

Tidelands Photography Club

**MAR/APR 2021
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

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Intermediate
“High Key”



The background of this image worked out well for a high key image but Lacey is both soft and under-exposed.

Intermediate
"Lazy Cat Lacey"

10



**Intermediate
"High Key"**

11

This qualifies as high key and the soft separation of the hair from the background worked out well. Unfortunately, the rest of the image, particularly the hair, is lacking sharpness and detail.



**Intermediate
"Big Bird"**

11

This is a beautiful bird caught in flight. While the wings were stopped it appears that either the shutter speed or focus were not spot-on so the bird is a bit soft. Placing the image in a panorama format would increase the importance of the bird a bit.



This is another attempt at high key with back-lighting. It works but the result is just a little washed out. A slight push of a black slider in an editor, or adjustment to the levels panel would bring this back quite dramatically.

**Intermediate
"Camellia"**

12



**Intermediate
"Keeping Watch"**

12

The Hawk cooperated here by opening it's beak which makes for an interesting pose. The sky helped and the exposure was good. I think that it is a little too contrasty though, and the focue is a little soft. A little work with an editor could improve both.



**Intermediate
"Wisteria"**

12

This is a nice composition and seems well focussed and exposed. It's another good example of high key. Unfortunately, many of the flower petals are burn't out in the image which drains away some of the color. It's nice enough that a little extra effort could result in a very nice shot.



Intermediate
"High Key Flower"

13

The intense backlighting softened the edges a bit which may or may not have been intended. It's an interesting technique to produce a high key flower and works pretty well. I would have liked to have seen a little sharper detail in the center of the image, but otherwise, it's very successful.



**Intermediate
"Pawleys Pier"**

13

Here the photographer took up the challenge by going outdoors, and the result works well. I think that a little tighter crop would help make the pier a little more prominent. Another possibility would be to use a slight panorama frame. The detail of the pier is well exposed.



This is an attractive arrangement of tulips. They are well exposed and precisely focussed. The lighting appears to be a little flat. A bump on the levels slider, or a little saturation or vibrance might help.

**Intermediate
"Yellow Tulips"**

13



**Intermediate
"White Orchids"**

13

The white orchid is a lovely composition. It's a little soft, but that may be intentional, part of the overall composition. The background is a little dark to be seen as a high key photo, but it's a nice image anyway.



**Intermediate
"Here KityKity"**

13

This is quite dramatic in monochrome and it appears to have a further treatment with a filter. The image works well and is very interesting. It does appear, however, that there is a blurry spot on the nose. Could that be a lens artifact or is the filter program acting up?



**Intermediate
"Eye Candy"**

14

This is a simple and elegant image and a wonderful example of high key. I assume the lighter roof and interior are purposeful and that it represents the photographer's choice. I works fine for me. The job of isolating the car on a white background is perfectly done. My only criticism is the that the two chrome strips of the "wing" on the fenders don't match the chrome strips on the trunk.



**Intermediate
"Swan Air"**

15

What a great capture! I like the composition, detail and exposure. I particularly like the drop of water still clinging to the beak of the swan. This ought to be on a wall.



**Intermediate
"Great White Egret"**

15

This is a great capture with the wings extended. It's sharp as a tack and perfectly exposed. Both the focus and shutter speed were exactly what was called for. This one belongs on a wall.



**Intermediate
"On the Hunt"**

15

This is perfectly exposed and pin sharp. It doesn't appear that the bird was back-lit so the white background was probably created. Hang this one up!

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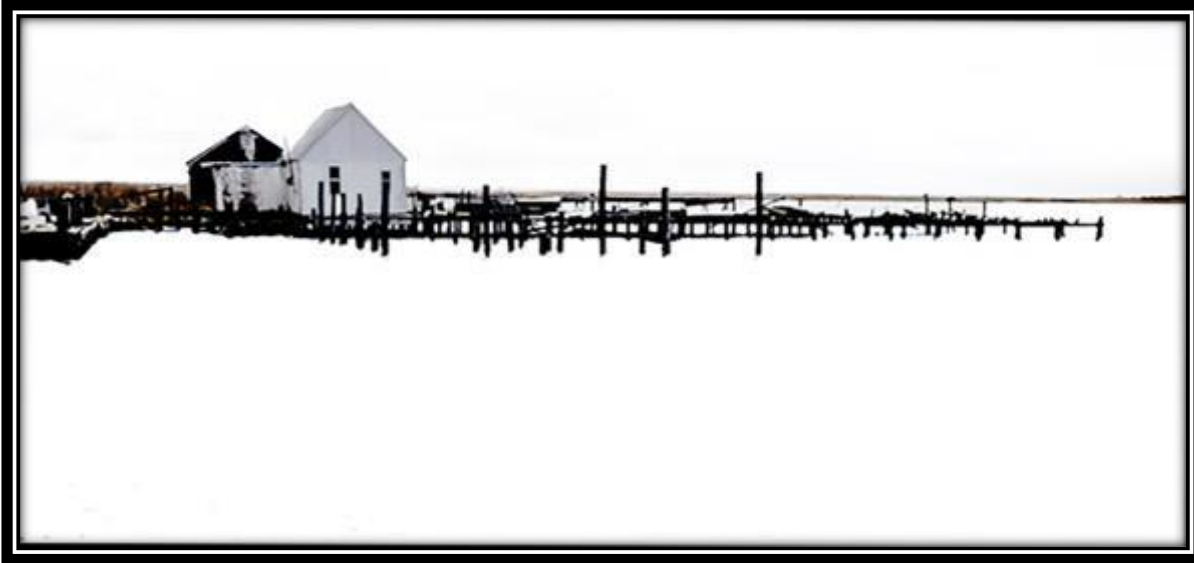
**Advanced
“High Key”**



