

FORUM PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2016 - 2017

SPS MEMBERS' FORUMS



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1.0 The Forum Photographic Competition

1.1 Introduction

From October 2016 to April 2017 Sheffield Photographic Society will be running an online photography competition that is open to all SPS Members to enter. The images will be posted on the SPS Members' Forums, where SPS members will judge the competition by casting their votes for their favourite photographs.

The competition will run over six rounds, with each round being based upon a photographic 'theme'. The themes and the dates for entry and voting are shown below.

1.2 Submission of Entries

Each SPS member may submit ONE image for each round of the competition. Images should be saved as jpeg maximum quality and must not exceed 1200 pixels tall or 1600 pixels wide.

Images should be emailed to p-matthews@hotmail.co.uk after the 'Submission Start Date' and before the 'Submission End Date' for each round of the competition. A reminder email will be sent to SPS members in advance of the submission start date for each round of the competition.

The image files should be titled with the name of the photograph. For example, the jpeg image file for my image 'Pigeon Perspective' would be 'Pigeon Perspective.jpg'

Please remember to provide your full name in your covering email.

1.3 Voting

The images will be placed on the SPS Members' Forums by the 'start of voting' date shown for each round of the competition. SPS Members should log on to the Forums and cast their votes after this date, but before the date shown for 'end of voting'. A reminder email will be sent to SPS members in advance of the 'start of voting date' for each round of the competition.

SPS members may vote for their favourite FOUR images. I would recommend that one of your votes is for your own image if you have submitted one! Once you have cast your votes you will not be able to change them, so please vote carefully.

When voting you should consider how well each image responds to the theme as well as the artistic merit and technical competence of the photograph.

1.4 Notes on Voting

Whilst the entries will be anonymous when posted on the forum it is likely that most SPS members will be able to identify the photographer from the

photographic style or simply from having seen the image before. It is also possible to see the percentage of votes already cast for each image before placing your votes. The competition relies on our integrity to vote for those images we regard as 'the best' rather than to tactically vote to promote our own images or to vote for the images submitted by our friends.

Which images you have voted for will not be disclosed.

The competition is a bit of fun to help us all improve our photography by setting us themed challenges to respond to. Please vote honestly and fairly.

1.5 The Results

Once voting is complete it will be possible for all SPS Members to simply log onto the Forum and see the final results for each round of the competition.

The names of the photographers for each image will be posted on the forum once voting is complete and the results are known.

1.6 Comment and Critique

Once the voting phase of the competition is complete and the winners have been announced we would like to encourage all SPS Members to log on to the Forum and post their critiques and comments on the images. This will enable valuable feedback and help us all improve the quality of our photography.

1.7 The Rewards

This is an informal competition in which we hope to encourage inventive and original photography. It is also a valuable way to determine whether other photographers consider your image to be of a particularly high standard in responding to the theme.

Now that the Forum Photographic Competition has been fully established we shall be introducing a trophy for the photographer who gains the most votes over the six rounds of the 2016 - 2017 Competition.

1.8 Any Questions

If you have any questions about any aspect of this competition please email them to Peter Matthews at p-matthews@hotmail.co.uk or speak to Peter at one of the Society Evenings.

2.0 The 2016 -2017 Competition Themes

2.1 The Themes

Each round of the competition will require SPS members to submit photographs that respond to a specific theme. For the 2016-2017 competition the themes are as follows:-

Round 1 – ‘In Your Face’

Competition judges have a few seconds to decide whether an image is worthy of a 12 or a 20. One way of persuading them to give the 20 is to provide an image with immediate impact, a bold and striking image which metaphorically jumps out from the mount board. Judges often refer to this sort of impact as ‘in your face’. Dramatic action filling the frame, strong graphic shapes and vibrant colours are the sort of image for this round.

Round 2 - Contrast and Discordance

One way of emphasizing the nature of your subject is to juxtapose it next to a subject with opposite characteristics. Examples could include: a dilapidated building next to a sleek glass façade, a new born baby cradled in the wrinkled hands of its grandmother or a runner celebrating their victory next to the distressed loser.

Round 3 - Harmony and Duplicity

The opposite of ‘Contrast and Discordance’. Images for this round should show the subject in complete concordance with its surroundings. Complementary colours, shapes and textures are required. Duplicity (in its archaic sense) is the echoing of one shape with another, such as the shape of a house roof mimicking the shape of the mountain behind it, linking foreground and background together to create one harmonious composition.

Round 4 - Heat

One of the hardest challenges in photography is to capture the essence of a non-visual sensation or emotion in a purely visual medium. Images for this round should capture the feeling of heat. Examples could include a withered plant under a burning sun, sparks from a steel foundry or beads of sweat on a sunbather.

Round 5 – Selective Focus

The aperture control on our cameras provides us with an excellent tool to emphasize those areas of the image we want the viewer to concentrate on. Images for this round should use shallow depth of field (wide apertures) to keep the subject sharp whilst de-focussing other elements that are in front of or behind the subject. Not all cameras and lenses allow us to achieve such shallow depth of field and it is therefore permissible in this round to selectively blur areas of the image in post processing to achieve the desired effect if required.

Round 6 – A Silk Purse Out of a Sows Ear

The English clergyman Stephen Gosson published the romantic story Epherides in 1579 and in so doing first coined the phrase ‘making a silk purse out of a sows ear’ to mean making something of value out of something which was worthless.

In this round each entrant must submit TWO images. The first is an unedited image straight from the camera. The second is the same image, but having been post processed to show a significant improvement. There are no limits to the post processing which is permissible provided the original photograph remains the main element in the final image. Advanced post processing techniques are also not essential as it is often the simple changes such as careful cropping, contrast and saturation changes which can make the most striking improvement to an image.

2.2 Notes on the Themes

The themes for the competition have been selected to allow entries from all genres of photography and to focus our attention on the visual and emotional impact of our choice of subject and photographic composition.

Your interpretation of the theme is only limited by your own imagination, but please remember that your image will be judged on its relevance to the theme as well as on its artistic and technical merit. If your interpretation of the theme is too obscure then your image may not score well no matter how artistically and technically excellent it is.

Images that have been entered into previous SPS competitions or exhibitions are acceptable for submission in the Forum Photographic Competition and vice versa. You should remember, however, that it is the SPS members who will be voting on the images and an image that has been shown before is unlikely to do as well as one which has not.

There are no post processing restrictions to the competition, so be creative with Photoshop if you feel your image will be improved by doing so.

3.0 2016-2017 Competition Key Dates

Round	Theme	Submission Start Date	Submission End Date	Voting Start Date	Voting End Date
1 (October)	In Your Face	Monday 03/10/2016	Sunday 09/10/2016	Monday 17/10/2016	Sunday 23/10/2016
2 (November)	Contrast and Discordance	Monday 07/11/2016	Sunday 13/11/2016	Monday 21/11/2016	Sunday 27/11/2016
3 (January)	Harmony and Duplicity	Monday 09/01/2017	Sunday 15/01/2017	Monday 23/01/2017	Sunday 29/01/2017
4 (February)	Heat	Monday 06/02/2017	Sunday 12/02/2017	Monday 20/02/2017	Sunday 26/02/2017
5 (March)	Selective Focus	Monday 06/03/2017	Sunday 12/03/2017	Monday 20/03/2017	Sunday 26/03/2017
6 (April)	A Silk Purse Out of a Sows Ear	Monday 03/04/2017	Sunday 09/04/2017	Monday 17/04/2017	Sunday 23/04/2017