

FRAMESHIFT MAGAZINE

VOL. 1 | F-STOP KEMPTON PARK | JANUARY

FRAMING IN
PHOTOGRAPHY

SHOWCASE:
FRASER BRYCE
FROM POINT-AND-SHOOT TO
PORTRAITS

MASTERING THE
ART OF
STILL LIFE

JANUARY 2025
REVIEW

MACRO
PHOTOGRAPHY
- CAPTURING
THE ESSENCE OF
LIFE

20
25

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FRAMESHIFT MAGAZINE

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FrameShift Magazine

Introducing FrameShift Magazine: A New Chapter in Our Club's Story

We're thrilled to announce the launch of FrameShift Magazine, our own publication celebrating the artistry, creativity, and passion of our photography club! This magazine marks an exciting milestone, providing a dedicated platform to showcase the incredible talent within our community while keeping everyone informed and inspired.

What to Expect in FrameShift Magazine

FrameShift Magazine is more than just a collection of images—it's a vibrant space where photographers of all levels can connect, learn, and share their vision. Here's what you'll find in its pages:

- **Spotlight Features:** Learn more about our members through interviews and deep dives into their photographic journeys.
- **Monthly Themes & Highlights:** A showcase of standout images from our monthly competitions.
- **Tips & Techniques:** Practical advice and tutorials to help sharpen your skills.
- **Club News & Updates:** Stay informed about upcoming events, workshops, and important announcements.
- **Inspiring Stories:** Explore behind-the-scenes tales of how certain shots came to life.

Why FrameShift?

The name reflects the essence of photography—shifting perspectives, framing moments, and transforming the ordinary into extraordinary. With every issue, we hope to inspire you to see the world in new ways and embrace your creativity.

How You Can Get Involved

FrameShift Magazine is a collective effort, and we want every member to feel part of its creation. Share your photos, suggest topics, or contribute articles—it's your chance to make your voice heard and your work seen!



Continue reading



FrameShift Magazine

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, your perspective matters, and we're excited to feature your creativity.

Have a unique technique or workflow to share? Know an inspiring story behind an image? Discovered a hidden gem location for shoots? We'd love to include your insights and experiences in upcoming issues.

This is your magazine, and together we can make it a rich tapestry of ideas, inspiration, and community spirit.

We are so proud of what we've achieved together and can't wait to see how this magazine evolves with your contributions.

Let's make FrameShift Magazine a true reflection of our passion for photography and our unique community spirit.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your involvement keeps the club and this magazine vibrant and exciting!

Happy reading, and happy shooting!

Deidre Schnetler - Editor

FrameShift Magazine Information:

Publisher: F-STOP Photographic Society

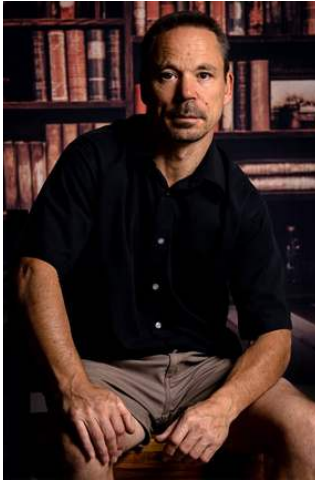
Editor: Deidre Schnetler

Cover Photo: Purrsonality by Fraser Bryce

Suggestions: Email suggestions to editor@fstoppphoto.co.za



Committee Board



As we start this new year, we strive to stay healthy and positive. New challenges await which we will accept and overcome with success. As a photo club we should be a team and help each other become the best we can be.

We must not allow our restrictions to hold us back. It is a new year of creativity. I believe F-stop will rise to the challenge and become the best CERPS club for 2025. If we all work together and support arranged events and workshops, we can achieve our goals of becoming better artists.

Take the opportunity of being part of the F-stop club to ask advice, and give advice. Let us grow and make this the year to remember. All the best for 2025 and your photographic journey.

Arnold Bester - Chairman



Happy New Year, and welcome to another exciting year of creativity and growth in our photography club! As we step into 2025, I am thrilled to continue celebrating the incredible talent and passion within our community through our magazine.

This year, let's challenge ourselves to see the world in new ways, embrace opportunities to learn, and support each other in our artistic journeys. Remember, photography is not just about capturing moments—it's about telling stories and sharing perspectives.

