Tidelands Photography Club

Sep/Oct 2020
Photography Contest

Beginner
"Silhouettes"

Beginner
"Sunset Silhouette"
11

This image has the major element of a good silhouette - a great sky. The background sky is excellent. I love the way that all four corners of this image are dark, focussing attention on the the center. I'm not sure if the sky has been rendered through the use of a filter, or whether I'm seeing either a bit of camera blur or subject blur, due perhaps to wind. The fronds in the forground lack sharpness, whch could be caused by either. It's a nice exmple of a silhouette though.

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Intermediate
"Silhouettes"

This appears to be a Tasmanian Devil doll or costume that is back lit from reflected light. The silhouette part seems to be as black as necessary and the facial features are well exposed. The non-silhouette part of the object appear to be a little soft. It seems to me that a silhouette photo should contrast an interesting shape against a background source of light. The background wall has detail, but the silhouette part is made up of formless cloth and does not provide much of interest.

There is some great sunset color here and the black is just as it should be. It is a nice, well-exposed background, but it needs a more prominent subject, like a person under one of the canopies. It is a very nice set up, in my view, but waiting for a subject. I did notice the there were a couple of blown out areas, like the reflection of the sun on the water, and the sun itself. The image is missing just one more element to be a really good photo.
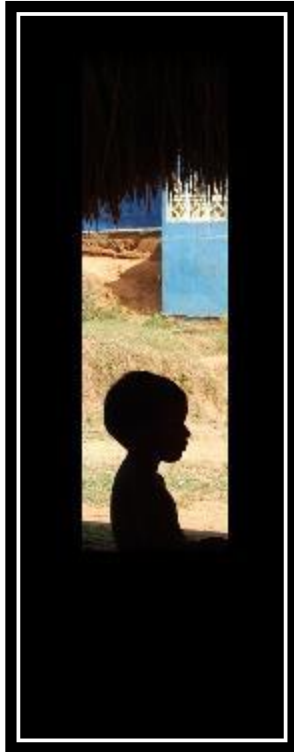
Intermediate
"Ferris Wheel at Dawn"
11

The ferris wheel image also has a great sky. It's much less detailed than some, but what great color! I really like the soft variation from bottom to top. The ferris wheel itself is pin sharp and always a great subject for a silhouette. Unfortunately, the rectangular building at he bottom adds nothing to the story. There's an old saying that if something doesn't add to a picture, it probably detracts. I'm not sure what to do about it besides a different angle, but that might not have been possible.

Intermediate
"Sunrise Devotion"
12

This is an inspiring moment well-captured. Shooting into the sun is a huge challenge for the best of photographers with the best of equipment. This shot handles the lighting situation about as well as could be done. Some photographers, I'm sure, would be critical of the lens flares, but non-photographers migh not know what they are. It is a spiritual moment, so I'm thinking that the flares were on purpose and are part of the photographer's intention. As such, they don't bother me. My one criticism is that the horizon bi-sects the photo with the subject totally below. Cropping a bit off the top would help.
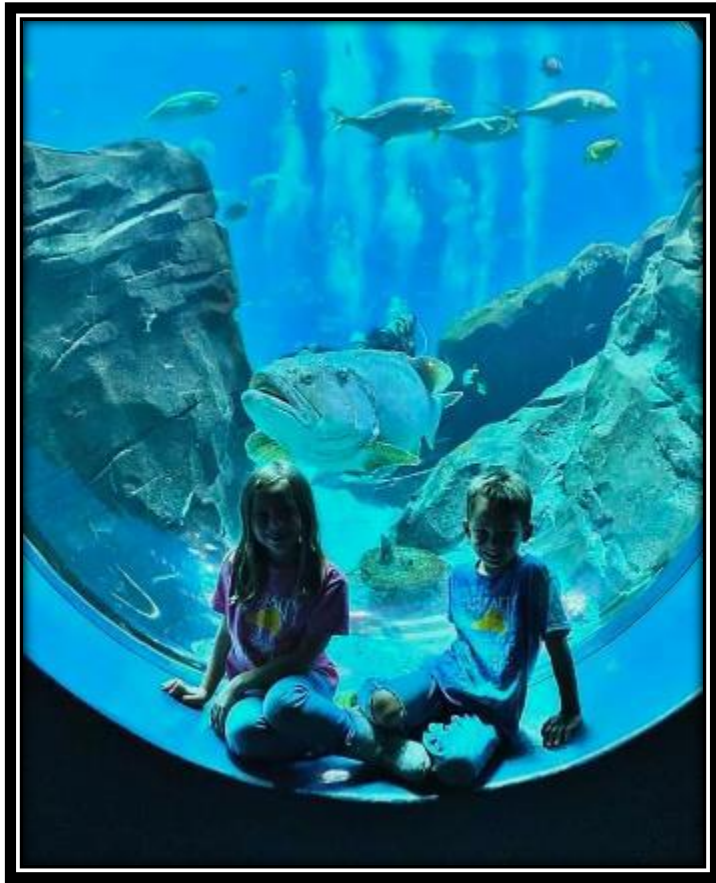
Intermediate
"Panama Boy"
12

