

<b>Month</b>	<b>2022 Set Subjects</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>2022 Set Subjects</b>
January	Reflections	July	Autumn
February	Silhouettes	August	Patterns in Nature / abstract
March	Photography as Art	September	Drama of Light
April	Mood or Atmosphere	October	Portrait (environmental focus)
May	Piers or Docks or bridges	November	Camera on the ground
June	In the forest		

### **General**

Manipulation is allowed for all HPS competition entries.  
We encourage you to use your imagination and creative flair.

### **January - Reflections**

Reflection photography, also referred to as mirror photography, is when **you use reflective surfaces to create an artistic echo of a scene**. This type of photography can add an interesting spin to locations that are hotspots for photographers such as oceans, lakes, puddles, and even rain drops.

*Mirrored images produced in software are not allowed.*

Reflection photos refer to any shot, no matter what type of photography genre, which uses a reflective surface. Landscape photography, with a mountain duplicated in the still water of a lake, is reflection photography. An image of a city captured on the shiny surface of a skyscraper is a reflection shot, as is that same city skyline captured in a puddle on a footpath. Even a self-portrait snapped in a shop window is a type of reflective photography.

“Reflection photography really is about the ability to look at an image in a different way,” photographer Patrick Koetzle says. “Seeing a reflection in the water appeals to me. It pulls me in. It makes me see this beautiful image

<https://www.iphotography.com/blog/reflection-photography/>

### **February – Silhouettes**

A silhouette is a solid, dark image of a subject against a brighter background. Silhouette pictures usually show the subject in profile. ... Silhouette images are unlike other forms of photography because they showcase dramatic contrast.

A silhouette is the image of a person, animal, object or scene represented as a solid shape of a single colour, usually black. The interior of a silhouette is featureless, and the silhouette is usually presented on a light background. The silhouette differs from an **outline**, which depicts the edge of an object in a linear form, while a silhouette appears as a solid shape.

### **March - Photography as Art**

These are photographs which could be construed as ‘ART’.

An ‘art’ photograph must go beyond the literal representation of a scene or subject. It must deeply express the feelings and vision of the photographer and clearly reveal that it was created by an artist and not by just the camera. It must be clear that it involved an original, deliberate creation and that every aspect of making the photograph in the field and in the photographer’s post-processing digital studio, are an individual expression from within the artist.

<https://photographylife.com/what-is-fine-art-photography>

Fine-art photography is photography created in line with the vision of the photographer as artist, using photography as a medium for creative expression. The goal of fine-art photography is to express an idea, a

message, or an emotion. Fine art photography is first and foremost about the artist. It is not about capturing what the camera sees; it is about capturing what the artist sees. In fine art photography, therefore, the artist uses the camera as one more tool to create a work of art. The camera is used to make an art piece that reveals the vision of the artist and makes a statement of that vision rather than documenting the subject before the lens.

### **April - Mood or Atmosphere**

Mood conveys an emotional tone, while the atmosphere projects a sense of place and time. Both of these elements draw the viewer in, allowing them to connect with your photo.

Why is it so difficult to capture the cozy ambiance of a cafe in a picture?  
Or the casual atmosphere of a warm bonfire with friends on a summer night?

Learning how to capture mood and atmosphere of a scene is a skill that is elusive for many photographers.

This is because the finished product isn't only about getting the technical settings and composition correct. The image needs to evoke something in the senses; it has to capture the visceral aspects of a scene, the sights, sounds and smells so that every time you look at the picture, you are brought right back into the moment.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/capture-mood-atmosphere-photos/>

### **May - Piers or Docks or bridges**

A pier is a raised structure that rises above a body of water and usually juts out from its shore, typically supported by piles or pillars, and provides above-water access to offshore areas.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pier>

A dock (from Dutch dok) is the area of water between or next to one or a group of human-made structures that are involved in the handling of boats or ships (usually on or near a shore) or such structures themselves. The exact meaning varies among different variants of the English language.

"Dock" may also refer to a dockyard (also known as a shipyard) where the loading, unloading, building, or repairing of ships occurs.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dock\\_\(maritime\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dock_(maritime))

A bridge is a structure built to span a physical obstacle (such as a body of water, valley, road, or rail) without blocking the way underneath.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridge>

You are encouraged to add drama, mood, atmosphere or artistic flare to your creative representation of that which you show us.

### **June – In the forest**

Autumn in Cape Town, which occurs between March and May, is one of its most beautiful seasonal periods. Go out before the weather turns really wet and cold and capture some amazing "In the forest" images to share with us.

Here is some inspiration.

<https://www.capturelandscapes.com/photograph-forests-trees/>

<https://iceland-photo-tours.com/articles/photography-tutorials/ultimate-guide-to-forest-photography>

<https://www.maxfosterphotography.com/gallery/forests-trees-photography/>

## **July – Autumn**

Autumn's colours, landscapes, and light create the perfect outdoor studio for every kind of photographer. Autumn colours are so iconic that you won't have a too difficult time with them. Autumn in Cape Town, which occurs between March and May, is one of its most beautiful seasonal periods.

We encourage you to go out and make the most of your surroundings.

<https://expertphotography.com/autumn-photography/>

## **August - Patterns in Nature / abstract**

Explore patterns in nature from an abstract perspective.

Patterns in nature are visible regularities of form found in the natural world. Natural patterns include symmetries, trees, spirals, meanders, waves, foams, tessellations, cracks and stripes.

Let your imagination run free to create an effect disconnected from the obvious.

e.g. if there is a pattern on a rock, the focus would be on the pattern rather than the rock.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/abstract-nature-photography/>

<https://www.rwongphoto.com/gallery/abstract-pictures/>

## **September - Drama of Light**

Create a strong, eye-catching image with the use of dramatic light.

Creating dramatic lighting is about mood and atmosphere; about light-dark.

With an area of the picture where there's a very bright light and another one with very dim light, you're creating dramatic lighting.

One of the reasons dramatic light has such an impact is because, by its nature, it occurs rarely.

A good reference is the Renaissance period, and it has influenced many artists to this day. As an example you can see Chiaroscuro lighting at <https://shotkit.com/chiaroscuro-lighting/>

Another source is at <https://photographycourse.net/dramatic-lighting/>

## **October - Portrait (environmental focus)**

The set subject for this month includes people, pets or animals in their natural space.

A good portrait is a representation of a person, in which the face and its expression are predominant.

Expand this concept to also show more about the character, emotion, personality and/or environment of the subject in your portrayal.

## **November - Camera on the ground**

A low-angle shot, is a shot from a camera angle positioned low on the vertical axis, anywhere below the eye line, looking up. Sometimes, it is even directly below the subject's feet.

Low-angle photography creates the feeling that any subject is bigger, taller, wider, and (sometimes) closer.

Psychologically, the effect of the low-angle shot is that it makes the subject look strong and powerful.

Photographers are often looking for ways to help separate their work and make their images stand out. A great way to do this is to utilize a distinct camera angle. If you want to get a neat perspective, try shooting from a very low angle.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/20-examples-of-low-angle-photography/>