



# SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society  
October 2017

## View from the chair

### Easy selection for Interclub

Twelve digital images and twelve prints have been selected for our Club's participation in the Western Cape Interclub Competition for 2017.

The selection process was straightforward and unbiased. It was based on the scores given at the Club's monthly evaluation of images over a period of twelve months.

Analysing those scores was in itself quite interesting.

Only eight images got the highest score of 27 out of 30 points over the year, at an average of fewer than one per evaluation session. There were nine sessions during the twelve months from November 2016 to October 2017.

No image got 26 points, but fourteen got 25, at an average of fewer than two per session, and 68 got 24, at an average of fewer than eight per session.

The average number of images evaluated were just over 47 per session, and the scores were quite evenly spread over the nine sessions, indicating that the evaluation process was reasonably consistent over the year.

Images that got 25 or more during evaluation, were automatically selected for Interclub, limited only by the rule that no more than two images per member could be entered.



The other images were selected from those that got 24. There the subcommittee tasked with the process, attempted to include work from as many members as possible.

The end result was that images by sixteen members were selected, one each from eight members, and two each from another eight.

Those participants are, in alphabetical order, René Dewar, Treurnicht du Toit, Thea Erasmus, Elizma Fourie, Almut Hofmeyer, Luke Horsten, Robert Johnson, Linda Kotzenberg, Deon Kühn, Charles Naudé, Chris Neethling, Estelle Neethling, Daniel Reddie, Diane Steenkamp, André van Zijl and Gerhard Vosloo.

The competition will be held at the CR Louw Auditorium in the Sanlam head office in Bellville on Friday 3 November at 18:00. It will be hosted by the Helderberg Photographic Society of Somerset West.

**Charles Naudé**

## Three shooting stars

Three Club members were promoted to a higher star rating after the September monthly meeting.

Deon Kühn, chairman of the AV subcommittee, was promoted from Three to Four Star, Diane Steenkamp from Two to Three Star, and Deon Steenkamp from One to Two star.

The Steenkamps joined the Club in the beginning of this year, both on One Star level.

To rise from One to Two Star, a photographer needs 20 points from the Club's monthly evaluation of images, and 5 Gold awards. At that level, Gold is awarded for an image scoring at least 15 out of 30.

It becomes more difficult to move on. To rise from Two to Three Star, 40 points and 10 Golds are needed. And for a Gold, a score of at least 18 is needed.

From there to the next level, Four Star, you have to collect 100 points and 25 Golds, while a score of at least 21 is needed for a Gold.

During the October evaluation of images, one of the judges remarked that he longs back to the easy days when he was still on One Star level. As a Four Star photographer, he finds it quite a challenge to collect enough points (200) and Golds (60) to reach Five Star.

There is another way. You could start entering salons, where you can collect promotion points for each image that is at least accepted for exhibition.

## Salon successes

Our Club's two regular collectors of points from salons, Treurnicht du Toit and Robert Johnson, have been at it again during last month.

Treurnicht, a Magister photographer, was awarded two Certificates of Merit by the Vereeniging Photographic Society Salon, which also accepted two of his images for exhibition.



*Certificate of Merit – 'Kaokoland Dreigende Onweer' by Treurnicht du Toit*

Another national salon, Beachcombers, accepted three of his images, while the Sydney International Exhibition accepted six.

Robert, a Five Star photographer, had two images accepted for exhibition by the Beachcombers Salon.



*Certificate of Merit - 'Namibië-Angola-vergesig' by Treurnicht du Toit*

Photographers from Three Star level and higher could be promoted to the next level with a combination of Salon promotion points and a reduced number of Club points and Golds.

For example, a Three Star photographer would need either 100 Club points and 25 Golds to rise to Four Star, or a combination of 60 Club points, 15 Golds and 2 Salon points.

And a Five Star photographer would need either 400 Club points and 120 Golds, or a combination of 200 Club points, 50 Golds and 40 Salon points to be promoted to Magister.

## Print exhibition 2018

The Committee has decided to go ahead and arrange another Club print exhibition for next year, as part of FynArts 2018. This follows in the footsteps of the Club's FynArts exhibition of last year and this year.

The decision was made after an open discussion of the issue at the Club's September meeting. The major points made during the discussion were taken into account.

In particular there was strong support for continuing with the print exhibition using the same venue – the local Dutch Reformed Church Hall – but with some improvements to the visibility, the visual impact and the lighting of the exhibition.

## Subscriptions for next year

The Committee has decided to increase the annual subscriptions for next year to compensate for inflation.

The subs for single members will be increased from R210 to R225, and for couples from R300 to R320. The subs for social members and those at school will remain R100, and the additional entry fee for new members will remain R25.

## Activities for next month

**The November meeting** will be in the Dutch Reformed Church Hall, as usual, on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> at 19:00. Members may enter up to three images of their choice for evaluation, and one image on the Set Subject, Negative Space, for discussion. The best set-subject image will be decided by voting. (See the notes on Negative Space below.)

Images for evaluation and discussion must be submitted by 12:00 on Saturday 28 October.

**Two courses**, both presented by Mike Sander, have started and will run into next year. The first is a course on composition, with practical assignments. The second, on judging images, began with an introduction and will continue with a series of workshops.

A third course of three modules on layers will be completed this year.



# Be positive about negative space

The Set Subject for November is Negative Space. It is one of those intriguing compositional elements which could be key in creating a strong and effective image.

Ideally, it should be used to enhance an image. Basically it takes simplification to the highest level, isolating the subject.

Think of a lone figure standing in the shadows, a balloon against a cloudless blue sky, or an edged shape against the dark of night.

Cutting out and eliminating the excess, negative space could allow our eyes to focus on the subject, no matter how subtle the subject may be.

Negative space could create movement, or room for the subject to move or breathe.

Negative space could allow the image to take on emotions, a feeling of loneliness, peace or calm.

To summarize, negative space is just as important as the subject itself. It helps to define the boundaries of the subject and brings balance to the composition.

**Compiled by Diane Steenkamp**



*Negative space creating room for the insect to move.*



*Negative space of a moving train emphasizes the loneliness of the figure.*

## Committee

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All of them are available to assist you with your queries.

Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit.