

BRENT MAIL presents...

PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

ISSUE 64 | APRIL 2025

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MONOCHROMATIC
COLOUR



— ★ PHOTO ★
**BOOT
CAMP**
ACADEMY —

Photographer: **RODNEY CHARLTON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

This photo of a butterfly was taken earlier this year at a local wetlands. The original colour photo had mostly green grasses in the background, with the tips of the flowers purple and the butterfly black and white, so I converted to a green tone. I tried a few different levels of saturation but ended up pulling it back to a lower level. I also needed to lower the brightness of some areas/colours of the image due to the monochrome conversion making some areas quite light and distracting. LR Colour grading H:115, S:50, L:20
- Photo

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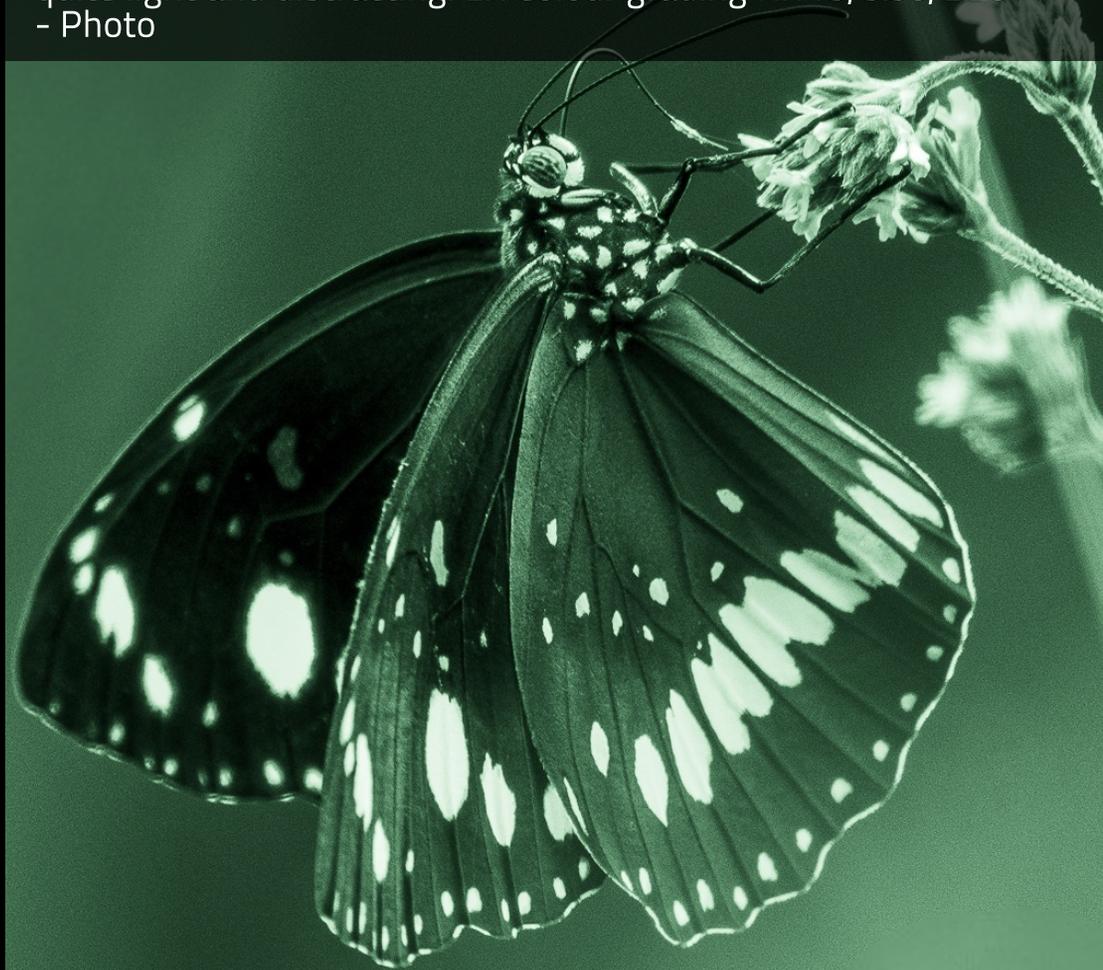
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DRILL INSTRUCTOR'S MEMO

WELCOME TO ISSUE 64 OF PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE!

In this issue, we're diving into the captivating world of monochromatic photography. By exploring the use of shades, tints, and tones of a single color, you'll discover how this technique can transform your images into powerful visual statements. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just beginning your journey, this guide will help you master the art of monochromatic storytelling, unlocking the potential of simplicity and emotional impact in your compositions.