Thank you for your dedication and for being part of this vibrant club. I can't wait to see the amazing images and ideas you'll bring to life in the months ahead. Here's to a year full of inspiration and unforgettable shots!

Deidre Schnetler - Editor and Public Relations

Continue reading



Committee Board



At The beginning of every new year we had some time to reflect on the previous year. We can celebrate our victory's and take stock of the failures, take what we can learn from it and forget the rest. We sometimes stand battered and bruised, because let's face it, some years are tougher than others.

Yet, every year has a fair share of the extraordinary and the mundane, of both highlights and moments we'd rather would like to forget. And 2024 was nothing different, it was good, it was tough but the most important to remember is, WE SURVIVED!

Some of us even THRIVED! So, as we stand at the beginning of 2025, let us embrace the unknown! And simply make a promise to LIVE all the days of this year, not just to survive, not just to merely exist, but really live!

Experience life! Go with the flow! Or plan to make that Goal a Reality! The power is in your hands! The choice is yours to make!

It is my prayer that you will all have an extraordinary year! May you stand in awe of just how amazing this life is! And may your circumstances never dictate your success, for within you are the will to overcome!

Maureen Fourie- Secretary and Treasury

Chairman's Corner

AI and Photography: Embracing Innovation While Preserving Authenticity

Many photographers worry that AI-generated images will undermine the authenticity and intrinsic value of genuine photography.

The skill, effort, and emotional connection involved in capturing real moments are seen as irreplaceable by machines. For example, wedding photographers argue that clients want real photos of their special day, not AI renditions of what it could have looked like.

There's a significant concern about AI potentially displacing jobs in certain photography sectors. Stock photography and commercial photography are particularly vulnerable, as AI can produce high-quality images quickly and at a lower cost, potentially reducing the demand for human photographers in these areas.

The ethical implications of using AI in photography are another major concern. AI models are often trained using copyrighted material, leading to potential legal disputes over intellectual property rights. This issue raises questions about the ownership and originality of AI-generated works, complicating the landscape for artists and photographers.

On the optimistic side, some photographers see AI as a tool to enhance creativity. By automating routine tasks like editing, AI allows photographers to focus more on the artistic aspects of their work.

AI

This can lead to higher-quality outputs and more innovative approaches to photography.

AI tools can make advanced editing techniques accessible to a broader audience, including amateur photographers.

Some believe that AI will drive down the costs of photography equipment and services, making them more accessible. Others argue that it might create a niche market for authentic, human-made photographs, where the presence of a human photographer adds irreplaceable value.

Professional photographers may need to adapt by incorporating AI into their workflow or by focusing on areas where human presence is irreplaceable, such as event photography and personalized portraits.

The ability to capture genuine moments and emotions is something AI currently cannot replicate, ensuring a continued demand for skilled human photographers.

Continue reading



The debate about AI's role in photography reflects a broad spectrum of opinions, ranging from cautious optimism to significant concern. While AI is set to transform certain aspects of photography, many believe that the essence of capturing real moments through a lens will remain irreplaceable. The future of photography will likely see a blend of traditional techniques and AI-driven innovations, fostering a new era of creativity and expression in the field.

Since the invention of photography in the 1900s, the idea of a photograph was to capture a moment in time to tell a story to the world who otherwise would not have seen the same event or moment. It was to make memories for all to cherish as the moment we remember. Soon after, photography was used in other areas like commercial advertising.

Photography became the next big advancement to connect people through images in newspapers, books, magazines, encyclopaedias, etc. This was to reveal a finding or tell a story. Photography was a skill and a trade which made some people feel free to create a world of images for the rest of us to enjoy as a specialised skill. With the advancement of digital technology, photography became more accessible to the masses who started a new era in what can and should be photographed.

The skill and trade of photography started to disappear as it was now easier to do it yourself instead of hiring the pro.

As technology advanced further with the invention of AI, most current photographers are now in the same position as before.

The remaining skill to create images and tell stories is now under threat. It seems to be a repeat of history.

With all this said, the whole aim of photography clubs and groups all over the world is to promote creativity and skill of photographers as they capture the essence of reality in their lens. The idea is to bring forward humans with the ability to create images with their own twist and story. Those with better skills should become the top achievers. We should not rely on AI tools to do this for us since it will make the less skilled person compete without having gone through the pains of doing.

