

#	Title	Award	Comment
1	A moment to contemplate		A nice mono conversion to start with. The lady looks as though she is holding something in her hands and you wonder what it is? She isn't holding it like a mobile so what could it be? The background is sufficiently out of focus that the viewer concentrates on the figure. It is a shame that she has a hoodie and even more, that it is very light. If you screw your eyes up the brightest areas are the hood, the bag and the seat in the background. The most dominant is the hood which is in the middle of the frame. I would have tried to tone this down a bit. It would also have been nice to see a bit more of her face, but if you had moved to your right it might have spooked her.
2	Animal love		Very well spotted and well done for waiting until someone walked by to add some interest. I like the inclusion of the drainpipe. It would have been easy to clone this out, but it adds to the picture. It also tells us that the pavement is on quite a slope. It has a Banksy – ish feel to the graffiti and you have to wonder how the artist got up there to paint the window. Presumably a cherry picker or scaffolding. The title at the bottom is a bonus. An interesting picture which tells a story and gets you thinking. Some judges get a bit tetchy about photographing other people's artwork, but I think you have done enough to put your own take on it
3	Brussels	C 2	Another mono of a street photography in Brussels. This has a nice crisp sharpness about it and was probably quite colourful with the umbrellas and signs so the mono conversion helps us to look at the details of the café. I have 2 suggestions for consideration. The first is to square up the buildings to remove the converging verticals. The perspective crop is ideal for this. Staying with the crop tool, I think the area of interest is the old building of the café. The 2 flanking buildings are a bit of an intrusion and they are quite light (especially the one on the right) and I would crop them off to leave a squarish crop of just the café. I think this is the picture and the composition is much tighter. It looks as though this was quite a bright sunny day and as a result there are some very bright areas which could do with toning down. These are mainly the road, the pavement and the top of the left hand umbrella. The sign to the right of the café door has also caught the sun and there is quite a flare on it. I think with a few tweaks this could be a really good piece of street photography.
4	Chicken Necks		Interesting that 3 of the first 4 images feature graffiti. This one is a bit more enigmatic. Why is the child wearing a dressing gown, and more important, why is he/she strangling a chicken? Is the MR.HMM?? significant? Altogether, quite intriguing. The inclusion of the walking man is very important. The image has a Scandinavian feel to it with the snow and the red building in the background. I find the blotchy brown background a bit off-putting and maybe it could be toned down or partially desaturated.
5	If Only	3rd 4	I wonder if this street person chose this spot deliberately? If not, it was serendipity. He is positioned perfectly in the frame and you have cropped it tight enough to concentrate the eye, but have still included all the information we need. There seem to be 2 things missing? The obligatory dog and a collecting receptacle. Other than that, I think this is a classic piece of street photography which makes you stop and think. Excellent title too.
6	Street parking		Quite a Monster Truck. You wouldn't want to be doing a 3 point turn with it. I was hoping I could see where it was taken from the writing on the cab door, but the resolution isn't high enough for that. I don't think the lady in purple is adding

much, so I would clone her out. You have chosen to shoot the vehicle almost side on which gives us a very good idea of the length of this truck, but I wonder if a ¾ view (or even almost head on?) would have given a bit more drama and produced less of a letter-box image? A shot from ground level, possibly in mono, taking in the length in a squarish format might have emphasised the sheer size of this rig. When you come across something like this, I hope you take lots of shots from different angles, different heights and being as creative as you can. It is not something you see every day, so make the most of the opportunity.

7	HC 3	I really like these sorts of shots. I love the grungy colours and textures, the little bits of detail & the quirks and oddities. Wouldn't this make a fabulous jigsaw? (apart from that nightmare of a sky!). What about all those aerials? What about that bit of fence on the left? What's it for? The street lights are fantastic. And the red flowers at bottom left. Where on earth were you standing to get this shot? My only concern is the "hardness" of the shot. I don't know if it has been treated in post-processing but I think it suits a softer approach. I used a Nik filter – Classic Soft Focus – which gives it much more atmosphere without losing any of the features which make this such a terrific image. I suggest you have a play around with this – there is an even better image to be had.
Tuscan street		
8	HC 3	What a wonderfully creative shot. Clearly taken on the Severn Valley Railway on one of their 1940s weekends. The lighting on the Woman in White is delightful. It looks as though you have applied some blur in Photoshop to make her stand out from the crowd and it helps that she is the only person who is not looking for the approaching train. However, looking at the metadata using an f stop of 1.0 could have given the same result, so I may be doing you a disservice. I have only one minor suggestion which it to remove the intruding blue thing at the bottom left hand corner. Well composed taken – very good.
Woman in white		
9	C 2	Another great piece of street photography. It looks as though it is quite cold as the guy is well wrapped up with his parka, hood and hat. But wearing his slippers? Lovely raking light giving bags of side lighting and details. Good crop to give just what is needed. I really like the acid green wall on the right. Well seen and captured.
Chilling Out		
10		It looks as though the small girl is not getting much action as mum and dad are in charge of crabbing. Lots of texture here with the wooden fencing, the steel railing and the timber deck. This is another image which has been taken in hard sunlight producing a very contrasty picture. Rather like the first image, the brightest area is the girl's leg towards the centre of the image and the mother's right arm. I would crop slightly from the top to remove some of the distractions from the edge of the frame.
Crabbing		
11		An indoor market where space has been maximised to create a refreshment area and somewhere in the UK judging by the signing. I think this is fine as far as it goes but it is up against a lot of very good pictures in this group.
Fine Dining		
12		Another creative composition to give something extra to a street scene. Rather like the Tuscan scene this has quite a hard edge to it and some of the colours don't quite come off. At first glance it looks as though the 2 shoppers are paddling down a stream in the middle of the road. Surely not? But why is it so blue? I think this is a good attempt but it needs a more careful and nuanced approach. Keep experimenting to produce your own style, but accept that judges may not see things quite the same way as you. (but what do judges know?)
Ludlow Lane		
13		A charming little vignette of the boy with his scooter. Tightly framed so that there is nothing to distract the eye. This time, although he is wearing a white hoodie, it is not so bright as to cause a problem. I think I would have preferred it if he was coming towards the camera and we could see some expression on his face. Well done for taking the portrait of a
Scooter boy		

