BRENT MAIL presents... D-CTOBOOTCAMP MACAZIN ISSUE 30 | SEPTEMBER 2020 IN THIS ISSUE: SIMPLE PLEASURES

Photographer: **BELINDA SWAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/4.5 1/10sec ISO 1250

Sometimes it's nice to get out the 'good china' and have a little afternoon tea with the kids. With another cold, wet, wintery weekend meant that I had a bit of trouble finding good light, so I put the camera on a tripod and used a longer shutter speed.

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DRILL INSTRUCTOR'S MEMO



WELCOME TO ISSUE 30 OF PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE!

What are the simple moments in your life? In this issue, we'll help you focus on those moments and learn to photograph them in a way that captures the feeling of those moments.

With everything going on in the world right now, let's take some time to focus on uplifting things. Bootcamp is a positive place and we are all better for being part of it.

"It's not life changes like a new house or a fancy car that make the most impact, but sometimes little things like the smell of an orange, that give the biggest happiness boost. Over and over, people tell me something like cleaning out a medicine cabinet gives them a huge jolt of good cheer and energy." ~Gretchen Rubin

Enjoy the Simple Pleasures shared by the BootCamp members through their images.

SIMPLE PLEASURES

"It's the simple things in life that are the most extraordinary" ~Paulo Coelho



lives that bring us joy.

If you need some inspiration or ideas check out this Pinterest Board.

Why simple pleasures are important

More than ever, with everything going on in the world right now, we need to take the time to stop and enjoy the simple pleasures around us. Why? It's good to focus on the good in the world, those things that create joy in our lives. Seeing the beauty around us, making little moments last and truly taking the time to reflect and see what it is that we find pleasure in on a daily basis. By doing this we may breathe a little easier, feel a little lighter and hopefully find that a little bit of the weight of the world is lifted off of our shoulders for period of time.

How do you photograph Simple Pleasures?

Start out by taking the time to slow down and observe. Spend an entire day (or more) noticing what your simple pleasures are. What brings you joy? What makes you smile? Take notes, write down all the little things that you find throughout your day that make you happy.



Once you've created a list of your simple pleasures, choose one to photograph. Figure out how you can best show the feelings you get from this particular activity. Ask yourself the following questions:

- How can you show your simple pleasure in a unique way?
- What can I do to make this more than a snapshot?
- How can I create an images that is more interesting?
- What set-up can I use to help me convey the feeling I have? Lens? Lighting? Point of interest?
- Do I include myself in the image? Other people?

How do you recreate that feeling of Simple Pleasures in a photograph?

As you answer the above questions about how you approach photographing your Simple Pleasure, you'll start to realize how these answers will affect the mood of the image you're creating. Get creative with your lighting to create a bright and happy atmosphere. Change the perspective you are shooting from, see how that can change the mood of your shot. Consider softer focus and incorporating motion into your shots.

Choices made during editing can also help convey the feeling with the color palette you use. How you use warm or cool overall tones can change the feel of the image. Experiment with these, pay attention to how the changes make feel when you view your image.

Photographer: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

f/4.5 1/125sec ISO100 | 24mm

I have been trying to capture lightning without much luck. I did manage to capture this double rainbow as the thunderstorm left the area. So much to be thankful for everyday!

Feedback: LYNTON STACEY Country: AUSTRALIA

Wow Valerie! An incredible shot. I love the way you have processed it to have the contrast between the inside and outside of the rainbow. You have done well to capture a full rainbow and a double rainbow. The brightness of the trees adds to the pleasure in seeing the full rainbow.







Photographer: LAURA GRIFFITHS
Country: SOUTH AFRICA

f/4.8 1/800sec ISO1000 | 125mm

During initial lockdown we were heading into winter, the time when our lovely indigenous aloes come in to flower with their (usually bright orange or red) flowers amongst the indigenous vegetation on mountainsides. After a few years I have introduced a few new varieties to my garden and this beauty came into flower for the first time. For me it has been a time of shooting bees, lizards, guinea fowl and greenery in nature, weather scenes which may be flat calm blue seas or wild tossing waves foaming over onto roads, as well as food, drinks and household collections. Just a general time of having the opportunity to relax, take time, stop rushing and yes, learn as much as I can of photography.

Feedback: **DAVE KOH**Country: **SINGAPORE**

Good details of the flower with nice colorful bokeh. Well done Laura.

Photographer: **ROBERT RICHARDSON**Country: **CANADA**

Canon 6D

f/11 1/250sec ISO100 | 16-35mm

Simple Pleasures....There are so many Simple Pleasures in life, but we all need to stop and look at them. Two of my pleasures are travel and landscape photography. I love to find the simple pleasures and enjoy the beach, my trailer and getting away from the city. This was originally taken as 5 different pictures and was stitched together in Lightroom.

Feedback: **RACHEL GILMOUR** Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Really nice pano, Robert. Nice colors and the water looks inviting.







Photographer: **DAVE KOH** Country: **SINGAPORE**

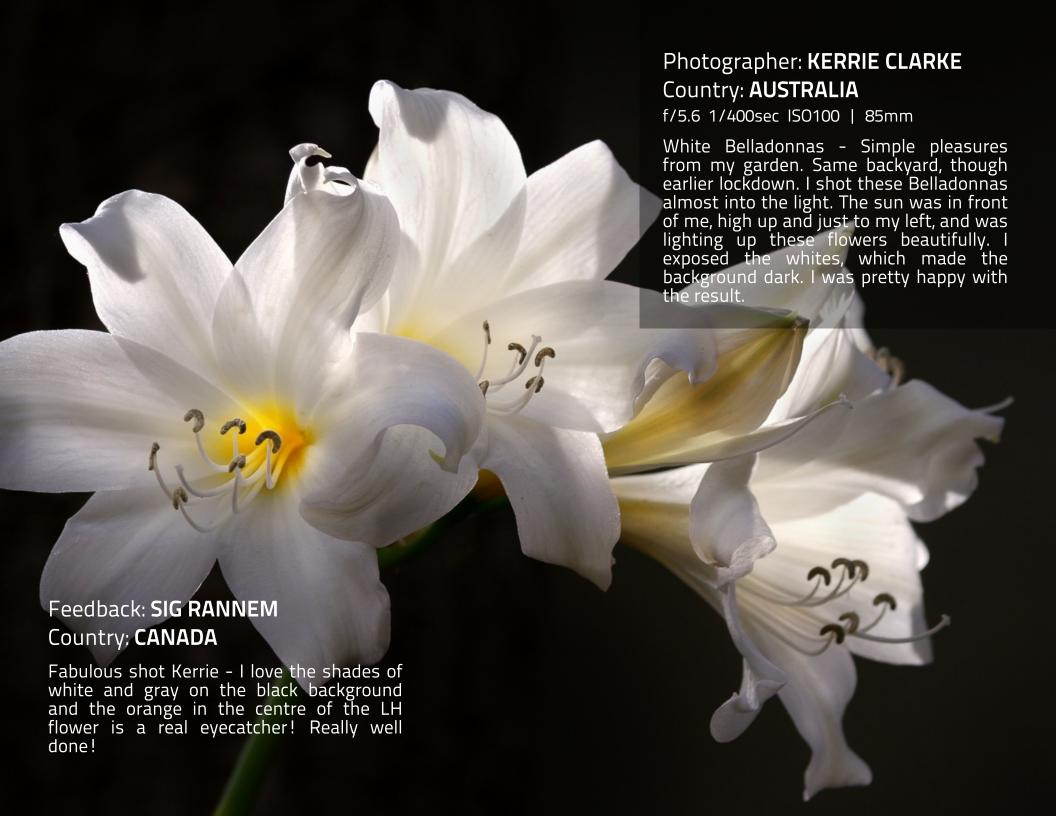
Nikon D750

f/3.2 1/100sec ISO250 | 85mm

Listening to music is a simple pleasure to many people. I have the opportunity to take this shot over the weekend. The model is very relaxing, enjoying the music and is not distracted by the people around her. My final submission for this month.

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Beautiful shot! I love listening to music too. The expression on her face evokes the pleasure she's experiencing. A nice shot, Dave. Suddenly I miss the classic movie "Fantasia" and listening to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue"!







Photographer: **RACHEL GILMOUR** Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/4.5 1/1000sec ISO160 | 55mm

We've had some really wild weather the last few days. Lots of wind and rain. I went to the local boat harbor to get some shots of the waves smashing into the breakwater next to the lighthouse. I managed to get a couple of good ones. Very moody with stormy seas and dark clouds. However, on the way home, the skies parted and this presented itself. I parked and this was right in front of me. Could not have set this up if I'd tried. Came home with a big smile. Simple pleasures! :o) Forgot to change settings, so the camera was still in Tv mode and Auto ISO.

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Perfect positioning. The leading line brings the viewer's eyes straight to the end of the rainbow. Brilliant! Well done Rachel. Photographer: RICHARD HUTSON

Country: **USA**

f/7.1 0.6sec ISO100 | 58mm

Another one of my simple pleasures is playing the piano. I'm nowhere near ready for prime time but I do enjoy entertaining myself, and once in a while, indulgent friends. I like the old classics from the Cole Porter, Johnny Mercer, George Gershwin, era. I shot this photo today.

Feedback: **BRENDA POTTS**

Country: **USA**

Lovely BW image, Richard! You might try adding a bit more contrast so the whites pop more. I agree with Kerrie, that more of your right hand would be nice. :) Great capture!





Photographer: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES** f/5.6 1sec ISO100 | 34mm

Simple pleasures in the time of Covid-19 pandemic. Well in the midst of travel restrictions, happiness is having a camera and lots of blooms to photograph. Flower photography helps me keep my sanity and relax in the middle of this pandemic that seems to be getting worse each day. Converted to black & white and framed. Sony bridge camera.

Feedback: **KERI DOWN**Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Romy this is ethereal. I just love the sharpness, the beauty of the black and white and just so beautifully captured. To have it suspended without the stalk would add to it but nonetheless a stunning capture.









GETTING TO KNOW OUR FEATURED ARTIST:

LAIMA RATAJCZAK | AUSTRALIA

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

Laima: How did I get started in photography? I had always enjoyed taking photos but it was mainly family photos and travel shots. Then 5 years ago just after I had retired one of my old colleagues was running a PD on macro photography after school so I went along to support him. This lasted for several weeks and I had so much fun that I borrowed the school camera and extension tubes and my husband, some friends and I went off looking at wild flowers for the first time. Two weeks later I had my own DSLR and macro lens and now I just love photography and it has become my favourite past time.

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

Laima: My audience is my family and friends and I hope that when they look at my photography that they too see the beauty in nature and the colours that surround them. Also, that they can sense the excitement and joy I had when taking the photos. I don't really have any real strategies other than sharing my photos and stories when I think they are worthwhile.



EATURED LAIMA RATAJCZAK AUSTRALIA

Laima's favorite inspirational quote:

"Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst"

- Henri Cartier

FEATURED LAIMA RATAJCZAK AUSTRALIA

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

Laima: I have been fortunate in that I have done quite a bit of traveling and there are so many beautiful places in the world but I think it would be fun to go to Mexico, South America or Cuba because of the colours and the architecture. I love flowers but I also like doorways and windows and things that are out of the ordinary. How much fun would those places be?

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

Laima: I have to say Bootcamp is a huge inspiration to me. The monthly challenges take me out of my comfort zone and encourage me to learn new things. For example when we did ICM, I had never heard of it ...now I love it. There are also so many genres in photography that I want to explore that this alone keeps me inspired.

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

Laima: I think my most challenging photos have been using the macro lens, learning how to use it properly and finally realizing it is more than just focusing and pressing the button. This is still a work in progress....lots of practice and patience.

FEATURED LAIMA RATAJCZAK AUSTRALIA

Brent: Tell us about the image (the featured image): What was the inspiration behind it? What was your process to get it? How did you do the post processing?