It is the same argument as an athlete using drugs to enhance his/her performance to win a race. If performance enhancing drugs are not allowed in sport the same should be done in photography contests and competitions. Using AI tools to assist in the final tweaking of images to a minimum degree is what we need to allow at best. Beyond this all images in photo clubs and contests should be the work of the photographer from taking the photo to the final edit and presenting it to the audience.

AI is here to stay and we should embrace it. Human nature will always make space for things which make our lives easier. We should still separate AI and true photography though, even if it just as a niche sport, so that we could still enjoy the art of creation and compete in a skill.

Arnold Bester - Chairman

General Club Rules

Club House Rules:

- **Respectful Conduct**

All members must treat each other with respect and courtesy, both in person and online. Constructive criticism should be offered in a positive and encouraging manner.

- **Attendance and Participation**

Members are encouraged to attend meetings regularly and participate in club activities, such as workshops, shoots, and exhibitions. Active involvement ensures a thriving and engaging club environment.

- **Submissions and Deadlines**

When submitting images for competitions or showcases, members must adhere to the provided deadlines. Late submissions may not be considered for review or exhibition.

- **Photo Copyright and Ownership**

Members must ensure they own the copyright to their submitted images or have permission to use the work of others. All images submitted must be original, and credit should be given to any collaborators or external sources.

- **Respect for Privacy and Permissions**

When photographing people, property, or private spaces, it is important to seek permission from subjects or property owners before submitting or displaying the work publicly.

- **Collaboration and Teamwork**

The club encourages collaboration between members. Sharing techniques, tips, and feedback helps create a more supportive and educational environment for everyone.

- **No Plagiarism**

Members should ensure their work is entirely their own. Plagiarism, including copying or heavily referencing other photographers' work without credit, is not tolerated.

- **Respecting Themes and Categories**

When entering club nights, members should adhere to the themes and categories as outlined. Images should reflect the intended focus and requirements.

- **Club Elections and Nominations**

Nominations for committee positions will be open during the AGM. Members interested in contributing to the club's leadership should follow the nomination procedure and attend the AGM to vote.

- **Photographer's Responsibility**

While photographers are encouraged to experiment and push boundaries, they are responsible for ensuring that their work aligns with the ethical standards set by the club, particularly in terms of authenticity and originality.

F-STOP Photographic Society
is proudly affiliated with the
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AFRICA www.pssa.co.za



PSSA Information

Upcoming Events and Info

PSSA Contact Information?

Website:

<https://pssa.co.za>

Salon:

<https://pssa.co.za/category/salons/calendar-results-for-year-ending-june-2025/>

International Salon:

<https://pssa.co.za/international-salons/>

Diamond Rating:

<https://pssa.co.za/diamond-ratings-and-salon-honours/>

Upcoming Salon:

Salon	Closing Date:
Bethal Salon	2025/01/11
Western Cape Salon	2025/01/25
Krugersdorp Salon	2025/02/01
AFO Salon	2025/02/08
ACC Salon	2025/02/22
PSSA Salon	2025/03/08
Bosveld Salon	2025/03/15
Hillcrest Salon	2025/03/22

PSSA Congress

The PSSA Congress will be held in Struisbaai on 11 - 15 August 2025.

Click here for more information

<https://pssa.co.za/2025-pssa-national-congress/>





ShowCase: Fraser Bryce



ShowCase: Fraser Bryce

From Point-and-Shoot to Portraits: Fraser's Inspiring Photography Journey

For Fraser, photography has always been more than a hobby—it's been a way of life, a constant thread running through the many chapters of his story. From the first time he held a point-and-shoot camera as a child to becoming an accomplished portrait photographer, Fraser's journey is one of resilience, passion, and an enduring desire to improve and create.

A Lifelong Passion Takes Root

"I got my first point-and-shoot camera when I was 11," Fraser shares. "I still have some of those fairly mundane photos in albums today, so I've always been interested in photography." His interest deepened during his final year of school when he took a basic photography class. Those formative experiences planted the seeds for what would become a lifelong passion.

