

Competition Themes 2026

FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)

Clear & Literal “C” Ideas

- ❖ **Circles** – Graphic shapes, repetition, or minimalism.
- ❖ **Colour** – A single dominant colour (e.g. cyan, crimson).
- ❖ **Clouds** – Dramatic skies or soft minimal scenes.
- ❖ **Cats** – Characterful animal portraits.
- ❖ **Coffee** – Steam, cups, café culture.
- ❖ **Candles** – Light, flame, and mood.
- ❖ **Chairs** – Empty, broken, or repeating.
- ❖ **Clock** – Time, motion blur, long exposure.

FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)

Nature-Inspired “C”

- ❖ **Crows** – Dark silhouettes against sky.
- ❖ **Cliffs** – Scale and drama.
- ❖ **Conkers** – Autumnal still life.
- ❖ **Coast** – Long exposures and mood.
- ❖ **Cobwebs** – Macro with dew.

FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)

People & Storytelling

- ❖ **Character** – Portraits showing personality.
- ❖ **Connection** – Human interaction or emotion.
- ❖ **Crowds** – Patterns, movement, or isolation within.
- ❖ **Craft** – Hands at work.
- ❖ **Caring** – Quiet moments of compassion.
- ❖ **Childhood** – Nostalgia and innocence.

FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)

Conceptual & Creative

- ❖ **Contrast** – Light vs dark, old vs new.
- ❖ **Calm** – Minimal, tranquil compositions.
- ❖ **Chaos** – Motion, disorder, energy.
- ❖ **Curves** – Flowing lines.
- ❖ **Change** – Seasons, decay, growth.
- ❖ **Control** – Order and symmetry.

FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)

Urban & Object-Based

- ❖ **Construction** – Grit, texture, industry.
- ❖ **Containers** – Repetition and pattern.
- ❖ **Cars (classic or abstract)** – Details, reflections.
- ❖ **Corridors** – Leading lines.
- ❖ **Cranes** – Industrial silhouettes.

FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)

How to Make It Stand Out

- ❖ Choose a word that allows **strong visual storytelling**, not just description.
- ❖ Ensure the “C” concept is **instantly readable**—titles can help but shouldn’t rescue the image.
- ❖ Simple ideas, executed well, often beat clever but confusing ones.
- ❖ Consider **monochrome** to emphasise shape, texture, or emotion.

