

BRENT MAIL presents...

# PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE

ISSUE 35 | FEBRUARY 2021

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TOP  
SHOTS

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



Photographer: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

f/7.1 1/500sec ISO100 | 270mm

Hoarfrost is one of my favorite things to photograph, when the sun is shining-unlike today. This image did not turn out exactly as planned, but I really like the way it turned out.

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# DRILL INSTRUCTOR'S MEMO

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## WELCOME TO ISSUE 35 OF PHOTO BOOTCAMP MAGAZINE!



*Brent Mail*

Happy New Year!

The new year is always a good time to reflect. It's also a great time to take a look back at the work we've done and what we've learned.

Going back through your previous years images is no easy task, but it will help you see the progress you've made. You'll also see all the work you've put into honing your craft over the year.

This may also be a good way to make sure your images are organized in a way that makes them easy to go through. Having your folders labeled properly will make it much easier when trying to find specific images later.

# TOP SHOTS

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*"We do not learn from experience.  
We learn from reflecting  
on our experiences."*

*~ John Dewey*

# TOP SHOTS

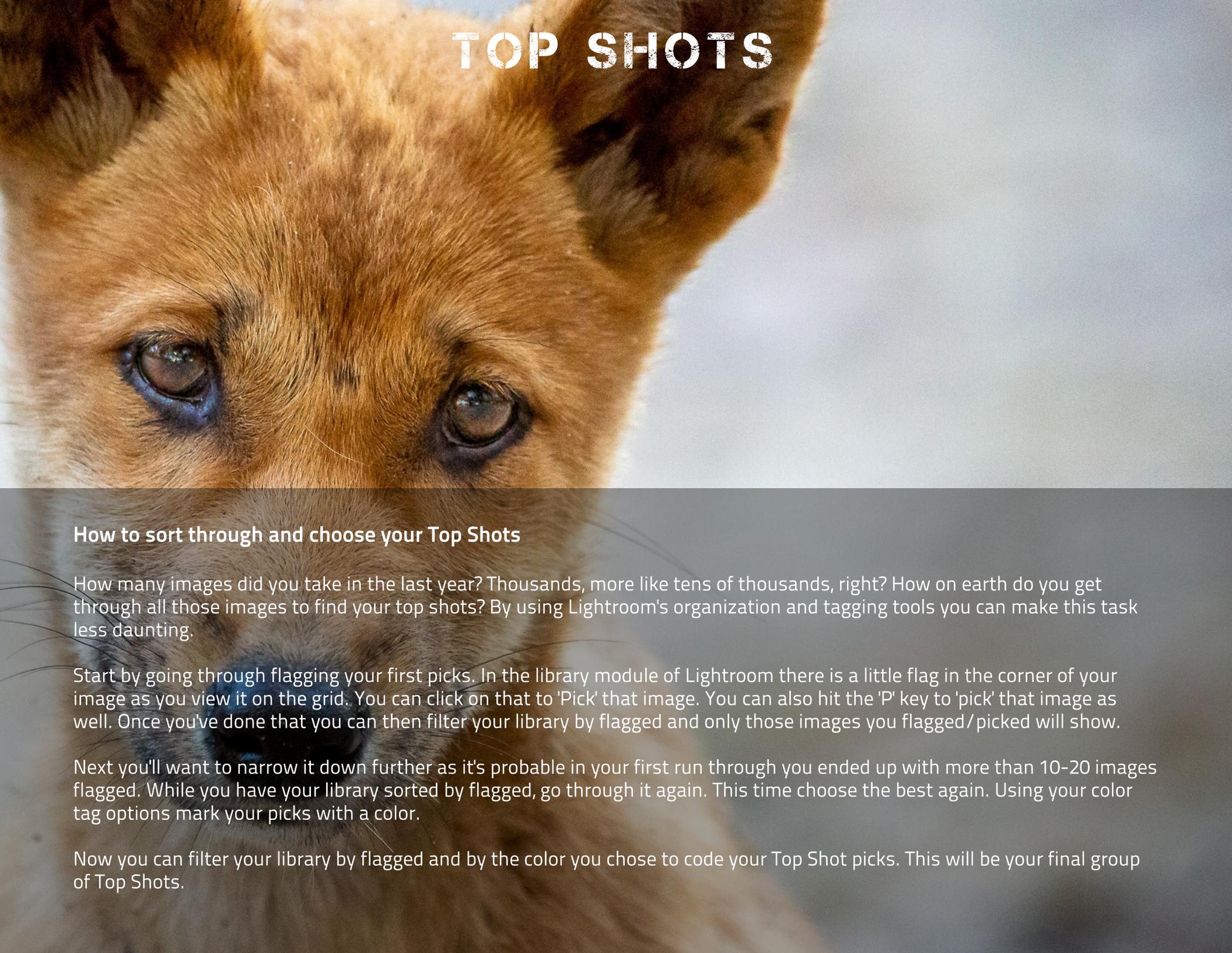


## Why it's important to review your previous years photographs

We tend to compare ourselves to other photographers when in reality we should be comparing our current work with the work we've created previously. Measure your own growth by how far you've come with what you've learned and how your photography has improved.

One of the best ways to do this is by doing a yearly review of your images. Going through the last 12-months of your photos and taking the time to choose your best shots. It can be your top 10, 20 or however many you feel. The goal here is to sort through those images that speak to you, the ones that you're most proud of and those images that show how much you've grown in the past year.

# TOP SHOTS

A close-up photograph of a brown dog's face, looking directly at the camera. The dog's fur is a rich, warm brown color, and its eyes are dark and expressive. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue-grey.

## How to sort through and choose your Top Shots

How many images did you take in the last year? Thousands, more like tens of thousands, right? How on earth do you get through all those images to find your top shots? By using Lightroom's organization and tagging tools you can make this task less daunting.

Start by going through flagging your first picks. In the library module of Lightroom there is a little flag in the corner of your image as you view it on the grid. You can click on that to 'Pick' that image. You can also hit the 'P' key to 'pick' that image as well. Once you've done that you can then filter your library by flagged and only those images you flagged/picked will show.

Next you'll want to narrow it down further as it's probable in your first run through you ended up with more than 10-20 images flagged. While you have your library sorted by flagged, go through it again. This time choose the best again. Using your color tag options mark your picks with a color.

Now you can filter your library by flagged and by the color you chose to code your Top Shot picks. This will be your final group of Top Shots.

# MEMBERS' IMAGES



A long-exposure photograph of a stream flowing over mossy rocks in a forest. The water is blurred, creating a smooth, white flow. The rocks are covered in vibrant green moss. The background is a dense forest of tall trees.