Fraser's career as a police officer introduced him to a different side of photography. As part of the accident bureau, he spent nearly six years documenting fatal motor vehicle collisions. While the work was straightforward, it gave him valuable experience using advanced cameras and handling challenging situations. "It was all film photography back then and fairly basic, but it was an opportunity to use sophisticated equipment and develop a practical skill set."



Hands of Time by Fraser Bryce - A very personal shot of my Mums hands as she lay on her hospital bed, hands that had held me as a baby and nurtured me my entire life, near the end. I Love this photo as I can literally feel it on the inside

From Film to Digital

The advent of digital photography brought a new chapter to Fraser's journey. He purchased his first digital camera, a Canon 1100D, shortly after they hit the market. But with the change from film to digital, he relied on the auto setting and didn't explore the full potential of his camera. "I stayed on auto for years until COVID hit," he admits.

That all changed in 2015 when Fraser was diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS), an autoimmune disease that gradually impacted his mobility and overall health. By 2017, the progression of the disease ended his police career. Over the next two years, Fraser underwent weekly chemotherapy treatments designed to slow the damage caused by AS.

Continue reading



Then came COVID-19, and the isolation of lockdowns presented another challenge. “With no immune system, I couldn’t leave the house or receive visitors. It was a lonely couple of months, and I knew I had to find something to keep me busy,” Fraser recalls. Photography became his escape, his lifeline. “I decided to learn how to use my camera properly, and that’s all I did, every single day.”

A New Beginning

When restrictions eased, Fraser’s newfound skills led him to a photography club. “I was invited to the club one evening and couldn’t believe the quality of photos I saw,” he says. Inspired by the talent around him and the concept of graded photographers, Fraser set a goal for himself: to reach five-star status.

“When I’m asked what inspired me to start my photo journey, I can honestly say all of you did—and I am so grateful.”

The Search for Style

Fraser describes his photography style as a work in progress but leans toward what he calls “dark and moody.” He focuses on bringing out intricate details in his images while creating a dramatic atmosphere with darker edges.

Portraits are where he feels most at home. “I don’t know why I’m drawn to portraits,” he explains. “It just makes me happy to tell a story without saying anything—whether it’s through someone’s expression or their eyes. It just feels right.”



Material Girl by
Fraser Bryce

Where everything just
clicked.

I love the way this
came out and for the
first time I knew what
the photograph was
going to look like as
soon as I’d taken it.

A Shot to Remember

Fraser’s most memorable photograph, Material Girl, is a perfect example of everything coming together. “The lighting, the model’s pose, the camera, and lens—it all just clicked. When I saw the shot on the back of the camera, I knew it was special,” he says. Post-editing was minimal, and the photo has since performed exceptionally well in club competitions and salons.

Challenges and Motivation

Not every shoot has been easy. Fraser recalls a particularly frustrating attempt to capture a water droplet for a themed competition. “I’d seen it done a hundred times on YouTube, but I just couldn’t manage the dropper, the camera, and the flash all at the same time. After hours of trying, I didn’t submit anything for the theme that night. I felt totally defeated.”

Despite moments like these, Fraser’s motivation never wavers. “I’m driven by the desire to improve,” he says. “Every time I pick up my camera, I want to learn something new. Even when things don’t work out, I keep going because I know the progress is there.”

Continue reading



Tools of the Trade

Fraser's go-to gear includes Canon's 6D and 6D Mark II cameras. For portraits, he prefers the EF 100mm f/2.8 macro lens and recently added the EF 85mm f/1.2 Mk II lens to his kit. "That's going to be my go-to lens for portraits now," he says. For lighting, he uses Godox softboxes with AD200 lights.

Inspiration

Fraser credits two photographers with shaping his vision. Glyn Dewis, a British portrait photographer, inspired him to refine his editing skills. Carol Visser, a South African photographer based in the UK, remains his favorite. "Her work is phenomenal in terms of realism and character.

It's impossible to emulate on my level, but her artistry inspires me to keep improving."

Advice for Beginners

For Fraser, progress comes down to consistent effort. "When I took my camera off auto, I knew nothing. But I made a point of picking it up every day and learning something new.

That's my advice to beginners—work on it every single day. Even when your work isn't at the same level as others, keep going. It's going to happen."

Dreaming Big

If Fraser could photograph anywhere in the world, it would be Edinburgh, Scotland—his hometown. "Right now, it's just memories.