Laima: This image is of my 15 year old cat who joins me in bed every morning as I check my iPad and have coffee. This is my favourite time in the morning and also a time when I read photography articles and watch YouTube. Such a "Simple Pleasure" so I decided to capture the moment. After setting it up and with natural light only I finally got the shot I wanted. Because she is so black she always just looks like a black blob unless you can see her eyes so I had to make sure I captured her outline. Then it was just a matter of using Lightroom to make the pillows as white as possible and Zydacat nice and black. A true account of my morning ritual.

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

Laima: I liken my photography experience with that of joining a gymnasium. You pay your membership but you won't get fit unless you attend and use the facilities. I have read lots of books, articles and looked at other people's work, webinars and videos but now I have to get out and actually practice all that I am learning.

Photographer: KERI DOWN

Country: AUSTRALIA

I have a day off today for the Ekka show which isn't on so I set my alarm and went to do a sunrise. I knew there was fog around but this was something else. I took this 2 hours ago and not a skerrick of sun coming through. I had so many cool shots from this morning that I want to share but I chose this one. This was taken with my phone. I couldn't decide on which one because the mono is striking yet the coloured shows the warmth. Let me know your thoughts.









Photographer: **RODNEY CHARLTON**Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/4.0 1/1000sec ISO200 | 100mm

I was out last Sunday morning enjoying some sunshine to warm up on a cold winter's morning when I came across this Pelican doing the same thing and also the simple pleasure of scratching an itch.

Feedback: **DAVE KOH** Country: **SINGAPORE**

Nice sharp picture of the pelican. Great details of the feathers and the bird's grooming action. A pleasure to watch. Great work Rodney.





Photographer: **ANTHONY CADDEN**

Country: AUSTRALIA

f/5.6 1/800sec ISO100 | 260mm

My simple pleasure is to keep getting out with the camera and taking photos. Near the harbour there will always be a group of pelicans to photograph. I have combined this with the joy of low key black and white to create dramatic photos. This is from Shellharbour at the rocks. I managed to find an EF100-400mm lens to play with to get close up without being too close to scare off.

Feedback: **DAVE KOH** Country: **SINGAPORE**

Lovely details of the pelican. It seems to pose for you with the eye staring at the camera. Great shot, Anthony.





Photographer: **GLENYS RUTH PRINS**Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/4.0 1/6sec ISO800 | 35mm

An everyday simple pleasure is making my morning cup of tea. I have it black with a teaspoon of honey. I took several shots before deciding on this one. Camera Nikon D7200 on a tripod. On timer so I could grab the kettle and pour. Lighting is strip lighting below the Cupboards and the fluoro in the kitchen. Cropped and straightened in Lightroom. Slight adjustment of contrast slider.

Feedback: **VALERIE WORTHEN**Country: **USA**

Great photo. Definitely sets up a mood and feeling of time. I agree the steam completes this photo. Well done!

Photographer: KAREN PADILLA

Country: **USA**

Hove sunsets. This one was after a typhoon in the Tucson area in the Sonoran desert. The funnel shaped cloud reminded me of the tornadoes in the Midwest. I made this one into a 48x28 canvas for my office/sunroom. I was on a storm chasing photography expedition. I do love storms, too. It's a good thing, since we seem to have more storms than sunshine some summers. This summer the storms are coming at night. I wanted to get at least one photo this month. I've been discharged from TBI doctor and I'm taking my recertification for driving. I've done really well since my accident. I still have vertigo - especially when it's stormy or hot and humid but I think I'm back to baseline with vertigo from my Menierre's Disease I have had for 8 years. The doctor was quite pleased with my progress. I did develop a severe allergy to bee and mosquito bites that has kept me inside most of the summer because with all the rain we have huge swarms of mosquitoes. The tiny bees seem the most vicious this year. When I get the okay to drive, and I get to areas that control their bugs better and start taking some photos before the entire summer is over. My husband and I have been in isolation/quarantine since Dec. 9th for his health scare and then mine from May 3 to the present. With so many not wearing masks we don't venture out much except to Dr appointments. He recovered some of his sight with his recent cataract surgery. He won't recover his sight in the left eye. We are also planning a big move ASAP because we want to be moved by the end of Oct. I sort things and downsize. I sorted out my photography stuff last week. Of course, I decided that everything will make the move with me.