Photographer: **BRENDA POTTS**

Country: **USA**

f/16 ISO200 | 29mm

Shot in the Mt Baker National Forest in May. This stream provided a perfect opportunity to try some long exposure shots using an adjustable circular ND filter. This final image is a series of 8 shots with a shutter speed range of 2.5-5 seconds, that were then focus-stacked in Photoshop. Lessons learned: 1) I love long exposure photography 2) focus-stacking in PS is a lot of fun 3) while very handy, a circular/adjustable ND filter sometimes causes a weird X pattern... haven't quite figured out the magic formula to avoid that in brighter settings.

Feedback: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

Beautiful photo and great editing! I love the long exposure water photos with the smoothness of the water and something I want to start practicing more of. I have not stacked photos but need to learn to do that as well. Nice composition and the water creates a leading line through the photo. Great result!



Photographer: **MARTI HARVEY**

Country: **USA**

f/11 1/160sec ISO100 | 24mm

This was taken after sunrise at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument first of March. Taken at ground level to capture the texture of the sand against the background, "Sand Waves".

Feedback: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

What a wonderful photo. I love that you got down to take this, with the distant dunes in focus and the lovely blue sky which is added to by the clouds. I love your warm tones and patterns made in the sand. Well done!

Photographer: **LAIMA RATAJCZAK**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/16 1/125sec ISO400

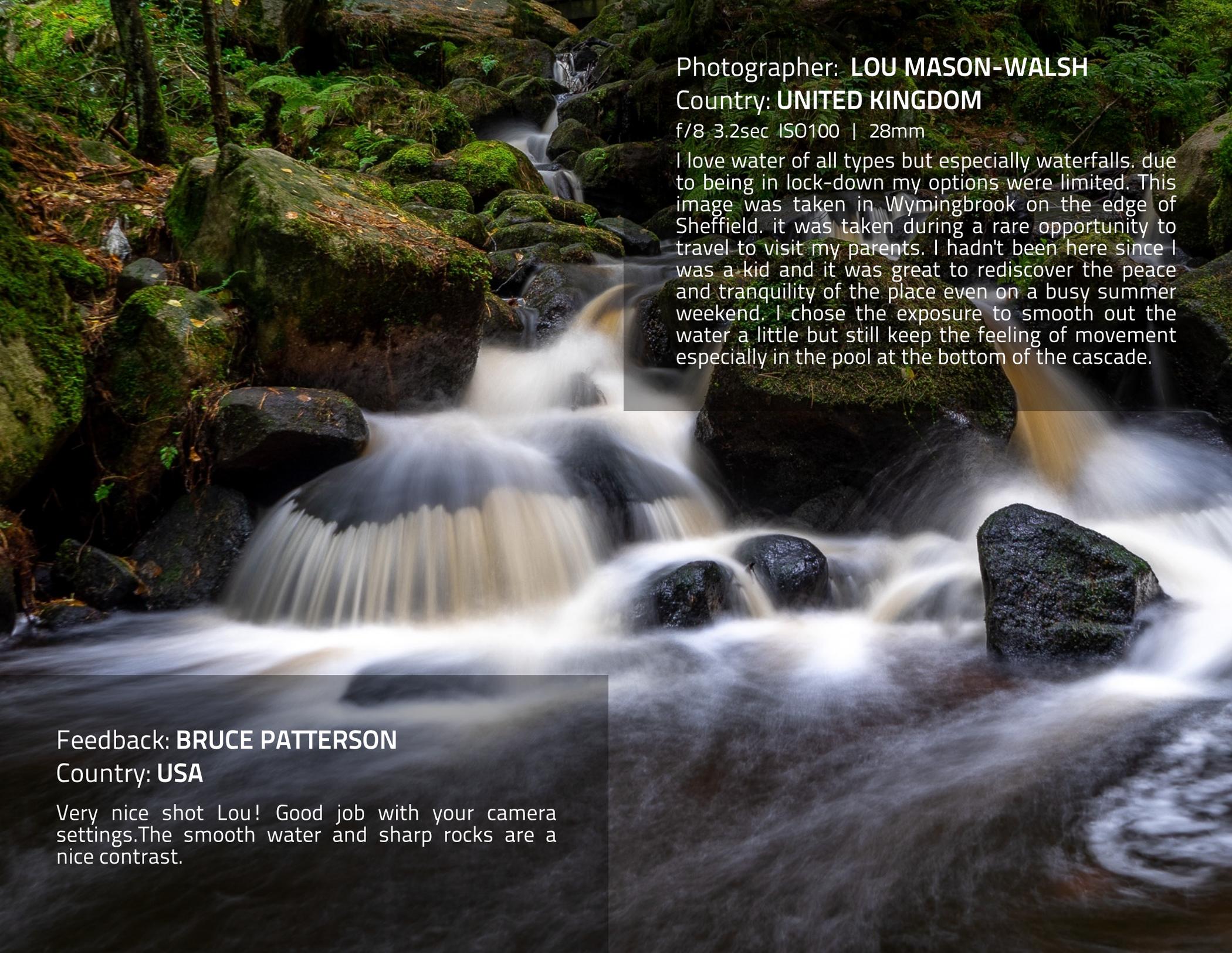
After going through all my photos from 2020 I kept coming back to this one. I just love this cow's face and it is quite different to other photos that I took during the year. I happened to have my Tamron 18 -400mm lens on my camera at the time I saw this cow and a donkey in the paddock which probably wasn't the best choice but I didn't even think about it. They were not tethered together but were so close and friendly with one another that I had to take some shots. We were in a bit of a rush to get to our next camping spot before nightfall so I didn't check each shot.....that is why the cow is winking at me!!!! But I still love this image. I converted it to B and W in Lightroom.

Feedback: **TESSA BLEWCHAMP**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

Love this Laima. The crops are great and the B&W treatment brings out the textures. The wink adds a lovely touch of character!





Photographer: **LOU MASON-WALSH**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

f/8 3.2sec ISO100 | 28mm

I love water of all types but especially waterfalls. due to being in lock-down my options were limited. This image was taken in Wymingbrook on the edge of Sheffield. it was taken during a rare opportunity to travel to visit my parents. I hadn't been here since I was a kid and it was great to rediscover the peace and tranquility of the place even on a busy summer weekend. I chose the exposure to smooth out the water a little but still keep the feeling of movement especially in the pool at the bottom of the cascade.

Feedback: **BRUCE PATTERSON**

Country: **USA**

Very nice shot Lou! Good job with your camera settings. The smooth water and sharp rocks are a nice contrast.

Photographer: **RODNEY CHARLTON**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/5.6 1/6sec ISO800 | 40mm

One from the middle of the year taken while on an early evening walk. I glanced across at the tree, noticing the lovely colours, the yellows of the sunset and the slight purples of the early night sky, and saw the moon pass through the fork of the silhouetted tree as I walked past. I got about a minute down the path and decided I should go back and take a photograph or two, particularly as I had my camera with me. I am glad I did as I liked the result, but hadn't found a monthly challenge to use it till now.