Here's a silhouette that doesn't rely on the sun. It's a different approach to be sure, and it could be used as a travel category image since it places the child in his environment. The exposure is right on to render the child in silhoiette while showing the blues outside. It's a nice use of a window as a frame, especially with the thatched roof hanging down. Having the boy posed sideways was a good choice. My only suggestion would be to crop a bit off the verticle (not a lot).
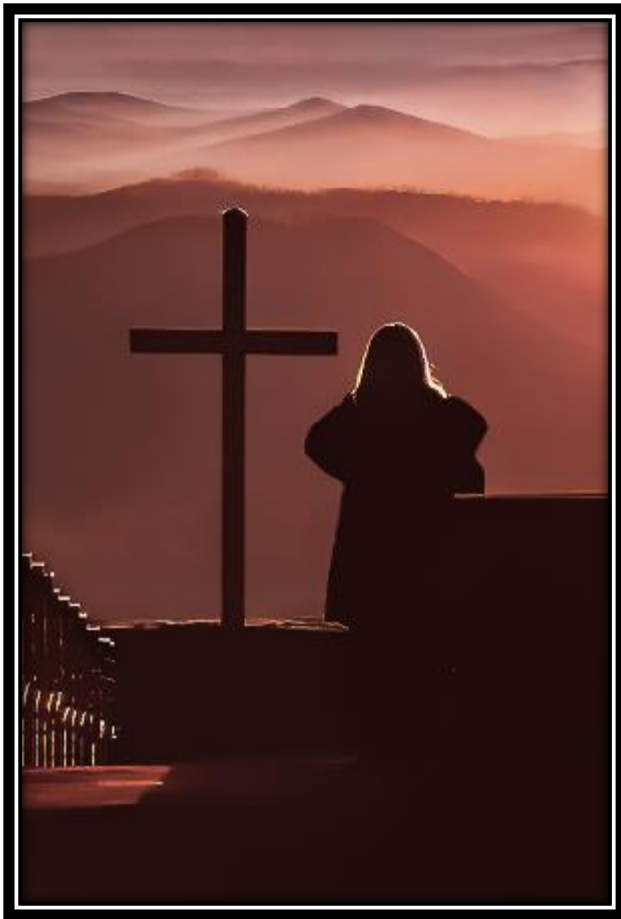
Intermediate
"Pier Silhouette"
12

I love the pink sky with a few clouds to make for a beautiful background. The use of a panorama frame is a perfect choice. The exposue was just right for a silhouette. The man is a little too far to the left so tht he is walking out of the picture. He is the one element that the photographer could effect, but I can't assume that he would be cooperative. As lovely as the sky is, the story is confined to the bottom half. A slight crop off the top might make for a more balanced image.

Intermediate
"Fishy Twins"
12

I'm not sue that this is qualified as a silhouette but it's certainly an image that grama would like on the wall. I got a kick out of seeing the interest that the bass it showing in the kids. The composition is clever using the window as a frame that includes the three observers. I would add a little fill or shadow reduction for grama. Then it's ready for a Christmas card.

Intermediate
"How Great Thou Art"
13

I love the simplicity and elegance of this photo. The alignment of the mountains behind the cross and viewer provides three elements into an inspirational moment. The color and the mist make this a unique photo that everyone would enjoy. I have just one criticism, that fortunately would be easy to fix. There appears ti be a line of chairs in the lowert left. They clearly are an unnecessary distraction. They don't add to the picture, so they actually detract from it. My understanding is that the competition allows modifications. The bright distractions could easily be removed with a healing brush or a clone tool. The result would be a trully outstanding photo ready for the wall.

