

CRITIQUING YOUR OWN WORK

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Aesthetic (30-35%)

Technical (10-15%)

Emotional (50-60%)

Aesthetic



Have you the ability to see a good photograph or do you just record what's there without much thought? Is the image visually appealing?

Is the subject of interest obvious?
Or is there too much clutter? Simplicity can ensure the emphasis is on
the subject.



What is included and excluded from an image is vital? Is there anything that doesn't add to the image?



Is the placement pleasing to the eye?
Is it balanced? (if it's meant to be)
Does it use lines, shape, tone, light, pattern, texture, repetition to
make it stronger?



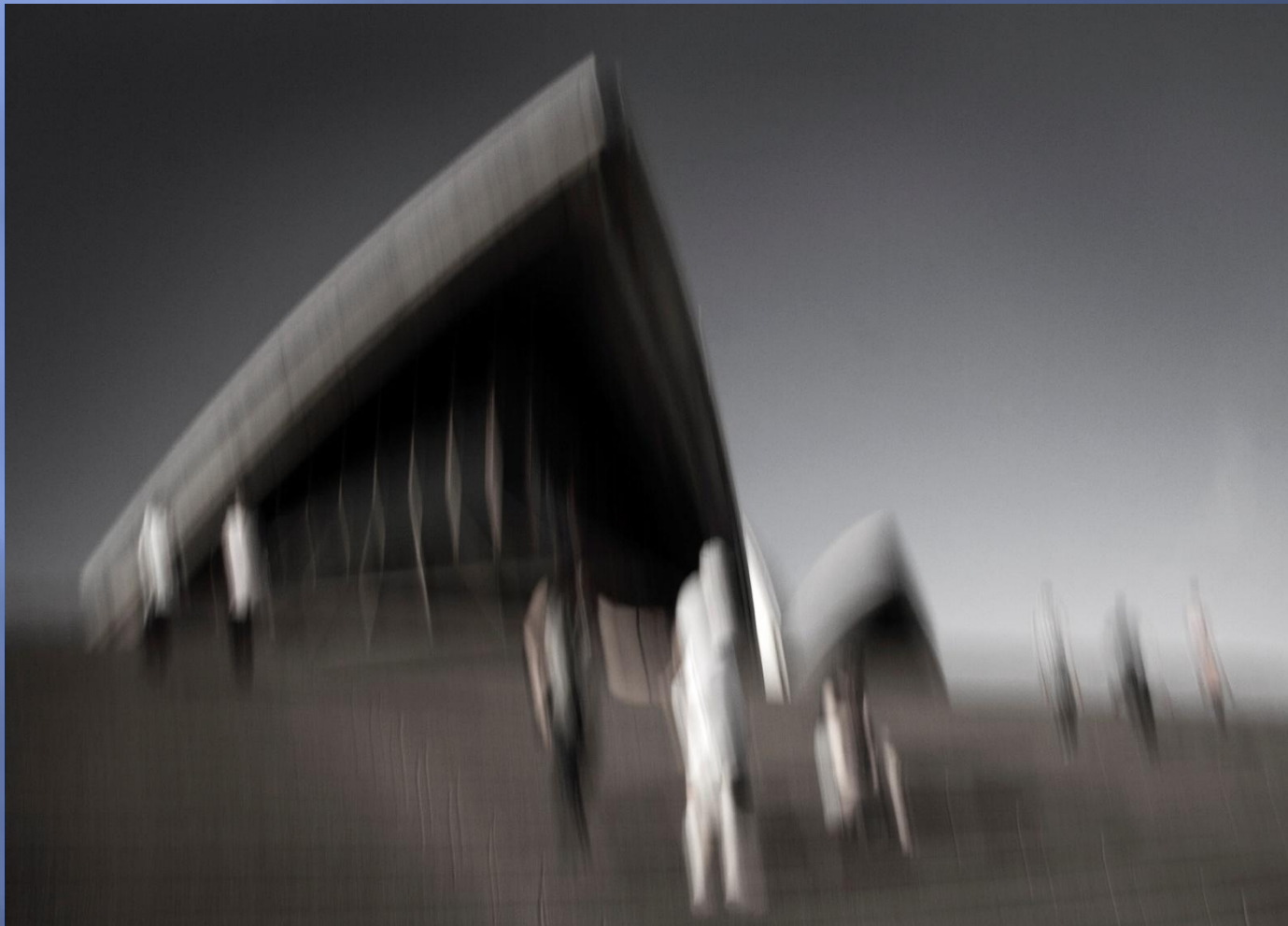
What makes the image stand out? What are the interesting elements? Have you used lines, unusual angles, colour, shapes etc to grab attention?