Feedback: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

Rodney, excellent silhouette of the tree against the evening sky. It was nice of the moon to cooperate so well. The purples and yellows compliment each other also.





Photographer: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

f/6.3 1/30sec ISO125 | 460mm

I love the color of the Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. It was a wet morning in November 2020 when a few of these tiny birds were enjoying a feast of the Malabar melastome fruits, a perennial evergreen shrub. They came fast and flew off as fast. Yet, in order to get the details I used low ISO and SSP to capture the image. Many shots were blasted in order to get a reasonable one. I have chosen this image as it showed the clarity of its feathers, the stare, the fruits and the soft background. Distance to subject approximately 5m (15ft).

Feedback: **TESSA BLEWCHAMP**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

Beautiful shot Dave. The bird is nicely framed by the branch and I like how the colours of the bird and the fruits are similar.



Photographer: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

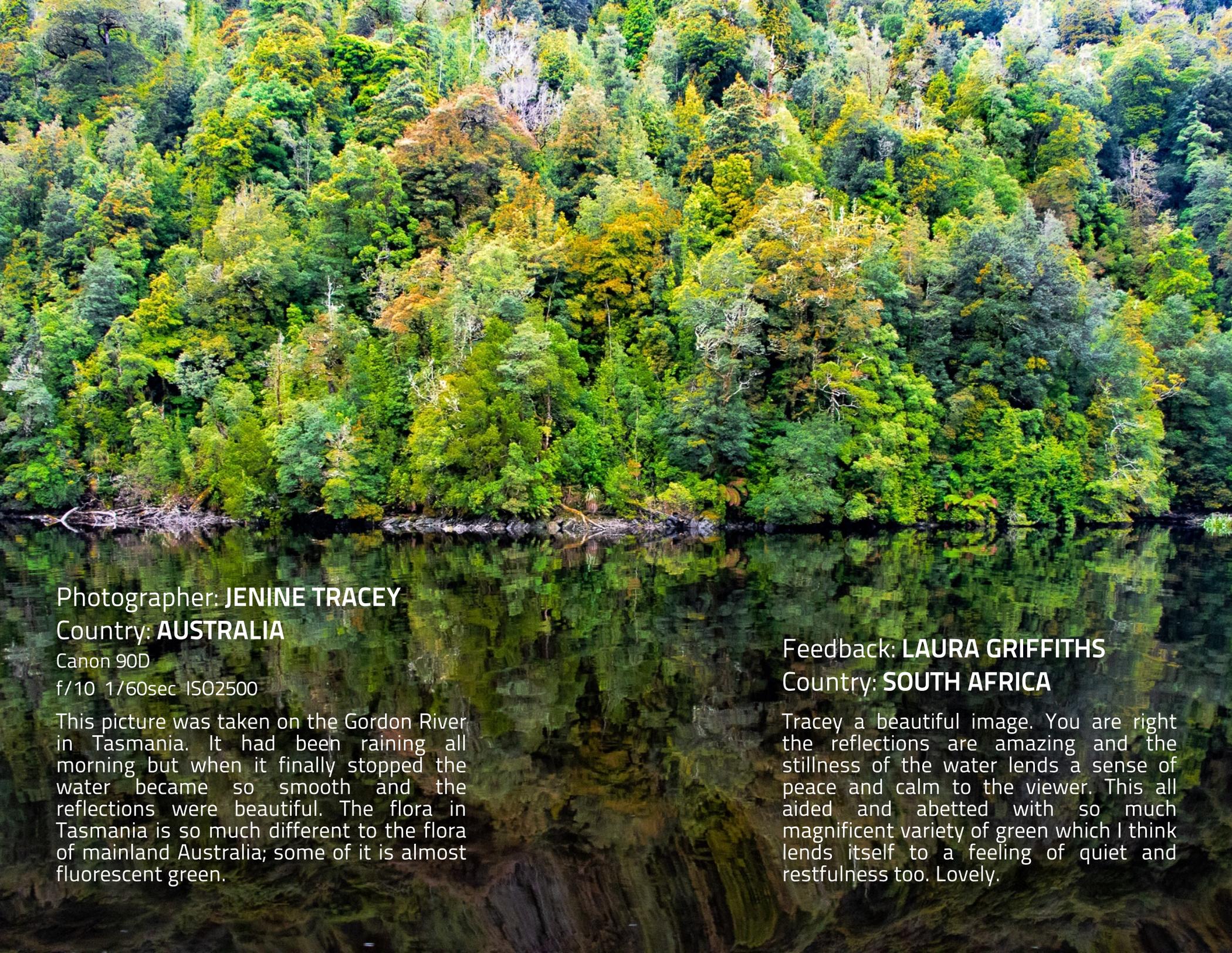
f/6.3 1/60sec ISO200 | 27mm

Good afternoon from Ireland. Not a bad day, bright and cold. This is my last one for this month. I went back in time to my trip to Havana for this one. It is a fun shot of some of the street activities and taken at the time when I had just acquired my first DSLR Camera. (2010). It reminds me of the ingenuity of the locals to get their hands on additional funds. Had to pay to take this shot and I had no idea of what I was about. I was shooting in Jpeg. Had no idea about the RAW Format. and most likely had the camera full auto turned on. It was a great trip but my God, poverty was another issue. Hope you enjoy it.

Feedback: **JOHN MILLER**

Country: **USA**

Denis, I really enjoy this image, bright, happy and not something you expect to see everyday. Looks like you had some idea of where to start. I enjoy this photograph.



Photographer: **JENINE TRACEY**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Canon 90D

f/10 1/60sec ISO2500

This picture was taken on the Gordon River in Tasmania. It had been raining all morning but when it finally stopped the water became so smooth and the reflections were beautiful. The flora in Tasmania is so much different to the flora of mainland Australia; some of it is almost fluorescent green.

Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Tracey a beautiful image. You are right the reflections are amazing and the stillness of the water lends a sense of peace and calm to the viewer. This all aided and abetted with so much magnificent variety of green which I think lends itself to a feeling of quiet and restfulness too. Lovely.

Photographer: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/m

Wishing all Bootcampers a happy, healthy and creative 2021. I absolutely loved the High Key Challenge, and took many shots during and after the challenge. I really enjoyed learning something new, and that (although it would be nice), studio lighting is not a necessity. For this shot I used a combination of window light, a desk lamp, and torch to mitigate the shadows. I stacked 5 images in PS, I probably should have used more images. :)

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

I love the high key challenge too Kerrie, because of the artistic look to the images - and this one is a work of art too. I like the way you have positioned this flower to have those lighter petals near the top left of the image and the more colourful petals around the middle and the right. It's almost as if it's got two arms and two legs. My eyes tend to come back to that front petal with the little bit of purple in it. This shot should be appreciated greatly - only then did I notice that sheen on that front petal and all the texture and detail in it. Great work.