Here we have a nice capture of a solitary moment where a man enjoys the company of a full moon. It's a simple composition, but a clear and concise story. I like both the exposure and the various elements are for the most part, well arranged. Cropping a bit off the top and the right might improve the image, but it looks pretty good as is. It appears that both the foreground and sky are in sharp focus. It's a nice, thoughtful image.

Intermediate
"World of Wonder"
14

I enjoy the interaction of the two youngsters and the ray. The kids are obviously transfixed by the ray and the photo captures their excitement. While the photo is certainly qualified as a silhouette, there is a slight bit of light on the boy and you can make out the hand, glasses and even the shoe laces of the girl. It makes for a wonderful story. There seems to be a little more space at the top than needed, but overal it really works.

Intermediate
"Brandon Sunset"
14

This image shows a lot of attention to detail. The balance between the background and foregrojund add interest to both. The exposure was fast enough to freeze the surf while maintaining the exposure of the sky. The surface of the water provides plenty of interesting detail. And then there are the rocks, which are left black so the photo can still be called a silhouette. The final result is a very pleasing image.

It's always nice when a bird cooperates and turns his head sideways so you can capture his entire beak. This shot has excellent composition and perfect exposure of the background water. I also like tyhe sepia toned look. There is a bit of a hot spot by the bird's feet, but other than that, it is an excellent silhouette shot.
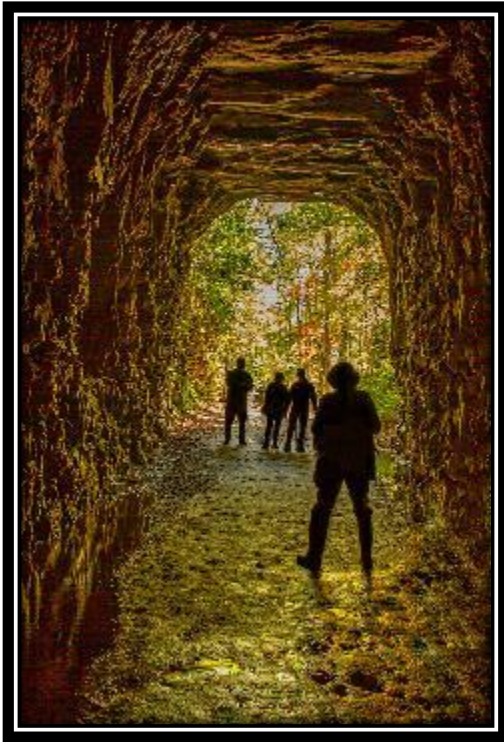
This is a very well composed silhouette that demonstrates several good choices starting with the location of the light house. I also like the diagonal horizon line instead of a straight forward arrangement. It is well exposed and pin sharp. The star filter effect is the icing and shows that this photo is made, not just taken.

Intermediate
"Looking Out of Stump Tunnel"
15

This image is a wonderful and unique entry for the silhouette competition. I'm sure the balanced lighting between the tunnel and the outside light source required some manipulation to make them so balanced. The effect is quite attractive in that it shows off the details of the tunnel, reflections of the moisture, and the relief of the walls, plus a great exposure of the light source from the opening. The outside colors and detail, with the spots of red really set off the silhouetted figures. I don't see anything that could be done better.

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Advanced "Silhouettes"

Advanced
"Gull on Pier"
12

The seagull image is a simple, straight forward example of a silhouette. The bird and the post are a nice black black against a very dramatic sky. Imagine if the sky was just plain white. The cloudy sky adds drama while providing interesting contrast too. I also like what appears to be a little sea weed remaining on the post. It's just enough to give a sense of place. The bird is shot from a good angle which reveals both its beak and tail. The one unfortunate element is the pure white area behind the bird. If its a raw image, there may be some information there that could rescue it a bit. Otherwise, a little cloning could complete a wonderful background.

This photo begins with a lovely sunset sky and features well exposed vegetation to create a silhouette. The variety of leaves between the bushes and the tree are interesting, as is the cloud formation. I can't help thinking, though, that the frame of reference is a little too high. I think that the photo would be even more attractive if we saw a little more of the tree in the center, and a little less of the sky. The palm leaves are great against the spectacular sky, but the deciduous tree is the star.