FEBRUARY

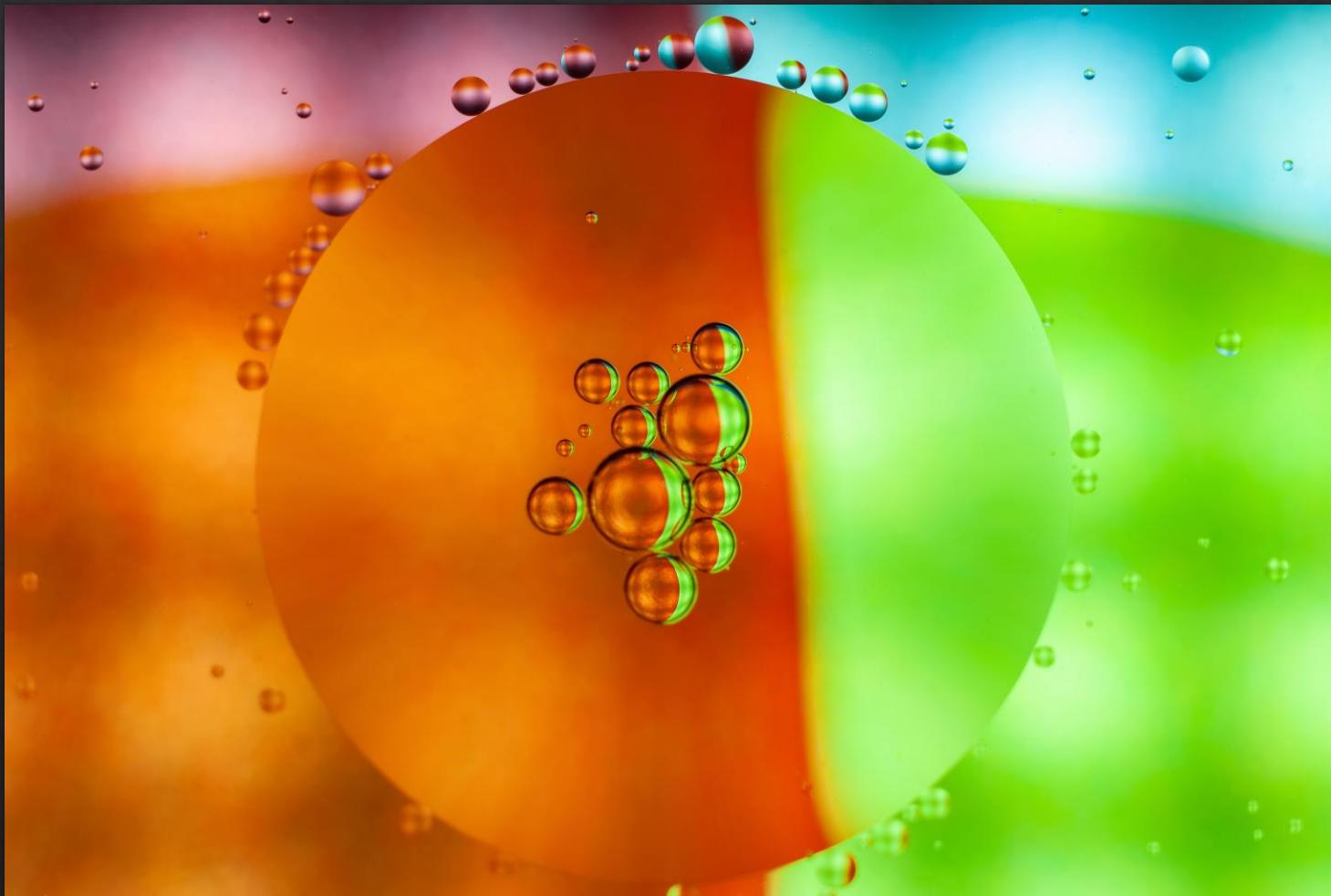
C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)

Judges often ask:

- ❖ *Is the theme clearly addressed?*
- ❖ *Is there impact at first glance?*
- ❖ *Does the image hold interest beyond initial impact?*
- ❖ *Is the technique appropriate to the idea?*

FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)



FEBRUARY

C IS FOR... (an image where the principal subject begins with C)



MARCH

A TRIO OF... (Three items/subjects that have something in common)

Still Life / Conceptual

- ❖ **Three worn books** stacked or fanned out (knowledge, time, stories)
- ❖ **Three cups or glasses** with different contents or light levels
- ❖ **Three candles** at different stages: new, burning, melted
- ❖ **Three pieces of fruit**—fresh, ripe, overripe
- ❖ **Three keys** (old, modern, symbolic access)

MARCH

A TRIO OF...(Three items/subjects that have something in common)

Nature

- ❖ **Three leaves** from the same tree, different sizes or decay
- ❖ **Three stones** arranged naturally or geometrically
- ❖ **Three flowers** in different bloom stages
- ❖ **Three birds** resting or flying in formation
- ❖ **Three trees** aligned or contrasted (bare, budding, full)

MARCH

A TRIO OF... (Three items/subjects that have something in common)

Human / Storytelling

- ❖ **Three hands** interacting (touching, holding, reaching)
- ❖ **Three generations** (e.g. shoes, hands, silhouettes)
- ❖ **Three expressions** of the same person (joy, neutral, serious)
- ❖ **Three shadows** overlapping or intersecting

MARCH

A TRIO OF...(Three items/subjects that have something in common)

Urban / Street

- ❖ **Three doors or windows** with different textures or colors
- ❖ **Three street signs** forming visual tension
- ❖ **Three reflections** in glass, puddles, mirrors
- ❖ **Three chairs** in a public space (suggesting absence or presence)

MARCH

A TRIO OF...(Three items/subjects that have something in common)

Composition Is Everything

- ❖ Some compositions work especially well for trios:
- ❖ **Triangles** – Naturally strong and balanced.
- ❖ **Rule of thirds** – One subject per vertical or horizontal third.
- ❖ **Linear spacing** – Equidistant placement for rhythm.
- ❖ **Depth layering** – Foreground, mid-ground, background trio (chess board).