Photographer: **PETER BRODY**

Country: **USA**

f/1.8 1/670sec ISO25 | 4.25mm

I took this picture of a cat sunning itself on a window sill as the sun was setting. I just loved his contented "Cheshire" smile. I was visiting my son in Philadelphia when we walked past this scene. I used my iPhone.

Feedback: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Cool shot, Peter! It almost looks like a painting! Good shot with your phone!



Photographer: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Sony A7RIV

f/13 1/500sec ISO100

This image "Three Palms Silhouette" is another one of my best 2020 photos shot from the balcony at the back of our house on May 5th to capture the silhouette of the palms against the ominous mystery of the clouds.

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Dramatic sky ! A perfect backdrop to the palm silhouette. The choice of portrait crop was an added feature that made this shot more interesting. Really nice. You can have this printed and hung on the wall. Well done, Richard.

Photographer: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Sony RX10m4

f/4 1/6sec ISO200 | 44mm

The past year has been very restrictive to most of us. With the still ongoing lockdown, our movements were limited. I had to limit my photography to my backyard and my garden. This is a photo of spider lily.



Feedback: **KATHLEEN FEELEY**

Country: **USA**

Wonderful, Romy. I have said it before but I'll say it again--your flower photography is excelling. The background enhances the delicate beauty of the flower.

Photographer: **RON DU BOIS**

Country: **GREAT BRITAIN**

f/14 1/160sec ISO100 | 100mm

Couldn't call this a "Top Shot" in terms of high-quality photography but after much humming and hawing, I decided to submit it because of the context. Keystone ski resort at the end of a day in February 2020, just 15 days before the resort closed prematurely due to COVID-19. The calm tranquility of the last few skiers - presciently socially distanced!! Heading home gave no hint as to what was just around the corner. Looking back on it now, it seemed so much more poignant so hope you'll all forgive the moment of emotion. Did a fair bit of tinkering in Lightroom, mainly cropping, converting to B&W, adjusting the blacks and whites and shadows and trying to highlight the snow plumes.

Feedback: **SARA O'BRIEN**

Country: **USA**

Ron, wonderful background on the last run of the year. Your editing helps get that story told. Well done.



Photographer: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Nikon D750

f/9.0 1/1600sec ISO125 | 280mm

I wish everyone good health and peace and lots of photography. Everyone's photos so far are AMAZING!!! I am still trying to sort mine and am now up to about 27 favorites! Many of these I have posted in different challenges already! This challenge is very timely as I have been struggling how to file my photos, and I am learning a great deal in just sorting through! I hope to stay organized for all the photos in 2021! I have sent a great deal of time this year photographing the skies. We have had several meteor showers, magnificent sunsets, moon rises, and I was also able to capture the International Space Station as it went over the Cayman Islands. While I am trying to get up to my 35 favorite photos, I am also trying to see what may be my favorite three to post here. That is doubly hard! This may be my favorite. I have an issue with keeping this lens in focus, but think this worked. I did have to process in post to get rid of telephone wires and a cell tower!

Feedback: **LYNTON STACEY**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Sheree, this is a captivating photo. There's almost an eeriness to it. My eye of course is drawn to the bright light, but the dark silhouettes of bushes & trees provide an interest in the foreground. There is some balance from the highlighted cloud. And I love the colour. Well done.





Photographer: **AMBER PALLAS-BRUNT**

Country: **USA**

f/5.0 1/125sec ISO100 | 34mm

I'm pulling one out from a work trip to Colorado this past fall. We took a break from the grind and did some hiking, UTV riding and exploring. This led us to The Crystal Mill. The area is stunning. However, it was not an optimal day for photography. We arrived at high noon on a cloudless sunny day. So I adapted. This mill is 130 years old so I paid tribute to that in my post.

Feedback: **PHILL BRID**

Country: **USA**

Living in Colorado I've seen photos of this mill many times. Your treatment of this subject, Amber, is quite unique and evocative of another era. Very nice.



Photographer: **BRUCE PATTERSON**

Country: **USA**

f/6.3 1/250sec ISO200 | 135mm

It is a photo of an Ibis In a mangrove swamp in SW Florida. I was on a boardwalk and I came across this lovely bird that I followed for a few minutes. He hopped up onto the railing and as he took off I captured this shot. I was ready and waiting for this very moment. I liked this photo so much, I commissioned a local artist to do an oil painting of it. It is now hanging on my wall.

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Bruce, This is a beautiful image ... expert composition with the railing forming leading lines for the bird's take-off. Well done!

Photographer: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

f/7.1 1/20sec ISO2500 | 103mm

Another scene from home, the harbour across the bay. I am about 3/4 way through a blue hour course I enrolled in (haven't got to the post-processing part at all yet) but I started practising with the shooting aspect meanwhile. This is my favourite of the bunch. Taken with 5 shots exposure bracketed 0,7 stops apart.

Feedback: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Fabulous shot, Laura. You have captured the blue light really well, and with the bracketing, you have controlled the exposure really well. This is a difficult shot given the very light sky over the valley part. This is something I need to get back into and practice. I have all but stopped using Photoshop and have forgotten how! Well done!



Photographer: **LYNTON STACEY**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/mm

It is really hard to choose just one photo. There are quite a number that I wish to include because they have meaning for me. But I will go with this one of Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) in the Northern Territory at sunset, because I keep getting drawn back to it with the unusual colour of the sand.

Feedback: **DAVID ENFIELD**

Country: **USA**

What a wonderful photo! I love the dominant colors of the sand stretching to the near horizon and the sky. This photo nicely incorporates many of the so-called "rules" - leading lines, rule of thirds, framing. I do note that, once I saw the light area at the base of the distant mountain above the near horizon, I found my eye being drawn to it. Perhaps this area could be darkened a bit. Nevertheless, a very bewitching photo!

Photographer: **SIG RANNEM**

Country: **CANADA**

f/2.8 1/120sec ISO20 | 6.6mm

Whenever I go hiking in our local forests I am fascinated by the many small beech trees, as they keep their leaves throughout the winter. The only problem is that it is difficult to get a clear shot of most of them because of so many other trees and small saplings that are in the way. In this case that problem was only moderate, although I have removed some distractions in post. I actually ran out of presentable shots from 2020, so this is a recently shot image. The woods are beautiful here right now! Shot with my iPhone 8+. I subsequently increased the resolution of the image with Topaz Gigapixel AI; then edited mostly in Lightroom.

Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Love how you've made the little Beech the star of the show...It's not easy to do in such busy forest scenes, and you've done it beautifully. I'm wondering if cropping out the trunk on the left might make this stronger...it would allow the line of the upslope of the snow line to continue through the image without the vertical barrier of the heavy weight of that tree. I have read about Topaz Gigapixel...looks like it does a great job.



**FEATURED  
ARTIST**



**FEATURED  
IMAGE**

**RACHEL GILMOUR  
AUSTRALIA**

Photographer: **RACHEL GILMOUR**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/7.1 1/60sec ISO500 | 105mm

Another 'backyard' shot. This one was taken late October. Spotted this character in one of our Jade plants. It was difficult to get a clean shot of it and it was hanging 'upside down', so I flipped it to make it easier to view. Shot with a 24-105 lens set.



# GETTING TO KNOW OUR FEATURED ARTIST: RACHEL GILMOUR | AUSTRALIA

**Brent:** How did you develop an interest in photography?

**Rachel:** *From an early age, I found photography fascinating and from age 21 I always had a camera, mostly for recording family events. In my early 30s, I bought a Konica TC SLR. A friend had a darkroom in their basement and we shot B&W but neither one of us really knew what we were doing. Nothing came of it and life happened. 10 years ago, when I came to Australia, I had a Canon digital camera that I replaced with my first DSLR, thinking it would be a good hobby to pursue. I took a couple of courses to learn how to properly use it and a few years ago, I joined a camera club in hopes of improving my photography beyond just taking snapshots. I also took some online courses, one being with Brent and that flowed into BootCamp.*

**Brent:** What does photography mean to you?

**Rachel:** *For me, photography is now more than just recording events, it's a means of trying to capture some of the beauty that is all around us, and sharing it with others.*

**Brent:** From your point of view, what makes a good picture?

**Rachel:** *A 'good picture' to me, tells a story and evokes an emotion. Usually, I need to see a definite Point of View.*



FEATURED | RACHEL GILMOUR  
ARTIST | AUSTRALIA

Rachel's favorite inspirational quote:

*"If you wait until you're ready, you'll be waiting the rest of your life."*



# FEATURED ARTIST

RACHEL GILMOUR  
AUSTRALIA

**Brent:** What is your favorite subject to photograph?

**Rachel:** *Landscapes and waterscapes. Especially waterscapes. I love being on or around water and if I can't do that, like when you're in lockdown, then the stars, skinks, birds and flowers in our back yard.*

**Brent:** The sky's the limit, no constraints...What are your grand photography dreams?

**Rachel:** *I would go to Africa. From a young age, I read and dreamt about going on safari. One of my favourite movies of all time is "Out of Africa". Just to be able to witness it for myself and to take some fantastic photos.*

**Brent:** Locations and weather conditions seem to be a crucial aspect to a successful picture. How do you handle these unpredictable factors?

**Rachel:** *When I'm inspired I find a way and means of getting an image, even for something that I'm not drawn to, such as my shot of the Tea Pot. One of my favorite shots, the lighthouse and stormy sea, was shot from inside my car. I sat there for almost an hour, shooting between showers and staying out of the salty spray. There have been occasions where I've returned to a location a few times, in order to get a shot that I wanted.*



FEATURED  
ARTIST

RACHEL GILMOUR  
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?

**Rachel:** *We were sitting out on our patio when my partner spotted this praying mantis in our small jade plant, only because it had moved. I went in and grabbed my Canon EOS RP and RF 24-105mm f/4-7.1 lens. I don't have the strength in my wrists that I had and this combination is very lightweight. The lens also focuses very close and is stabilized which is very important for me. It was too close to the ground for a tripod, however, the camera has a fully articulated screen which allowed me to hold it at arms length, while sitting on the ground, and get the angle I needed. I managed to get a couple dozen shots.*

*I use Affinity Photo (comparable to PhotoShop) to process my RAW and JPEG images. I then flipped the image so that we could see the mantis 'right side up'.*

# MEMBERS' IMAGES



Photographer: **TESSA BLEWCHAMP**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

f/5.6 1/400sec ISO200 | 90mm

It's good to be back - I'd forgotten just how nice Bootcampers are! This was taken in my garden back in the summer. Because of lockdown and the difficulty getting plants, I'd decided to sow some bee-friendly wildflowers in a bed where I normally grow tomatoes (I ended up growing some in pots instead). The flowers certainly proved to be favourites with the bees, especially this borage, and I spent quite a while trying to capture some decent shots of them. This was taken for a project for my camera club, using photographs taken within a single square yard, for which I used my wild flower bed. It is cropped from a wider shot. I think I probably used shutter speed priority with auto ISO, but can't remember for sure.

Feedback: **MICHAEL STREET**

Country: **USA**

The adjustments really helped. I like how my eye wanders around the image and lands on the bee at the end. The plant is very interesting and grabs your attention with the hairy flower pods and then your eye moves to the hanging pod that is different - the Bee. I also like how the hanging bee takes the place of one of the hanging pods. I don't think I would have liked it as much if the image had only been about the bee. Great job.



Photographer: **TONY CHECCO**

Country: **USA**

I suppose a Rocky Mountain sunset photo is a fitting way to end this series. Taken from a trail close to my house where we often walk the dogs.

Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Tony. Great landscape. The setting sun adds its own magic. Put the two together and you have a great shot. Print and Frame. Well done.

Photographer: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

f/5.6 5sec ISO400 | 500mm

I am away from home without my computer so I only have the photos I have saved to my phone. I look forward to going through my photos and doing a little organizing :). This isn't one of my best photos however it is one of my first for astrophotography. This is the comet Neowise. I was pretty excited to actually get a keeper after staying up three nights in a row to see this once in a lifetime event.



Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Wow, Valerie! Your perseverance was definitely worth it for this awesome shot...Love your composition, and congrats on capturing this moment in time. So well done.



Photographer: **ANTHONY CADDEN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/2.8 1/60sec ISO1600 | 50mm

This is another favourite image of my cat (recurring theme this yr). He loves laying in our bed even with the sheet on. I used dodge and burn on the face to accentuate the details, then a denoise brush to soften the sheets leaving the face sharp.

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Such a peaceful looking image you've created here Anthony. Love how your cat looks like he is tucked in and snug. I do like what you have done with the processing. My only suggestion is to remove the vignette off the cat's ears. Thanks for sharing this beautiful image with us.



Photographer: **BELINDA SWAN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/2.8 15sec ISO2000

Taken last year when I started to learn astrophotography with a few local enthusiasts. While I might have taken better milky way photos since then, this photo is one of my favourites just because I love visiting and photographing these wetlands.

Feedback: **LAIMA RATAJCZAK**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Oh my gosh, this image is just so beautiful. The reflections are amazing, the lighting on the trees is gorgeous and the stars are nice and sharp, Just love it, well done Belinda, thank you for sharing.