Advanced
"Love Enjoys"
12

I like that the subject is cropped in close. I also like the angle of the shot. It looks in focus to me. As the reflection is the main subject I would like to see the whole reflection. The sundown picture of the couple reminds us all of such treasured moments. The exposure appears to be close to what was needed though I think I'm seeing a little blue in the woman's shorts. A half a stop less would have made it black and darkened the sky to boot. It obviously is well focussed, as you can make out detail in the woman's hair and the man's glasses. That detai, I think , adds interest. My main criticism has to do with cropping the ciouple at the ankles. Fortunately, there is an easy fix. If the photo was cropped at either of the two bottom frails in the fence, and perhaps a little off the right, it would be a very nice photo

Here's an example of how a great silhouette picture starts with a great sky. This one is well exposed and the birds feathers are sharp as a tack. The same is true of the sky. The bird certainly cooperated by drying its wings at the perfect moment and the photographer was ready to take advantage. It's a nice example of a silhouette image and I don't know how to improve it.

This is an excellent silhouette shot. The photgrapher had a lot of challenges to manage beginning with shutter speed to freeze the boy and the birds in flight. The photographe probably took many exposures to capture the boy at jut the right spot. Then there is the exposure of the sun and sky - always an important decision. Finally, there was the reflection on the sea and sand to consider. It all came together in a gorgeous composition. The only decision left is how large to blow it up before hanging it on the wall.

Several pictures have used a setting sun as their lighting source. This one is unique in that a telephoto was probably used to make the sun bigger. The effect is quite dramatic. The exposure captured the sun well while freezing the birds in flight. The weather conditions were cooperating and the photographer took advantage. The image tells a story too, about the relationship between a trawler and sea birds. Some people might consider the bit of pier to be a distraction. I actually like how it creates a little depth.

Advanced
"Red Hagley"
15

In this photo, the color itself is a major element. The sharply focussed pier, as a subject, stands out in stark contrast to the light source. The vegitation on the sides works well to frame the subject and focus attention on the pier. The cloudy sky and reflection further contrast with the detail of the pier. The whole image is very original and the mix of its parts are in proper balance. I don't really have any suggestions to improve it.

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Photography Contest

Open

Based on the title, I guess I'm supposed to see a frog image among the random elements. I can make out a leaf or leaves, and what appears to be a stump, all well exposed. Then there are the random light sources scattered about. Unfortuneately, I'm still waiting for froggy to appear.

Open
"Little Blue Heron"
11

The Blue Heron is positioned well so we see both an eye and its beak. I like the fact that there is a bit of a reflection in the water. The dark water behind the bird helps outline its shape. I'm a little disappointed that the Heron is not more detailed. It also seems to me the the shape of the subject would be better displyed in a verticle frame.

Open
"Free Form"
11

This flower shot appears to exist in two different dimensioins at the same time. The flower is peeling back its own background. That's a bit of a trick. This Escheresque fantasy is an interesting challenge to the imagination. The flower is a bit soft , while the curled background is actually more realistic. It's a clever and interesting idea if a little imperfect in its execution.

Flower pictures with a black background are particularly dramatic. This flower leaps off the page with its saturated color. It appears to have pretty good depth of field and is well exposed. It seems a little soft but the greatest concern is over the location of the flower in the frame. Fortunately, that's pretty easy to fix - just a cropping tool is required.

The bird was cooperative here in presenting a side view of his head so we can see both its beak and its eye. The neck of the bird also presents the viewer with a natural "S" curve. The exposure seems spot on for both the bird and the sky behind. The plane of focus seems to be around the feet and the pipe, so that the head is slightly soft. With a little sharpening and perhaps a bit cropped off the top, this is ready for a wall.

Open
"My Good Side"
12

Open
"Twin Falls"
12

I can almost hear the waterfall in this photo. It is a well exposed image that doesn't completely freeze the water movement. While the waterfall seems to be the subjct (and the title) the vegetation in the center is the most prominent feature in the composition, with the water relegated to the edges. It appears to me that the horizon line is slightly tipped, but the image still makes me think, "I wish I was there".