But the next time I go back, I'll be arriving with the knowledge of how to use a camera, and I want to take full advantage of that."

Connect with Fraser

To view more of Fraser's work, follow him on Instagram at @rampant_art_photography.

Though he doesn't post often, his portfolio reflects a journey of passion, perseverance, and artistic growth—a testament to what can be achieved with dedication and an unyielding love for the art of photography.



Ruffels by Fraser Bryce - Probably the first time I ever felt like a real photographer. I love this shot and how it turned out



January 2025 Overview



January Club Meeting: Still Life Magic

A Creative Start to the New Year

The start of a new year brings fresh energy and renewed enthusiasm, and our first photography club meeting of 2025 reflected just that.

Members gathered to reconnect, share their passion, and dive into the year's first challenge: Still Life. This timeless theme offered an opportunity to explore the art of turning ordinary objects into extraordinary compositions, testing both technical skills and creative vision.

With the accomplished Robbie Aspeling as our guest judge, the evening was not only a celebration of talent but also a valuable learning experience. His thoughtful critiques and expert insights guided members toward new perspectives and techniques, making it clear that 2025 promises to be a year of growth and inspiration for everyone.

Reflecting on Excellence: Theme and Overall Winners

The evening celebrated incredible photographic talent, with Olympus by Belinda Ueckermann crowned as the Still Life theme winner.



Olympus by Belinda Ueckermann

This beautifully nostalgic image of a classic Olympus film camera stood out for its impeccable detail, mood, and timeless charm, earning a remarkable 13 out of 15 points.

But the accolades didn't end there!

- The Winning Image of the Evening and Senior Grade was Purrsonality by Fraser Bryce. His clever and technically flawless capture of feline charm stole the show, impressing both the judge and fellow members.
- In the Junior Grades, Stillness by Kay-Leigh Moore emerged as the winner. Her serene and emotive image demonstrated exceptional promise, capturing the essence of stillness with sensitivity and skill.

Continue reading



Recognizing Excellence Across Grades

A new year also means new opportunities for every member to shine. This meeting celebrated the top images in each grade:

- Grade 5H: Annaline Werth – Double Exposer
- Grade 5: Fraser Bryce – Purrsonality
- Grade 4: Deidre Schnetler – Men on a Mission
- Grade 3: Ryan Sim – Luna Cat
- Grade 2: Kay-Leigh Moore – Stillness

Congratulations to these winners as well! Your creativity, skill, and dedication set the tone for an exciting year to come. Each image was a unique reflection of the photographer's perspective, inspiring all of us to keep challenging ourselves and refining our craft.

We would also like to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to our newest members, Belinda Ueckermann and Frank Ueckermann. It's always a joy to see new faces in the club, bringing fresh energy and creativity. We look forward to getting to know you and seeing your unique contributions in future meetings and competitions. Welcome to the family!

Next month's theme is Macro Photography. This fascinating genre invites us to explore the world up close, revealing the hidden details that often go unnoticed. Whether it's the intricate patterns of nature, the textures of everyday objects, or a creative abstract, this theme promises to be both challenging and rewarding. The judge for the evening will be announced soon, so stay tuned!

Here's to an exciting year of photography, inspiration, and growth. Let's make 2025 a year to remember—one click at a time!



Double Exposer by Annaline Werth



Luna Cat by Ryan Sim



Men on a Mission by Deidre Schnetler



Stillness by Kay-Leigh Moore

Best of 2 Star & Junior



Stillness by Kay-Leigh Moore

Best of 3 Star



Luna Cat by Ryan Sim

Best of 4 Star



Men on a Mission by Deidre Schnetler

Best of 5 Star, Seniors and Event



Purrsonality by Fraser Bryce

Best of 5H Star



Double Exposer by Annaline Werth

January Club Meeting: Score Breakdown

Scores for January 2025

January Photography Scores: A Snapshot of Creativity and Excellence

The first month of the year has kicked off with a fantastic response from our photography enthusiasts! A total of 88 images were submitted for January's theme, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity within the club. Here's a breakdown of how these images scored and a look at the distribution across categories.

