

BRENT MAIL presents...

PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

ISSUE 33 | DECEMBER 2020

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**HIGH KEY
PHOTOGRAPHY**

— ★ PHOTO ★
**BOOT
CAMP**
ACADEMY —



Photographer: **JANET RHEAD**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/13 1/125sec ISO200 | 18mm

This is my first post for over a year, and won't be the last for another! I'm not sure whether this photo qualifies as high key but I like the way the jetty extends out over the beach into the distance.

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DRILL INSTRUCTOR'S MEMO

WELCOME TO ISSUE 33 OF PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE!



Brent Mail

This month we will be brightening up the world by exploring high key photography.

Creating light and bright images is a great way to expand our creativity and get a little more artistic with our work.

What exactly is high key photography? We will discuss the components that make up a high key image and how to create our own.

In this issue we'll also give you some ideas, examples and inspiration for locations and subjects to use when creating high key photographs.

Then we'll take a look at the high key images the BootCamp members created this month. They have shared a wide variety of ways to use high key photography.

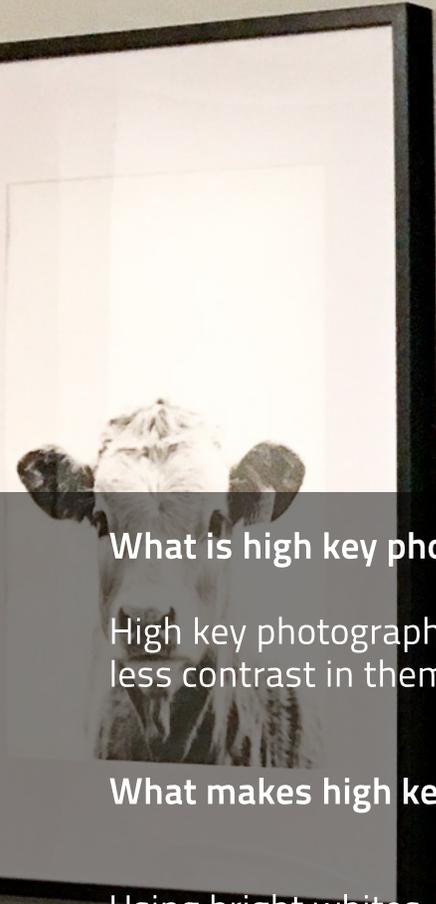
**HIGH KEY
PHOTOGRAPHY**

HIGH KEY PHOTOGRAPHY

*"Light always follows the path
of the beautiful"*

~Unknown

HIGH KEY PHOTOGRAPHY

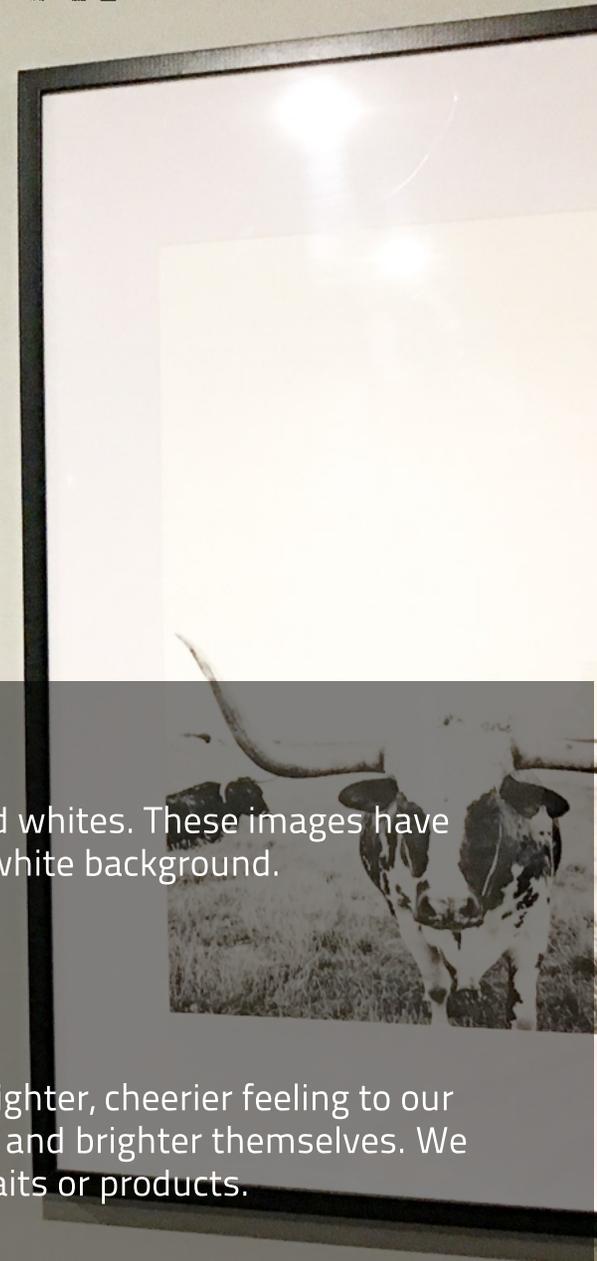
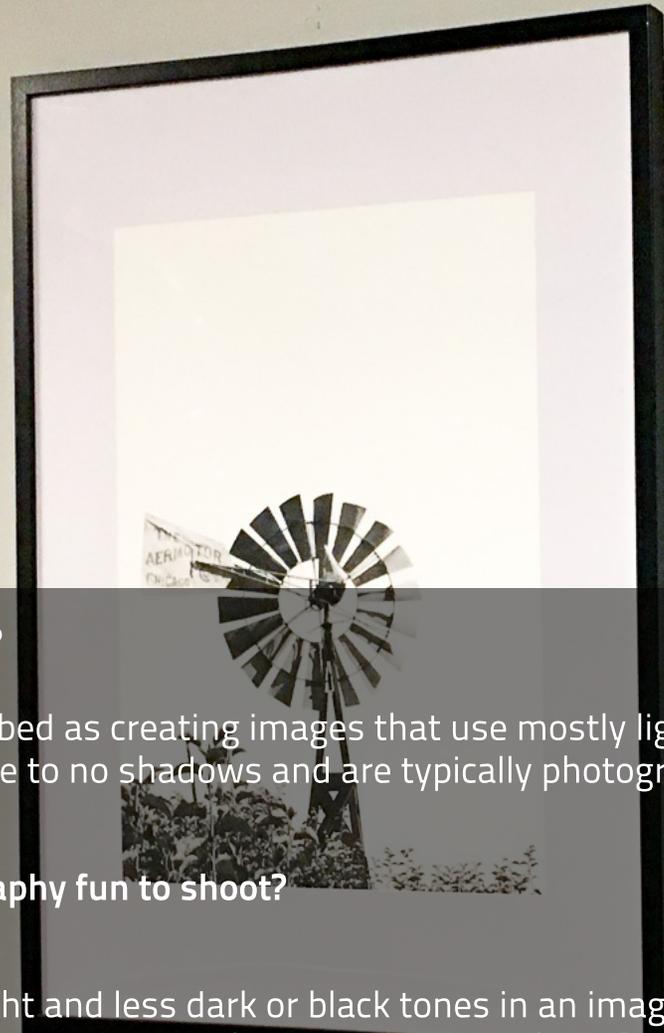


What is high key photography?

High key photography is described as creating images that use mostly lighter tones and whites. These images have less contrast in them, have little to no shadows and are typically photographed with a white background.

What makes high key photography fun to shoot?

Using bright whites, brilliant light and less dark or black tones in an image conveys a brighter, cheerier feeling to our photographs. This feeling is passed along to the viewer making them feel a little lighter and brighter themselves. We can also get more artistic with high key photography when shooting subjects like portraits or products.



Check your histogram as you are shooting. You'll want it to peak more on the right side, but be careful not to overexpose the image. Photographing bright subjects can sometimes cause your camera to struggle with auto focus so it may be better to manually focus when shooting high key.

HIGH KEY PHOTOGRAPHY

How do you create high key image?

