

Orpington – Rotorua competition 2020

<i>Image No</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Jury's comments</i>
24	Caught Winner	20	A really beautiful and unusual study of man's relation to nature. Excellent composition of the swirl of water and the fish. The low angle of the sun yields excellent textural details both in the smooth and rippled areas of the teal water. The image manages to simultaneously invite you to take part in the joy of the angler and the cruel fate of the animal. The punctum is the flash of turquoise in the eye that speak of the quiet violence.
14	Shapes Highly commended	19	An unusual image where the author has been very creative. It is a fantastic portrait with a very three-dimensional effect. The eyes demand attention and then the various abstract forms build curiosity and interest. The mind tries to build some meaning and understanding - it is a very engaging work.
18	Dumped at the back door Highly commended	19	A wonderfully enigmatic still life study. The restrained orange brown colour palette and light is excellent resulting in wonderful texture and detailing. Together with the composition of the boots, overalls and hat casually dumped at the door this builds a narrative of well earned rest after a hard day's work. But the lifelike stance of the boots, which is the punctum of the image, and the mysterious word "genetics" on the hat hint at something stranger.
8	NOT TALKING Commended	18	A well composed image of these beautiful sculptures that captures the electricity of the relationship between the two horse heads and the reflection. The author has used the foreground leading line well and it echoes the form of the left sculpture. The dramatic contrasty cloudscape vies for attention though and detracts somewhat from the overall image.
13	School run Commended	18	Panning has been used really well to capture this motorcyclist rushing to bring children to or from school. The earnest deadpan looks on each person speaks to the everyday nature of this experience. This all builds towards a narrative about education, work, life and values for this family in this place. This is a really good street / documentary image.

19	Evening Stroll, Nelson, South Island Commended	18	Beautiful sunset image with strong silhouettes and interesting layers in the midground and background. The sunlit clouds at the top of the frame leads the eye away from the curve of the beach and the figures. Also perhaps the amount of space on the left side of the image reduces the impact of the sweeping form of the beach.
20	Kelp Garden Wairarapa	17	A lovely nature abstract with strong forms of colours. The composition perhaps is not as strong as it might be, the dominance of the strident water colour taking away from the interesting kelp S form. A different cropping emphasising the kelp might be helpful.
23	Long Journey 2	17	A dramatic tightly composed image of a camel train on a strong diagonal. There is nice detailing in the front sand dune. There is a suggestion of overly aggressive sharpening for this image size.
29	Skateboarder	17	Dramatic action image of a skateboarder. The relationship between the rider, the board and the graffiti on the column works. The amount of space above the rider given in the image robs the sense of the height being achieved. In addition, the far background graffiti is distracting.
4	Early bird gets the fish	16	Simple strong silhouettes and tones makes this fisherman at sunrise image. And while the sky is undeniably dramatic, the bright area dominates the image; another cropping might suit.
6	Kirstie	16	This is a good monochrome portrait using available light. The model appears slightly defensive and awkward, which may be the intended effect. The bright tone of the handrail and the background on the right of the image subject leads the attention away from the subject though.
7	Misty Morning	16	This is a good long exposure image of a jetty in foggy conditions with a feeling of peace and stillness. The colours of the wood in the jetty clash a little with the overall black and white environment and there is some haloing on some of the edges.
15	In the Shadow	16	A good controlled study of a suit of armour revealing interesting textural detail in the steel and leather. The treatment is sympathetic to bring out the most of the subject.
16	Hydrangea	15	A well executed still life study with nicely controlled lighting yielding subdued colours and a great tactile feel. Good front to back sharpness. Perhaps the brightness on the leading leaf distracts a little.

21	Dragonfly	15	A fantastic nature image of a dragonfly on fern leaves, utilizing background blur to emphasize the foreground. The colour balance is slightly unhappy, with the brilliant green of the ferns leaving the dragonfly a little lost. A different cropping might improve things.
22	Army Museum	15	A gritty urban landscape, the texture of the rough concrete really comes through. The dark tones in the sky contribute to this overall effect. The detail on the right side of the image is interesting, which unfortunately takes away from the focus on the repetitive building form.
1	Owl in flight	14	A dramatic nature image with simple strong composition and good use of depth of field to separate the background. The processing perhaps is not sympathetic to the nocturnal nature of these creatures.
10	Robin	14	This is a nice sharp portrait of a bird in its environment. The author has used shallow depth of field to help make the subject stand out despite similar tones in the background. The green yellow vegetation in the background unfortunately distracts.
11	Leaving Mesopotamia	13	This is a lovely travelogue type image of a vintage car rally with a great sense of place. The shot is well composed to highlight the leading car, although the post on the extreme right distracts a little. However, we felt that as a standalone photograph it is more about recording the event than perhaps about photography.
12	Seed head abstract	13	A nice macro image with fine colours and blur effects. While the landscape format and subject placement is interesting it is not entirely convincing.
27	New Chums	13	Good abstract drone image. The interplay between the vertical strips of differing colours, tones and textures works. Perhaps there is a little too much of the dark trees on the right of the image. The punctum, the figures with their shadows, are a little too small within the frame. The implied sunlight coming from the bottom left feels slightly unnatural and a different orientation of the image might be more comfortable.
28	Sentimental Journey	13	This is a fine environmental portrait that illustrates the dedication of this enthusiast. It would work well in a pictorial story on these enthusiasts, but as a standalone image it does not quite engage.

30	Sweeping Curves	13	A nice abstract image using ICM and or multiple exposure with soft subtle forms. Some of the darker areas distract. The forms suggest a vertical orientation rather than the horizontal presented here.
2	Goodbye	12	A nice environmental portrait with good tonal range and sympathetic toning. The overall intent and narrative are not clear.
3	Full moon over Shad Thames	12	A moody lighting and gritty architecture coupled with post processing work contribute to this slightly surreal otherworldly image. The central three lights in the centre are distracting as they don't provide an obvious punctum to the image and obscure the gull that might.
5	Ladies' Day at Brighton Races	12	This is an interesting candid image capturing an animated group with onlookers both near and far. There is a strong sense of social context with the colourful dresses, hats and drinks. Use of long focal length is disengaging.
9	Room with a view	12	This is an abstract that uses form, colour and texture to convey a story about a building. The composition is strong and telling. There is a lack of overall sharpness or local contrast that robs the image of texture in the wood and stones. Also there is a blue line on the left edge that is some sort of artefact.
17	Modern art meets modern London	12	A dusk cityscape showing lots of interesting detail. Excellent details picked out by the light in the far distance. There is plenty happening in the foreground shore and bank, but some of it is lost in the murkiness. In addition, some bright details distract. Overall, this leads to uncertainty of the narrative intent beyond a record.
25	Smile for the Camera	12	The idea of contrasting the sign with its happy family portrait and the exhortation to smile with the disinterested body language of the chairlift riders is interesting. However the composition of the image lets the idea down.
26	The Force	12	There idea of creating a dramatic scene using Lego figures is good. One of the great things with still life is that the author has full control over pretty much everything and the capture and production qualities should reflect that. Here the background placement is not sympathetic to the scene and there is some overexposure. This story is not clear.