Monochromatic photography involves capturing images using different shades, tints, and tones of a single color. This technique creates a cohesive and sophisticated look, simplifying your composition and drawing attention to texture, form, and emotion.



Brent Mail

**MONOCHROMATIC
COLOUR**

MONOCHROMATIC COLOUR

*"With one color, you see the essence;
with many, you see the chaos."*

~ Unknown

MONOCHROMATIC COLOUR

What is Monochromatic Photography?

Monochromatic photography is the art of capturing images using different shades, tints, and tones of a single colour. This technique simplifies compositions, highlighting texture, form, and emotion, and creates a cohesive, sophisticated aesthetic.

MONOCHROMATIC COLOUR

Why Monochromatic Photography is Important

Monochrome offers unique benefits for photographers:

- **Simplicity:** Reduces distractions, allowing the viewer to focus on the subject's details.
- **Emotional Depth:** Emphasises mood and atmosphere, creating a stronger connection with the audience.
- **Creative Challenge:** Forces photographers to focus on light, texture, and composition, enhancing their technical skills.

MONOCHROMATIC COLOUR

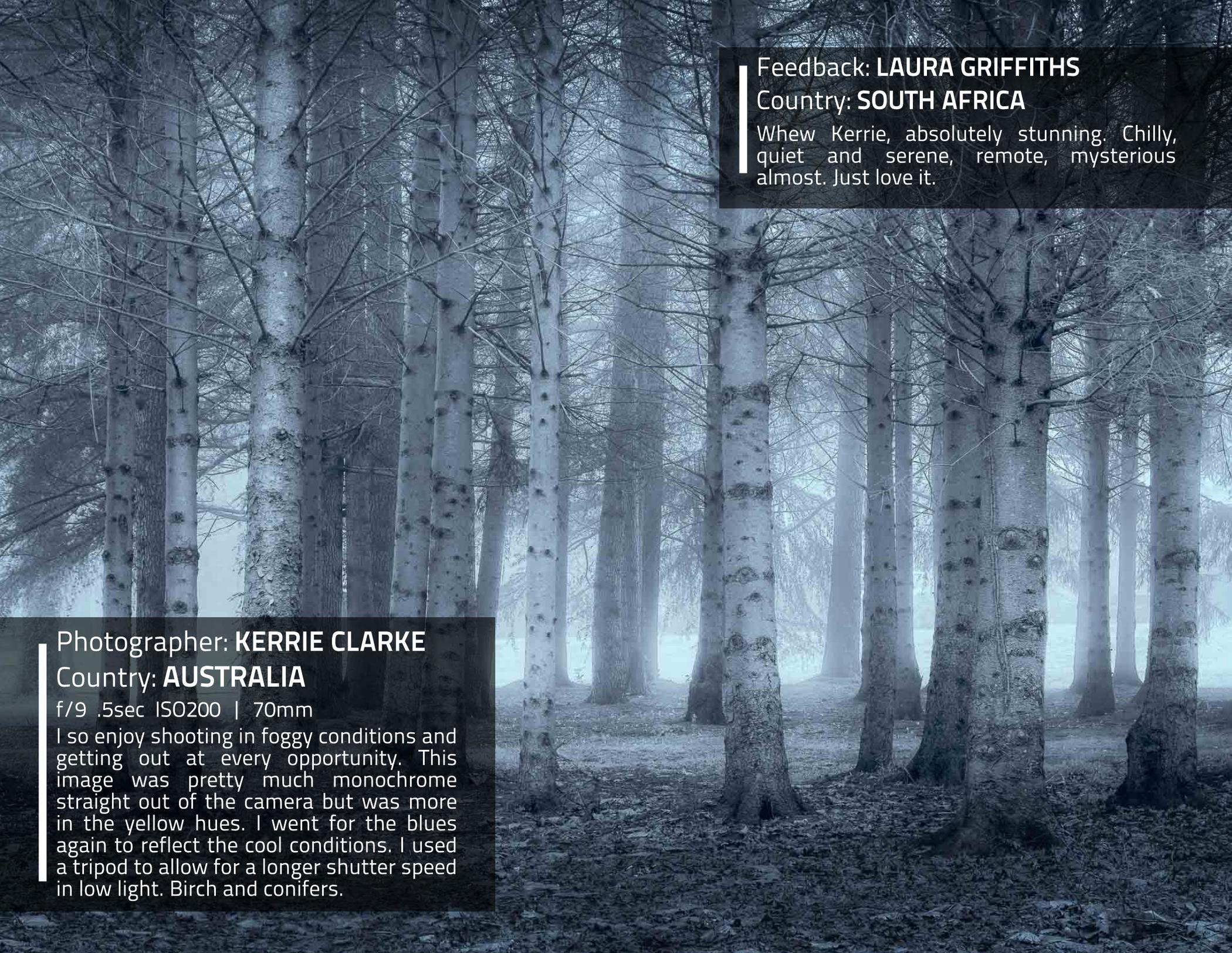
How to Master Monochromatic Photography

- **Choose Your Colour:** Select a colour that enhances the subject and conveys the right mood—whether bold or subtle.
- **Play with Light and Shadow:** Experiment with lighting to bring out textures and contrasts within your chosen colour.
- **Focus on Composition:** Carefully consider lines, shapes, and patterns to ensure visual interest.
- **Post-Processing:** Use editing tools to adjust shades, tints, and tones, refining your image for a polished finish.