Creating high key photographs is more about lighting your subject on a light background and less about overexposing the image. There are several ways to do this. You can use a bright white backdrop or sheet to place your subject against and then light them accordingly. Photographing directly into the sun or light source is another way to create a lighter, brighter image.

Be sure to move around your subject and watch how and where the light hits. Always pay attention to anything around your main point of interest that might be distracting. Remove the distraction or move around until it's not showing in your frame. Simple is better.

What are good locations to use for photography high key images?

You'll find that anytime the surroundings are naturally light you'll be able to easily create high key photographs. Snow, sand dunes, and beaches are all ideal backdrops and locations for shooting high key images. Other locations might be bright rooms with white curtains or in cities with the sun shining on buildings makes it easy to shoot high key architecture.

If you need some inspiration or want a better idea of what high key images look like, check out the [Pinterest Board](#).

MEMBERS' IMAGES





Photographer: **BRENDA POTTS**

Country: **USA**

Nikon D750

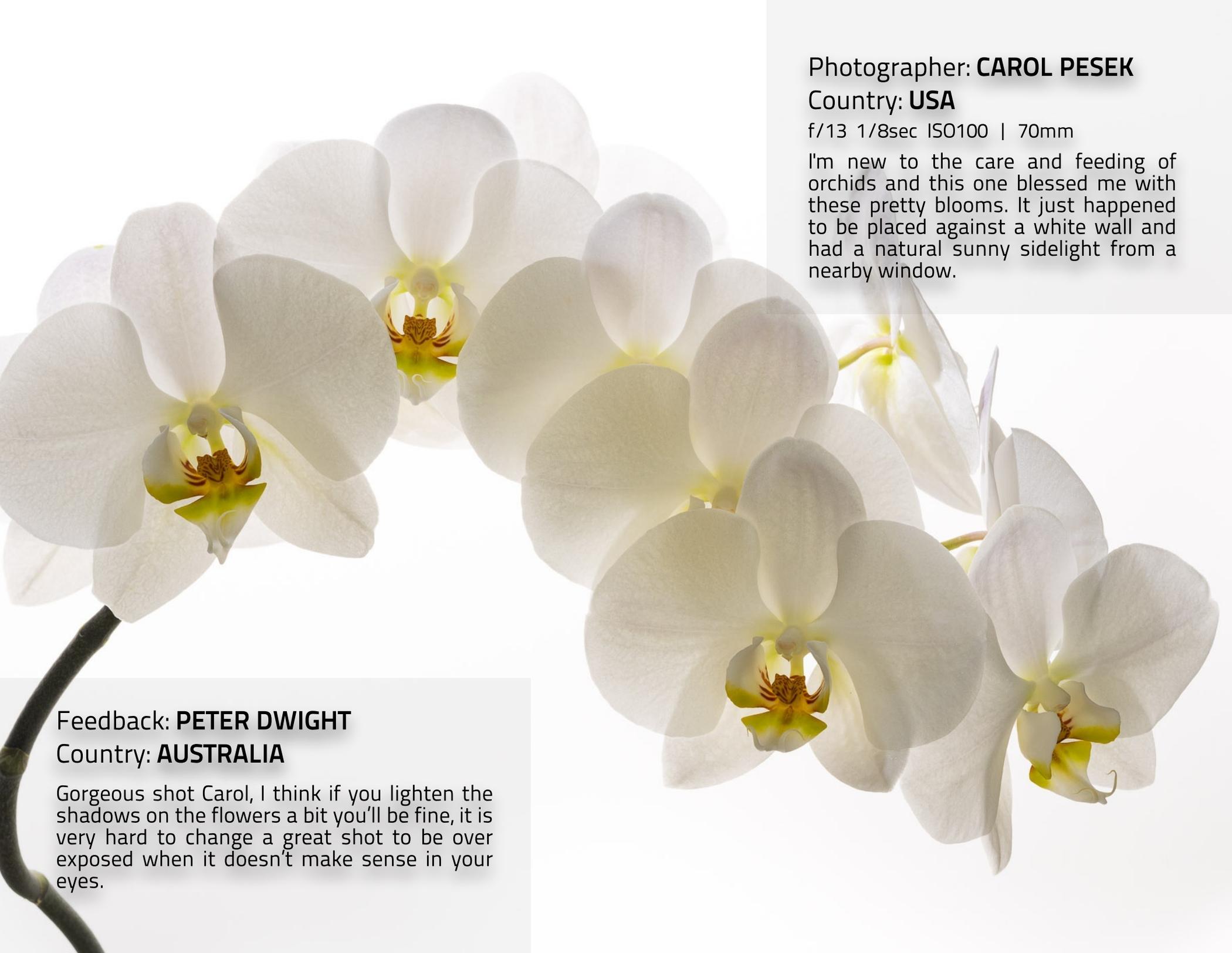
f/.8 1/160sec ISO200 | 200mm

Since it's now rainy and stormy in the US Pacific Northwest, I'm planning on shooting some high key indoors this weekend. In the meantime, here's a high key shot of our native Rhododendron flower that I took in the Spring. It was already a light image, but I did bump up the exposure a bit more and softened the overall image.

Feedback: **BELINDA SWAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

You've captured a lovely image with the stamen gently swooping down and leading your eye back up into the soft colours of the petals.



Photographer: **CAROL PESEK**

Country: **USA**

f/13 1/8sec ISO100 | 70mm

I'm new to the care and feeding of orchids and this one blessed me with these pretty blooms. It just happened to be placed against a white wall and had a natural sunny sidelight from a nearby window.

Feedback: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Gorgeous shot Carol, I think if you lighten the shadows on the flowers a bit you'll be fine, it is very hard to change a great shot to be over exposed when it doesn't make sense in your eyes.

Photographer: **BELINDA SWAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/4.5 1/200sec ISO640

My big girl patiently modeling for me -
I used lighting on the backdrop and off
camera flash lighting Miss M.

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Hi Belinda, you're very lucky to have a lovely
and willing model. Nice focus on the eyes.
Well shot.





Photographer: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.6 1/200sec ISO100 | 84mm

So I said to Brent I am so excited for this challenge because I have always wanted to take a white horse picture and this challenge was perfect. I went out and tried to find me a white horse. I have looked since the challenge started and all I managed to find was a bloody Shetland "insert laugh cry emoji here." So here is my little model.

Feedback: **RODNEY CHARLTON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Well done Keri. The lines and triangle between the eyes and mouth get my attention.



Photographer: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

f/2.8 1/125sec ISO100 | 85mm

The portrait I wanted to do. Edits to the whole were a -34 on the dehaze slider and that was all, but the hat and hair were too dark so I did an adjustment brush adjustment on them and took clarity, dehaze and texture down to -100 and the exposure up to the maximum 4.00 to soften the hair colour and hat. I tried many a shot with my magical 85mm f1.8 portrait lens but too many had only one eye tack sharp and the other soft. That depth of field is so difficult. In the end I resorted to f2.8 and used the human eye detection feature on autofocus just for fun.

Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Laura. I have used my 85 on several shots and find it difficult as well. You have managed a nice capture here. The hair and hat in particular. The face is a tad washed out for my liking even with High Key. I think a little colour in the cheeks might help. Well done.

Photographer: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

f/5 1/800sec ISO100 | 50mm

Good morning from a damp blustery Ireland. My second attempt at High Key shots. In this one I was trying to create a foggy scene which was not there.

Feedback: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

Denis, it is blustery and cold here in Minnesota, not conducive to getting good quality images. I like what you have done here to create the fog. I had an early foggy morning feel to it. Well done.





Photographer: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/4 .3sec ISO100 | 53mm

Arum Lily - After a lot of unsuccessful attempts this morning at using torches and desk lamps for lighting, I gave up and used bright natural window light, with a whitish backdrop, and white card on both sides and below the flower to bounce some light around. I am really enjoying the challenge of trying something completely new.

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Kerrie, gorgeous photo. Once again, it reminds me of the American painter, Georgia O'Keeffe and her style. Well balanced and dreamy.