Does it portray a strong sense of design? Have you used lines, shape or form to the best advantage?



Does the image make you stop and look at it again? Is it fresh and original or does it display the same tired overused techniques that merely capture the classic cliché?



Aesthetic Workshop

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PICTURE'S aesthetics?

Consider: composition; background; angle of view; tonal values; colour as a factor of composition; perspectives; lighting, shapes, lines, textures, patterns used.

Also relationships, such as size of focus area v. size of overall scene. Is it balanced if it's meant to be.

Signs of opportunism? Serendipity? Skills of vision? Is it unique?

Technical

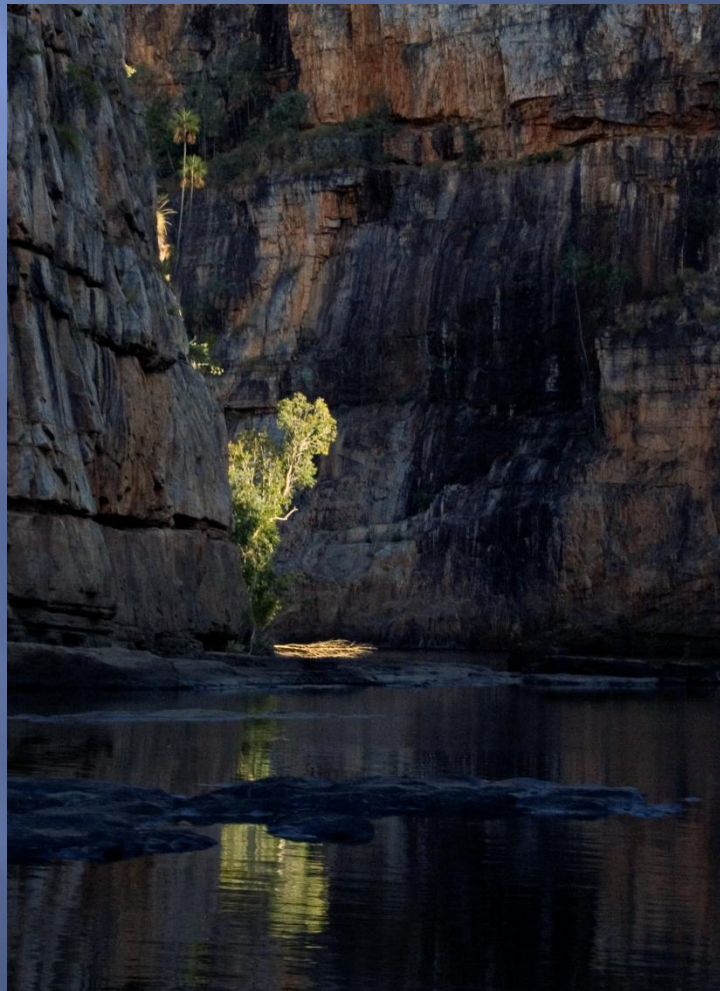


Is the image technically good or does it have major flaws that make it impossible to salvage?

Have you correctly exposed the image? Did you use the correct shutter speed, aperture, ISO, light (high/low)?