MEMBERS' IMAGES





Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Whew Kerrie, absolutely stunning. Chilly, quiet and serene, remote, mysterious almost. Just love it.

Photographer: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/9 .5sec ISO200 | 70mm

I so enjoy shooting in foggy conditions and getting out at every opportunity. This image was pretty much monochrome straight out of the camera but was more in the yellow hues. I went for the blues again to reflect the cool conditions. I used a tripod to allow for a longer shutter speed in low light. Birch and conifers.



Feedback: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

This looks really good Sig. Very fitting colour choice with the background of the story and although reds can be jarring, the tone you have managed to get is just perfect. Crisp and great composition. Well done.

Photographer: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

f/11 1/100sec ISO100 | 43mm

Paris, France... The red in this image symbolizes the terror and bloodshed that took place at the Place de la Concorde during the French Revolution about 230 years ago. 'Madame Guillotine' was located behind the fence in the background of this photo, which was taken from the Tuileries Gardens toward the Place de la Concorde. It shows the ancient Egyptian Obelisk and the Ferris Wheel located there now (or at least it was there in 2018). The photo also contrasts the terror of that time with the recreation and amusement taking place in this area today.



Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Richard, I like how the energy created by the clouds' shapes compliment the cry from the warrior to follow him. The choice of green adds to the suspense of what will happen next. To me, his face represents the hope that the faithful will follow.

Photographer: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

f/5.6 1/400sec ISO100 | 28mm

Monochromatic color is a concept that I hadn't considered much before this challenge, but the 'Roman Gladiator' seems like an excellent place to start since the bronze sculpture has a natural green patina. I converted my black-and-white image using a combination of Lightroom tools to achieve this effect. The sculpture, created in 1881 by Gustave Georges Theodore Geefs, was installed in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park to commemorate the inauguration of the 1884 California Midwinter International Exhibition. It stands over 8 feet tall on top of a 40-inch-high base in front of the de Young Museum. I was looking up into the statue with a cloudy sky backdrop.



Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Peter. Nice landscape. Good contrast between the sky and foreground. Well done.

Photographer: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

f/6.1 1/320sec ISO1000 | 70mm

This is a sunset at our first camp in Somalisa, Zimbabwe. I used the different tones of orange in the sunset to silhouette the trees in the mid-ground and the brush in the foreground. The warm tones created a very peaceful feeling as some enjoyed their gin and tonics, others their beer, and me.. my Tequila sunset!



Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Denis, I would like to compliment the composition of your photograph. I like the way you featured the circular fountain using the converging angles of the building as background.

Photographer: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

I am not sure that I have the right handle on this challenge. I have tried further investigation online myself and I am getting more confused. I am going to post two images. 1st one is the original and the second is the Monochromatic version. I only have an early version of Lightroom Classic which properly is not of great help. However, I do have an up-to-date version of ON1 Photo Raw Max 24 and I can switch between both applications. Still learning Photo Raw and will be for some time I think. What I am trying to achieve is to have the building/Fountain in the Court Yard Monochrome and the Flora remaining Green. As I said at the outset I am unsure whether I am on the right track. Perhaps you could let me have your thoughts.