Score Overview:

The scoring system ranged from 1 to 15 points, with 15 being the highest possible score. Here's the detailed breakdown of how the 88 images performed:

- Score of 9: 11 images
- Score of 10: 16 images
- Score of 11: 17 images
- Score of 12: 27 images
- Score of 13 (Certificate of Merit): 16 images
- Score of 14 (Certificate of Merit): 1 image

It's worth noting that 16 images scoring 13 and the 1 image scoring 14 earned the prestigious Certificate of Merit.



Feel the colours by Michelle Rademeyer

Statistical Highlights:

- Highest Score: 14 (1 image)
- Most Common Score: 12 (27 images, 31% of total submissions)
- Certificates of Merit: 17 images (19% of total submissions)

Category Breakdown

Submissions were divided into seven categories, each offering a unique perspective. Here's how many images were submitted in each category:

- Altered Reality: 3 images
- Nature: 17 images
- Pictorial: 18 images
- Photojournalism: 9 images
- Portrait: 13 images
- Scapes: 6 images
- Theme (Still Life): 22 images

January's submissions have set a high bar for the year ahead. With such an impressive array of images and talent on display, we can't wait to see how our photographers continue to challenge themselves and grow in the coming months. Keep your cameras ready, and let's make February just as remarkable!

January Club Meeting: Score Breakdown

January Certificate of Merit



Body Scape by Annaline Werth



Double Exposer by Annaline Werth



Full Bloom by Anita Bester



Grasses in Vase by Arnold Bester



Bavaria by Arnold Bester



Men on a mission by Deidre Schnetler





Imagination by Fraser Bryce



Where it all comes together by Michelle Rademeyer



High Street by Nico Strydom



Luna Cat by Ryan Sim



Purrsonality by Fraser Bryce



Jenique by Maureen Fourie
(Image not displayed as per request from author)





Olympus by Belinda Ueckermann



Cape Vulture 2 by Frank Ueckermann



Stillness by Kay-Leigh Moore



Fynbos Gin by Maureen Fourie



Red Sunset by Rickus Barnard

Congratulations
on your
Certificate of
Merit!



Themes 2025



THEMES 2025

JANUARY - JUNE

January 2025: Still Life



Creative photos of arranged objects, focusing on lighting and composition.

February 2025: Tiny Details (macro)



Close-up shots that reveal the fine details of small subjects.

March 2025: Straight Out of Camera



Photos shared exactly as they were taken, with no editing.



April 2025: Architecture

Images that highlight the beauty of buildings and structures.



May 2025: Movement

Capturing motion to show energy or tell a story.



June 2025: Urban Reflections

Creative shots of reflections found in cityscapes.



THEMES 2025

JULY - DECEMBER

July 2025: Objects Out of Place



Finding and photographing things where they don't belong.

August 2025: Decayed Beauty



Showcasing the charm of old or broken-down subjects.

September 2025: Idioms



Photos that creatively represent popular sayings or phrases.



October 2025: Traditional



Celebrating culture and heritage through photograph

November 2025: Self-Portrait



Expressing yourself through photos of you, taken by you.

December 2025: Year-End



Year-End celebration



February 2025

February 2025

Theme: Tiny Things (Macro)

Club Evening Info:

Date: Wednesday 12 February 2025

Time: 18h45 for 19h00

Venue: The stunning NG Church Bonaeropark,
32 Malpensa Ave, Bonaero Park

Skype: Contact Arnold for the skype link

Judge: TBC

Theme: Tiny Things (Macro)

AGM: February 2025 - Your Voice Matters!

Mark your calendars! Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during February's club meeting, and your participation is vital as we reflect on the past year and shape the future of our club.

Important Topics on the Agenda

This meeting is more than just a formality—it's your opportunity to hear about and discuss important topics surrounding the club. We'll address key updates, share plans for the year ahead, and ensure that every member has a chance to contribute to the conversation.

A Call for New Committee Members

As we move forward, we're opening the floor for nominations for new committee members. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to step into leadership roles, bring fresh ideas, and help guide the club to even greater heights. If you're passionate about photography and want to contribute to our community, we encourage you to put your name forward!

Attendance is Key

We ask all members to attend the February meeting to ensure a strong turnout and active participation. Your input is essential as we make important decisions for the club's future.

Can't Attend? Submit a Proxy Form

If you're unable to join us in person, don't worry—you can still have your say! Please contact Maureen to request a proxy form. This will allow your voice to be heard even if you can't make it on the day.

