

BRENT MAIL presents...

# PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

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ISSUE 66 | JULY 2025



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— ★ PHOTO ★  
**BOOT  
CAMP**  
ACADEMY —



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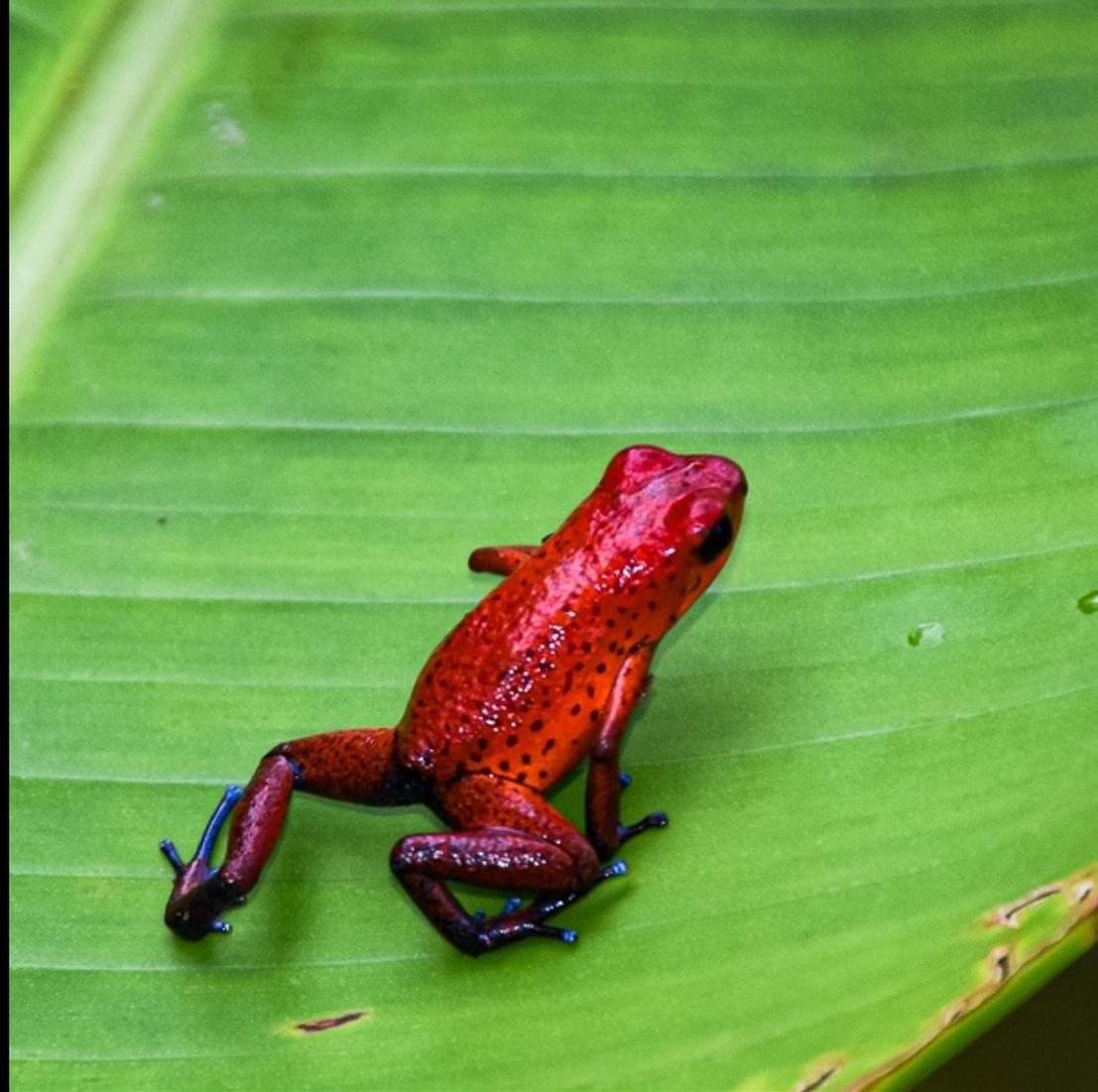
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Photographer: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

Nikon D5300

f/6.3 1/200sec ISO640 | 300mm

This image came to mind immediately for the challenge. This Costa Rican frog the size of a thumbnail is highly venomous and posed perfectly for us. Edited with LR to enhance the colors.