Photographer: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

This photo was taken of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania from our lodge in Arusha. It was very early in the morning. The mist and clouds were shrouding the mountain in mystery. The black and white brings out the moodiness. I added more whiteness and increased the exposure a bit on the photo on the bottom.

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Peter, I actually like the more defined detail in the darker image although the lighter one probably fits the challenge better.



Photographer: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **USA**

f/4 1/4000sec ISO50 | 50mm

Took some shots yesterday but was not happy with the results. Looking around the yard today, I spotted this blossom in one of our flower pots and attempted a couple shots then plucked it off and placed it on a paper towel. My first shots were in full sunlight with a 180 degree reflector but I settled on this one with the reflector on the left rear. For post-processing, I masked out the flower and removed all background distractions by blowing out the highlights. I then used the Depth of Field filter to smooth out the edge petals, leaving the center in focus.

Feedback: **LAIMA RATAJCZAK**

Country: **USA**

I really love what you have created here. When I first saw our latest challenge I was a bit anxious about High Key images as it is totally new to me, but seeing the awesome images that people are posting I am quite excited...and yours is definitely an inspiration. Well done Rachel!

Photographer: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

f/2.0 1/15sec ISO400 | 6mm

"My Left Foot" is even more unorthodox than some of my other images. I was playing around with my new iPhone 12 Pro last night and discovered it has a High Key setting. So, I snapped a shot of my left foot while relaxing on our sofa. The new camera is amazing!

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Hi Richard. Very creative composition. Interesting.



Photographer: **RON DU BOIS**

Country: **GREAT BRITAIN**

f/9.0 1/500sec ISO100 | 18mm

Lots of creativity from the members this month which I cannot match so back to the archive. Hard to do justice to the Frank Gehry architecture of the Louis Vuitton Art Foundation building in Paris. Taken from low down to try to convey some of the complexity of the building.

Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Oh wow Ron. This is amazing. Nothing wrong with going back to an archive like this. I've just had an early Christmas present from my hubby, my first ever wide angle lens, and said only yesterday I'm on the hunt for some architecture to shoot. I just love this. So well done.



Photographer: **SARA O'RBIEN**

Country: **USA**

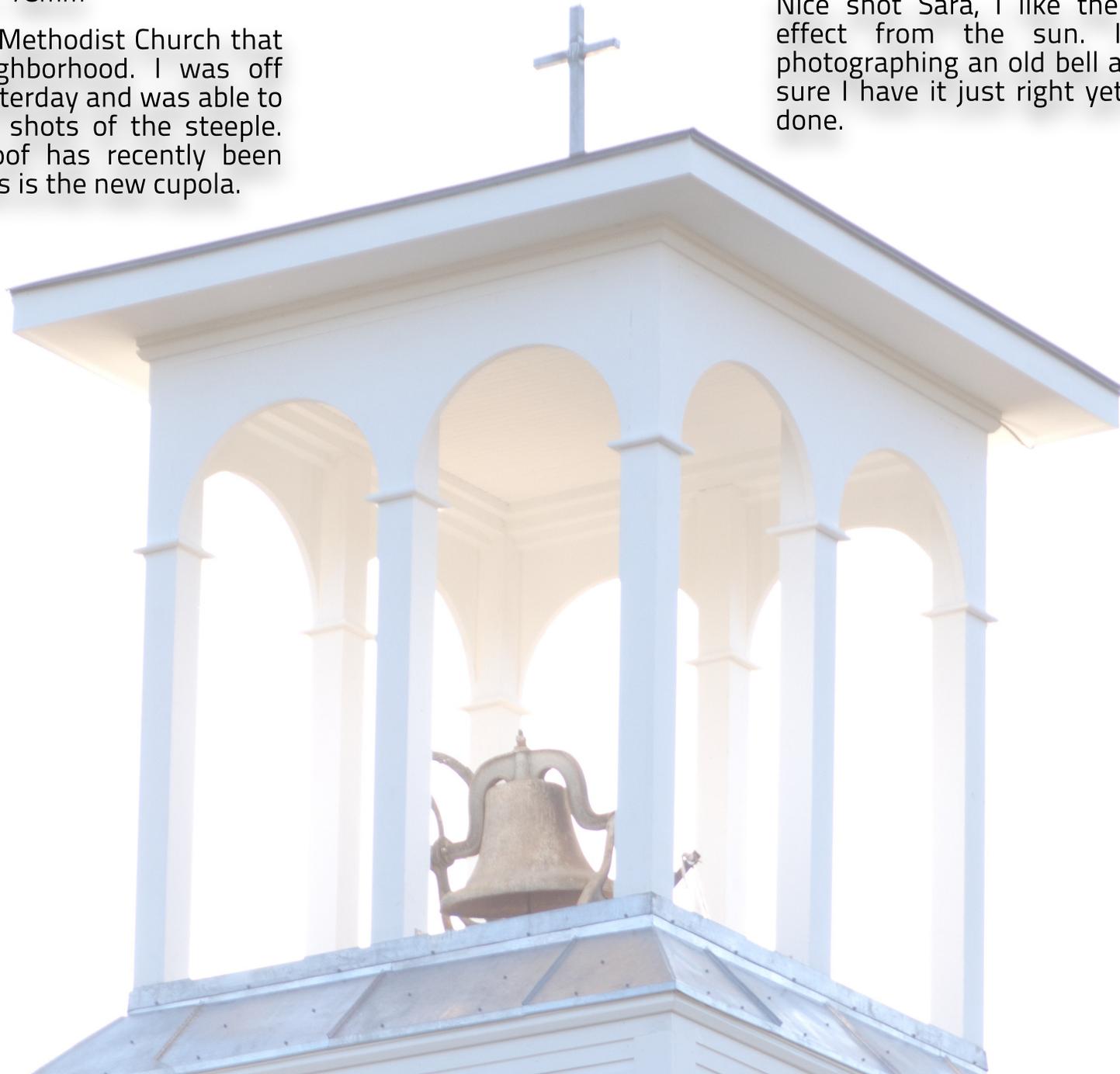
f/5.3 ISO100 | 78mm

This is an old Methodist Church that is in my neighborhood. I was off work early yesterday and was able to take a couple shots of the steeple. The church roof has recently been renovated. This is the new cupola.

Feedback: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

Nice shot Sara, I like the back-lighting effect from the sun. I have been photographing an old bell as well but not sure I have it just right yet to post. Well done.



Photographer: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

f/11 1/125sec ISO800 | 98mm

Here is an "Island in the Mist" on our cottage lake. When I see how much time and effort many of you have put into your images, I feel a bit lazy for posting this. But the scene was there for the taking.

Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Whew Sig what a wonderful image embracing high key, reflections, composition and a stunning subject. Who was it that said 'don't you love it when a plan comes together'?



**FEATURED
ARTIST**



**FEATURED
IMAGE**

**RODNEY CHARLTON
AUSTRALIA**



Photographer: **RODNEY CHARLTON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/11 1/500sec ISO1600 | 75mm

For this high key photo, of a close up of some tiny petals on this flower about the size of a golf ball, I positioned myself low and looked up slightly so that the flower was against the overcast sky.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR FEATURED ARTIST:

RODNEY CHARLTON | AUSTRALIA

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

Rodney: *I got my first camera as a boy, perhaps 10 years old. It was a Kodak Instamatic 133 camera that took 126 film cartridges, so it was simple to load and shoot. My inspiration was simply to capture moments of things, places and people, I and my family and friends experienced. Snapshots. Over the following years I continued an interest in photography using a variety of cameras for both film and digital.*

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

Rodney: *I enjoy a wide variety of genres of photography so mostly I hope to have a photograph that catches the viewer's eye and makes them pause, even briefly to continue to look at and enjoy it.*

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

Rodney: *To keep improving as a photographer, learning new techniques and trying to make each photograph just that little bit better than the last one.*