Open
"Trumpet Flower"
12

Image looks sharp and has good depth of field. It is hard for me to see what the subject is. You could crop off the top and bottom, maybe even a little of the left side to make a square format. This would help, I think, to make the flower stand out more. The lighting on this flower against a black background is quite dramatic. Some of the light is falling behind, creating a translucent effect. I like the fact that the flower is presented slightly diagonal which seems more natural. The out-of-focus green parts are a bit too bright and compete with the in-focus parts for attention. The plane of sharp focus seems to be on the leaves in the foreground, leaving the back of the flower slightly soft. It's an elegant, sparse composition that shows everything needed and nothing that is not.

Open
"Spreading My Wings"
13

I like the way the blue of the water sets off the pink of the spoonbill. The reflection is a bonus and the exposure manages to capture both with good detail. The lighting is fairly contrasty so there is a little problem with hot spots but it is minimal. I wonder how this would be if it was shot with a verticle format that included all of the reflection. On the other hand, there is no way to know that a different shot was even possible, so this is the best it could be.

Open
"Plant Medley"
13

This an interesting assembly of pitcher plants. It's well exposed and mostly in proper focus. Some plants in the back are slightly out of sharp focus. I suspect that this is on purpose to make it seem that they are further away than they actually are. It's probably a good choice since the depth of the composition as far as the colorful backdrop is probably a bit narrow. The plant at the far right edge of the composition is a little soft and not well positioned - It would be better removed. It's an interesting effort at making a picture at a time when you shouldn't wander much.

I believe this is a Kingfisher. It's a strikingly pretty bird. I like the fact that it was captured on a diagonal stem, and the blurred water in the background is a great complementary setting. The lighting appears to be quite bright, perhaps even a flash. In either case I would expect slightly more sharpnes. It could be either camera or subject movement.

This seascape has some great pastel colors and lots of wave detail along with the rising sun. The sky is a lovely combination of blue and gold. The exposure was good enough to capture detail and freeze the waves while holding the sky. The sun is not too bad considering the circumstances, but the highlight below is really burnt out. If it is a raw image, there may be a little detail, or cloning could help reduce the hot spot. Once again, if it's a raw, there could be a little detail in the shadow of the rock. Since it is center-most and closest to the camera, it would be nice to see some detail.
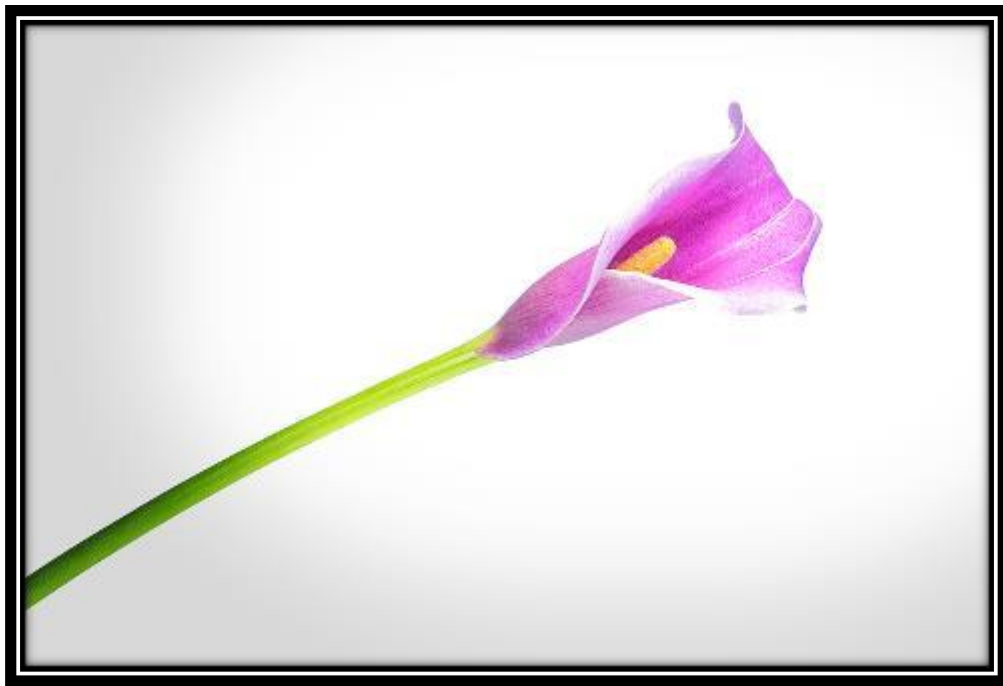
Open
"Mist Over the Marsh"
14

The marsh image is peaceful while being colorful. The vegetation is very sharp and the basic exposure, which can by tricky during foggy times, is right on. I like the fact that there is a person on the pier to give a little sense of scale. I like it as a kind of moody picture that reminds me of home. I do have a suggestion for improvement. The horizon line and the pier both disect the image in the middle. It seems to me that the image would be improved by cropping a bit off the top so that the final photo would be an a somewhat panorama frame.