# DRILL INSTRUCTOR'S MEMO

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## WELCOME TO ISSUE 66 OF PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE!

Colour is more than just an aesthetic choice in photography—it's a powerful storytelling tool. The way colours interact within an image can evoke emotions, guide the viewer's eye, and enhance composition. One of the most effective techniques to create striking visuals is mastering complementary colours—those bold, opposing hues that naturally enhance each other.

In this issue of Photo BootCamp Magazine, we'll explore how to harness the power of complementary colours to make your photos pop. Whether you're capturing a vibrant landscape, a dramatic portrait, or a carefully styled still life, understanding colour harmony will elevate your photography to the next level. Let's dive in and unlock the full potential of colour in your images!



*Brent Mail*

# COMPLEMENTARY COLOURS

# COMPLEMENTARY COLOURS

*"The beauty is not in the  
colors, but in their harmony."*

~ Marcel Proust

# COMPLEMENTARY COLOURS



## What Are Complementary Colours?

Complementary colours are pairs that, when placed together, create strong visual contrast. Common examples include:

- Red & Green
- Blue & Orange
- Yellow & Purple

Using these combinations effectively can result in dynamic, eye-catching compositions that naturally draw the viewer's attention.

## Why Use Complementary Colours in Photography?

- ✓ Enhances Contrast – The stark difference between complementary colours makes the subject pop.
- ✓ Creates Vibrant Imagery – These colour pairings add energy and life to photos.
- ✓ Adds Depth & Dimension – Opposing hues help create a three-dimensional feel.

By incorporating complementary colours, your images will feel more engaging and professional.

# COMPLEMENTARY COLOURS



## How to Apply Complementary Colours in Your Photos

- Look for Natural Pairings – Observe your surroundings for natural examples, like a sunset's orange glow against a blue sky.
- Use Props & Clothing – When shooting portraits, have your subject wear colours that contrast with the background.
- Adjust in Post-Processing – Fine-tune the colour balance in editing software to enhance complementary contrasts.
- Find Inspiration – Check out Pinterest (e.g., [au.pinterest.com/brentmail/complementary-colours](https://au.pinterest.com/brentmail/complementary-colours)) for ideas and examples..

# MEMBERS' IMAGES





Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Sig, I like your composition with the black background to eliminate distractions to better frame the sumac leaves. Great texture and colors.

Photographer: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

f/1.8 1/1250sec ISO64 | 6.8mm

At this time the fall colours are at their peak in my area. The maple trees which we have in abundance are mostly yellow and orange this year, but we can always rely on the sumac bushes to add plenty of strong reds. Here is an example of sumac leaves in the process of changing colours. I shot it with my iPhone and processed it in Lightroom Classic.



Photographer: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.6 1/1600sec ISO200 | 135mm

My 1st image for complimentary colors is this Beautiful Rose with Bees.

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

This photo reminded me of my Rose garden in the Philippines. That beautiful shot, Peter, and a fine example of this photo challenge. We don't need to go far. There are many complimentary colors images one can find in the garden.

Photographer: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

f/4.9 1/800sec ISO80 | 27mm

I am using my Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra for this image as my 500mm pf lens is too close to the waterlily and the depth of field is not able to produce a sharp image. During post-processing, I darkened the distracting background into a dark one and the vibrant color stands out.



Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Dave, amazing colors of this water lily - so vibrant. The increased space adds to the composition.

A close-up photograph of a flower with bright yellow petals and a dark purple center. The petals are long and pointed, radiating from a central point. The background is solid black, making the colors of the flower stand out. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the petals.

