

## SLF Finals Day 2020 – Jack’s Jug

### Judge’s Comments

Image No.	Title	Comments
014	Proud and Defiant	The viewpoint reinforces the proud and defiant message. You sense that here is a “no nonsense” character. The piercing blue eyes make for immediate communication between the subject and viewer. The background is generally non-intrusive, though I would have cloned out the dark areas at the left of the subject. A captivating image.
027	Mixed Messages	A great example of timing in conjunction with a seeing eye. The smoker is anonymous to the viewer, but the message is clear. The lighting is quite subdued which helps even out the tonality of the image. I would have darkened the bottom of the ash bin as this attracts the eye away from the main interest slightly. Well seen and executed.
028	Focus of Attention	Spot on title and those eyes pull the viewer straight to them. I enjoyed the mono treatment which dispenses with any distractions and allows the tonality of the face to emerge beautifully. The tight cropping emphasises the total dominance of the subject but I would have allowed just a bit more space around the head. The quality and control of exposure is excellent.
048	A Redleaf Shoot <b>Certificate of Merit</b>	I loved the painterly ethereal feel to this image. The after treatment is appropriate and adds atmosphere to the final result. The figure in the centre provides scale and human interest. The sombre mood comes across well. I did find the thin twig at the left of the image slightly distracting. A well seen and thoughtful image.
050	Curiosity	A thought provoking image, the gap between the two subjects adds to the intrigue, what is the young lady looking at that has aroused her curiosity?. The man seems oblivious to her interest and this adds more to the story. I enjoyed the sense of movement in the background and the link between the red phone and the seat upholstery. Whilst it can’t be avoided the orange pole blocked the relationship between the subjects slightly. Great candid photography.

Image No.	Title	Comments
057	The Death of Consumerism at Piccadilly Circus	This image transcends photography into art. The minimalist approach is interesting, taking away the reality of the situation. The silhouette of the face adds surreal human interest. The viewer's imagination is left to fill the gaps in between real and surreal. I felt that the expanse of black could be reduced slightly. A bold and challenging image.
069	On Guard <b>Certificate of Merit</b>	Great control of depth of field. The Policewoman appears almost 3D. The composition makes good use of the background elements, providing a patriotic pattern with gentle diagonals. The link between the red of the flags and the soldiers is well depicted. A great image which shouts out pageantry.
078	Christmas at Westminster	I enjoyed the use of what appears to be Intentional Camera Movement. This works well with the preponderance of vertical lines and tones. The sense of Christmas pervades. The mix of mono with gold helps tremendously. I found the white vertical line at the middle of the image slightly bright in comparison to the other similar lines. Well thought out and presented.
084	Watch Seller	The face of the watch seller is captivating, bordering on suspicion. The photographer has framed the watch seller between the two customers which contains the interest of that face. The lighting has been well handled and the range of watches available adds to the realism. I thought the reflection on the man's glasses was a bit distracting. A good example of a candid moment.
089	Holly Berries	The photographer appears to have total control over the elements in this image. The arrangement of the holly and the berries is well composed. The living holly and berries at the top and the dead leaf and fallen berries at the bottom works well. I enjoyed the exposure which brings out the vibrancy of the red and green juxtaposed with the opaqueness of the vase. I would have reduced the space around the subjects slightly to further reinforce the relationship between them. A well taken still life.

Image No.	Title	Comments
095	Three Tears for the World (Extinction Rebellion)  <b>Winner</b>	A very current subject, the starkness of the faces coupled with the vibrancy of the red outfits is stunning. The sadness in the faces is absolute. I appreciated the way the darker faces at both sides of composition had the effect of containing the lighter faces in the middle. Thought provoking and brilliantly executed.
102	Dorian Nicolle  <b>Certificate of Merit</b>	Concentration and timing so well caught here, the eye contact between Dorian and the ball is spot on. Great use of differential focusing has separated the player from the background whilst still retaining the sense of place. The blue background is in harmony with the table. Those eyes just shout out concentration. Excellent.
104	Paris by Night	A great example of a slow shutter speed bringing together the heritage and the transitional movement of modern traffic through the frame. The difference between the warm glow of the reflections aligned to the modern colouration of the traffic trails works well. I did find the starburst of the lights on the bridge just a bit dominant. An excellent exposure technique is demonstrated here.
144	Common Frogs Mating	A beautiful nature image, the quiet moment between the frogs, oblivious to the photographer is well captured. The lighting, reflections and ethereal background adds to the colour harmony between the frogs and nature. I found the green vegetation at the top right just slightly distracting. A serene moment.

Andy Smith LRPS CPAGB, Judge

May 2020