Photographer: **OLEG MAYOROV**

Country: **CANADA**

Sony A6600

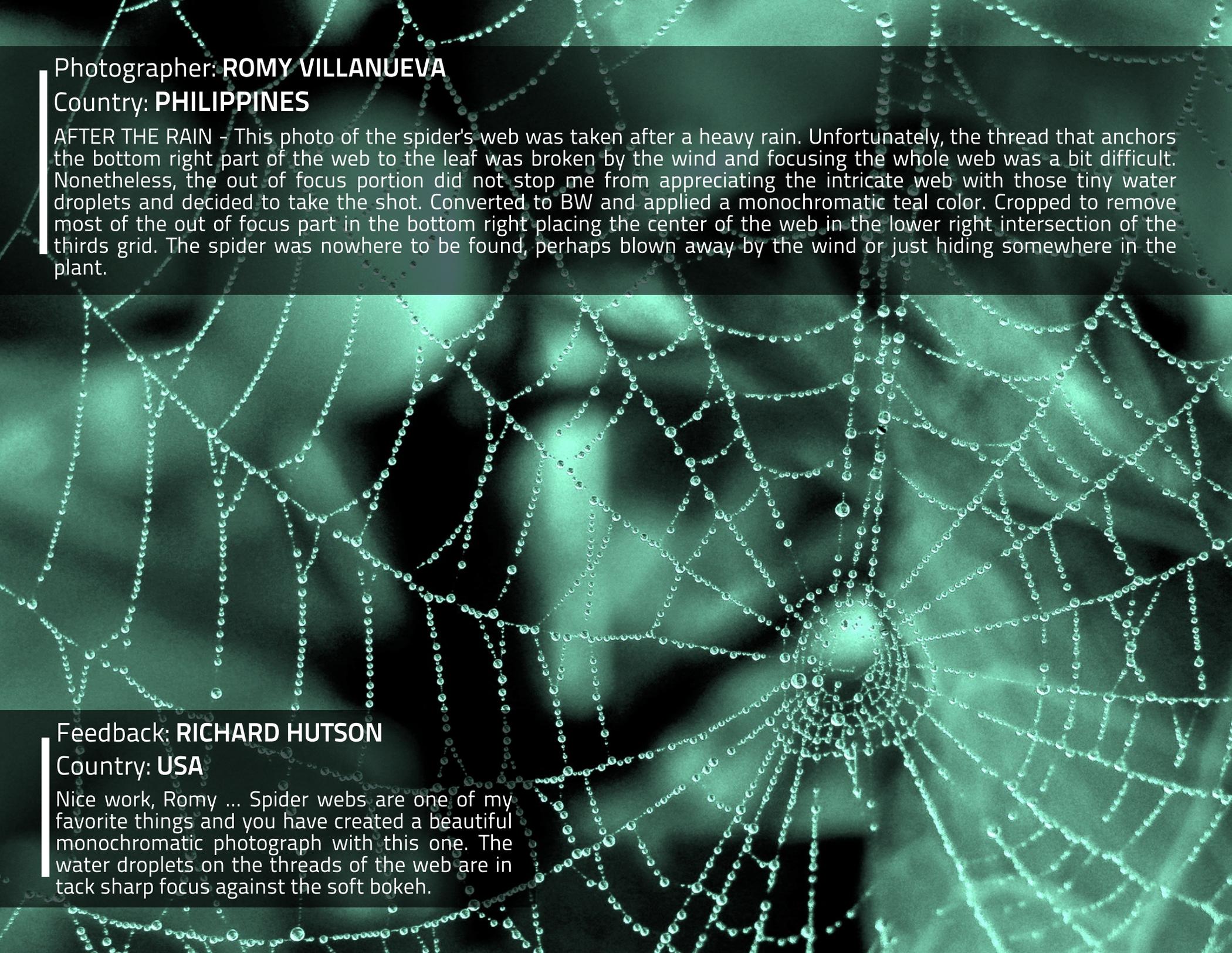
f/8 1/50sec ISO800 | 16-55mm

Strait of Georgia - Going from Vancouver Island to Vancouver after Canada Day long weekend. It will take time to go through all the images from this weekend, but when I saw it - it was just right for this challenge. Nature gives everything ready, no adjustment is needed. Cool down the temperature a bit.

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Oleg, Nice shot ... I like the deep blues of the water leading to the lighter tones of the mountains and sky in the background.



Photographer: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

AFTER THE RAIN - This photo of the spider's web was taken after a heavy rain. Unfortunately, the thread that anchors the bottom right part of the web to the leaf was broken by the wind and focusing the whole web was a bit difficult. Nonetheless, the out of focus portion did not stop me from appreciating the intricate web with those tiny water droplets and decided to take the shot. Converted to BW and applied a monochromatic teal color. Cropped to remove most of the out of focus part in the bottom right placing the center of the web in the lower right intersection of the thirds grid. The spider was nowhere to be found, perhaps blown away by the wind or just hiding somewhere in the plant.

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Nice work, Romy ... Spider webs are one of my favorite things and you have created a beautiful monochromatic photograph with this one. The water droplets on the threads of the web are in tack sharp focus against the soft bokeh.



Photographer: **GREG SKEHAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Canon 5D Mark II

f/10 1/125sec | 75mm

This image was taken next to the wharves area in Reykjavik, Iceland. I like the different textures and colours of working boats and the accompanying gear like ropes, nets, chains, sails etc usually found along the seafront. The rusting chain (almost like a necklace) shown here contrasts with the thick rope, the smooth wood and the finer threads of mop-like strands of rope.

