

THE 2018 PAGB MASTERS OF PRINT

Or - if we want to be politically correct - it should also say "Mistresses of Print" - but perhaps, on consideration - the connotation here could be misconstrued?

This prestigious event was held for the second year running, and took place at the R K Burt Gallery, in London. I'm not sure how many entries there were in total - but of those featured in the latest eNews, no less than 18 ladies were present, out of the other 23 entrants! I think we can safely assume the ladies are a force to be reckoned with!

When reading through the list of those successful entrants at the opening of the Exhibition - I was really delighted to see two WCPF members featured. One was Ralph Snook, familiar to us all for his impeccable organisation of the WCPF's Members' Exhibition - currently open for entries - the other being a lady! None other than Janet Downes of Liskeard Camera Club!



A delighted Janet Downes of Liskeard Camera Club at the Exhibition, with her winning image seen on the left (Janet's right).

You know how nosy I am - I had to do a bit of sleuthing?

AnnO - First of all, Janet, very well done on your success in the Masters of Print. Please tell me all about it? "

JanetD - I was over the moon to be accepted, as you may imagine. And it didn't stop with the acceptance! My print was chosen by the very discerning judge, Jane Lines, for her Personal Choice Medal! My feet still haven't touched the ground!

When the competition was announced, I wondered whether to enter. I thought my chances of being successful were very slim - but then I thought 'you never know?' Acceptance in a PAGB National Competition was something I aspired to - and that coupled with the modest entry fee meant I chanced making my first entry.

AO: Tell us about the image, please? Where was it taken - and how did you process it?

JD : 'Billy The Kid' was taken at Muckcross Traditional Farm at Kilarney National Park, Ireland last summer. I don't think he'd long been born, and his anxious mum was nearby, keeping a watch. I took a couple of low angle shots of him, then left them in peace.



I wanted to create a sensitive animal portrait so with this in mind, I had pre-visualised him on a plain background - which was a consideration when I took the shot. I desaturated the grass and rock he was resting on, then blended with a white layer. I also added a subtle texture and then, to enhance the softness of his coat, I blurred it a bit, but retained sharpness on the head.

The quote from the catalogue forward states "We were looking for interesting content, imagination, diversity of subject and technique and pictures which were created with love." Selectors were also looking for pictures that hadn't widely done the usual salon circuit.

AO: Please don't tell me you printed it on the Epson 2400 I sold to you a while ago?

JD: No. I'm afraid it finally died after a few years of good service. I now use an Epson P600 with the Fotospeed ink flow system. I also use Fotospeed papers, and this was printed on their Natural Soft Texture Bright White paper. It's a superb paper, and I think suited the effect I was aiming for.

There were three categories to choose from: Colour, Monochrome and Nature. You could submit up to five prints and choose which category to enter. However, only one print was to be accepted. I submitted five prints into the Colour section.

AO: What about sizing and mounting? The Exhibition had such a consistent appearance.

JD: In the Entry Rules, sizes of the window apertures to be used were given (landscape, or square), so this aided print size decisions. The PAGB did the mounting - and yes, the Exhibition certainly looked excellent as a result.

AO: I believe all entrants received a printed catalogue?



*Janet's Silver Medal
displayed on the
Exhibition Catalogue.*

JD: Yes. Its well worth entering if only to get the catalogue! Successful entrants' work is reproduced on a whole page to itself! All those accepted are asked to sign two copies of the catalogs for the PAGB's Hall of Fame. The coveted badge is only presented to attendees!

It was a lovely occasion, very well attended, with an air of excited chattering and mixing. Gold medals were awarded in each category, plus three silver Judges' Choices in each category.

Not only that, but the Sponsors' Choices prizes were also awarded, which was nice as it widened the awards to include non-medal winning images.

AO: There will be a decision in February by the PAGB as to whether or not to run the event again next year. Would you be tempted to enter again?

JD: Most likely! You see some outstanding work. It was a hectic weekend with all the travel involved, but I would have regretted missing the occasion. It didn't disappoint.

AO: Thank you so much, Janet. Congratulations once again - and I hope we see your print at a future WCPF event?