adre Trails Camera Club Black & White Portraits Competition- June 17, 2020 Group AA Comments





01 - Break Time.jpg

Dale Thies

A fun portrait. I like the detail of the costumes and the toning, taking the image into another era. However, overall, the image feels forced—a little too staged.



02 - C'est magnifique.jpg *Dale Thies*

A nice portrayal of a beautiful subject. The soft lighting and blurred background add to the ethereal quality of the image. The skin tones are lovely, as is the contrast with the light skin tones and the rich black of the hair and eyes. ****





03 - Honor Hero FIN.jpg

Charlie Gibson

This image reinforces the new normal of the moment. Masked faces. Which means the eyes take on new meaning. And, in this image, the eyes hold their own (and hold our attention). Clear eyed. Focused. Professional. Calm. Strong. The complex background is a bit distracting, but also shows a work setting (I think). Mixed blessing. ***

04 - Lizbeth #1.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

An image full of energy. The subject has a great smile. Strong presence. There is much movement here. It almost feels as if the subject is dancing off the frame, partly because of her lively ponytail and her slight lean to the side. I like that she is wearing a black outfit, which matches the black hair. These two areas of blackness thus accentuate the lighter tones of her face. ***



05 - Lizbeth #2.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

This is the less successful of the two Lizbeth portraits, although I like the pose, with the bent arm and the tilted head. The hair shadow (presumably from the flash) is bothersome and the image could be brightened a bit.



06 - Nancy Davi is 106 years old.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

This is the youngest looking 106-year-old I've ever seen. A marvel. The photographer has captured her spirit and her elegance. The composition is nicely untraditional—having her off center and leaning against a straight edge. Good choice. The facial overexposure loses much of the detail, which should be part of what makes a 106-year-old interesting.



07 - Noni.jpg

Dick Light

This is a very sweet portrayal of a seemingly kind-hearted woman. The photographer has captured an expression that seems full of wisdom and love. The catchlight in the eyes also adds sparkle to the personality. The slightly off center composition, along with the tilt of the head make the photo anything but static. Perhaps could do with a touch more contrast.



08 - Thoughtful.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

The close-up perspective and strong diagonal of the line of the face add interest to this image, as does the softness of the skin tone and the organic flow of the hair. Downside: the lighting is unusual, with just a portion of the face lit, and some detail has been lost in the shadow area of the hair.



09 - Zebra.jpg

Dick Light

Yes, a zebra is a personality too, and this image presents him/ her in all his/her design and detail glory. The stripes, the prickly mane, the soft nose (with a tiny well-lit beard) all add strong design and texture to the image. The background, too, adds interest, with just enough detail in the blur to show some environment and some interesting straight black forms to contrast with the organic stripes of the zebra. Good job.

Winning Images:

Third Place:

C'est magnifique Dale Thies



2nd Place:

Noni Dick Light



First Place:



Zebra Dick Light