MARCH

A TRIO OF...(Three items/subjects that have something in common)

Judges often ask:

- ❖ *Is it clearly a trio?*
- ❖ *Do all three belong together?*
- ❖ *Is the composition balanced?*
- ❖ *Would this still work if one element were removed?*
(If yes → the trio isn't strong enough.)

APRIL
SOMETHING OLD (An Image of something 'old')

Objects with History

- ❖ **An old watch or clock** (focus on wear, scratches, worn strap)
- ❖ **Antique keys or locks**
- ❖ **A well-used book** with annotations, torn pages, or a broken spine
- ❖ **Old photographs** being held, curled, or fading
- ❖ **Vintage tools** showing patina and rust

APRIL
SOMETHING OLD (An Image of something 'old')

Places & Architecture

- ❖ **Abandoned buildings** (peeling paint, broken windows)
- ❖ **Old doors** with layered paint or worn handles
- ❖ **Weathered gravestones**
- ❖ **Rusting machinery** or vehicles
- ❖ **Historic bridges or stone walls**

APRIL
SOMETHING OLD (An Image of something 'old')

Nature & Time

- ❖ **Ancient trees** with twisted roots or bark texture
- ❖ **Driftwood** shaped by time and water
- ❖ **Cracked earth** or dried riverbeds
- ❖ **Fossils or stones** smoothed by age

APRIL
SOMETHING OLD (An Image of something 'old')

Human Stories

- ❖ **Wrinkled hands** (age, work, life)
- ❖ **An elderly person's portrait** emphasizing character
- ❖ **Old shoes** that show long use
- ❖ **A walking stick or glasses** resting somewhere meaningful

APRIL
SOMETHING OLD (An Image of something 'old')

Creative Approach

- ❖ **Use dramatic side lighting** to highlight texture
- ❖ **Shoot in black & white** to emphasize age and form
- ❖ **Close-ups / macro** to show cracks, rust, wear
- ❖ **Shallow depth of field** to isolate the subject from modern context

APRIL
SOMETHING OLD (An Image of something 'old')

Judges typically ask:

- ❖ *Does this clearly depict something old?*
- ❖ *Is age the main subject, not just a by-product?*
- ❖ *Is there mood, story, or emotional impact?*

APRIL
SOMETHING OLD (An Image of something 'old')



MAY

INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM) (an image where the camera and/or lens have been moved during exposure)

Nature-Based ICM (Very Effective)

- ❖ **Trees / forests** – vertical camera movement to stretch trunks into painterly lines
- ❖ **Flowers** – small circular or side-to-side motion for impressionistic colour fields
- ❖ **Seascapes** – horizontal movement during waves for soft, layered textures
- ❖ **Fields or long grass** – gentle arcs for flowing motion

📷 Tip: Shutter speeds around $\frac{1}{4}$ – **several seconds** are a great starting point.

MAY

INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM) (an image where the camera and/or lens have been moved during exposure)

Urban & Architectural ICM

- ❖ **Street lights at night** – vertical pulls create light trails
- ❖ **Tall buildings** – zoom or vertical drag for abstract forms
- ❖ **Bridges or railings** – linear motion exaggerates repetition
- ❖ **Traffic** – controlled pans for colour streaks

MAY

INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM) (an image where the camera and/or lens have been moved during exposure)

Human / Figure-Based ICM

- ❖ **A person walking** with slight camera movement (subject partly recognisable)
- ❖ **Silhouettes** with horizontal motion for anonymity
- ❖ **Hair or clothing in motion**, enhanced by camera movement
- ❖ **Crowds** to show energy or time passing

⚠ Keep **some recognisable structure** to show intention.

