

14th October 2021: Intimate Landscape: See the smaller picture (Digital)

An intimate scape is one in which you're selecting and isolating one small part of a scene that captures your interest and presents an 'intimate feel'. It might be a smaller part of a wider scape, it might also be a smaller composition that focuses on shapes, lines, colours, textures or patterns. It is a view of a scene in which any object of focus, is surrounded by its context.

We encourage the celebration of the beauty of the natural world. Thus, the scape can be land, sea, water or city but, whatever the content, it must be an 'intimate' scene.

The challenge encourages creative submissions - close up and macro; black and white or colour; multiple exposure and other creative techniques.

11th November 2021: Mobile: Phone or tablet photography (Print)

This can be any subject and aspect ratio, black and white or colour taken and edited on your device. (rather than uploading to computer and using software there.)

You can use the device camera and editing tools or use a camera app (these allow more creative use like manual mode should you prefer e.g Proshot, Snapseed). Lightroom mobile is available for editing too and can also be used.

2nd December 2021: Bokeh (Print)

Bokeh is the aesthetic quality of the blur produced in out-of-focus parts of an image. The inclusion of Bokeh in an image makes it visually appealing, forcing us to focus on a particular area of an image. Nothing in the blurred background should distract the viewer. The Bokeh should be smooth and pleasing with no jagged, hard edges.

Bokeh can also be defined as "the way the lens renders out-of-focus points of light" Bokeh is often most visible around small background highlights, such as specular reflections and light sources, which is why it is often associated with such areas. However, bokeh is not limited to highlights; blur occurs in all regions of an image which are outside the depth of field.

The image can be in colour or black and white, any subject and aspect ratio.

3rd February 2022 Indoor Photography (Digital)

Photographs using inanimate objects or flora around the home. This can be still life or abstract but not a portrait of animals, insects, or people. Natural or artificial light, any aspect ratio, black and white or colour.

3rd March 2022: Open Monochrome (Print)

Monochrome photography is where each position on an image can record and show a different amount of light but not a different hue. So, using shades of one colour only. Black

& white photographs are acceptable, but so too are styles such as sepia, infra-red and cyanotype.

Any subject is allowed, for example, landscape, portrait, street, travel, studio. Study what makes a good black and white image with impact and think about using an alternative colour.

21st April 2022: On, In or By The Water: Letterbox format (Digital)

The image needs to feature subjects on, in or by the water: Sea, lake, canals or rivers etc. It can include any subjects from the natural world and/or man-made objects like boats etc.

Letterbox format is when the long edge of the photograph is x2 or more the short edge, say, 16:8 for example. Black and White or Colour.

Exhibition (Print)

Anything goes – now is your chance to show off what you have learnt this year, for example, maybe you made improvements to an image following judging feedback in an earlier competition. Maybe you had 3 images and could not decide which to put into a competition, so now you can show that 3rd image. Perhaps you had an image you submitted for a digital competition that you feel would look tremendous in print. The choice is yours.