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Greg, by using the monochromatic technique, you made everything that had color blend in evenly so that the viewer instead focused solely on all the different textures of the ropes and chain.

Photographer: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

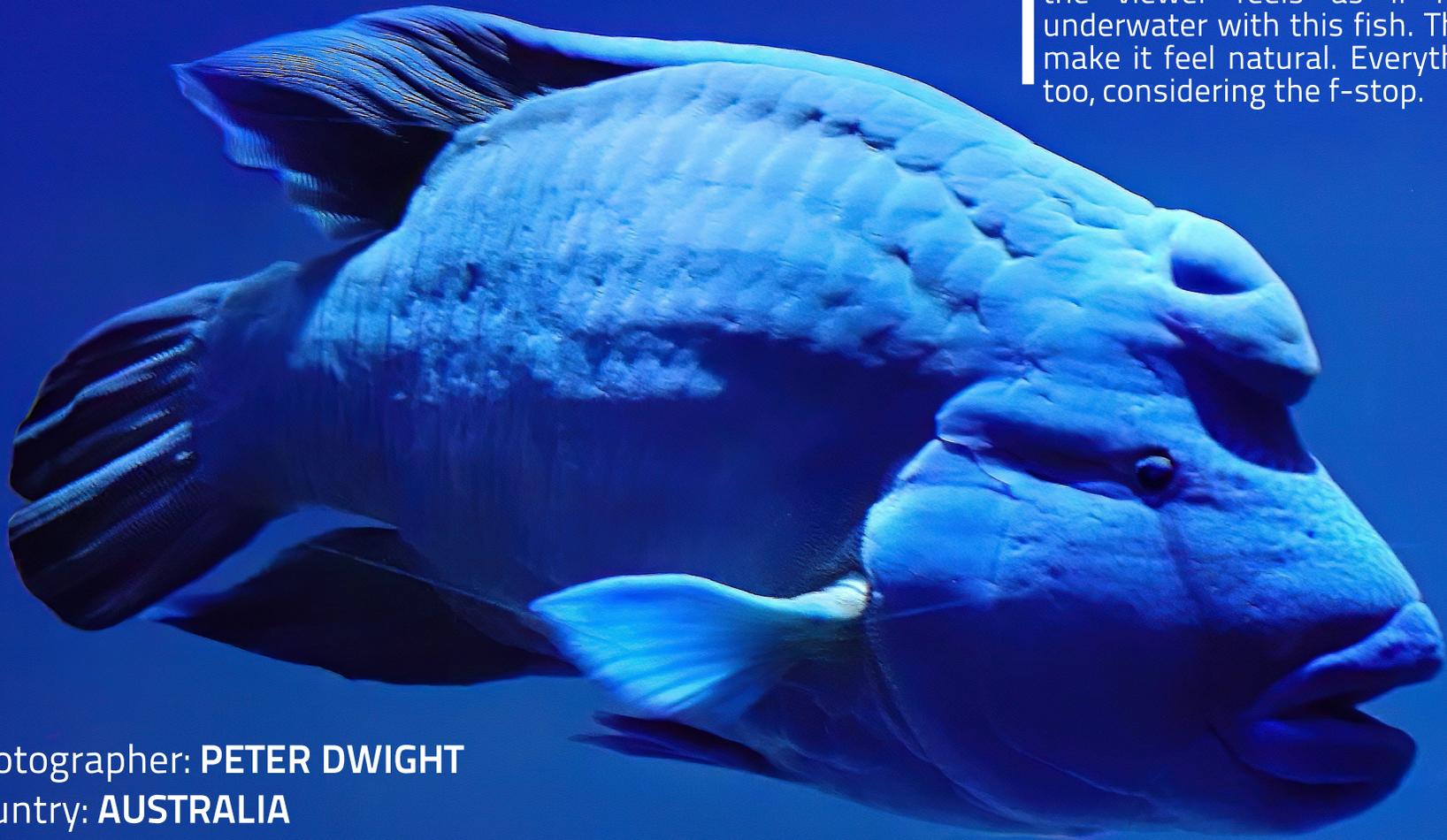
I am posting my third image a bit early perhaps, but am leaving to visit my grandchildren in the UK in the next day or two. Maybe some portrait shots as a change from wildlife. So this is the big daddy of the pride we saw at an almost empty waterhole in Savuti. It had only tiny pools of water along the edge which was mostly a mud hole into which the lions were sinking to try and get a drink. In some of my images, it looks as though they are actually drinking the mud as no water is visible. A dry summer was being experienced as proper rains had not fallen in the previous rainy season and the next rainy season is only due to arrive in October. I have chosen brown for the sandy environment and a muddy waterhole for this mono.