MAY

INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM) (an image where the camera and/or lens have been moved during exposure)

- ❖ **Multiple exposures + ICM**
- ❖ **Abstract / Painterly**
- ❖ **Circular movement** for dream-like images
- ❖ **Zooming during exposure** for explosive or radiating effects
- ❖ **Reflections** (water, glass) with motion to dissolve reality

MAY

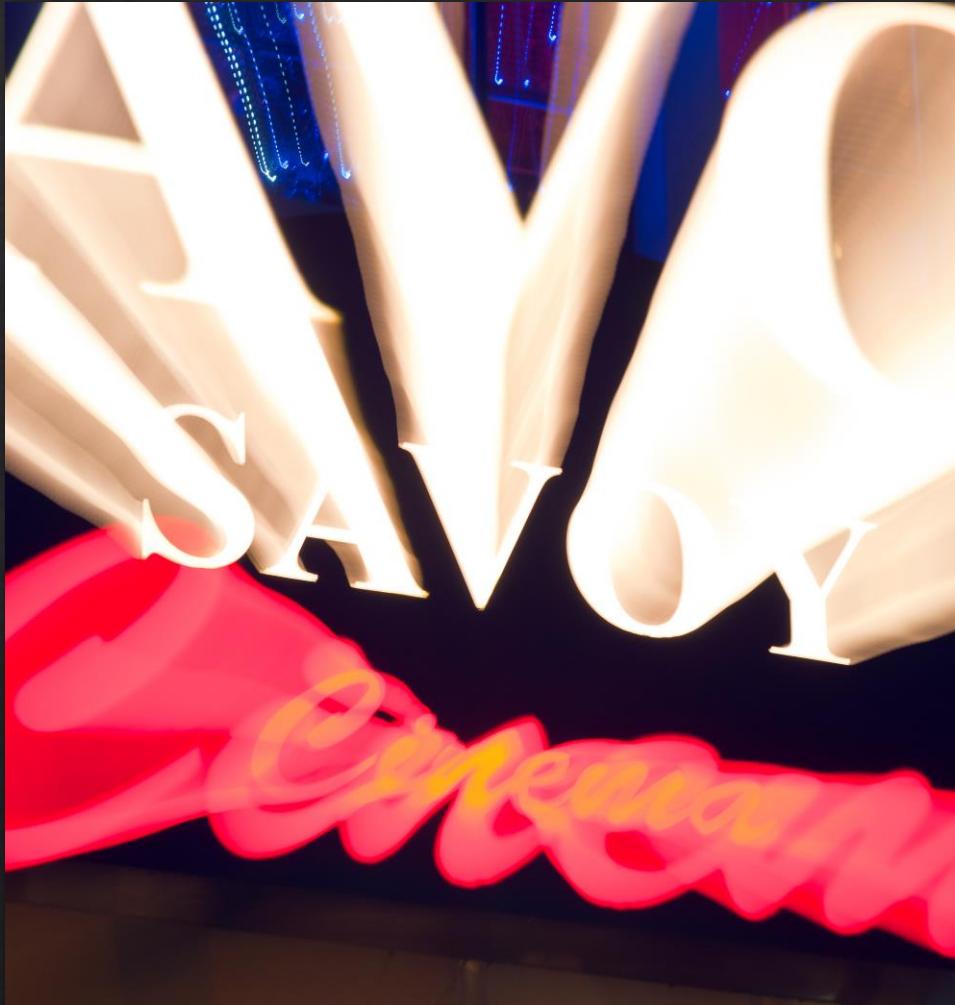
INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM) (an image where the camera and/or lens have been moved during exposure)