Open
"Acadia Rocky Path"
14

The Fall is a great time among aspen and birch trees. This photo really captures their beauty which actually becomes even more intense as the sun goes down. The photographer chose a low angle and likely a small aperture to increase depth of field. It appears to be extremely sharp from the bottom forward. The color of the red and yellow leaves are at their most saturated. I don't have much in the way of criticisms, but the photographer might want to take just a bit off the top.

This is an interesting contrast to the flower shot above, with a much more common black background. I appreciate both approaches, but this one is more unique. Your choice of composing the flower in a diagonal position, with extra stem and framing it with a panorama frame really works. The color of the stem is an added highlight, as is the variation in background ilumination. It's a nice attempt to capture the essence of a flower.

Here is a wonderful triad of the blue of the ocean and the red and yellow of the sunset. The gulls and boat tell a story of the synergistic relationship between the two. This is a lovely image and a good story too. I'm not sure that the wave curl at the bottom adds much. On the one hand it adds a great deal of depth to the composition, on the other, it's out-of-focus and a bit distracting.

Open
"Blacklight Still Life"
14

This image just leaps off the page. The choice of color for the surface and backdrop really complements the flower in the vase, a little more, perhaps, than the two blue flowers, but it"s very attention-grabbing. The focus, exposure and lighting are spot on. I like the use of a reflective surface which adds to the composition opportunities. I'm not sure, if under the circumstances, there was a possibility of arranging the background and table top to blur or erase the seam between the table and backdrop, but that"s may only suggestion.

Open
"Sunlit Fritillary"
14

This is a trully spectacular image that combines several combined elements. Notice the antenna. This is an extremely sharp close up shot. The flower is similarly detailed from back to front, though there is a little softening on the forward two petals. The shadow behind the image really amplifies the foreground color. This is a very carefully done image and it shows.

This image was a real technical challenge, and the photographer handled it well. The trick was to expose the outdoors, through the window, while maintaining detail inside. This shot accomplishes that feat very well. Some of the shelf is a bit hot, but the rest of the interior looks as expected.

Open
"Surprise Encounter"
15

I'm not sure which animals are featured in this photo. The location could be in the Ametican South or another continent. It's a great capture starting with the dark reeds in the back ground that sets off the bird and the reptile. The focus and exposure are perfect and the relatively soft lighting provides detail in both. The story is captivating since it's clear that in just a few seconds it will likely proceed in one of two directions. It is very well done so that it's hard to look away. The only improvement I could imagine would be slightly more room above the egret's (?) head. The image is very near perfect.

Open
"Peacock Feathers Up Close"
15

The peacock feathers composition is another example of making, rather than taking a photograph. Someone spent a lot of time assembling and arranging the feathers, finding the perfect lighting, and the correct exposure. The result is quite attractive and technically competent. It's colorful, sharp, well exposed and original. Hang it up!

Open
"Got It"
15

This is the perfect exposure / shutter combination. The photographer really froze a moment. The background is properly blurred so we have enough information about the setting. I've never seen a dog catch a frisbee with its paws. That's pretty remarkable, on its own! The shutter speed must have been qjuite high because the dog's fur is pin sharp. I'm thinking thjat it must have been automatic focus with a supurb focussing system.

Open
"The Depot"
15

This photo has gorgeous color with the sky, the roof of the depot, and the reflection on the track. It's the color that ties the varous elements together. The composition, along with what must have been a relatively small aperture combined to provide a lot of great depth with no out-of-focus blur. It cold be an HDR shot. Someone must have put a lot of thought, patience and a tripod in the creation of thiks image.

Open
"Fly on the Sun"
15

This is the sort of thing you can do with good macro equipment. This photo is tack sharp, well exposed with all of the depth of field you need. The colors are bright and varied and the details, including the visitor, are quite impressive This is what happens with goof equipment, good technique and a skilled photographer.