Photographer: **CAROLINE HOLDSTOCK**

Country: **UNITED KINGDOM**

f/5.6 1/125sec ISO400 | 18mm

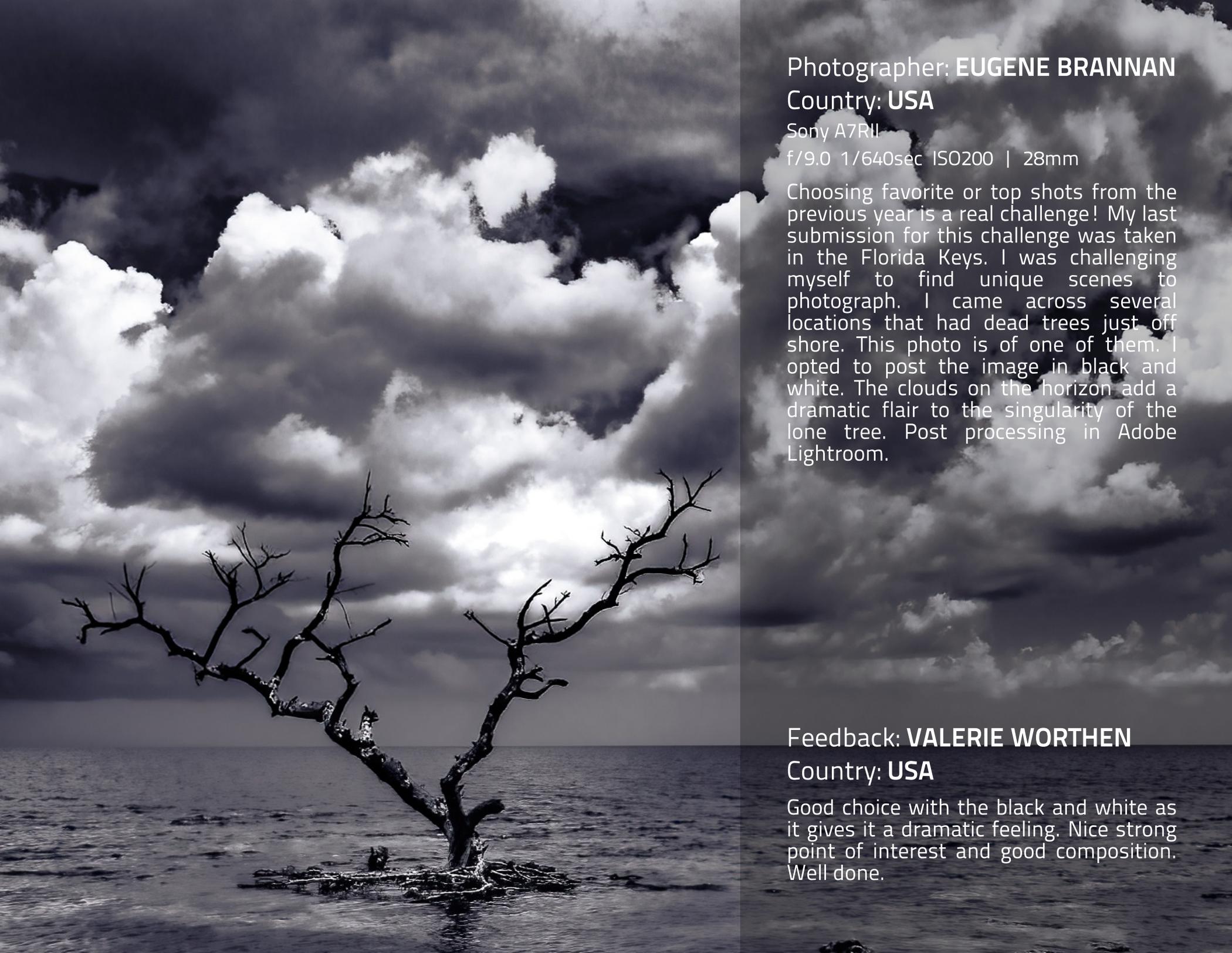
This is the Souther Lighthouse near Sunderland. It is a National Trust property and we were lucky enough to stay here last March, just before the lockdown. I was struck by the symmetry of the scene and the leading line of the wall. I cropped some of the sky to make it a panorama as that just seems to emphasise the path in. As a lucky bonus it was awarded my camera club's Top Shot of the year in December.

Feedback: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

Hi, Caroline. This is one of the images that needs to be in color. The lighthouse stands out as the POI, with the pink sky behind, and every lighthouse has to be of different colors and combinations so it can be identified from the sea. The colors then move down to blues, green and gray. A nice touch also to make it a panorama.





Photographer: **EUGENE BRANNAN**

Country: **USA**

Sony A7RII

f/9.0 1/640sec ISO200 | 28mm

Choosing favorite or top shots from the previous year is a real challenge! My last submission for this challenge was taken in the Florida Keys. I was challenging myself to find unique scenes to photograph. I came across several locations that had dead trees just off shore. This photo is of one of them. I opted to post the image in black and white. The clouds on the horizon add a dramatic flair to the singularity of the lone tree. Post processing in Adobe Lightroom.

Feedback: **VALERIE WORTHEN**

Country: **USA**

Good choice with the black and white as it gives it a dramatic feeling. Nice strong point of interest and good composition. Well done.

Photographer: **HOLLY FEATHERSTON**

Country: **USA**

f/4 1/250sec ISO160 | 50mm

I shot this on an overseas trip; back when I could still travel. I shot it in color, but I prefer it in black and white. I just wanted to capture a real shot of the city.

Feedback: **ROMY VILLANUEVA**

Country: **PHILIPPINES**

Hi Holly, beautiful cityscape shot and although I have not seen the color version, I like the tonal quality of this black and white version with a very slight hint of sepia tone. Great clarity.



Photographer: **JANE PRESTEGARD**

Country: **USA**

f/00

This is my very first submission which I took in January 2020 at the Klamath Wildlife Refuge on the California/Oregon border. I love to photograph birds and winter is a great time to see the raptors hunting. This red-tailed hawk had just caught a field mouse and as I approached firing as quickly as I could, he jumped straight up into the air, claws revealing fresh blood. I did a lot of post editing in Lightroom.

Feedback: **BRENT MAIL**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Stunning first submission Jane and congratulations for posting inside Bootcamp. For me what is striking is the body language of the hawk with both wings mirroring the legs. Looks like your hawk's eye is tack-sharp which is the main point of interest for animal and bird photography and it can be quite a challenge to get. I also like the cool background behind the hawk which contrasts against the warm and yellows of the grasses below. I would love to see this as a square crop with a little more space in front of the hawk. Well done and congrats on your first post.