Technical Starting Point

- ❖ **Shutter:** 1/4s – 2s
- ❖ **ISO:** 100 / 200 (depending on camera brand)
- ❖ **Aperture:** f/8–f/16 (adjust with ND filter if bright)
- ❖ **Stabilisation:** OFF (important)
- ❖ **Shoot lots** – ICM is experimental by nature

MAY

INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM) (an image where the camera and/or lens have been moved during exposure)



JUNE

PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)

Classic & Strong Portrait Ideas

- ❖ **Character portrait** – A striking head-and-shoulders portrait that shows personality through expression and light.
- ❖ **Environmental portrait** – Photograph someone in their workplace or home (artisan, mechanic, musician, shopkeeper).
- ❖ **Black-and-white portrait** – Emphasise texture, lines, and mood.

JUNE

PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)

Candid & Street Photography

- ❖ **A moment of solitude** – Someone alone in a busy space.
- ❖ **Human interaction** – A shared laugh, conversation, or gesture.
- ❖ **Commuter life** – People waiting, rushing, or lost in thought.
- ❖ **Reflections** – Capture a person reflected in windows, mirrors, or puddles.
- ❖ **Silhouettes** – Strong shapes of people against light or sky.

JUNE

PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)

Conceptual & Creative Takes

- ❖ **Person in motion** – Intentional blur to show energy or emotion.
- ❖ **Identity through objects** – Person partially hidden by objects that define them.
- ❖ **Light and shadow** – Face partially lit to create drama or mystery.
- ❖ **Anonymous person** – Show presence without revealing identity (back turned, hood).
- ❖ **Multiple exposures** – Suggest thoughts, emotions, or passage of time.

JUNE

PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)

Storytelling & Emotion

- ❖ **Generations** – Elderly person or interaction between ages.
- ❖ **Portrait of resilience** – Someone who has overcome or continues despite hardship.
- ❖ **Joy or grief** – A raw, honest emotional moment.
- ❖ **Cultural portrait** – Clothing, traditions, or rituals.

JUNE

PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)

“Person” as a Singular Subject

- ❖ **One person, vast space** – Emphasise scale and isolation.
- ❖ **Self-portrait with meaning** – Reflection, shadow, or symbolic elements.
- ❖ **Stillness** – A calm, composed figure in a quiet setting.

JUNE

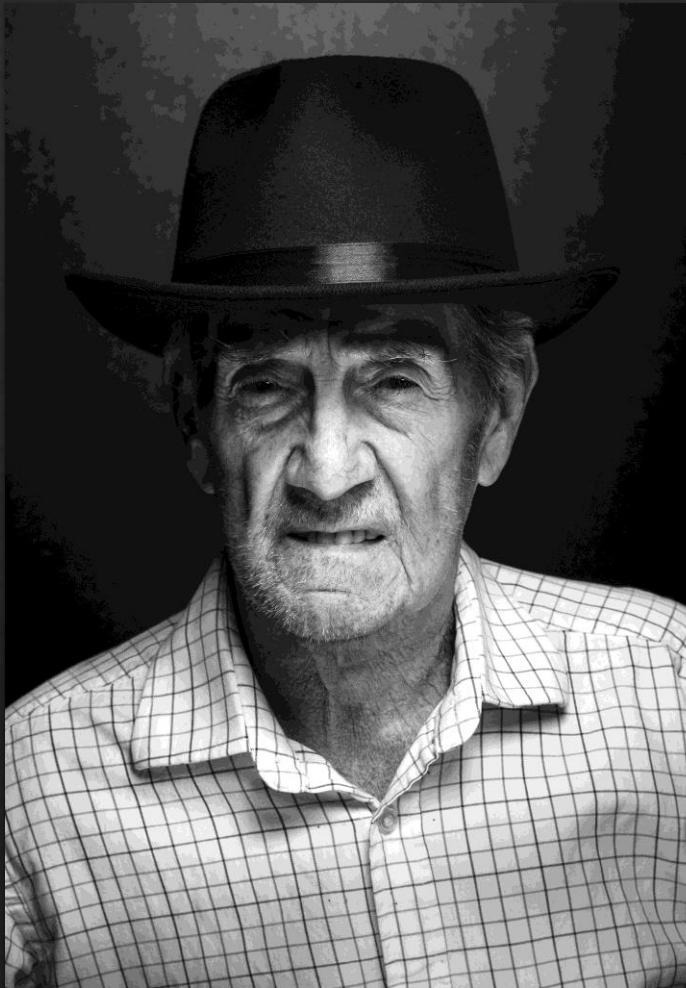
PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)

