

MILTON ULLADULLA DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

2019/20 COMPETITION THEMES – GUIDELINES

The MUDCC Committee has developed a set of themes for the 2019/20 Competition Year to help develop your photographic skills while also enhancing your creativity.

Each theme is described below to provide members with some guidance on its intention, any specific requirements, and some ideas on how it might be interpreted. This document is intended to be used in conjunction with associated Club learning sessions and the monthly inspiration image folders provided on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/miltonulladullacameraclub/ The guidelines are also provided to our monthly judges.

Creativity in interpretation is always encouraged within the spirit of the theme. If you have any queries about a theme, please don't hesitate to approach a member of the Committee at one of our meetings or send a message via the Club's Facebook page or email account.

Please ensure that all images entered in the theme category have been taken within twelve months of the competition date and that all your images - both digital and print - meet the size requirements set out on the Club's website <http://www.miltonulladullacameraclub.asn.au/>

Street Photography

22 July - Print Competition

At the heart of street photography are the notions of observation, spontaneity, narrative and public space. While street photography often features people, it is humanity that is considered essential rather than humans per se. Usually it is neither posed nor manipulated other than basic processing.

The best street photography is evocative; it has a strong voice. Sometimes it might raise your curiosity or new ideas; others it might elicit wonder or ire or a grin. Street photography is more than documentary and has been described as visual poetry.

Your challenge this month is to be an observer in a public space and to capture a passing moment that stirs interest but also has artistic appeal. Make time and take time. Observe the space and the people within it. Be patient. Let the world unfold.

Colours of the World

26 August 2019 - DPI Competition

The use of colour in photography is a key element in producing an effective image and is particularly important in creating impact and conveying mood. This month you are challenged to look at the world around you with a keen eye for colour and to create images that rely on the use of colour to engage the viewer.

You might like to think about how the light at different times of the day changes colour, or how you may be able to control the colour/s of your subject to enhance effect, either on location or in processing. Does your image need lots of colours? Or might a limited palette be best? How can you best use colour to your advantage?

Animals

23 September 2019 - Print Competition

Your images this month need to feature an animal or animals, be they wild, domestic or photographed at the zoo. Insects and a whole host of sea creatures are in the animal kingdom too, so you have lots of scope here.

Finding an animal will be the easy bit; the trick to success will be making your image stand out from the pack! Perhaps it will be the way the animal is engaging with you or another person or animal. Or maybe

you can capture your animal perfectly at home in its environment. What about animals that have eye-catching features, patterns or textures?

Still Life

28 October 2019 - DPI Competition

At its most basic, still life photography is simply taking images of static items. However still life art - including photography - generally refers to arranging a small group of inanimate (not living) objects and depicting them in an artistic way, often to tell a story. It frequently involves the use of common items such as food, plants, kitchen items or jewellery, but you should not feel constrained by tradition.

In still life photography, elements such as composition, lighting and angle are especially important. Experiment with your items and arrangements. Try different times of the day or different light sources. Move around your subjects to see the effect varying your point of view has on the image. All of these things will affect the mood and narrative. You will also need to carefully consider your background, ensuring that it doesn't detract from your objects.

If you are working inside, you will probably benefit from the use of a tripod or finding some other way of steadying your camera. But don't forget that you can capture beautiful still life images outdoors too!

Night Study

25 November 2019 - Print Competition

There is only one key requirement for this month's theme: your images must be taken some time after the sky has gone dark and before the first light of dawn. Other than that, you have free rein regarding location, subject, style and whether you present your work in colour or monochrome. Your key consideration will be alternative light sources and how they might light your subject. Can you use street lights? Floodlights? House lights? Flash? What about fireworks or the moon or stars? You may also need to think about longer exposures and how you will steady your camera.

Christmas

16 December 2019 - Print Competition

Christmas Function - People's Choice

As 2019 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on what Christmas means to you and how you might present that in a way that will capture the interest, admiration or hearts of your Camera Club friends.

You may submit up to two images to be displayed at the Christmas Function. Please note that this People's Choice competition does not form part of the regular competition program, and that participation and award points will not be given.

Patterns

27 January 2010 - DPI Competition

Patterns are regularly repeated arrangements, often formed from lines, shapes or colours. We are surrounded by them in both our natural and manufactured environments, from the clothes we wear and the way we decorate spaces, through to the markings on a lizard or petals on a flower. Your images this month should not just contain patterns but unmistakably feature them.

High Key / Low Key

24 February 2020 - Print Competition

High key and low key photography are styles in which lighting and contrast (or its absence) are essential in creating impact. They are essentially opposite ends of a continuum. Low key images are dominated by darker tones, shadows and true blacks, often conveying a dark or mysterious mood. High key images feature lighter tones, minimal shadows and an overall brightness. They often have a radiant or optimistic feel to them.

To achieve a high key or low key look, you will need to think carefully about lighting, background and exposure. You may also need to tweak your usual exposure settings to achieve this style, particularly if you are using evaluative light metering. You may submit two high key images, two low key images or one of each.

Straight Out of Camera

23 March 2020 - DPI Competition

The straight out of camera (SOOC) theme encourages you to produce great images without editing. None. No post-production corrections or enhancements whatsoever. The only adjustments you are permitted this month are converting them from RAW (if required) and resizing them as per the specifications for DPI competitions.

Please also note that for the purpose of this theme, you cannot utilise any filters or scene presets that your camera or phone might have. You also cannot use any in-camera processing nor any in-app processing that your phone camera or photos app might offer.

Selecting basic photography settings such as exposure compensation or your white balance are fine; so is shooting in shutter or aperture priority modes. This is about getting back to basics.

Taking a SOOC challenge every now and then forces you to carefully consider at the time of shooting the image you want to create, knowing that you don't have any scope for amendments later.

Regardless of the sort of camera you are using, you can make lots of choices on location to maximise the impact of elements like composition, light, angle and colour. Depending on your equipment you may also have a lot of latitude around focus, depth of field and exposure. It is just a matter of taking time and being mindful.

Emotion

27 April - Print Competition

The Emotion theme is easy to explain but may take you out of your comfort zone if you prefer photographing landscapes or objects. Your challenge this month is to create images that clearly depict emotion. You may photograph people or animals - or a combination of the two - but your images must **show** emotion, not simply elicit emotion on the part of the viewer. Photographing happiness or sadness is a good place to start, but what other emotions can you capture? What about surprise? Guilt? Fear? Concentration? Pride? You may find it helpful to approach this theme in a watchful way, waiting for the right moment to capture your subject rather than trying to get them to pose for you.

Triptych Featuring Different Shutter Speeds

25 May 2020 - DPI Competition

For the purpose of this theme, a triptych is a set of three separate images presented as one work. Each triptych must comprise three photographs of the same subject, but each image must utilise a different shutter speed. You may vary your shutter speed to show different degrees of motion. Or perhaps you would like to vary your shutter speed to show three different levels of exposure of the one subject.

Your three images may be stacked on top of each other, placed side by side or arranged in some other formation.

Human Body

22 June 2020 - Print Competition

The final theme for the 2019/20 competition year is easy to define but can be somewhat harder to shoot. Your June images must feature the human body - be it the full body or a part of the body, abstract or true, still or moving. But while your images will contain people, this theme is not about portraiture. You are looking to celebrate the human form rather than a particular person.