		child whether he was related or it was a grab shot. I fear we are getting to a state when there will be no pictures of children enjoying themselves because everyone is too frightened to press the shutter.
14	2nd 5	I recognise the Liver Buildings in the background. I hope the bus has survived the epidemic and will be back on the mean streets of Liverpool very soon. This is a really good shot with a carefully chosen viewpoint to give a sense of place. Quite a simple composition, but very effective. The vibrant red of the bus complements the quite muted colours of the background. Was the bird really there or added post production? It matters not, but it provides the essential “third element” that completes the image. Good piece of work.
		Skyline diner
15		A steam punk by the look of him. The title of Spiderman is a bit misleading as no one would associate the character in the image with Spiderman! The subject is great as a character and I think he merits a less distracting background. The highlights and bright areas are drawing the eye away from him and I think he would be better presented against a simpler, less confusing background. However, the cut out, with all the stray hair and feathers, would be quite a challenge.
		Spiderman
16		Another back view! This looks like some special event as you don’t usually see people dressed like this – certainly not in Newport. I wonder what they are looking at. There can’t be much in the shop that would eclipse their own outfits. Nice colour range, well composed and exposed. Very sharp – I just would have liked to see a bit more of their faces.
		Window shopping
17		“There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat. And we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures.” (Julius Caesar). I was thinking of alternative titles and “Taken at the Flood” seemed appropriate. This looks as though it was taken in Venice during the winter high tides, but the “Snack Bar” sign looks a bit out of place. It looks as though Grandma is struggling a bit so maybe the original title is better. A straightforward shot with no fiddling or diddling which tells the story of a family trying to make the best of a pretty wet holiday. I like the liquid gold reflections in the foreground. Well spotted and taken.
		Helping Hands
18	1st 6	Very nice. These shots of busy scenes are always tricky to crop as you get passers by walking in and out of shot. I would have liked the guy on the left to be full in or completely out of the frame. To chop off his foot and back seems a bit unkind. If this is all you had to work with, I would have cloned him out. What I love about this shot is the girl in the middle. Is she looking at the photographer or the police van which is reflected in the window? If she hadn’t been looking that way this would still have been a good shot. To capture that look makes it a great shot. Typical London where everyone is looking down or at their phones, but never at other people. A more imaginative title could have been used to focus on what you have achieved – “The Look” or “Walk on By”? “London” seems a bit too prosaic for such a good shot. Well done for getting this at the Decisive Moment
		London
19		An educational shot to demonstrate how the lines are painted. A late afternoon or early morning shot judging by the shadows. I like the lighting highlighting the fluorescent workwear. A good grabshot which suits the competition theme. I can’t suggest any improvements to this shot – it is well exposed, focussed and composed.
		Painting the Crossing
20		A slowish exposure of 1/30 s has produced the desired effect of movement in the ride whilst keeping everything else sharp. Very creative which lifts it from the normal shot most people would take. A colourful shot full of vibrancy and action.
		Street fair
21		The lad looks more like patient and resigned rather than keen. He has put a lot of creative effort to build his pyramids of tomatoes. I like the ramshackle shelves, particularly the one at the front. This is a bit like the lorry shot, in that I feel
		Keen Trader

there are more and better shots to be had of this scene. It is taken from the standard 5 ft 6 inches whereas there were opportunities to take shots from much lower and from different angles to create a more interesting series of shots. A move to the right and a shot which concentrated on the boy and the bright red tomatoes in a tighter composition would have produced something strikingly different. Sticking with this shot, I would crop from the right to remove the tarpaulin or plastic sheeting. I hope you bought some of his fruit having taken his photo.

22

This is quite a curious shot. The boy on the left is wearing a Staten Island logo on his jumper. Where was this taken? It almost looks as though the children were pasted on to this background, but that cannot be the case? The background and the foreground look at odds. The ground they are standing on looks unmade and rough, but the building, lawns and wall look like a high class area. However it was composed, the kids look happy, full of beans and really having fun and enjoying themselves. I bet they like posing for the camera!

Street kids

23

Good, witty title picking up the street sign. The exclamation mark at bottom left is a nice touch. I guess the hoses coming through the letter box are a brave attempt to pump some of the water out. Every time I see a scene like this my heart goes out to the residents and the misery they will be going through for the next year or so.

Sub-Marine terrace

24

A nice shot of 2 elderly gentlemen chatting on a bench. It looks as though there are various mobility devices parked in front of them. This looks very dark on my monitor so I checked the histogram and it is considerably underexposed with no tones above 165. An increase in the lighter tones gives a much brighter image. Again, a confusing background isn't doing you any favours so if you left the overall exposure as it was and selectively lightened the 2 gentlemen it would probably produce a better image. The shutter speed is not given on the metadata but the image looks a bit soft and might have benefited from a higher shutter speed

Time for a chat