Judges often look for:

- ◊ Clear connection to the theme
- ◊ Emotional impact or narrative
- ◊ Strong composition and light
- ◊ A fresh or personal perspective

JUNE

PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)



JUNE

PEOPLE or PERSON (an image where the principal subject is a person or people)



JULY

HOBBIES or PASTIMES (an image depicting a hobby or pastime)

Creative & Artistic Hobbies

- ❖ **Painting or drawing** – hands at work, messy palettes, brush movement
- ❖ **Photography** – camera reflected in mirrors or hands adjusting settings
- ❖ **Writing or journaling** – notebooks, fountain pens, coffee-stained pages
- ❖ **Music practice** – fingers on strings/keys, worn instruments
- ❖ **Crafting / knitting / sewing** – texture, repetition, detail

📷 Tip: Focus on **hands + tools** rather than faces for intimacy.

JULY

HOBBIES or PASTIMES (an image depicting a hobby or pastime)

Sport & Physical Pastimes

- ❖ **Running shoes** after use (dirt, sweat, wear)
- ❖ **Yoga or stretching** – calm, controlled compositions
- ❖ **Cycling** – motion blur, close-ups of chains and gears
- ❖ **Swimming** – water movement, goggles, pool reflections
- ❖ **Martial arts / dance** – form, motion, discipline

JULY

HOBBIES or PASTIMES (an image depicting a hobby or pastime)

Outdoor & Leisure

- ❖ **Gardening** – soil-stained hands, tools in use
- ❖ **Fishing** – quiet moments rather than action
- ❖ **Walking / hiking** – boots, paths, shadows
- ❖ **Birdwatching** – binoculars, tide timetable, scenery
- ❖ **Camping** – rituals like brewing tea or lighting a stove

JULY

HOBBIES or PASTIMES (an image depicting a hobby or pastime)

Indoor & Modern Pastimes

- ❖ **Gaming** – hands on controller, screen glow
- ❖ **Board games / chess** – strategy and tension
- ❖ **Model building / LEGO** – patience and detail
- ❖ **Cooking or baking** – process shots, flour in motion

JULY

HOBBIES or PASTIMES (an image depicting a hobby or pastime)

Storytelling Approach

- ❖ **Before, during, after** (triptych or sequence)
- ❖ **Solitary vs social hobbies**
- ❖ **Generational hobbies** – same pastime, different ages

JULY

HOBBIES or PASTIMES (an image depicting a hobby or pastime)

Technical & Composition Tips

- ❖ Use **shallow depth of field** to isolate hands/tools
- ❖ Natural window light works beautifully for hobbies
- ❖ Shoot from **unusual angles** (overhead, low, through objects)
- ❖ Consider **series work**—hobbies suit storytelling

JULY

HOBBIES or PASTIMES (an image depicting a hobby or pastime)

Judges often ask:

- ❖ Is the hobby or pastime clearly shown?
- ❖ Is there a clear sense of action or involvement?
- ❖ Have unnecessary distractions been eliminated?
- ❖ Does the image communicate enjoyment, focus, or passion?

AUGUST

CIRCLES (an image where the subject(s) are in the form of a circle or circles)

Obvious & Strong Circular Subjects

- ❖ **Ripples on water** – Droplets creating expanding circles.
- ❖ **Bubbles** – Soap bubbles or underwater air bubbles.
- ❖ **Wheels** – Bicycles, carts, Ferris wheels, prams.
- ❖ **Plates, cups, bowls** – Shot from directly above (lay flat).
- ❖ **Vinyl records or CDs** – Texture and repetition.
- ❖ **Tree rings** – Cross-section showing age and history.