Photographer: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

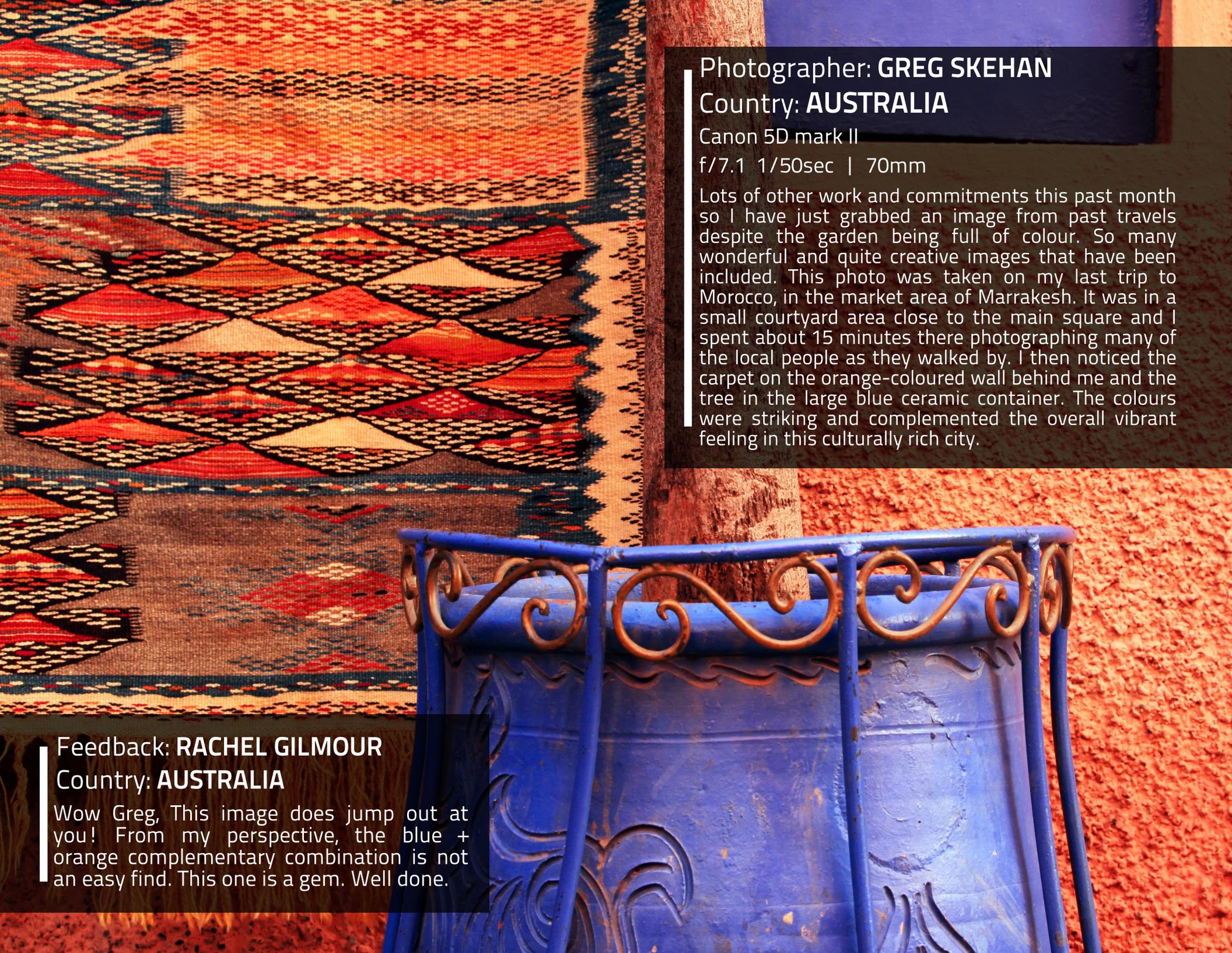
f/8 1/250sec ISO250 | 300mm

Thought I would take advantage of my reduced "brain fog", today, and try participating in this challenge. Still not straying from home, so turned to our backyard flowers and the "black-eyed susans". I was trying to shoot birds, but they were being scarce and they wouldn't have had the colors I was after, so I used my tele lens on the flowers. The flower completely filled the frame. Out of camera jpeg, tweaked slightly

Feedback: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

Rachel, this is a truly beautiful image! I like the simplicity of the composition as well as the truly complementary colours. The black background sets the flowers off perfectly. Great job!