Feedback: **GREG SKEHAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Yet another superb image Laura. All of your photos of the African landscapes and wildlife are truly inspiring. With wildlife, I usually find myself looking at the eyes first but here the curling tongue really pops out. This is another of the many photos you need to enlarge, print and hang. That is assuming you have any wall space left!





Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Peter, shooting through glass can be tricky. There is no glare in the photo, so the viewer feels as if he/she were underwater with this fish. The blue tones make it feel natural. Everything is sharp, too, considering the f-stop.

Photographer: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Sony RX10IV

f/4.5 1/50sec ISO3200 | 115mm

This image is a bit easy, only had to remove some colored fish & some reflections from the glass as well as touch up the colors. taken at Singapore's Aquarium on our recent trip, this was a huge Blue Groper.

Photographer: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

Nikon D60

f/10 1/400sec | 44mm

This is such a fun challenge! So many great images posted already. Mine is a throwback image from my 2018 trip to Ireland with my husband for our 25th Anniversary. We were walking behind this gentleman, to St Canice Cathedral. I like it in color but really like this sepia color better than black and white. I cropped it a bit and ran through Topaz AI for a little more sharpness.

Feedback: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

Hi, Sara: in addition to the other comments, I am intrigued with the diagonal feel of the photo, beginning at the lower right, to the man at the center and the vines up above. The play of light and dark completes the sense of an antique photo. Love it!



**FEATURED
ARTIST**



**FEATURED
IMAGE**

**DENIS O'BYRNE
IRELAND**



Photographer: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

f/6.7 1/250sec ISO125 | 28mm

Breaking all the rules I know. Anyway, I have not even mastered Monochromatic and here I am trying to combine two things. Firstly monochromatic by adding a blue hue to give the feeling of an evening shot around the Blue Hour. The shot was taken early to mid-afternoon in March. I am also trying to concentrate the viewer's eye on the mid-foreground by using Darks, Shadows, Mid Tones, Highlights etc. I am trying to use what I call a letterbox effect. As if you were looking at a scene through the open aperture of a letter Box

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FEATURED ARTIST: DENIS O'BYRNE | IRELAND

Brent: *How did you get started in photography? What was your inspiration?*

Denis: *My late father was a good amateur photographer. My earliest memory is with him in the Dark Room watching the miracle as images appeared from nowhere. From those early days I dipped in and out with holiday shots. It was when I retired in 2007 and was taking a trip to South Africa to include Kruger National Park that I bought my Cannon 1000d. Got the shop assistant to set it up and shot away for years in Auto and jpeg. In 2012 I decided to go to classes and learn something about the equipment I had and how to use it and I am trying to learn ever since.*

Brent: *What is the most challenging photo you've ever taken and how did you overcome those challenges?*

Denis: *My most challenging shot was during the Fixed Focal Length Project. I was trying to get a shot of a street artist without him knowing and it was not working. I was shooting 50mm fixed focal length and needed to be closer to my subject. This meant getting over my shyness asking his permission and getting on with what I wanted to do. As an added distraction I now had all the passer-by's looking at me and I was very self conscious of myself. However a little steal in myself, a smile from the Artist and I got there.*





FEATURED | DENIS O'BYRNE
ARTIST | IRELAND

Brent: *If you could travel anywhere in the world specifically to take pictures, where would you go and why?*

Denis: *I have been to Europe, America, and Africa on holidays. I have never traveled purely to take photographs. However if I was to do so some day I would break it down as follows: Italy- Rome for Architecture, my own back yard - Ireland for scenic and that every changing light, Africa - Kruger National Park for its wildness and challenge to get those shots of the big 5.*

Brent: *What inspires and motivates you to continue taking pictures?*

Denis: *What keeps me going out is the challenge to capture a scene as perfect as I can. This has its own inherent challenge in " what is perfection". Photography helps to keep me grounded, gives me a good sense of accomplishment, and yet is very forgiving in that I can always revisit a scene an do a retake.*



FEATURED | **DENIS O'BYRNE**
ARTIST | **IRELAND**

Brent: *What technology/software/camera gear do you use to keep focused on what you do best?*

Denis: *My camera gear is not by any means top of the range stuff. I am the proud owner of a cannon 1000d crop sensor. I have Tamron 18 - 200mm lens that I use for most shots. I also have a cannon 50 mm fixed focal lens that I press into use. I also have a tripod that I use on occasions. As for Post Processing I use Light Room and Photoshop.*

Brent: *How do you educate yourself to improve your photography skills?*

Denis: *I generally keep myself up to speed via the internet and photographic books. Of course it goes without saying that Bootcamp is a main focus of my education plan these days. Since I joined nearly 12 months ago, it has put a structure on how I go about my photos.*