AUGUST

CIRCLES (an image where the subject(s) are in the form of a circle or circles)

Repetition & Patterns

- ❖ **Stacked barrels, or pipes** – Industrial circles.
- ❖ **Umbrellas from above** – Street photography in rain.
- ❖ **Lights at night** – Out-of-focus bokeh circles.
- ❖ **Fruit or vegetables** – Oranges, onions, lemons arranged tightly.
- ❖ **Stacked pencils or drinking straws** – triangles or tight composition.
- ❖ **Manhole covers** – Graphic textures and typography.
- ❖ **Bubbles or oil on water** – colour and pattern.

AUGUST

CIRCLES (an image where the subject(s) are in the form of a circle or circles)

Urban & Architecture

- ❖ **Spiral staircases** – Shot straight down or up.
- ❖ **Round windows or doors** – Graphic composition.
- ❖ **Modern architecture** – Repeating circular cut-outs.
- ❖ **Playgrounds** – Hoops, climbing frames.
- ❖ **Tunnels** – Framed centrally for symmetry.

AUGUST

CIRCLES (an image where the subject(s) are in the form of a circle or circles)

Minimalist & Abstract Approaches

- ❖ **Single circle, clean background** – Bold, simple, striking.
- ❖ **Negative space** – Small circle in a large empty frame.
- ❖ **Shadows as circles** – More interesting than the object itself.
- ❖ **Macro details** – Screw heads, rivets, droplets.

AUGUST

CIRCLES (an image where the subject(s) are in the form of a circle or circles)

Competition Tips

- ❖ Make the **circle** **unmistakable** at first glance.
- ❖ Use **strong symmetry** or **deliberate off-centre placement**.
- ❖ Consider **monochrome** to emphasise shape.
- ❖ Watch edges—avoid cutting circles awkwardly.
- ❖ Look for **layers of circles** for depth and complexity.

AUGUST

CIRCLES (an image where the subject(s) are in the form of a circle or circles)



SEPTEMBER

OF, OR AT, PENRYN (an image taken in/of/depicting any aspect of the town of Penryn)

- ❖ Make it obvious that this is Penryn.

OCTOBER

The COLOUR BLUE (An image with a predominant blue tone)

Nature & Landscape

- ❖ **Blue hour cityscape** – Just after sunset with cool ambient light.
- ❖ **Coastal scene** – Sea, sky, and mist blending into layers of blue.
- ❖ **Ice or frost** – Winter textures with pale to deep blues.
- ❖ **Blue shadows on snow** – Subtle but very effective.
- ❖ **Water or Underwater scene** – Pools, aquariums, or creative surface shots.

OCTOBER

The COLOUR BLUE (An image with a predominant blue tone)

Urban & Architectural

- ❖ **Blue-painted doors or walls** – Mediterranean or coastal towns.
- ❖ **Glass buildings** – Reflections creating abstract blue patterns.
- ❖ **Neon blue lights** – Night photography with strong contrast.
- ❖ **Subway/underground stations** – Cool lighting and repetition (use a filter or cool white balance).
- ❖ **Bridges at night** – Blue LEDs or reflected light.

OCTOBER

The COLOUR BLUE (An image with a predominant blue tone)

People & Storytelling

- ❖ **Portrait in blue light** – Window light, gels, or screens.
- ❖ **Person wearing blue in a blue environment** – Tonal harmony.
- ❖ **Silhouette against blue sky** – Minimal and graphic.
- ❖ **Blue umbrella in rain** – Emotional and narrative.
- ❖ **Motion blur with blue tones** – Suggest melancholy or calm.

