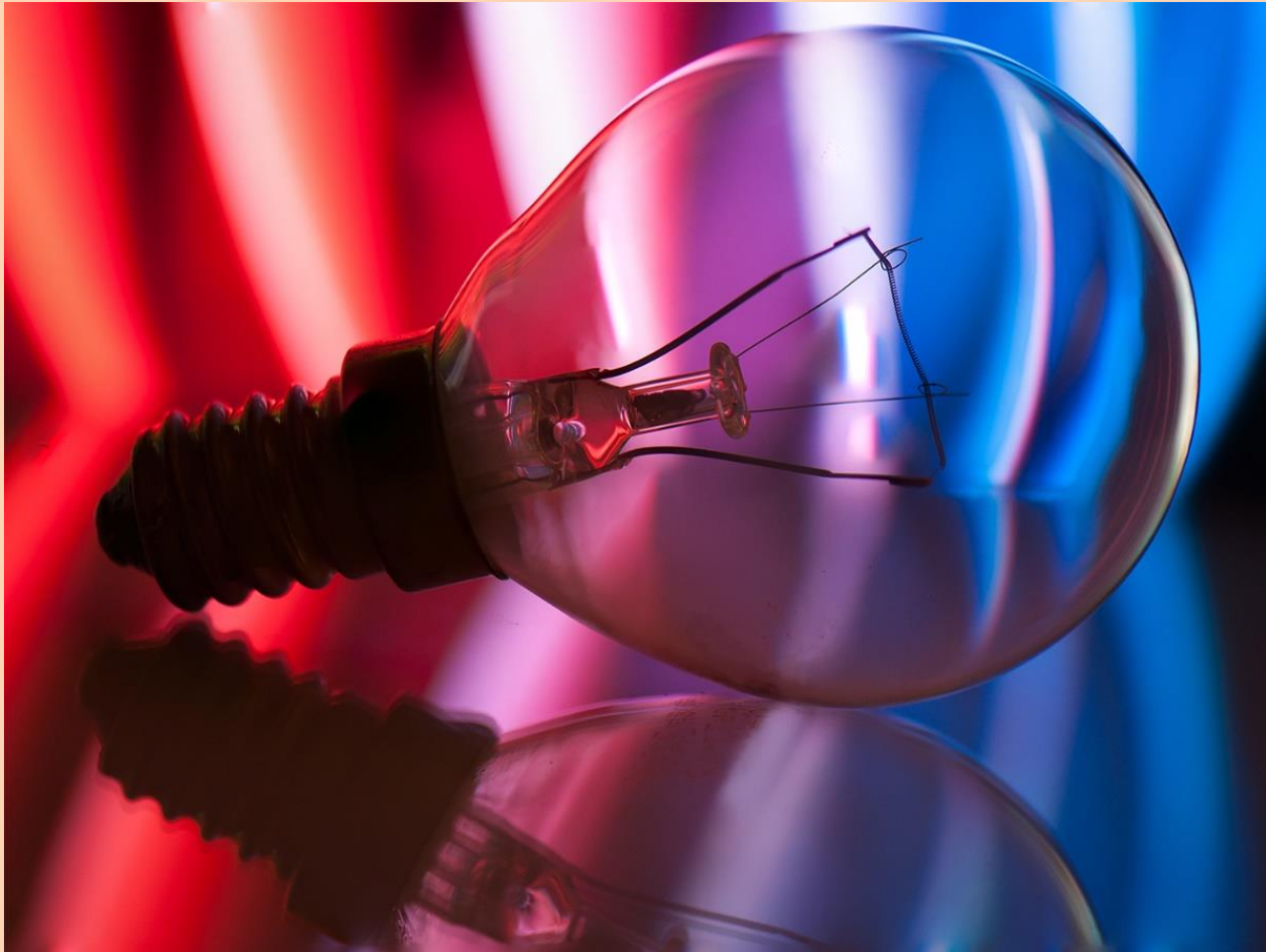
Month	Set Subject	Definition	SS Image Cut-off Date	MC Image Cut-off Date	Submission Date
May	Industrial	Showcase the industrial world through photographs of factories, manufacturing processes, machinery, and the environment of industrial facilities. Focuses on the industrial setting, machinery, or industrial processes.	1 st April 2023	1 st November 2023	27 th April 2024
June	Water drops	A photograph of a drop of liquid falling from a height onto a liquid or solid surface. The aim is to capture the moment the drop hits the surface. This is a staged and controlled scene and may not be the natural fall of water such as rain, a waterfall or the ocean.	1 st May 2023	1 st December 2023	25 th May 2024
July	Abstract	Consists of images created using photography materials and equipment that don't have an immediate association with the physical world.	1 st June 2023	1 st January 2024	22 nd June 2024
August	Food	A restaurant would like to show chase their meals on a new menu card, their online ordering platform or website. Your task is to photograph the food in a manner that would look appetising.	1 st July 2023	1 st February 2024	27 th July 2024
September	Cold	Related to temperature. The focus of the image should be of something cold for example ice, frost, breath, icicles, snow or a clearly cold winters morning or evening.	1 st August 2023	1 st March 2024	24 th August 2024
October	Travel	A photograph depicting travel, either the destination or the mode. May be a beach, an iconic scene, a suitcase and ticket or a train for example.	1 st Sept 2023	1 st April 2024	21 st September 2024
November	Farming	Explore the world of agriculture by photographing the daily life, work, and landscapes of farms, showcasing the agricultural process. Focus is on farming activities, landscapes, or farm life. No farm animals unless they form part of the landscape, activity or daily life.	1 st October 2023	1 st May 2024	26 th October 2024