Photographer: **JIM GAGNE**

Country: **USA**

Canon EOS R5

f/16 1/125sec ISO400 | 85mm

I haven't taken too many photos in 2020 and actually became quite ill earlier this fall. But I did get out and about in my Los Angeles neighborhood for a photo walk and loved the punchy yellow of this lemon tree. Only slightly enhanced in Photoshop and, surprisingly, not HDR. Enjoy.

Feedback: **DENIS O'BYRNE**

Country: **IRELAND**

Hi Jim and a very Happy New Year. What I like about this one is the vibrance of the Lemon and the way the light is bouncing off it and the foliage against the sky which by contrast is soft. Well done.



Photographer: **JOHN MILLER**

Country: **USA**

f/16 1/4sec ISO320 | 50mm

An air plant that we had no idea would do this so I had to capture it.

Feedback: **SHEREE EBANKS**

Country: **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

I love the shallow depth of field, John. The red is perfectly focused! I have seen that these airplanes blossom, but have not seen them in person yet! Nicely composed and presented! Well done.



Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

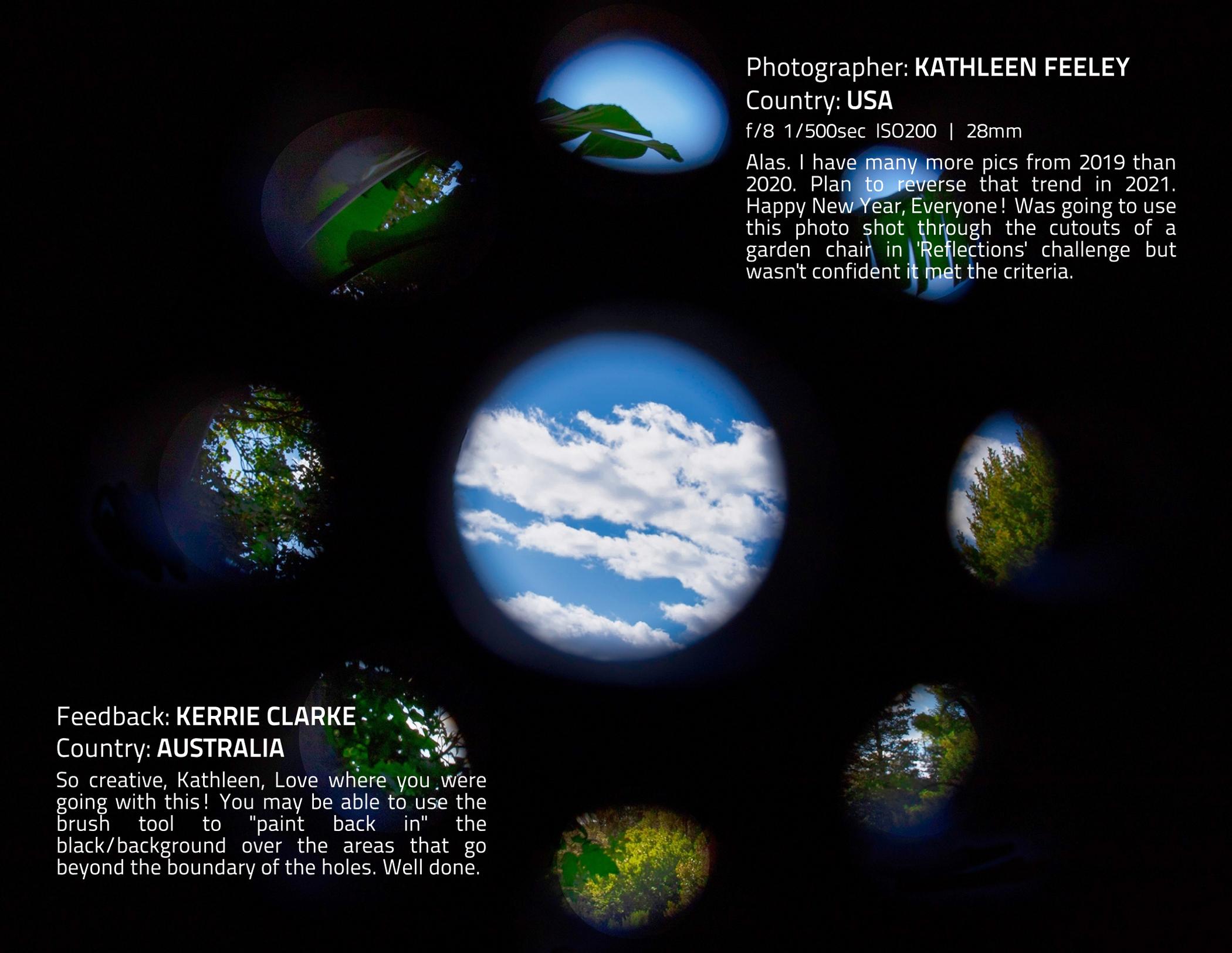
Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Such a great capture, love the composition with the framing of the birds. Love seeing this awesome moment Juan! I appreciate the time and attention it takes to capture this...I have a pair of white faced Herons nesting in a tree next door...and I am spending a lot of time just watching and waiting for that moment. So happy to see you back here, I applaud you for the difficult work you are doing. Go well, Juan.

Photographer: **JUAN ACOSTA**

Country: **USA**

I am so sorry to have not been able to participate in the past few months. I have been very busy in the Emergency Department with COVID patients. I have also been having problems uploading any pics via my iPhone or my new MacBook Pro. I was able to upload it via my work computer. I believe that this is one of my best captures of 2020 because I was following this bird after the babies hatched for several weeks and it was worth it.



Photographer: **KATHLEEN FEELEY**

Country: **USA**

f/8 1/500sec ISO200 | 28mm

Alas. I have many more pics from 2019 than 2020. Plan to reverse that trend in 2021. Happy New Year, Everyone! Was going to use this photo shot through the cutouts of a garden chair in 'Reflections' challenge but wasn't confident it met the criteria.

Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

So creative, Kathleen, Love where you were going with this! You may be able to use the brush tool to "paint back in" the black/background over the areas that go beyond the boundary of the holes. Well done.



Photographer: **KERI DOWN**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Hope this year brings a little more good stuff for everyone. This shot was taken as part of the reflections challenge. These are Magpie Geese and apparently they fly down from the NT. I have not seen them here before.

Feedback: **KATHLEEN FEELEY**

Country: **USA**

Love it, Keri, especially how perfectly poised the Geese are, pointing in different directions.