Let's make this AGM a success together. Your ideas, support, and enthusiasm are what make our club thrive. See you there!

Fees 2025:

FEE STRUCTURE:

Main Member: R420

Additional Family Member: R300

Pensioners: R200

Scholars: R170

Yearly Fee's Due By End April

BANKING INFORMATION:

Capitec Business Bank

Acc Name: Fstop Photographic Society

Acc Type: Cheque

Acc No: 105 191 8200

Branch Code: 450105

Ref: Name & Surname

Email POP: admin@fstophphoto.co.za



Mother and child by J Smith

Macro Photography

Capturing the Essence of Life

Dive into the World of Macro Photography

Macro photography is a captivating genre that opens up an entirely new world of detail and beauty. From the intricate textures of flowers to the hidden patterns on everyday objects, this form of photography allows us to explore the extraordinary in the ordinary. With Macro Photography as our theme for next month, here's a guide to get you started, along with tips and tricks for making the most of this fascinating style.

What is Macro Photography?

Macro photography refers to capturing subjects at a very close range, often at a 1:1 magnification ratio, meaning the subject appears life-sized on the camera sensor. It's all about focusing on the minute details that are often invisible to the naked eye, transforming them into stunning works of art.

Tips for Stunning Macro Photography

- Find the Right Subject - Macro photography works well with subjects that have intricate details, textures, or patterns. Consider shooting flowers, insects, water droplets, jewelry, or even everyday items like fabric or fruit.
- Lighting is Key - Proper lighting can make or break a macro shot. Use natural light whenever possible, but if you're indoors or need extra light, a ring light or a small external flash can help eliminate shadows.
- Use a Tripod - Close-up photography often requires slower shutter speeds to capture enough light. A tripod will keep your camera stable and help you avoid motion blur, especially if you're shooting handheld.



Yellow Tail by Arnold Bester

- Focus Manually - Autofocus can struggle when working with such shallow depth of field. Switch to manual focus for better precision, especially when focusing on a specific detail of your subject.
- Experiment with Aperture - A wide aperture (low f-number) creates a dreamy, blurred background, while a smaller aperture (higher f-number) ensures more of your subject is in focus. Experiment to see what works best for your composition.
- Get Creative with Angles - Don't just shoot from above—experiment with different angles and perspectives. Sometimes shooting through objects, like glass or leaves, can add an interesting element to your macro shots.

No Macro lens, no problem continue reading on the next page to read some tips and tricks.



No Macro Lens? No Problem!

If you don't have a dedicated macro lens, don't worry! There are several creative and budget-friendly alternatives:

Extension Tubes: These fit between your camera and lens to reduce the minimum focusing distance, allowing you to get closer to your subject. They're an affordable way to try macro photography without investing in a new lens.

- **Close-Up Filters:** These screw onto the front of your lens like a filter and act like a magnifying glass. They're inexpensive and a great starting point for beginners.
- **Reverse Lens Technique:** This involves mounting your lens backward on your camera using a reverse ring adapter. While it's a bit unconventional, it can produce impressive macro results.
- **Cropped Images:** If you don't have specialized gear, try shooting with the lens you have and cropping the image in post-processing to highlight the details.
- **Smartphones with Macro Mode:** Many modern smartphones come with built-in macro modes or add-on macro lenses. These can produce surprisingly good results!



Silvery Ant by Arnold Bester



Into the Loop by Arnold Bester

Next Month's Theme: Macro Photography

With Macro Photography as our theme for February, it's the perfect opportunity to experiment and challenge yourself. Whether you have the latest gear or are trying out creative alternatives, the possibilities are endless.

Take some time to explore your surroundings, find fascinating subjects, and put these tips to use. We're looking forward to seeing your close-up creations that showcase the hidden beauty of the world. So, grab your camera, get inspired, and let's dive into the small yet extraordinary details of macro photography!



Learning Hub



Learning Hub:

Framing in photography

Framing in photography is a powerful compositional technique that enhances the visual impact of an image by directing the viewer's attention to the main subject. It involves using elements within the scene to create a "frame" around the primary focus of the photograph.

Types of Framing?