Members' Images – April 2024

SS – Judges' Vote

1-3 STAR WINNER

Bulb – Lesly Kearns Eastwick (39)

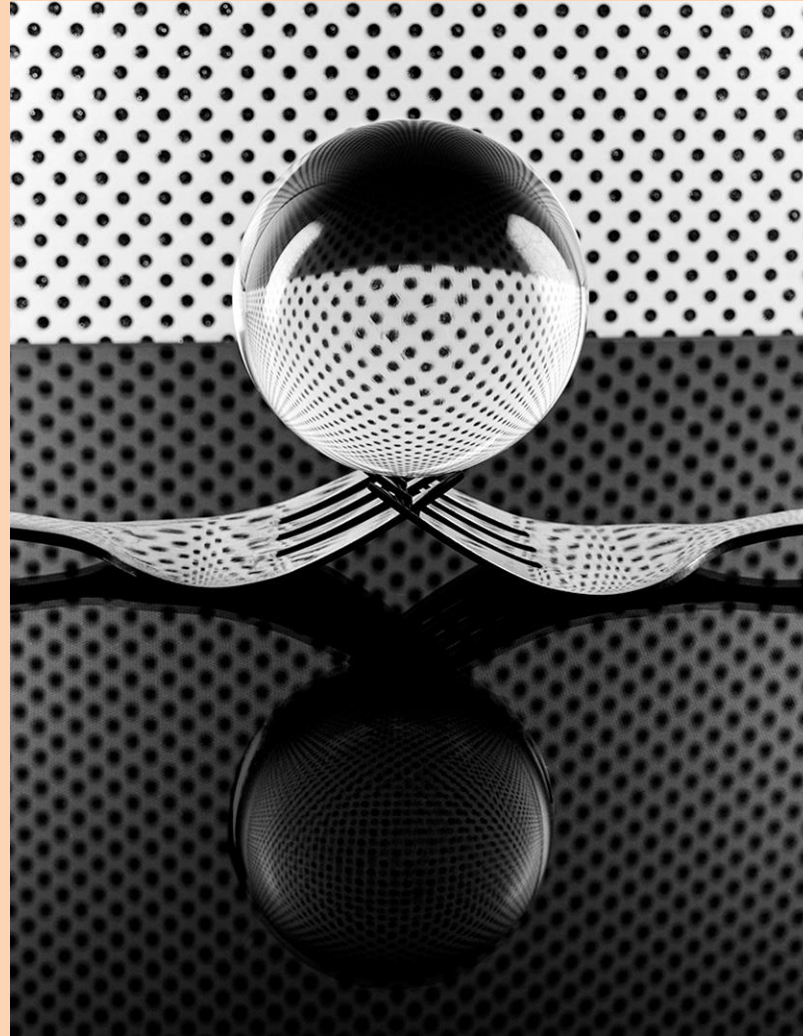


Members' Images – April 2024

SS – Judges' Vote

4 STAR WINNER

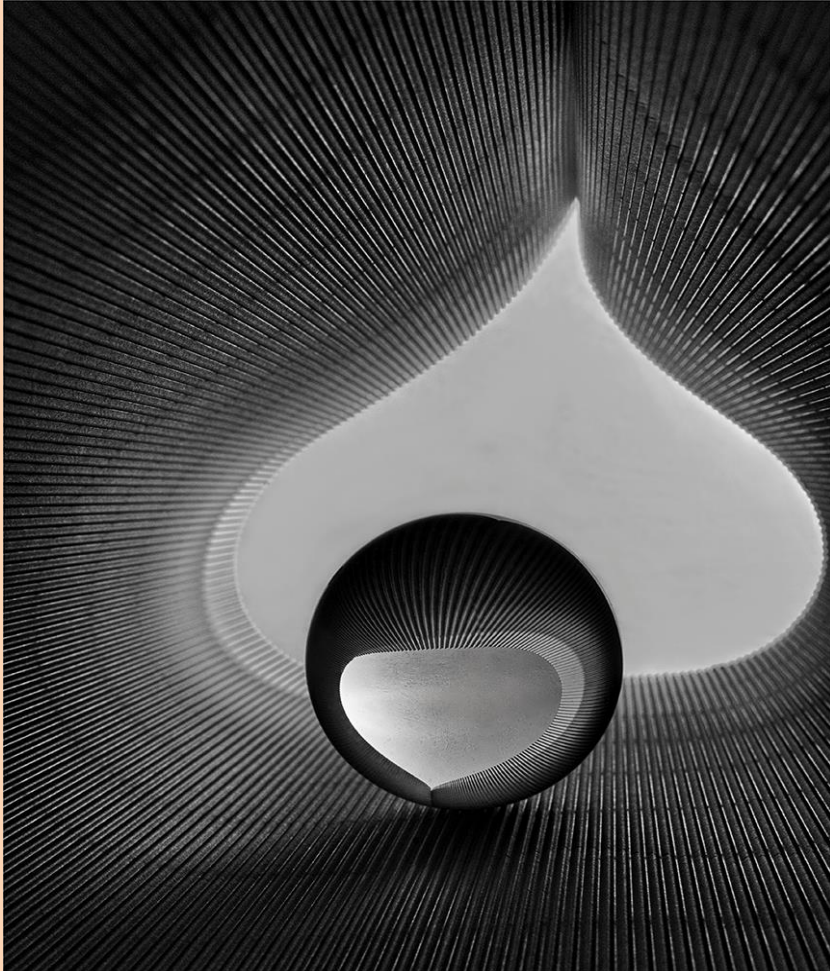
Forked Balls – Saskia Cole (43)(COM)