FEATURED
ARTIST

RODNEY CHARLTON
AUSTRALIA

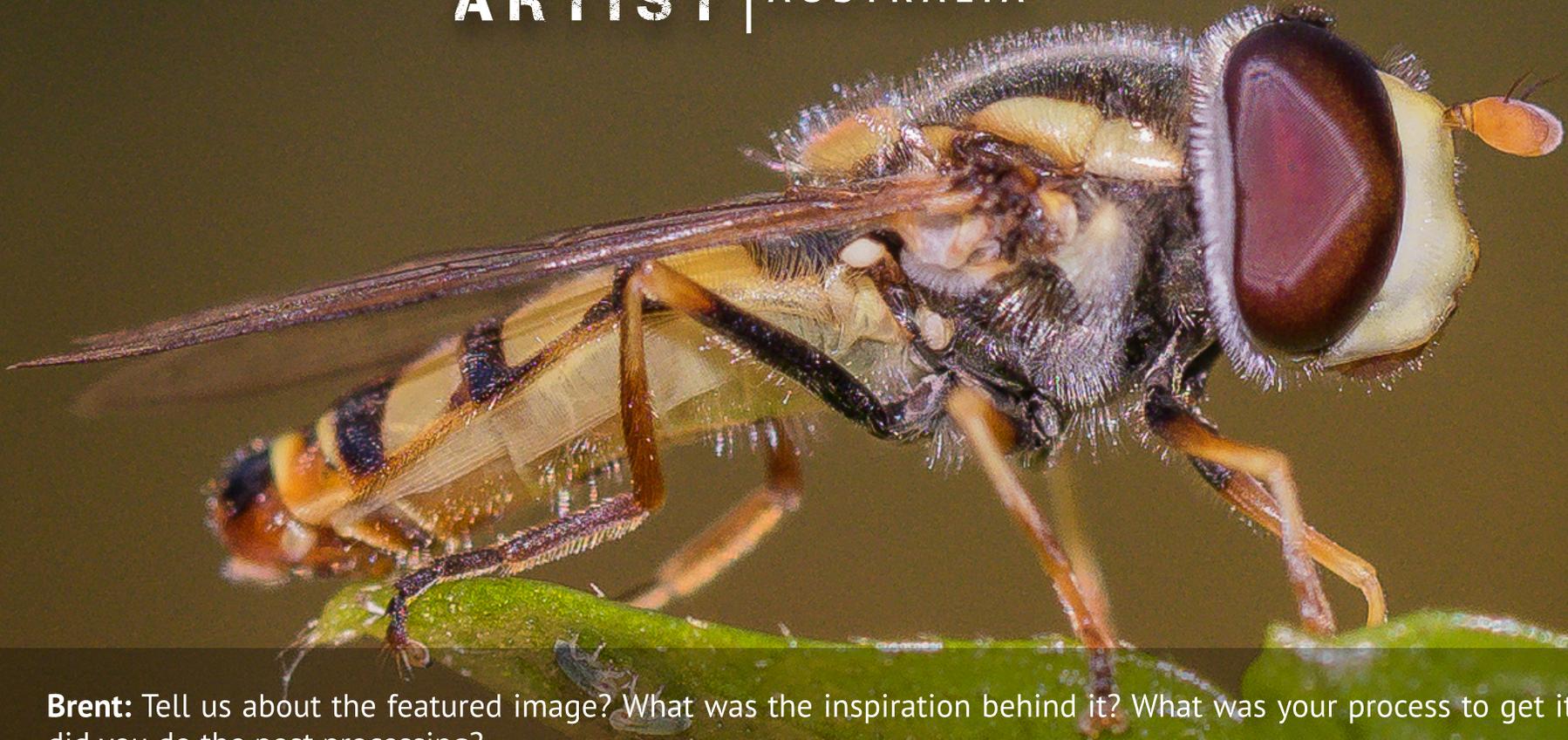
Rodney's favorite inspirational quote:

*"Alone we can do so little; together we
can do so much."*

- Helen Keller

**FEATURED
ARTIST**

**RODNEY CHARLTON
AUSTRALIA**



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

Rodney: *When the High Key assignment came up, I thought one way to get a high key image would be to have an overcast sky as the background, which would get even whiter when I expose for my foreground subject. While out on my daily walk I noticed some flowers by the side of the path and thought they would do nicely as a subject. I had my camera with me, so I moved in closer to capture the details in the tiny petals. I needed to get down low and point my camera up to keep the background as mostly the overcast sky and to avoid other plants nearby encroaching into the frame. I couldn't find a position to avoid the one background leaf in the bottom of my original shot. Cropping this leaf out would have lost too much of the angled lines of the stems which I thought contributed to the balance of the photo. The initial post processing was the usual minor adjustments to contrast, highlights, shadows and white and black points. After posting the original image, I received a few comments from others who found the background leaf a distraction, therefore I did some further post processing in Photoshop to remove the leaf using the clone tool and ended up with the final, and better, image.*



FEATURED | **RODNEY CHARLTON**
ARTIST | AUSTRALIA

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

Rodney: *I don't have a list of specific "must go to" places or things to photograph. However, Australia has plenty of amazing places and people that would be great to photograph, many of which I have not yet been to. If I had to name some places perhaps Uluru, The Olga's, Devils Marbles and the Great Barrier Reef. Perhaps I should add these to my travel plans, which given the current global pandemic, will need to be constrained to Australia rather than overseas in the short term. I could also just as happily travel to my front yard or backyard and spend hours discovering and photographing close ups and macro shots of flowers, insects, grass, fences and more that we often simply don't slow down and stop and see. There is a world of details, colours, shapes, lines and more if we just look.*

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

Rodney: *Mostly by being in communities such as Brent's Photo BootCamp and his mate Johny Spencer's Three Colours Team 3CX. The monthly challenges encourage me to get out and take photos with a specific purpose and to learn new techniques, and also to make and receive friendly advice and constructive criticism. I also attend practical workshops and use a variety of online courses such as those made available through the annual 5DayDeal.*

MEMBERS' IMAGES



Photographer: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

f/4.5 1/200sec ISO100 | 180mm

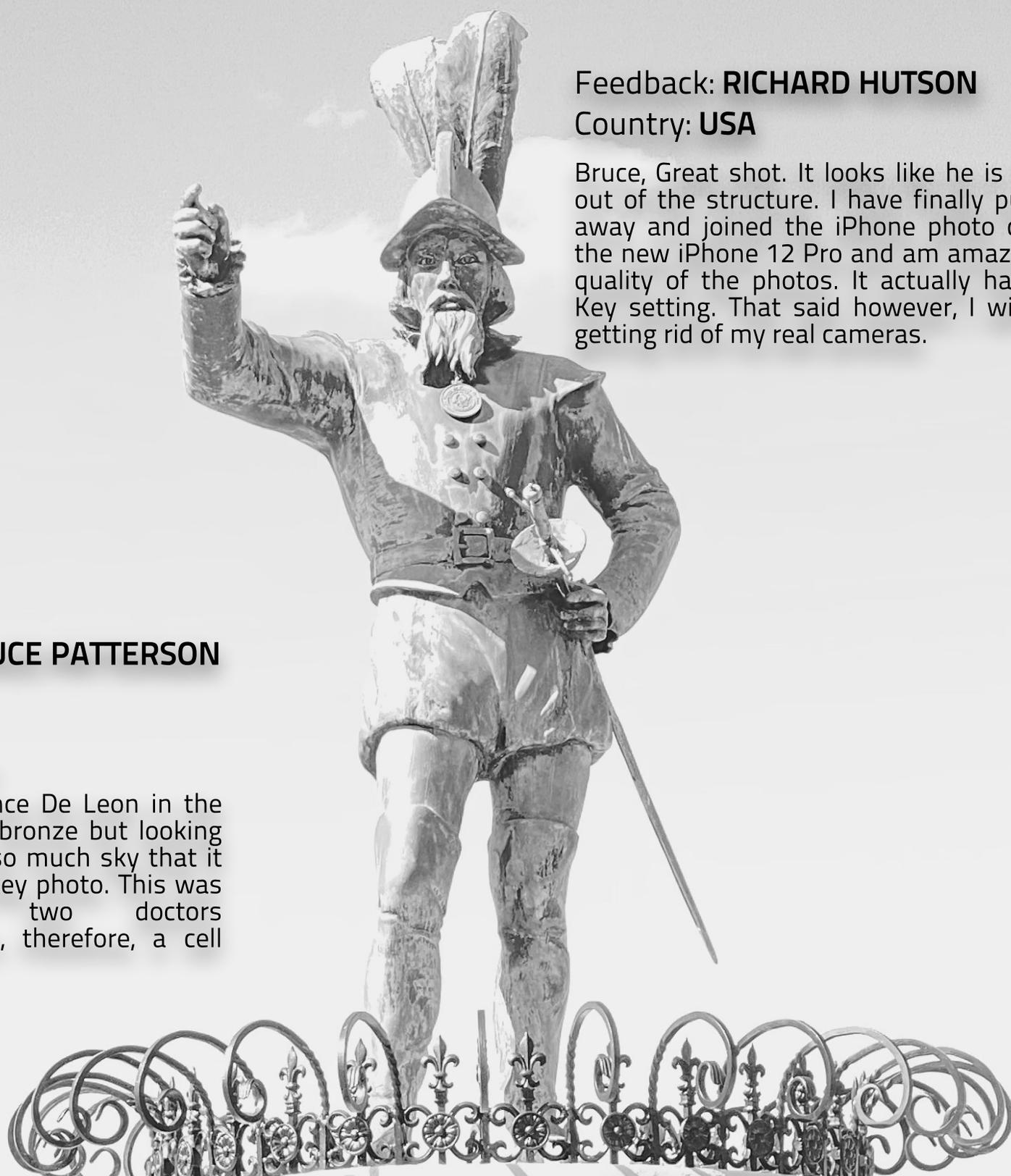
This is a Robin's nest that has fallen out of the tree and onto the snow. I saw this yesterday while shoveling my deck and couldn't resist getting my camera and taking this shot.



Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Valerie. Very nice shot. Good clarity and balance. I like the shadow off to the right. Gives a sense of realism to the shot. Well done.



Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Bruce, Great shot. It looks like he is rising up out of the structure. I have finally put my 5s away and joined the iPhone photo club with the new iPhone 12 Pro and am amazed at the quality of the photos. It actually has a High Key setting. That said however, I will not be getting rid of my real cameras.

Photographer: **BRUCE PATTERSON**

Country: **USA**

iPhone 11 Pro Max

f/2 1/320sec | 6mm

Here is a shot of Ponce De Leon in the park downtown. It is bronze but looking up to see it includes so much sky that it told me to do a high key photo. This was taken between two doctors appointments and is, therefore, a cell phone shot.

Photographer: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

f/5.6 1/1600sec ISO800 | 500mm

Was out birding this morning when I spotted this Brahminy Kite in flight. Weather was very nice today except that it flew against the clouds in the background and so I turned it into monochrome. In color the kite is mainly chestnut plumage with white head and breast and black wing tips.

Feedback: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

I love Brahmins. I am torn between really seeing the bird up close in this original or the landscape. They are both good. Fantastic capture. Always so difficult looking up and getting such a crisp capture. Well done Dave.





Photographer: **LAIMA RATAJCZAK**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Canon 80D

f/10 1/500sec ISO100 | 18-135mm

At the moment I am working on a photo book from a trip we did to Cocos Island a few years ago and when this challenge was posted I was looking at pics from Prison Island, a tiny little island in the atoll. We had been picnicking and every time you put your plate down the hermit crabs came scurrying from nowhere and absolutely covered your plate. I haven't had time to take a new image, but I loved this one as it bought back many memories, so I thought I would use it to see if I am on the right track with regards to creating a High Key image. I used LR to over expose the image and then the radial filter to darken his eyes, plus a couple of other minor tweaks.

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Wonderful image Laima - just love this one. The colour pops out of that white background and shell. Like how you've framed it with room to move.

Photographer: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

NikonD5300

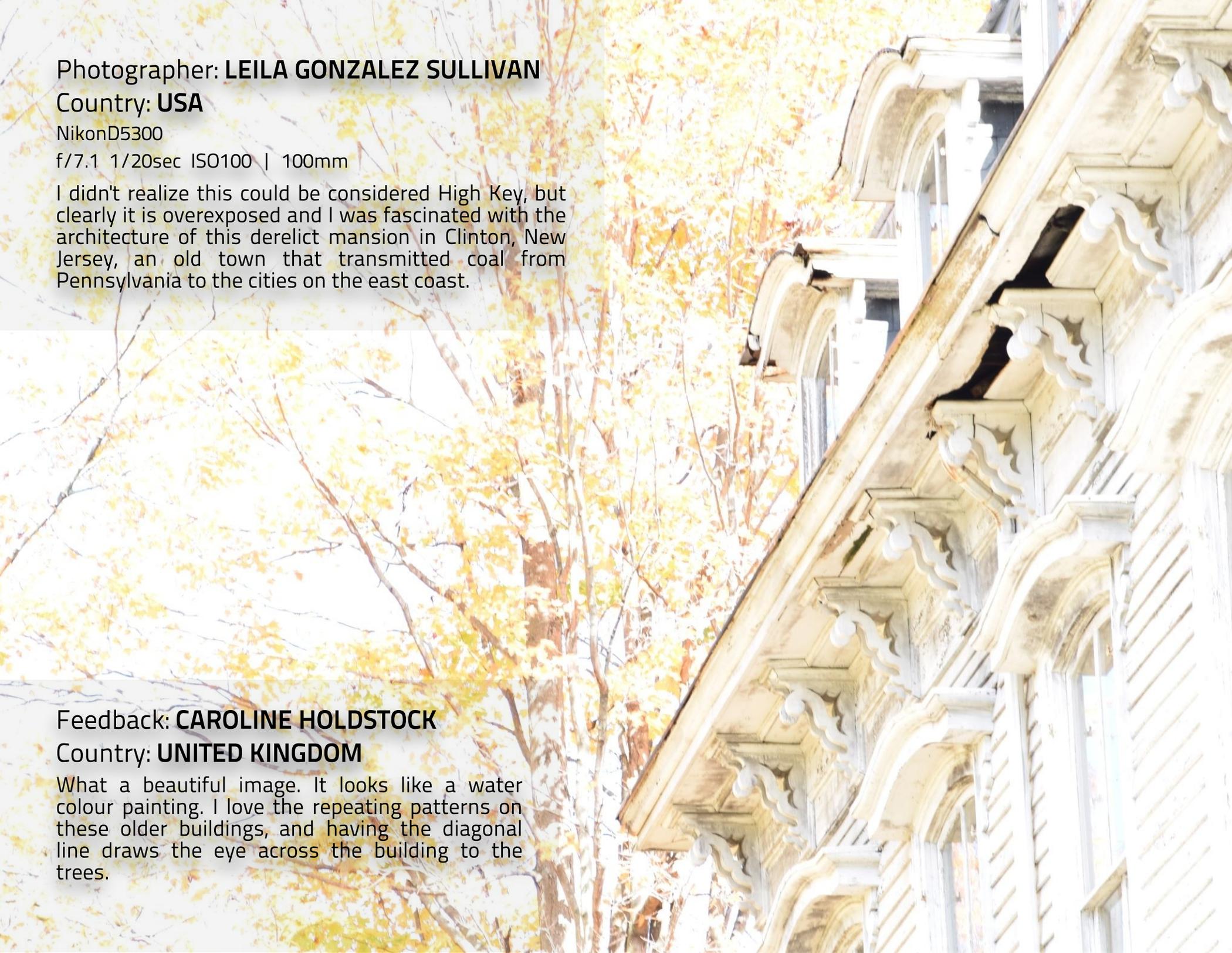
f/7.1 1/20sec ISO100 | 100mm

I didn't realize this could be considered High Key, but clearly it is overexposed and I was fascinated with the architecture of this derelict mansion in Clinton, New Jersey, an old town that transmitted coal from Pennsylvania to the cities on the east coast.

Feedback: **CAROLINE HOLDSTOCK**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

What a beautiful image. It looks like a water colour painting. I love the repeating patterns on these older buildings, and having the diagonal line draws the eye across the building to the trees.