Brent: *What is it you hope to express to your audience with your photography? What is your strategy for accomplishing that goal?*

Denis: *I try to show simplicity by keeping the shot itself simple and not over complicated. I think in a lot ways a good shot is less rather than more. I think the featured shot encapsulates this. The lead in is there but not drawn out, the dawn sky is there but unobtrusive and the building itself is clearly the main POI.*

FEATURED
ARTIST

DENIS O'BYRNE
IRELAND

Denis' favorite inspirational quote:

"Learn from the past, set vivid goals for the future, and live in the only moment of time in which you have any control – NOW. "

– Denis Wetley

MEMBERS' IMAGES





Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Hi Dave, good work in removing those other sheep. I like this cleaner version putting more emphasis on those 2 sheep looking directly at the camera. Great job!

Photographer: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

f/5.6 1/320sec ISO640 | 270mm

A shot of the inquisitive stare from the sheep on a farm removed the distractions and converted to B&W and went on to the color grading to create this monochromatic image.

Photographer: **GEORGE BOWRON**

Country: **CANADA**

iPhone 11 Pro Max

f/108 1/60sec ISO200 | 4.25mm

Grizzly on the Beach in Sepia. Photo from July 9 2024 Knight Inlet on the BC Coast from a boat.

Feedback: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

Don't get off the boat! your bear is incredibly detailed, with focus on the face. You might want to blur the background just a bit since those textures detract a bit from your wonderful subject. Great job!



Photographer: **JOHN SULLIVAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/9 1/640sec ISO1600 | 400mm

My image of a male lion. I was very fortunate to be on the Boot Camp safari to see these beautiful animals.

Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi John. Lovely shot and composition. Well done.



Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Leila. Nice shot with the iPhone. Pity that the base is cut off. I wonder what it would look like in B/W with a hint of colour added back to give an indication of the sandstone colour. Well done.

Photographer: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

I'm loving this challenge! I went through some past travel photos and found many that were mainly monochromatic, but now I want to do some new images that come to mind. In the meantime, I'll stick with the brown theme below with a photo I took in Egypt at Abu Simbel. The statues of the pharaohs were huge (sandstone, of course) and just below was a tiny queen at less than knee height below her pharaoh. Taken with my iPhone.



Photographer: **MARGARET KEEBLE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/10 1/400sec ISO250 | 40mm

I took this image in Bamberg when we visited there before Covid 19. This is the Town Hall and is built on a bridge over the river. I used the blue tones to give it a more of a night feel.

Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Margaret I like that you've chosen blue shades for this. The building itself is imposing and quite a daunting structure giving the impression of strength and resistance to any outside interference or ingress and the cold of the blue just enhances that lack of welcome that it exudes. Well done.

Photographer: **NICK ELLIS**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.6 1/640sec ISO200 | 130mm

I've used this photo in a prior challenge, albeit it in more natural colouring. At about that time, I also had a play with colour to turn it into a 'moonlit' scene.

Feedback: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Nice image Nick, soft pastel colors are pleasant to look at & shadows in the hollows look great, good job.



Photographer: **BRUCE PATTERSON**

Country: **USA**

iPhone 11 Pro Max

f/108 1/60sec ISO200 | 4.25mm

This one I shot as a monochrome.

Feedback: **SUSAN ROBINSON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

I like this image and the sharpness of the leaves. It reminds me of playing with these in my childhood. Nice work!





Photographer: **PAUL FULLER**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/11 1/2000sec ISO1000

Australian Hobby

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Paul, kudos for catching the bird in flight and with such excellent details. I like your choice of sepia tones.