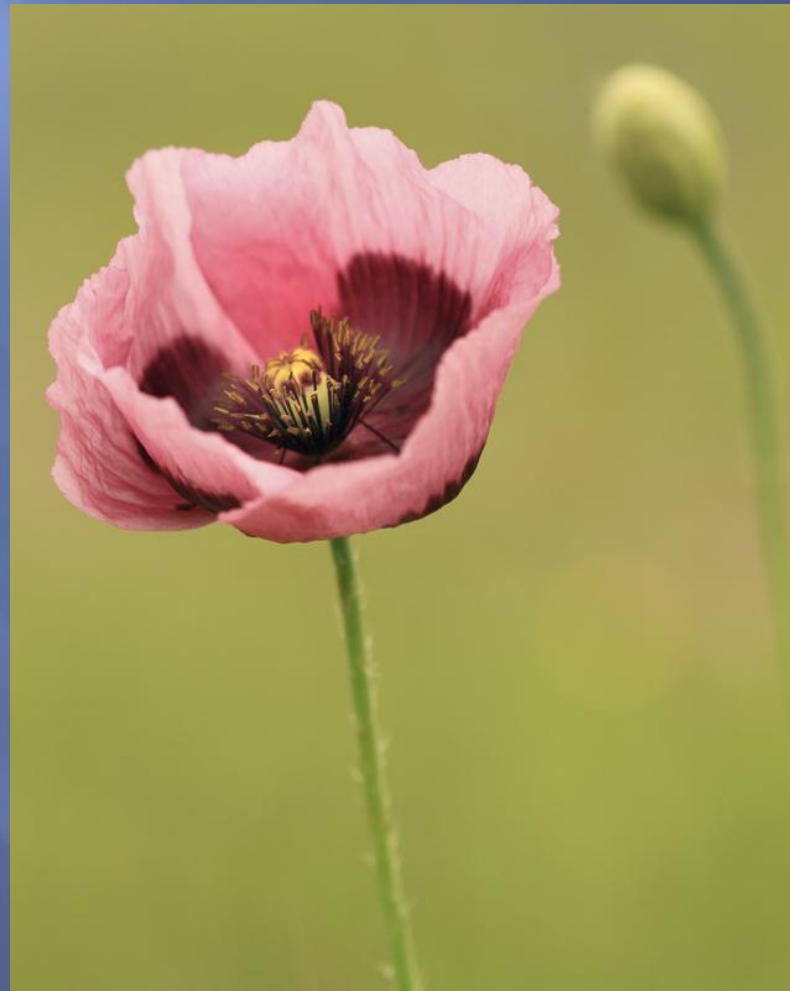
What was the position of your light? Side, back, front? Was this suitable for the subject?



Did you choose the correct aperture and shutter speed appropriate for the message you were trying to communicate?



Is it in focus where it needs to be? Did you choose the correct depth of field to make the subject stand out from the background (if it's meant to)



Did you choose the correct format, colour or tone?



Did you choose the correct post production treatment?
Has it been over manipulated?



Technical workshop

COMMENTS ON *RELEVANT TECHNICAL ASPECTS*:

Don't presume you know better than the author!
Avoid trivial and irrelevant points. Consider visible craftsmanship: exposure/saturation; sharpness/diffusion; focus and DOF; light and shadows. Printing/digital quality.

When entered for a competition: Is it well presented e.g. Clean matt with no creases in print or matt, no scratches on print

MIND: you're not judging faults!

Emotional



What was the intent? Does it evoke a mood or emotion or is it just a record?

The core of an image is how it effects the viewer. How does the image make you feel?



Does it tell a story, evoke memories or portray a feeling?



Is it evocative or provocative? Does it evoke intrigue or disgust, is it moving or depressing?



Is it meaningful or symbolic ?



It is the buzz and tingle of seeing a good image that sets a good image apart? Does it evoke an emotion or is it just a cute photo of your child or a relative?



Is it an interpretation of the beauty or some other aspect of the subject?



Is it a story or statement?



Is it ambiguous and open to interpretation? This often makes the image stronger as it will evoke different feelings in different people.





"A technical 'failure' which shows some attempt at aesthetic expression is of infinity more value than an uninspired 'success'."

Cecil Beaton

Emotive Workshop

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PICTURE'S EMOTIVE QUALITIES?

Does it have a story to pass on? Strangely enough, it is irrelevant what the author as a person might tell you he means to convey. What matters is: what does the image tell you, if anything? Use your inventiveness and imagination to compose a story or message. How does the image make you feel?

Wrap up

You've now seen all the images.....now you must choose the strongest ten images for you.

Remember

Aesthetic

Technical

Emotional

A great image should be strong in all 3.