OCTOBER

The COLOUR BLUE (An image with a predominant blue tone)

Abstract & Creative

- ❖ **Intentional camera movement (ICM)** – Blue lights or seascapes.
- ❖ **Water reflections** – Abstract ripples and distortions.
- ❖ **Fabric or paper** – Flowing shapes in shades of blue.
- ❖ **Bokeh circles** – Out-of-focus blue lights with blue subject.
- ❖ **Macro textures** – Paint, ink, or fabric fibres.

OCTOBER

The COLOUR BLUE (An image with a predominant blue tone)

Everyday Objects (Elevated)

- ❖ **Still life of blue objects** – Minimalist composition.
- ❖ **Ceramics or glassware** – Texture and light play.
- ❖ **Old blue doors, boats, or signs** – Weathered character.
- ❖ **Reflections on water** – boats, canoes or windsurfers.

OCTOBER

The COLOUR BLUE (An image with a predominant blue tone)

Competition Tips

- ❖ Judges will expect **blue** to be **obvious and intentional**, not accidental.
- ❖ Avoid competing colours—desaturate or remove distractions.
- ❖ Consider **cool white balance** or subtle toning (without overdoing it).
- ❖ Blue works beautifully in **low light, mist, rain, and reflections**.
- ❖ Simplicity often wins—**one strong idea, well executed**.

OCTOBER

The COLOUR BLUE (An image with a predominant blue tone)



NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)

Classic Autumn Scenes (Done Well)

- ❖ **Fallen leaves on a woodland path** – Use leading lines and low angle.
- ❖ **Backlit autumn leaves** – Sun shining through reds and golds.
- ❖ **Misty autumn morning** – Trees emerging from fog.
- ❖ **Reflections of autumn colour** – Lakes, rivers, puddles.
- ❖ **Leaf-strewn park benches** – Quiet, seasonal mood.

NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)

Woodland & Nature Details

- ❖ **Macro of leaf textures** – Veins, decay, frost.
- ❖ **Mushrooms and fungi** – Earthy tones and shallow depth of field.
- ❖ **Dewy spider webs** – With warm autumn backgrounds.
- ❖ **Autumn berries and seed heads** – Contrast and detail.
- ❖ **Fallen leaves in water** – Slow shutter for movement.

NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)

Weather & Atmosphere

- ❖ **Rain on autumn leaves** – Saturated colour and texture.
- ❖ **Low sun through bare branches** – Long shadows.
- ❖ **Wind-blown leaves** – Freeze or blur for motion.
- ❖ **First frost** – Transition from autumn to winter.
- ❖ **Golden hour glow** – Warm, directional light.

NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)

People & Storytelling

- ❖ **Solitary figure in autumn landscape** – Scale and mood.
- ❖ **Walking through falling leaves** – Dynamic and joyful.
- ❖ **Umbrella among autumn colour** – Seasonal contrast.
- ❖ **Autumn clothing** – Scarves, coats, hats in context.
- ❖ **Hands holding leaves or conkers** – Subtle human presence.

NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)

Urban Autumn

- ❖ **Parks in autumn colour** – Nature vs architecture.
- ❖ **Leaves against pavements** – Texture and pattern.
- ❖ **Reflections in rainy streets** – Autumn colours mirrored.
- ❖ **Street scenes framed by trees** – Seasonal context.
- ❖ **Cafés and windows** – Warm interiors vs cool outdoors.

NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)

Creative & Abstract Takes

- ❖ **Shallow-focus colour layers** – Foreground leaves as blur.
- ❖ **Minimalism** – Single leaf on clean background.
- ❖ **High-key foggy scenes** – Soft autumn palettes.
- ❖ **Monochrome with warm toning** – Texture and contrast.

NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)

Competition Tips

- ❖ Avoid making it *just* a leaf—add **light, atmosphere, or story**.
- ❖ Use **warm white balance** carefully to enhance colour.
- ❖ Watch clutter; autumn scenes can get busy.
- ❖ Early morning light and mist are autumn gold.
- ❖ Judges favour **mood and intention**, not just colour.

NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)



NOVEMBER
AUTUMN (An Image Depicting Autumn)



Competition Themes 2026

THE END