Photographer: **GREG SKEHAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Canon 5D mark II

f/7.1 1/50sec | 70mm

Lots of other work and commitments this past month so I have just grabbed an image from past travels despite the garden being full of colour. So many wonderful and quite creative images that have been included. This photo was taken on my last trip to Morocco, in the market area of Marrakesh. It was in a small courtyard area close to the main square and I spent about 15 minutes there photographing many of the local people as they walked by. I then noticed the carpet on the orange-coloured wall behind me and the tree in the large blue ceramic container. The colours were striking and complemented the overall vibrant feeling in this culturally rich city.

Feedback: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Wow Greg, This image does jump out at you! From my perspective, the blue + orange complementary combination is not an easy find. This one is a gem. Well done.



Photographer: **RODNEY CHARLTON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.6 1/160sec ISO320 | 80mm

At a local gardens I spotted this tree with mostly green leaves but had the occasional red leaf. I believe it is a poinsettia. Some of the leaves were slightly damaged, so this photo is of one of the better looking red leaves.

Photographer: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

f/5.6 1/40sec ISO100 | 9mm

At the end of the Analogous color challenge, I somehow knew that this would be next in Brent's Color Wheel Photo Challenge and I revisited my flower and plant photographs folder. Here is one of them.



Feedback: **RON DU BOIS**

Country: **GREAT BRITAIN**

Perfect composition Romy. Delicate  
transparent petals and super colour  
combinations.

**FEATURED  
ARTIST**



**FEATURED  
IMAGE**

**KERI DOWN  
AUSTRALIA**

Photographer: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

The beautiful west QLD outback. I was blessed with these types of clouds for 5 days straight. It was perfect. This is the dirt between Yowah and Thargomindah.

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR FEATURED ARTIST:

KERI DOWN | AUSTRALIA

**Brent:** *How did you get started in photography? What or who inspired you?*

**Keri:** *I had purchased my camera and I joined Bootcamp to learn more after "finding" Brent on the internet and asking him to critique a photo I had taken. Learning is what inspires me.*

**Brent:** *If you could travel anywhere in the world specifically for photography, where would it be and why?*

**Keri:** *I am not much of a traveller but I do love the outback. WA is my next bucket list for the turquoise water, the red dirt the Indian Ocean Sunset and of course the selfie with a Quokka.*

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

**Keri:** *I think from memory it was the in your yard challenge and I set up 2 teddy bears in my front yard to have them waving at the train. They were propped up with coat hangers and my camera was propped up on books and I was on the grass and the light was important and I just kept missing the train in the shot and had to keep waiting for the next one. It was really cold, and the battery got flat, but that photo still makes me smile.*