Photographer: **LYNTON STACEY**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Panasonic GX8

f/9 1/25 ISO400 | 45mm

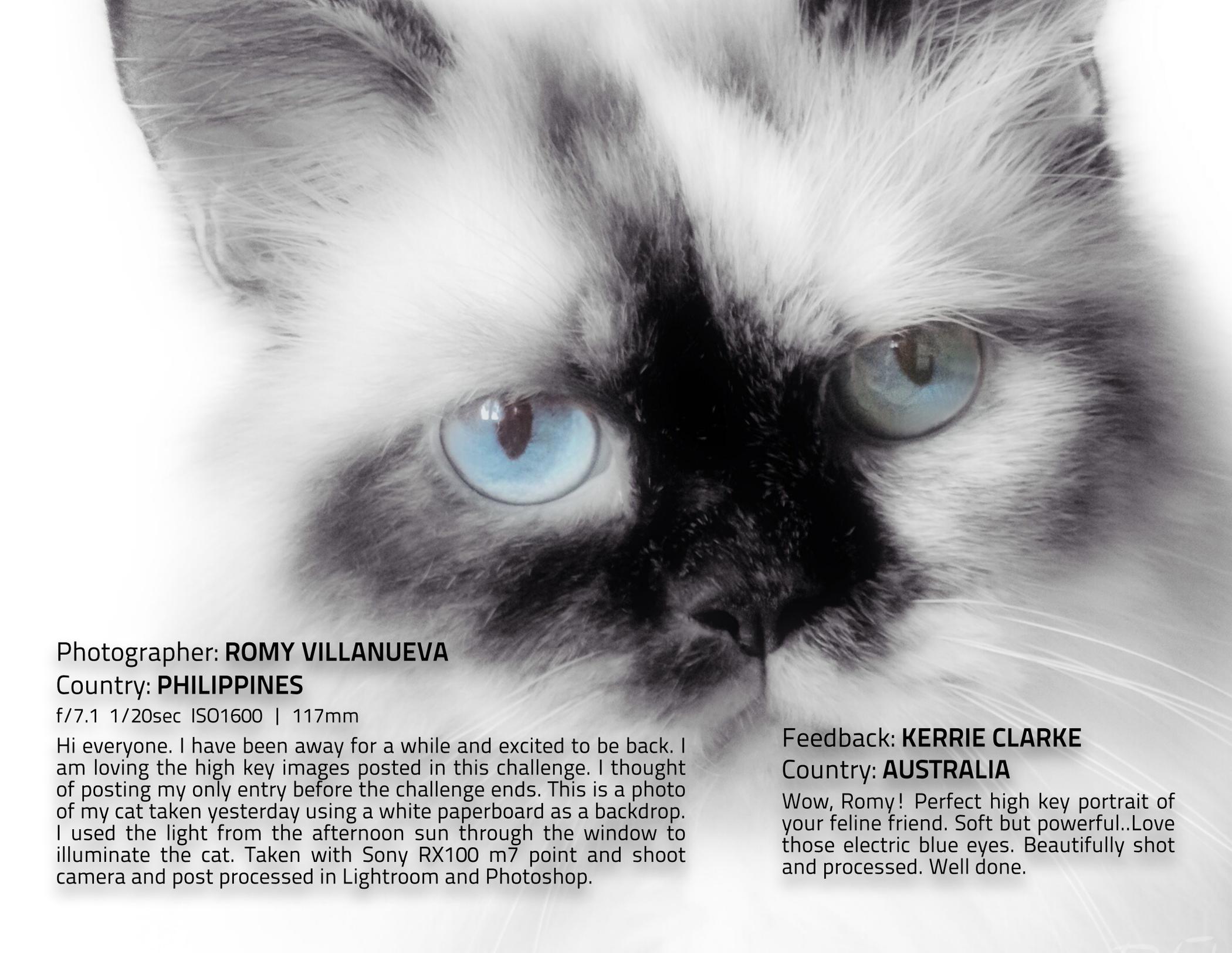
Trying to go very high key. I set this photo up in our kitchen with white tiles as the background and used a flash to one side to augment the natural daylight. Then heavily post-processed to try to reduce the impact of the tiles and bench top - not sure that I got that part right.

Feedback: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Hi Lynton, I think you did a good job to achieve the result you got here, well done.





Photographer: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

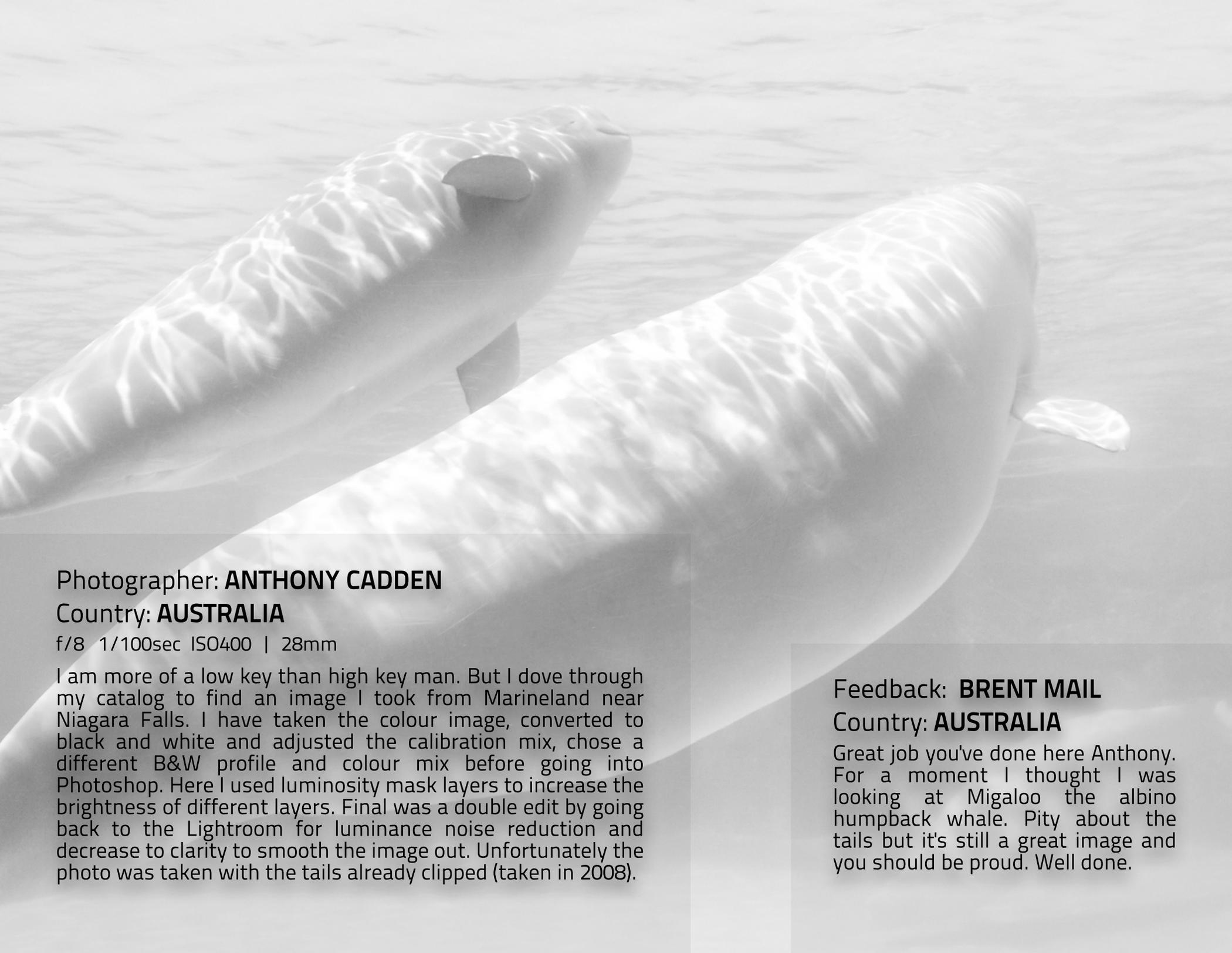
f/7.1 1/20sec ISO1600 | 117mm

Hi everyone. I have been away for a while and excited to be back. I am loving the high key images posted in this challenge. I thought of posting my only entry before the challenge ends. This is a photo of my cat taken yesterday using a white paperboard as a backdrop. I used the light from the afternoon sun through the window to illuminate the cat. Taken with Sony RX100 m7 point and shoot camera and post processed in Lightroom and Photoshop.

Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Wow, Romy! Perfect high key portrait of your feline friend. Soft but powerful..Love those electric blue eyes. Beautifully shot and processed. Well done.



Photographer: **ANTHONY CADDEN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

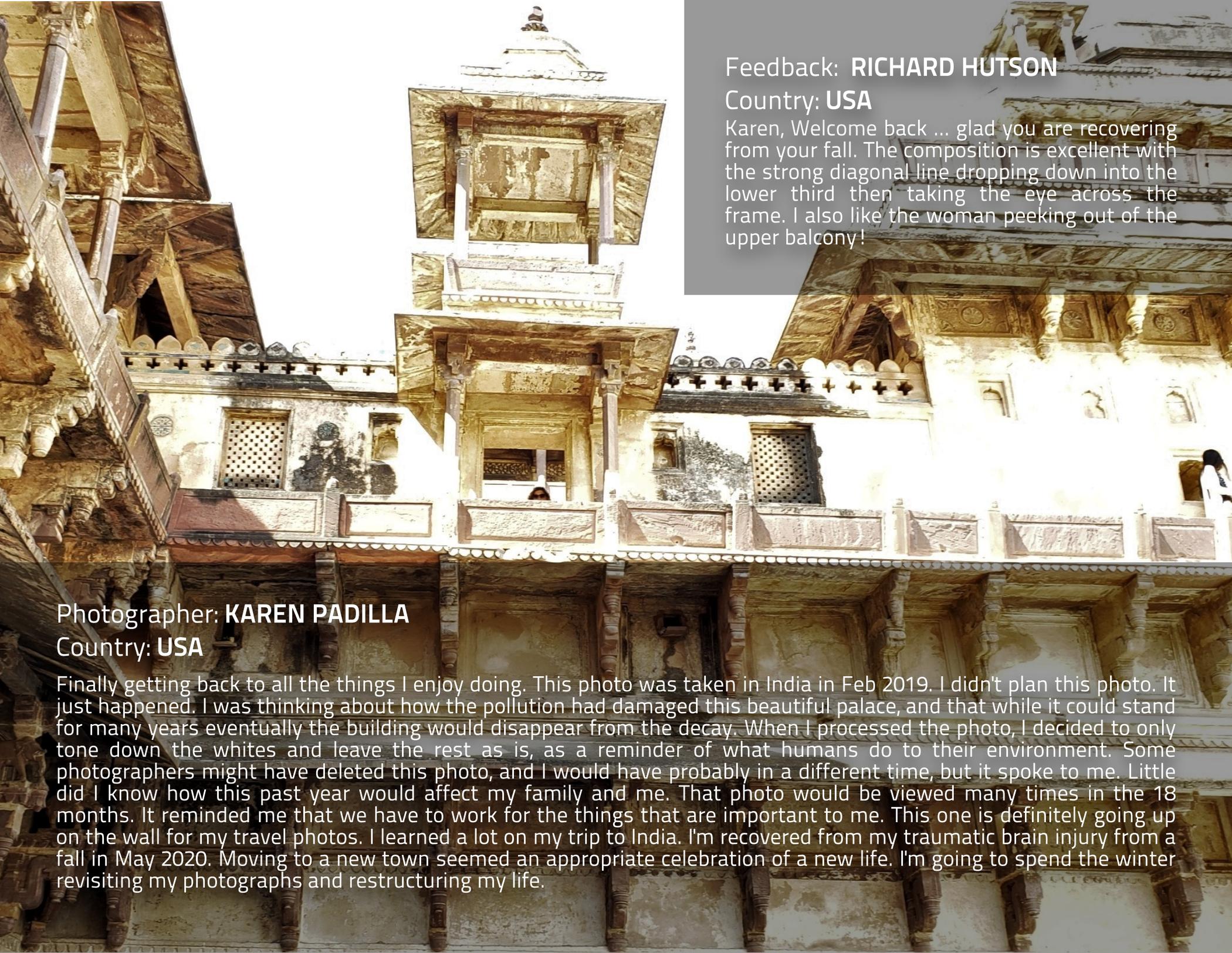
f/8 1/100sec ISO400 | 28mm

I am more of a low key than high key man. But I dove through my catalog to find an image I took from Marineland near Niagara Falls. I have taken the colour image, converted to black and white and adjusted the calibration mix, chose a different B&W profile and colour mix before going into Photoshop. Here I used luminosity mask layers to increase the brightness of different layers. Final was a double edit by going back to the Lightroom for luminance noise reduction and decrease to clarity to smooth the image out. Unfortunately the photo was taken with the tails already clipped (taken in 2008).

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Great job you've done here Anthony. For a moment I thought I was looking at Migaloo the albino humpback whale. Pity about the tails but it's still a great image and you should be proud. Well done.



Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Karen, Welcome back ... glad you are recovering from your fall. The composition is excellent with the strong diagonal line dropping down into the lower third then taking the eye across the frame. I also like the woman peeking out of the upper balcony!

Photographer: **KAREN PADILLA**

Country: **USA**

Finally getting back to all the things I enjoy doing. This photo was taken in India in Feb 2019. I didn't plan this photo. It just happened. I was thinking about how the pollution had damaged this beautiful palace, and that while it could stand for many years eventually the building would disappear from the decay. When I processed the photo, I decided to only tone down the whites and leave the rest as is, as a reminder of what humans do to their environment. Some photographers might have deleted this photo, and I would have probably in a different time, but it spoke to me. Little did I know how this past year would affect my family and me. That photo would be viewed many times in the 18 months. It reminded me that we have to work for the things that are important to me. This one is definitely going up on the wall for my travel photos. I learned a lot on my trip to India. I'm recovered from my traumatic brain injury from a fall in May 2020. Moving to a new town seemed an appropriate celebration of a new life. I'm going to spend the winter revisiting my photographs and restructuring my life.

Photographer: **KIM MULLER**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Pentax K30

f/4 1/400sec ISO200

This photo was taken at a local quarry, I was experimenting with shutter speeds. I was surprised by the results.

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Kim, a very interesting capture of unintended rock sculpture.



Photographer: **NICK ELLIS**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