Photographer: **LEILA GONZALEZ SULLIVAN**

Country: **USA**

iPhone

f/1.8 1/4000sec ISO20 | 4mm

Here is my final post for the challenge, which I really found rewarding. As is often the case, it was taken with my iPhone X since I always have that with me. Am thinking of investing in the iPhone 12 Pro for its greater photo power. Anyway, I find there is something engaging about nature in winter; the dry shapes and muted tones can be very attractive. This is a hydrangea bush in my yard, named in memory of my brother and beautiful at all times of the year.

Feedback: **RICHARD HUTSON**

Country: **USA**

Leila, I love this image ... the composition and detail is perfect and the brown tones are beautiful. Well done ! I recently upgraded from iPhone 5s to the 12 Pro and what a difference. I am amazed at how easy it is to get great photos.





Photographer: **MARY HALE**

Country: **USA**

Moth - I thought it was beautiful, taken at night with my cell phone in no settings. This is my very first post

Feedback: **LAURA GRIFFITHS**

Country: **SOUTH AFRICA**

Welcome Mary, to this friendly, encouraging community. Beautiful sheen and lighting makes the moth stand out from the background and you've captured the detail of its wings so well.

Photographer: **MICHAEL STREET**

Country: **USA**

f/10 1/320sec ISO100 | 45mm

This one at Coco Beach on a very clear day early in the morning before heading home.



Feedback: **JUAN ACOSTA**

Country: **USA**

Very nice capture Michael. The colors are amazing, well done. I like the fact that you left "room" in front of the small ramp.



Photographer: **NICK ELLIS**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

f/4 1/100sec ISO400 | 65mm

One done last May for BootCamp 27. Idea was from an image I saw elsewhere and decided to take my own interpretation.

Feedback: **KERRIE CLARKE**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Awesome attention to detail, Nick! I really like that no 2 spoons are the same, and the addition of sprinkles is a nice little bent to this image. I can imagine how long it took to set this shot up, and I applaud you! My only suggestion would be to leave a tiny bit more space on the left. Well shot!



Photographer: **PETER DWIGHT**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

Sony A77

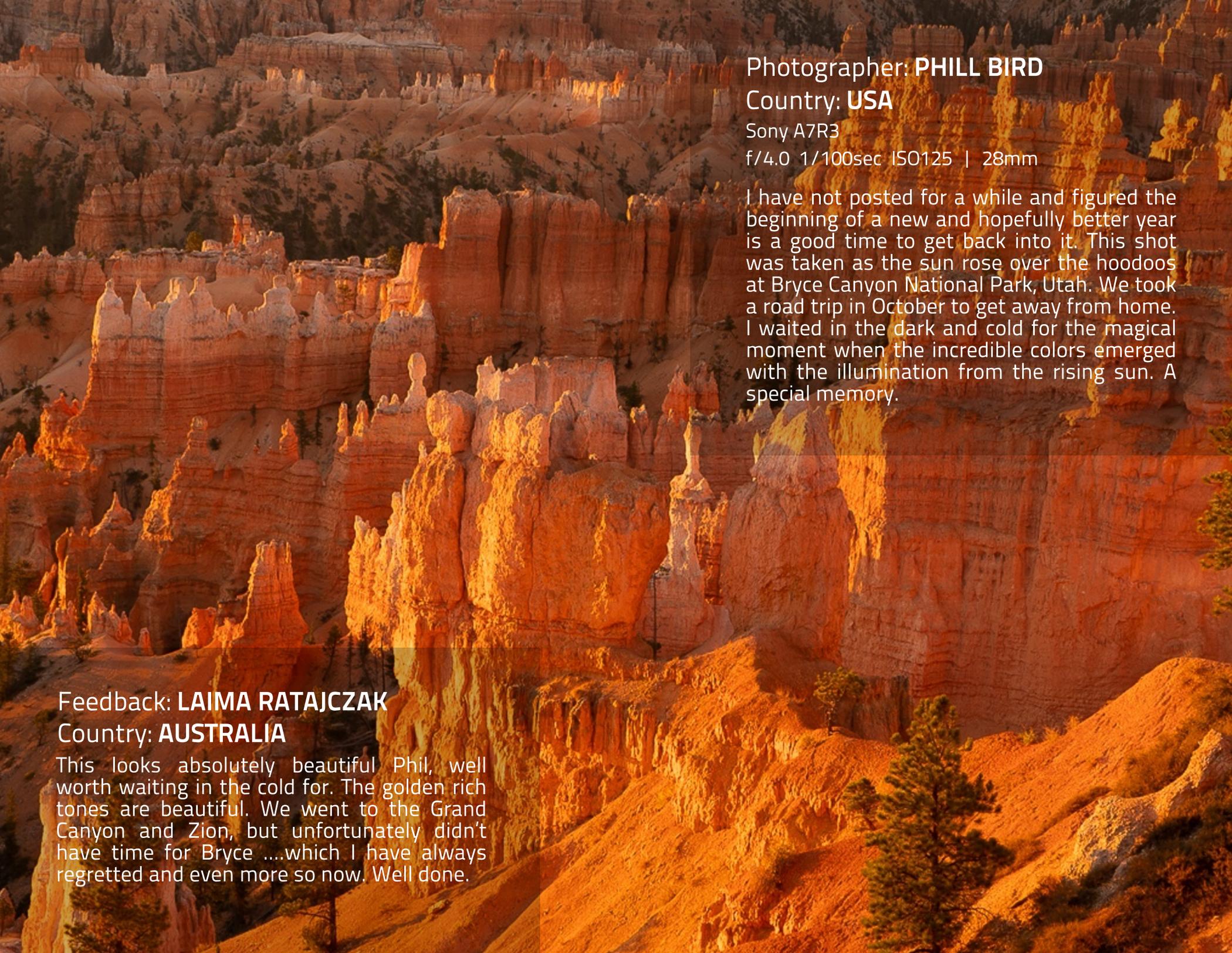
f/4 1/1600sec ISO100 | 18mm

this is one of my most treasured shots from Santorini.

Feedback: **DAVE KOH**

Country: **SINGAPORE**

Very outstanding color contrast. Nice simplistic composition and a nice place for holidays. Wish to be there someday. Great shot.



Photographer: **PHILL BIRD**

Country: **USA**

Sony A7R3

f/4.0 1/100sec ISO125 | 28mm

I have not posted for a while and figured the beginning of a new and hopefully better year is a good time to get back into it. This shot was taken as the sun rose over the hoodoos at Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah. We took a road trip in October to get away from home. I waited in the dark and cold for the magical moment when the incredible colors emerged with the illumination from the rising sun. A special memory.

Feedback: **LAIMA RATAJCZAK**

Country: **AUSTRALIA**

This looks absolutely beautiful Phil, well worth waiting in the cold for. The golden rich tones are beautiful. We went to the Grand Canyon and Zion, but unfortunately didn't have time for Bryce ...which I have always regretted and even more so now. Well done.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## 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!

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ISSUE 35

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