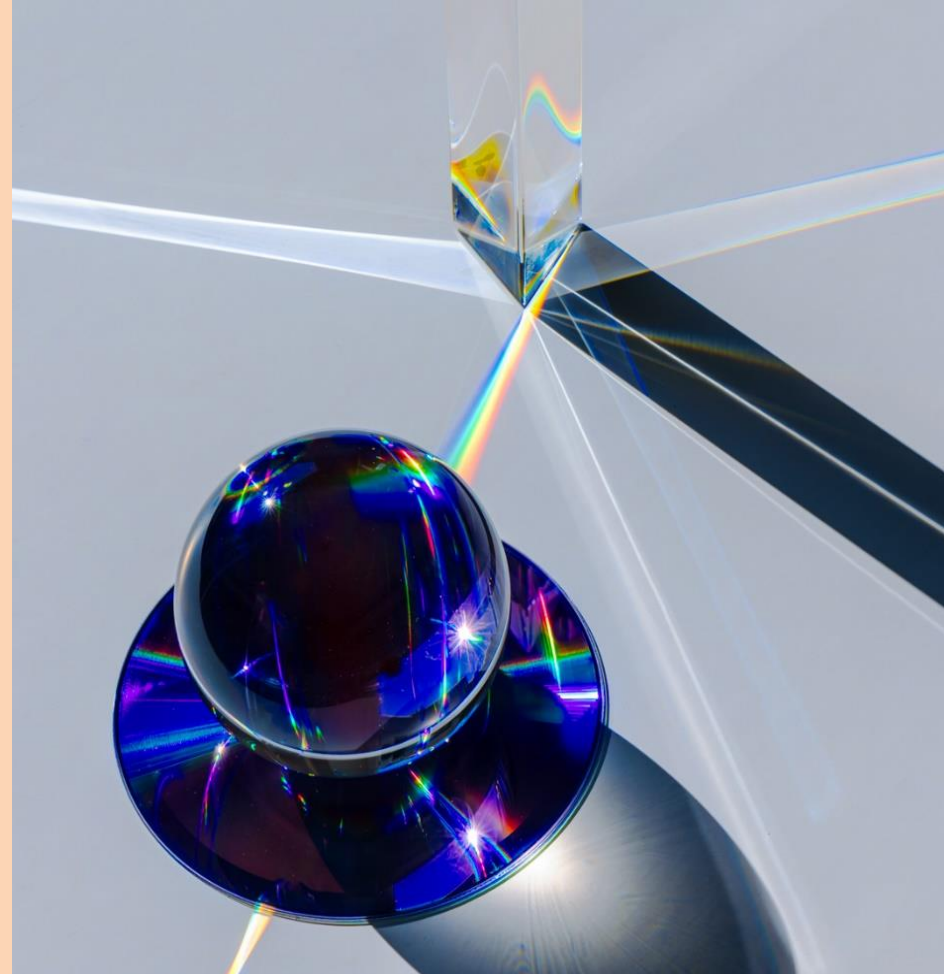
Members' Images – April 2024

SS – Judges' Vote

5 STAR WINNERS - TIE



Spaceball - Fabienne Jardim (41)



Cosmic – Dudley Schnetler (41)