Photographer: **RON DU BOIS**

Country: **GREAT BRITAIN**

Canon 90D

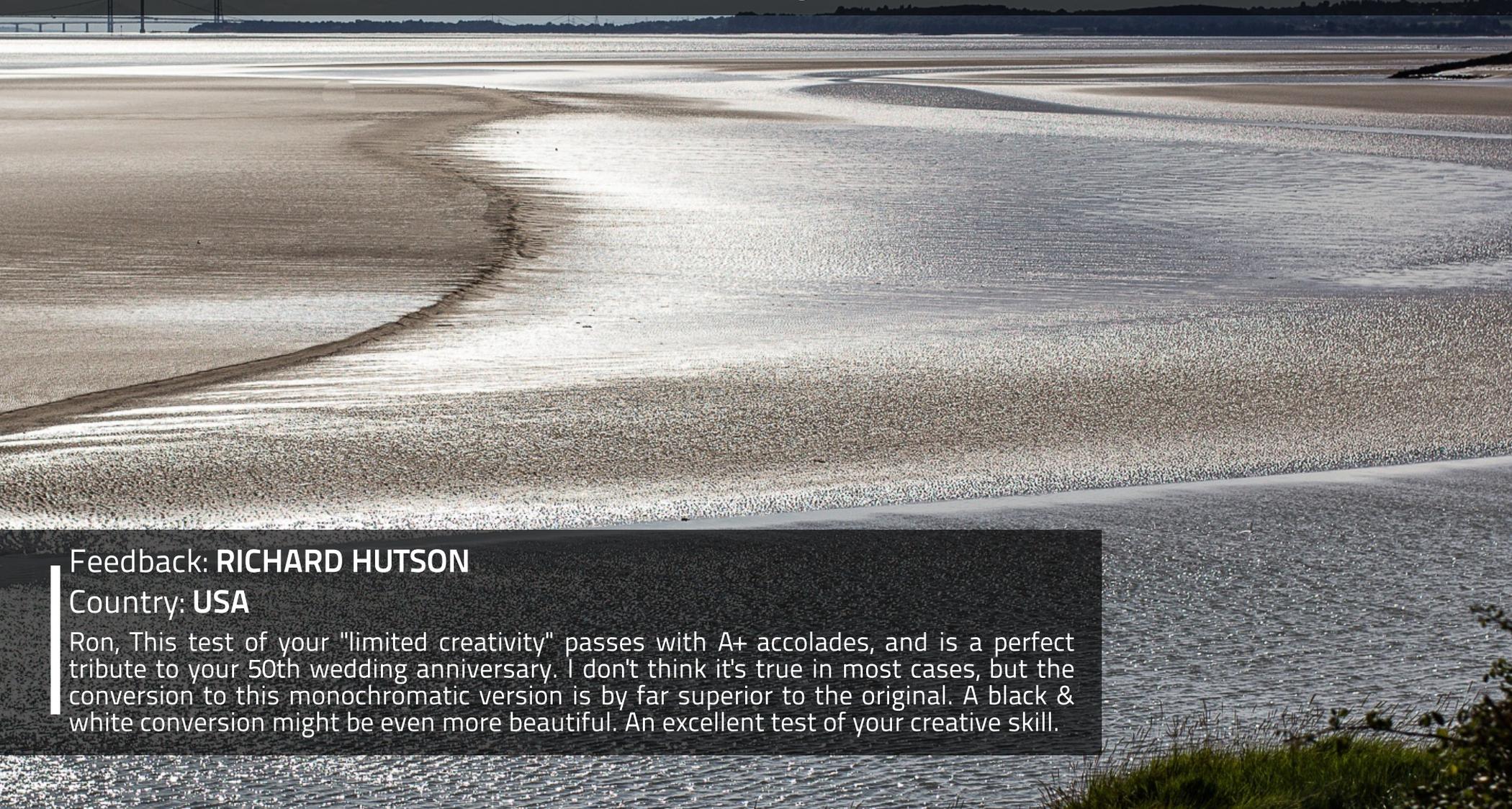
f/3.5 1/4000sec ISO100 | 50mm

This is a very interesting challenge that is testing my creativity. While I struggle to capture a suitable new image, I have delved into my archive for a panorama that might work. For this and my previous submission, I have chosen a monochrome that I hoped would reflect the mood and/or emotion attached to the subject. Here is a photo of the Severn estuary in the South West of England where our family went to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. So, it seemed to me that the only appropriate colour would be warm gold.

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Ron, This test of your "limited creativity" passes with A+ accolades, and is a perfect tribute to your 50th wedding anniversary. I don't think it's true in most cases, but the conversion to this monochromatic version is by far superior to the original. A black & white conversion might be even more beautiful. An excellent test of your creative skill.





Photographer: **SUSAN ROBINSON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.6 1/250sec ISO1600

This is one of the koalas at the local sanctuary. It was good to see it come down from the taller trees mid-morning.

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Susan, cute koala taking a eucalyptus leaf break. The mocha color choice fits the scene very well. If you decreased the highlights, it might bring out the texture in its fur a bit.

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Art Director.....**Hazel Rivera**



Writer & Editor in Chief.....**Julie Powell**



About this publication:

Photo BootCamp Magazine was created to showcase the art, skills, and camaraderie of the recruits from the Academy. Each month, Brent leads members in a new drill, teaching them what they need to know to get out in the field and create images using their new skills.

About Photo BootCamp Academy:

Photo BootCamp Academy is a community of like-minded photography students who come together to learn in the fastest, most fun way - how to harness the magic of photography, improve their craft, gain confidence, and sometimes even win awards!

Join BootCamp here: <https://shareinspirecreate.com/join-bootcamp>

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IN THIS ISSUE:

MONOCHROMATIC COLOUR

— ★ PHOTO ★
**BOOT
CAMP**
ACADEMY —