Photographer: PAUL LOMBARD

Country: **USA**

Pentax K1

f/8.0 1/1500sec ISO4500 | 320mm

Nature is just too cool. This time of year, the hummingbirds are in our area on their migration path northward. I'm captivated by these birds...so small yet so fearless. Sitting on the patio, glass of wine at hand, watching them flit to the feeder and then zoom off. Their little feet make me smile. Simple pleasures.

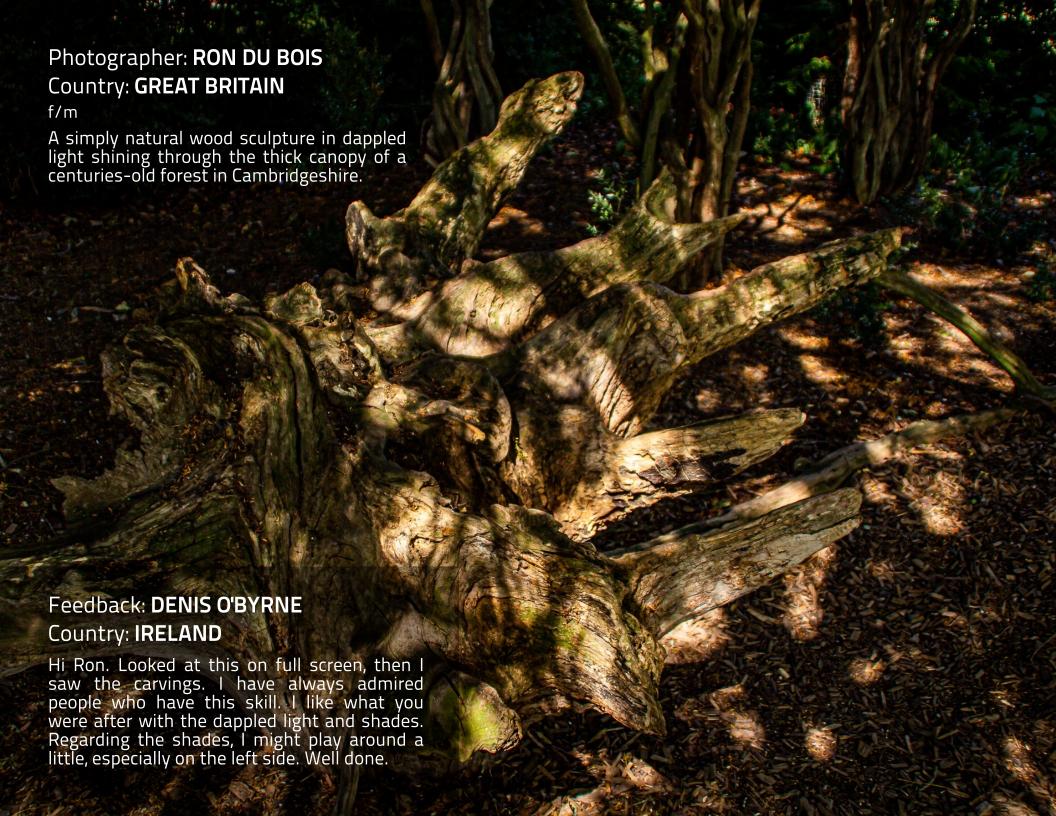
Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Paul, Nice capture with its wing and long beak jumping into the frame with feet pulled into its body. I also like the background bokeh.









weekend closest to the summer solstice. My first post, and taken a few years ago. My pleasures are bluegrass festivals and hiking in the mountains, especially gorgeous sunsets like this.I Didn't want to go too high on the ISO so I could get decent detail, but high enough to use a reasonably fast shutter speed since it's a festival and the subjects were in motion.

Country: **GREAT BRITAIN**

Love the contrasts and the colours. You might want to tilt the image a little to get those flag posts totally vertical.

ACICACIMED CATE

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TEAM

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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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