**FEATURED  
ARTIST**

**KERI DOWN  
AUSRALIA**

**Brent:** *Is there a photography-related gadget you regret purchasing? Why?*

**Keri:** *I honestly haven't purchased anything in the last few years.*

**Brent:** *What camera gear, software, or technology helps you stay focused on what you do best?*

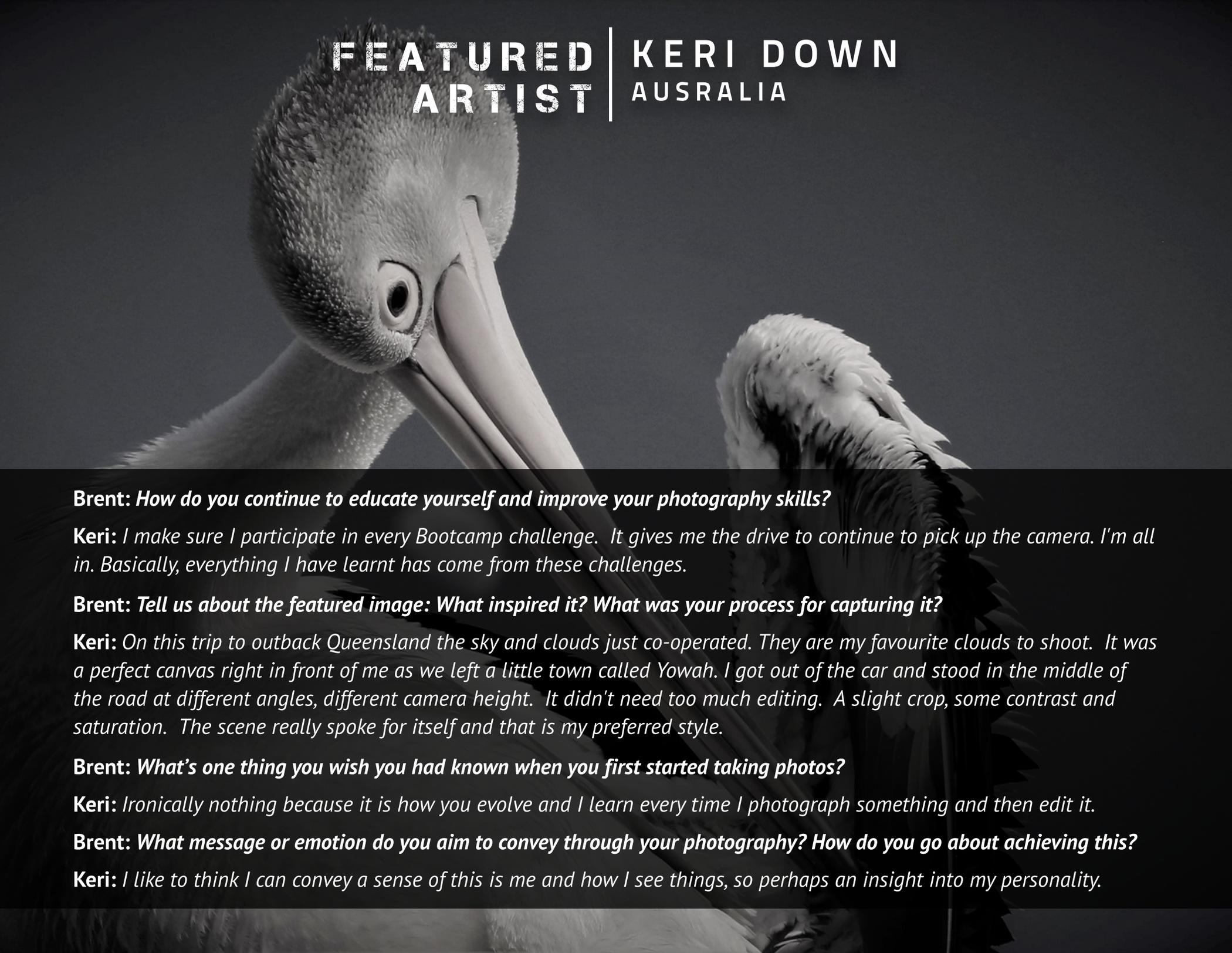
**Keri:** *I am still using my originally purchased Canon 700D with its kit lenses. Not techy at all. At my disposal is Adobe products for editing, but I do try to capture the best version in the first place. I certainly wonder if upgrading would afford me better quality images and I know the answer.*

**Brent:** *Can you walk us through your post-processing workflow? What software or tools do you use?*

**Keri:** *I shoot with purpose so the outcome is already in my head. I go back and watch masterclasses to remind me how to do something in LR or PS but I also use PS express a lot as I feel I have a good version to start with. I tend to crop, manage the lighting, then the colour and go from there.*

**Brent:** *What keeps you inspired and motivated to keep taking pictures?*

**Keri:** *I look back at photos I have truly done with a purpose like for the Bootcamp challenges and I try to buck the trend and I look back at my work with the statement all the time of "I cant believe I took that"*