Members' Images – April 2024

SS – Peer Vote

1-3 STAR WINNER

Psychedelic In Blue – Antje Higgs

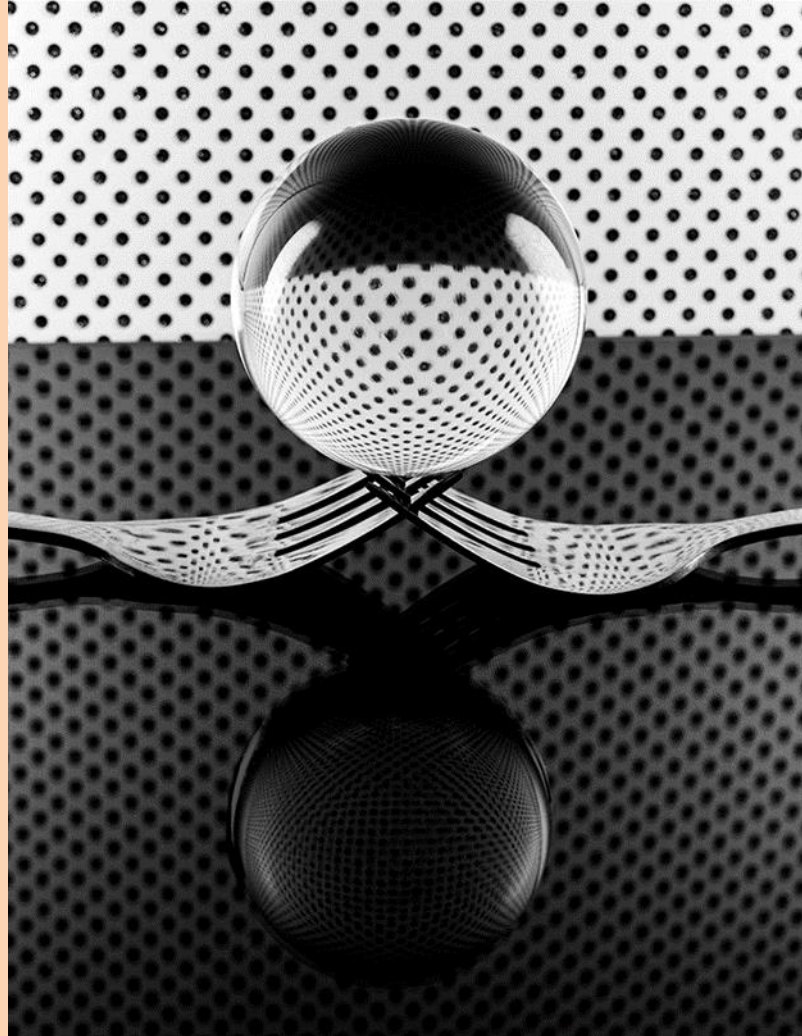


Members' Images – April 2024

SS – Peer Vote

4 STAR WINNER

Forked Balls – Saskia Cole

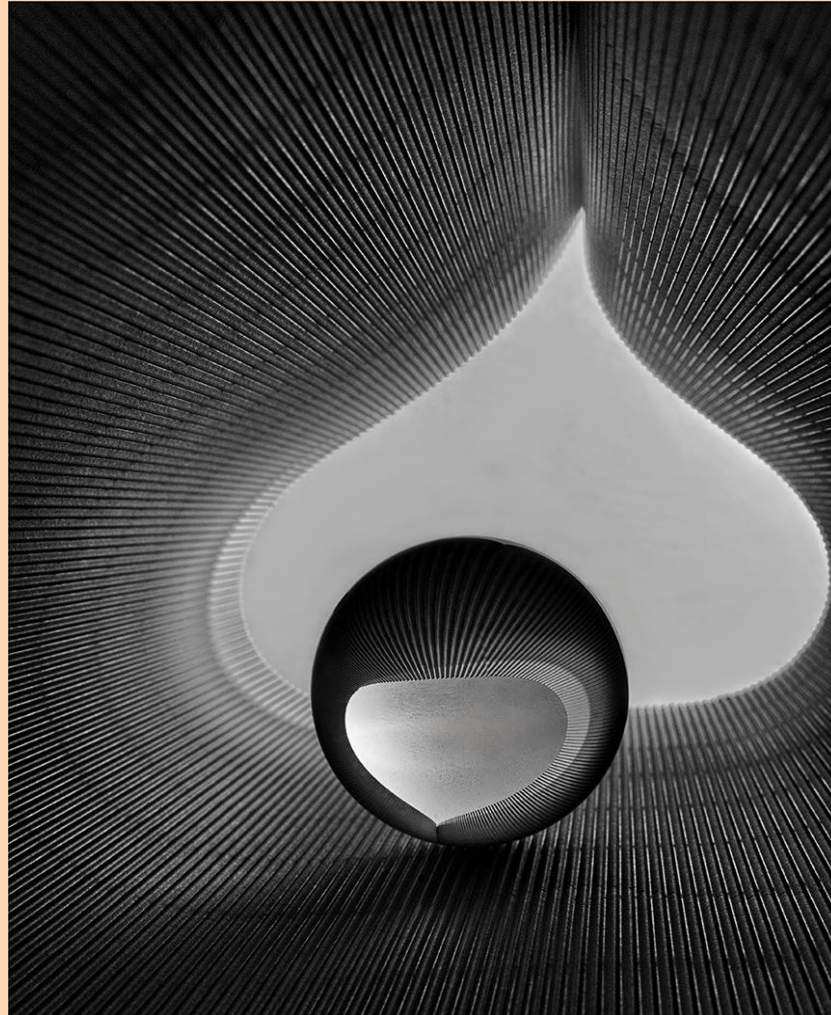


Members' Images – April 2024

SS – Peer Vote

5 STAR WINNER

Spaceball – Fabienne Jardim



Members' Images – April 2024

MC – Judges' Vote

1-3 STAR WINNER

Petronas Towers – Max Stone (43)(COM)



Members' Images – April 2024

MC – Judges' Vote

4 STAR WINNERS - TIE

Flying – Saskia Cole (39)



ICM – Pierre de Klerk (39)



Reflections - Deon Heyns (39)



Members' Images – April 2024

MC – Judges' Vote

5 STAR WINNER

Wings Clapping BW – David Wolstencroft (43)(COM)



Members' Images – April 2024

MC – Peer Vote

1-3 STAR - WINNER

Barn Owl in Flight – Max Stone



Members' Images – April 2024

MC – Peer Vote

4 STAR - WINNER

ICM – Pierre de Klerk



Members' Images – April 2024

MC – Peer Vote

5 STAR - WINNER

Poetry in Motion – Sandy van Vuuren