**Advanced
"Cat Attitude"**

11

I must confess that I'm not sure what the story is here. There's an implied relationship, but I am not putting it together. The individual components are roughly cut so they don't look like they were intended to be in the same image.



**Advanced
"Old Wharf"**

12

I Think the choice of a panorama presentation was a good one. Cropping in a little would have improved it a bit since there is not much detail evident.



**Advanced
"Princess"**

13

The focus, depth of field and exposure are well done, as is the pose of the dog. The one thing I would like to see is a little fill light to bring out details in the nose and eyes, and perhaps provide a highlight in the eyes.



**Advanced
"Morning Waccamaw"**

14

This is an unusual attempt at high key utilizing a landscape image. It mostly works for me though I wonder how a slight crop off the left would look. Of course, the old film edge would have to be replaced. It's a unique view and well done.



**Advanced
"Close"
14**

The general softness in this image is contrasted with the sharp detail of the pollen in the center of the flower. The back lighting worked out well but it is just a little over-done. It's a nice attempt at high key.



**Advanced
"The Hunting Eagle"**

14

I'm not sure if this qualifies as high key, but it is nevertheless a striking image. The back of the head is a little hot, but the rest of the eagle is sharp and well exposed. I even like the overlap of the feathers in contrast with the design of the shingles.



**Advanced
"My Best Friend"**

15

This shot cries out for wall space. It is very well done, including the focus, exposure and the job of cutting out the image and placing it on a white background. A few spots are a bit hot, but the overall image is very dramatic.



This image looks like a textbook example of high key. It is well done and correctly exposed. The light area on the left upper corner is a bit of a distraction for an otherwise nice shot.

**Advanced
"Aurora Marie"**

15



**Advanced
"Century Plant"
15**

The Century Plant is an excellent high key image. It's well exposed and pin sharp while maintaining a very white background. The variation of lighting on the leaves is attractive. I wonder what it would look like as a monochrome.

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Open



Open
"Checking Out the Neighbor's Yard"

11

The composition here is quite unique with the combination of the squirrel eye plus the bushy tail. Unfortunately, neither are in sharp focus. The background and fence work well, but it needed a smaller aperture to nail both the eye and tail.



Open
"Dragonfly on Pod"

12

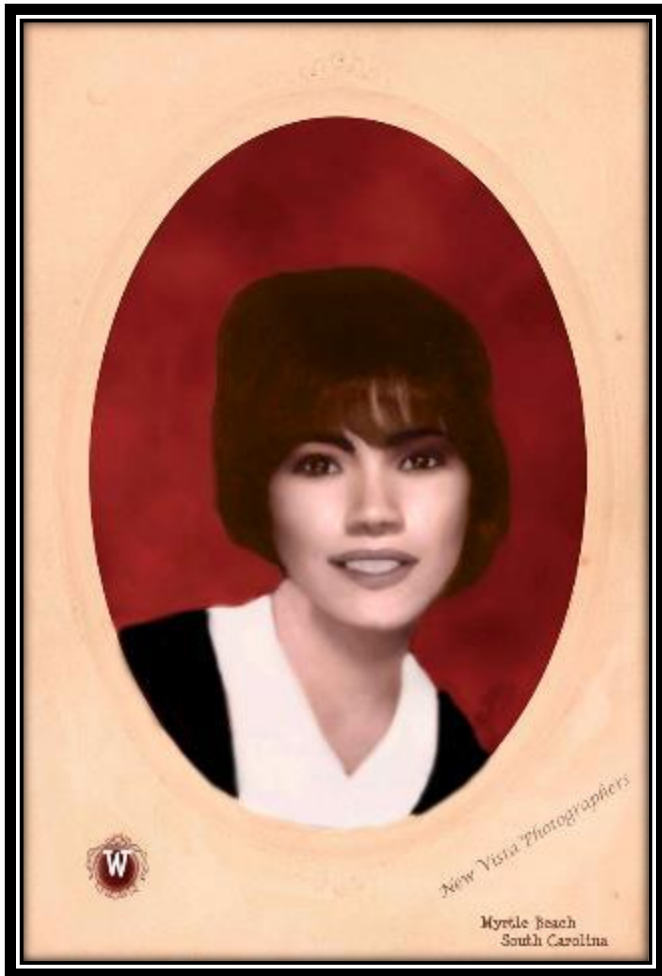
A lot of good elements came together here and this could have been an outstanding image with a better focus. But this is impressive enough that you probably ought to go out and try to do it again.