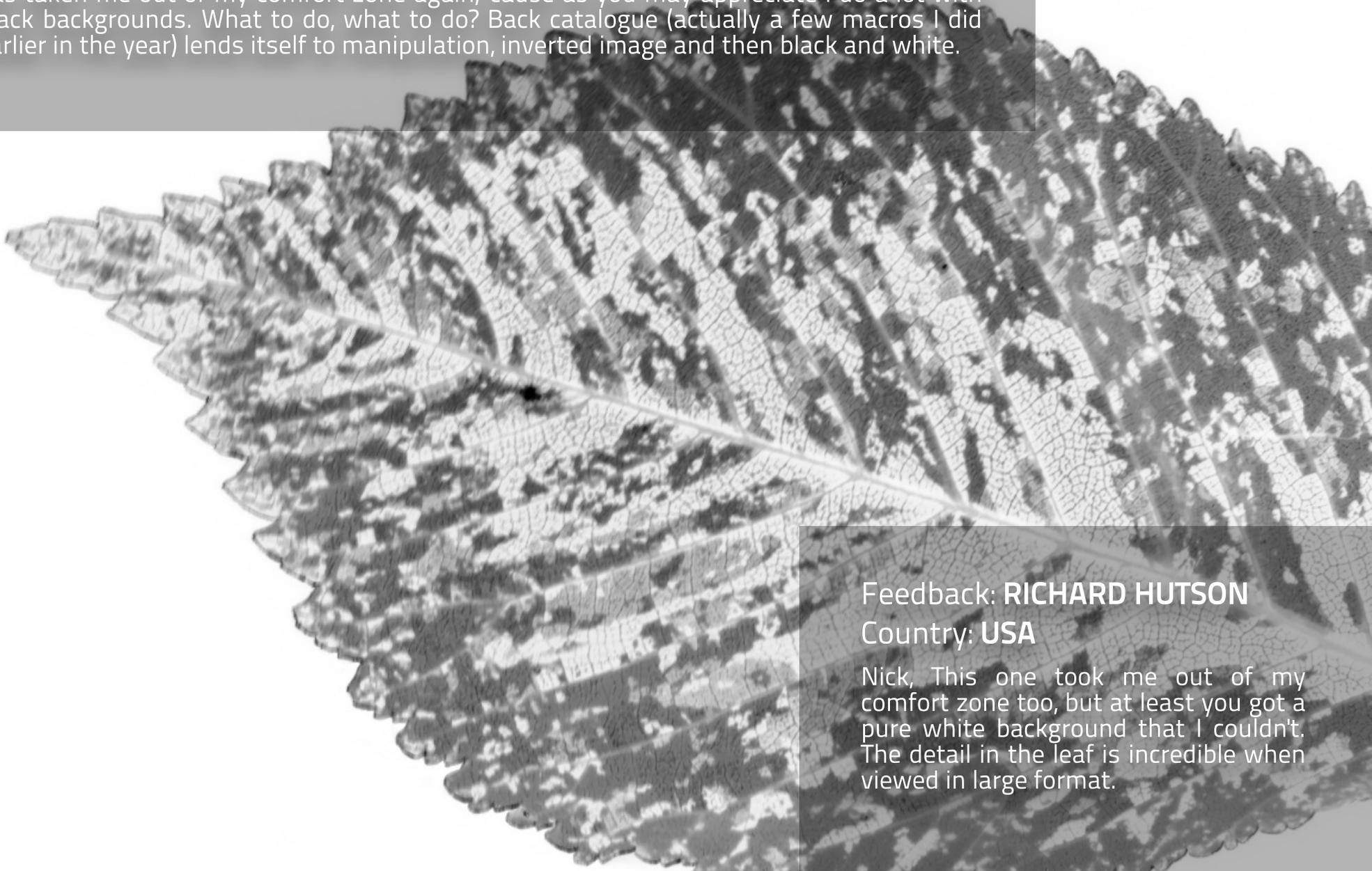
f/25 25sec ISO50 | 100mm

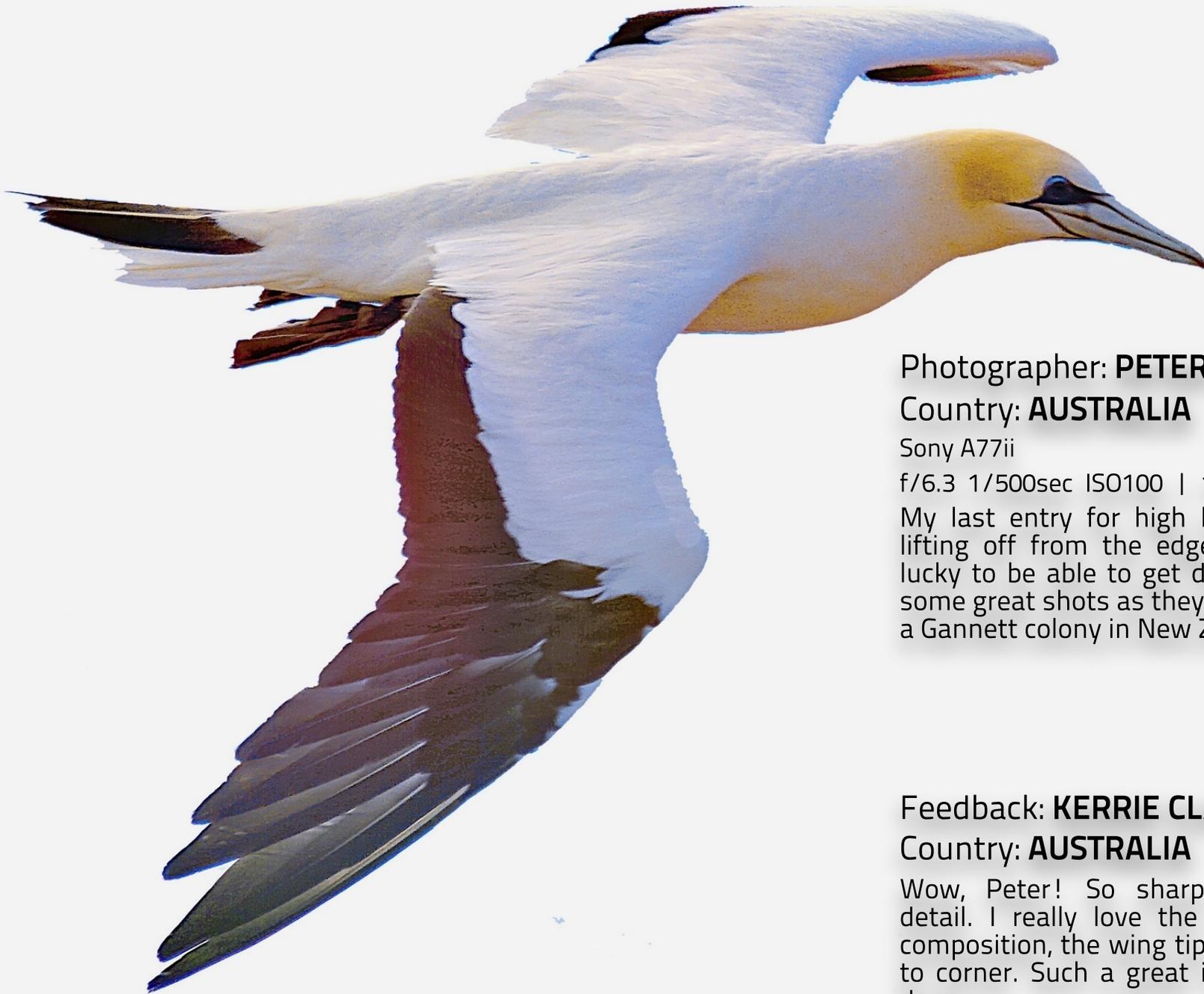
Family stuff has meant I haven't played photography for a little while, things are on the up so me and camera should have a meaningful relationship again soon. Meanwhile Brent has taken me out of my comfort zone again, 'cause as you may appreciate I do a lot with black backgrounds. What to do, what to do? Back catalogue (actually a few macros I did earlier in the year) lends itself to manipulation, inverted image and then black and white.

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Nick, This one took me out of my comfort zone too, but at least you got a pure white background that I couldn't. The detail in the leaf is incredible when viewed in large format.





Photographer: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Sony A77ii

f/6.3 1/500sec ISO100 | 180mm

My last entry for high key is a Gannett lifting off from the edge of a cliff. I was lucky to be able to get down low and get some great shots as they flew off, this was a Gannett colony in New Zealand.

Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Wow, Peter! So sharp with awesome detail. I really love the diagonal in this composition, the wing tip and beak, corner to corner. Such a great image, really well done.



Photographer: **ROHN SHEARER**

Country: **USA**

f/2.8 1/160sec ISO320 | 90mm

I have to admit that this is not my favorite genre of photography, but thought I would give it a shot anyway. I had been wanting to take a photo of a leaf in focus with the fall colours blurred in the background, but did not get a chance, so when I saw this leaf laying amongst the others that were mostly brown, I thought I'd try it as a high key instead. I hung a sheet in front of a window that the sun was shining through for the backdrop, & held the leaf in my fingers.

Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Awesome detail on the white background, I can almost feel the texture of the leaf! Well done with the set up.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TEAM

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



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Assistant Editor.....**Liza Marie Pono**



Designer.....**Stephen Gonzales**



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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BRENT MAIL presents...

PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

ISSUE 33
DECEMBER 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:
**HIGH KEY
PHOTOGRAPHY**

— ★ PHOTO ★
**BOOT
CAMP**
ACADEMY —

