

EXHIBITION SUBJECT DEFINITIONS 2026

4th February - Spoons

An image of one or more spoons. The image may contain supporting elements but if it does, the spoon(s) must be a key element of the image.

4th March – Nature

Images entered for this subject are restricted to depicting all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology. This covers landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. Images taken of subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure are permitted so long as the scene is natural and man-made objects are not obvious.

Story telling is most important and human or man-made elements should not be included unless they are an integral part of the nature story, e.g. animals adapted to the urban environment. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are not eligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are also allowed. All allowed adjustments must appear natural except that colour images may be converted to grey-scale monochrome.

Cropping of images is permitted but techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements are not permitted. Infrared and stitched images are not permitted.

1st April – Double/multiple Exposures

The image must be the result of two or more images combined into a single image. This can be done in-camera or in post-processing, or a combination of both.

6th May – Portrait

Portrait photography, or portraiture, is a type of photography aimed toward capturing the personality of a person or group of people by using effective lighting, backdrops, and poses.

3rd June – Intentional Camera Movement

This is a technique where the camera is intentionally moved during the exposure, to create abstract, painterly or dreamy effects. It is allowable to combine images either in-camera or in post-processing, as long as the key part of the final image is done using camera movement. An example of this would be a sharp image of a person walking amongst blurry trees.

1st July – Textures

This captures the surface quality of an object to create a tactile, visual experience for the viewer.

5th August – Dramatic Light

Dramatic lighting in photography uses strong contrasts between light and shadow to create mood and emotion, often by using a single, focused light source to cast hard shadows or by using low-key lighting to create a majority of dark areas.

2nd September – Motion/movement

Motion and movement in photography refers to capturing the sense of motion through techniques like freezing action or creating blur effects by manipulating **shutter speed**. **Movement could even be implied by using multiple exposures of the subject in the one image.**

7th October – Water

The image should include water as a key element.

4th November – Abstract

Abstract photography creates images that are not directly representational of reality, focussing instead on shapes, colours, patterns, and textures to evoke emotion and provoke thought.