Open
"No More Dentist"

12

What a dramatic image! The open mouth revealing a broken fang is both fearsome and interesting. We can actually pick up a highlight in the eye which helps make a connection with the animal. Unfortunately, the background is quite distinct and is a major distraction. Some editor programs offer ways of blurring that.



It's difficult to judge this as a rerstored image without seeing the original. The result is not terribly detailed but it may be much better than it was before restoration.

Open
"Restored"
12



Open
"3 Leaves"
12

This assembly of leaves is thoughtful and an example of high key. It's simple and works fairly well accept that it's not sharp. It's not so far off that a sharpening program might help, but as is, it is an interesting effort that just misses.



Open
"Albuquerque"
12

The tough thing about a shot like this is determining how to frame it - what do you include and what do you exclude. The choice here seems pretty good. The exposure and focus are fine and the colors great.



Open
"Rice Fields Reflection"

13

In this image, the cloud reflections in the foreground are the heroes. This is properly exposed and composed. I think a slight crop off the top would make the reflections in the foreground a little more prominent.



Open
"Spring"
13

This is an original composition that actually works pretty well. The exposure appears to be correct - it's just that the focus is a little off. More poppies are coming so do it again with a tripod and nail the focus.



Open
"Crabshack"
13

This is a moody photo that really works well in a panorama format. It strikes me as a little flat so that a slight bump on the saturation slider might brighten up the color of the building.



Open
"Voyage to the Stars"
13

The composite of the sailboat in the sky is imaginative and almost works. There is, perhaps, just a little too much of the sail boat. I wonder if it would be a little more believable if a little less of the keel was revealed. It's a great idea and I hope the creator keeps working on it.



**Open
"Egyptain Lily"**

13

This image is colorful and mostly shows good detail. The exposure and focus are good but the depth of field means that while most of the plant is in focus, other parts are blurry.



Open
"Eagle Owl"
13

This owl is a striking image. The tight crop is very effective. It appears that the image was overly sharpened, or perhaps it has been run through a filter program. It's interesting either way.



Open
"Peaceful Reflection"

13

This is a nice vista photo with a cross overlooking a landscape. The cross is well positioned and well lit, though there isn't much detail in the foreground. The land in the distance is not spectacular but the sundown provides great lighting.



Open
"The Lone Cypress Tree"

13

This tree in water with a reflection works well as a high key image. Turning it into a monochrome was a good choice. It does appear to be a little soft, but it's a strong composition nonetheless.



Open
"Along for the Ride"

14

This image really required some thought or a great light meter system because the dark gorillas are being exposed on their shady side. Yet the fur on the pair is well exposed and sharp. Too bad that the background was so close because it is a bit distracting. But it's still an outstanding image.



Open
"Marsh Opening"

14

I like the composition here with the arching trees framing the water. It looks like it might have been taken from a boat. It looks like there may be a slight motion blur. I'm not sure if a little sharpening would improve it. But that's all.



Open
"Easter Cross"

14

This scene is well composed, exposed and is generally sharp. I'm a little surprised that the cloth hanging from the crucifix is not a little brighter since it is back lit. An editor program might allow you to add some brightness and saturation and turn it into a hero.



Open
"Turquoise in the Mist"

14

This is another moody shot that's well composed and balanced. The lighting is fairly flat with the mist. The photo itself seems a bit flat as a result. A small bump on the black slider would make the birds a bit more distinct and would also deepen the color of the boat. Maybe it would be better. Maybe not.



Open
"Preening Cormorant"

15

Here's another case where having the right equipment plus some patience paid off. The cormorant is sharp as a tack all over and well exposed to boot. The negative space to the right is a bit generous, but maybe you needed that to qualify as high key.



Open
"In for the Landing"

15

The hawk really cooperated by showing off its wings. This is where good equipment and anticipation pays off. There's a great exposure, focus and depth of field. It all came together nicely.



Open
"Love Nest"
15

The focus in this image really helps tell the story. The blur in the background is just right, and the foreground and birds are perfect. The exposure is right on - all you needed was the right moment. Hang it up!



Open
"Minimalization"
15

If you want to know what simple and elegant look like, this is it. It is very moody but was clearly a photographic challenge. I wonder if a little cropping off the left and bottom, perhaps a panarama, would improve it. Maybe not.



Open
"Baby Owl Eyes"
15

The owl portrait is very well done. It is sharp, well exposed, and a real attention grabber. I can't think of any suggestion for improvement.



This photo is well exposed, composed and focussed. It's a nice arrangement and fairly leaps off the page. There must be a wall for it.

**Open
"Triple Delight"
15**



Open
"Windmill Reflection"

15

Wind mills are always fascinating. This one is well lit and exposed and very well composed with the reflection in the foreground. Some people might think that the grass in the corner is a distraction but think it adds depth to the image.