There are three main types of framing in photography:

- **Natural frames:** These utilize elements found in nature, such as trees, leaves, or branches
- **Architectural frames:** Man-made structures like doors, windows, or arches serve as frames
- **Body frames:** This involves using hands or other people to frame the subject

Techniques and Benefits

Foreground, Middle ground, and Background Framing

Photographers can employ framing in different planes of the image:

- **Foreground framing** uses elements close to the camera, often appearing blurry
- **Middle ground framing** places the frame in the same focal plane as the subject
- **Background framing** utilizes elements behind the subject, slightly out of focus

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Walkway by Rickus Barnard

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Rule of Thirds

When framing a photo, it's beneficial to keep the rule of thirds in mind. This principle suggests placing the main subject off-center, either one-third or two-thirds into the frame, creating a more interesting composition.

Benefits of Framing

- **Focus and Emphasis:** Framing helps maintain the viewer's focus on the main subject
- **Depth and Dimension:** It adds a sense of three-dimensionality to the image
- **Contextual Storytelling:** Framing elements can provide context and background for the subject
- **Creative Composition:** It allows for experimentation with symmetry, balance, and leading lines



Tips for Effective Framing

- **Look for natural frames:** Seek out elements in your environment that can act as frames, such as archways, doorways, windows, or tree branches
- **Use negative space:** Create a clean, uncluttered background to make your subject stand out. This can be achieved by finding plain sections of wall or using a shallow depth of field to blur the background.
- **Experiment with color:** Use contrasting colors to isolate your subject. A uniform color in the framing element can be particularly striking, especially when paired with a complementary color for the subject.
- **Play with focus:** Adjust the focus of your frame and subject to create different effects. A sharp frame with a blurry subject can create mystery, while a blurry frame with a sharp subject draws attention to the main focus.
- **Consider lighting:** Pay attention to how light interacts with your framing elements. Natural frames can create interesting shadows or highlight specific areas, adding mood or drama to your composition.
- **Guide the viewer's eye:** Utilize natural lines and shapes within the frame to lead the viewer's gaze towards your subject. This can be achieved using roads, rivers, or architectural elements.
- **Leave space:** When photographing subjects with a clear direction (e.g., a person looking to the side), leave more space in front of them to create a sense of movement and balance
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- **Experiment with depth of field:** Use a shallow depth of field to create a soft, blurred frame around your subject, or a deeper depth of field to keep both the frame and subject in focus
- **Try unconventional approaches:** Sometimes, breaking the rules can lead to striking images. Experiment with unexpected framing techniques or perspectives to create unique compositions
- **Use your camera's framing overlay:** Many cameras offer grid overlays that can help you align your frame and subject more effectively.
- **Take multiple shots:** Capture at least 10 different versions of each scene, varying your framing and composition to increase your chances of getting the perfect shot

By understanding and applying framing techniques, photographers can create more compelling and visually appealing images that effectively communicate their intended message. Whether you're capturing landscapes, portraits, or street scenes, framing can elevate your photography and help you tell more engaging visual stories.



Looking Between The Lines by Anthony Malin

December 2024 Weekly Challenge

Winners:

Purple (1 Dec 2024)



Purple Rose by Anita Bester

Self Portait (2 - 8 Dec)



Arnold by Arnold Bester

Christmas Lights (9 - 15 Dec)



Christmas Fairytale by Dave Roberts

December 2024 Weekly Challenge

Winners:

Anything Christmasy/Christmas related
(16 -22 Dec)



Big Wheel by Maureen Fourie

Decorative table settings (23 - 29 Dec 2024)



Kersfees middagete Feesvieringe by Elsa Schnetler

Community Board

Our community board is a community-driven space where photographers can share and advertise their courses, services, or photography-related items for sale; however, the magazine does not endorse these offerings, and all transactions are made at the buyer's own risk. If you wish to advertise, please email us at editor@fstophphoto.co.za.



BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY OR DO NOT GET THE RESULTS THAT YOU ARE AFTER?

THEN THIS COURSE IS FOR YOU.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY TEST YOU AND YOUR EQUIPMENT. THIS COURSE IS GOING TO HELP YOU TO OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES.

IT COVERS THEORY AND A PRACTICAL OUTING TO RIETVLEI DAM.

PLACE: Lynnwoodrif, Pretoria.
INVESTMENT: R1000 pp
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