**FEATURED  
ARTIST**

**KERI DOWN  
AUSTRALIA**

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

**Keri:** *I make sure I participate in every Bootcamp challenge. It gives me the drive to continue to pick up the camera. I'm all in. Basically, everything I have learnt has come from these challenges.*

**Brent:** *Tell us about the featured image: What inspired it? What was your process for capturing it?*

**Keri:** *On this trip to outback Queensland the sky and clouds just co-operated. They are my favourite clouds to shoot. It was a perfect canvas right in front of me as we left a little town called Yowah. I got out of the car and stood in the middle of the road at different angles, different camera height. It didn't need too much editing. A slight crop, some contrast and saturation. The scene really spoke for itself and that is my preferred style.*

**Brent:** *What's one thing you wish you had known when you first started taking photos?*

**Keri:** *Ironically nothing because it is how you evolve and I learn every time I photograph something and then edit it.*

**Brent:** *What message or emotion do you aim to convey through your photography? How do you go about achieving this?*

**Keri:** *I like to think I can convey a sense of this is me and how I see things, so perhaps an insight into my personality.*

FEATURED  
ARTIST

KERI DOWN  
AUSTRALIA

Keri's favorite inspirational quote:

*"You can't worry about things you can't change. Put that energy towards something you can."*

# MEMBERS' IMAGES





Photographer: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

f/4.0 1/160sec ISO100 | 53mm

From the archives. An aloe in my garden.

Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Laura. Lovely shot. Great balance and the light is perfect. It shows off the Aloe to great effect. Nice work. Well done.



Photographer: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

This photo of a Cooktown orchid was taken at Longwood Gardens outside of Philadelphia. I blacked out the background to emphasize the beauty of the petals. I liked how the arrangement of the flowers diagonally bisected the composition in an interesting pattern, creating negative space in the upper right and lower left sides.

Feedback: **JAMES HERRICK**

Country: **CANADA**

Beautiful shot Peter! Excellent focus on the petals. I love how the leading line has gentle curves and allows us to see the plant's growth from right left - leaving us anticipating more to come.



Photographer: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

f/5.6 1/500sec ISO100 | 43mm

I couldn't resist this photo opportunity when I saw the green recycle bin next to my neighbor's red car this morning. Pictured here is 'City Services,' where we are pampered in so many ways we take for granted, in stark contrast to Peter's picture of dire poverty in Soweto.

Feedback: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Great job Richard, very handy image opportunity & so close to home. here in Australia, we have green, yellow & green red lid bins to cover all rubbish & recycling.

Photographer: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

f/1.89 1/288sec | 5.43mm

This is an oak tree in my yard. I was happy I got the picture before it turned brown. I turned it vertically rather than having it on its side. I took it with my cell phone. I can't find the ISO.

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Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Sara, it is amazing how the leaves all changed together in such an interesting color pattern. Great find!





Photographer: **JOHN SULLIVAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.0 1/800sec ISO1000 | 35mm

Sorry for the late inclusion, My wife (Valerie) and I visited a beautiful farm in Tasmania with flowers everywhere. Hopefully, this shot falls within the parameters of the challenge.

Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Really lovely composition and great colours!



Photographer: **NICK ELLIS**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.6 1/2000sec ISO400 | 245mm

Protea

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Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Wow Nick you were in fast, well done. Such a magic shot with the red surrounded by the greens. Love that shallow depth of field and the way my eye comes in from the bottom right and moves upwards. Thanks for sharing.



Photographer: **RON DU BOIS**

Country: **GREAT BRITAIN**

f/5.6 1/250sec ISO200 | 75mm

Vine leaves in north London – the final throes of Autumn. Hope these colours are sufficiently complementary for this challenge. A little cropping and colour grading.

Feedback: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Autumn is the best for these colours. Nice shot where everything is in focus and the timber in the back is a backboard.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TEAM

Creator.....**Brent Mail**



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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