

How to win a Photography Class at the Show (or have a good go)

Brinkworth Produce and Handicraft Show

Photography Competitions are a wonderful way to improve your photography. While photography just for the sake of photography is a lot of fun sometimes a competition can help you raise the bar as a photographer as you know your image will be seen by a discerning judge and displayed along with other entrants at the Show.

1. Know and Follow the Competition Rules - these can be found on the Show website at www.brinkworthflowershow.com

2. Stick to the theme of the class – An obvious but important one – stick to the theme! It is surprising how many of the images entered into competitions leave a lot to the imagination of judge in terms of how they relate to the theme.

While it's always possible to find an image in your archive of shots that fits the 'theme' of a competition – you will have more luck when you shoot something new with the competition in mind. You not only get better results this way but more importantly – it means you're taking new images and learning more about photography in doing so.

3. How to Standout

As each photography class has a theme it can be a fine line between a great shot and one that is a predictable cliché. Keep in mind that judges will potentially be viewing tens of images in their task of choosing winners so if your image is just like everyone else's it's not likely to win.

A good tip for interpreting themes is to identify the type of shot that you expect everyone else will be submitting in response to the theme and then to set out to do everything you can to set yourself apart from it. This is a skill that comes with experience – but it's worth learning. Stand out from the crowd by choosing compelling subjects, striking colours, unusual but strong composition.

4. Aim for Technical Brilliance

This should go without saying but some photographers seem to settle for less than their best. If an image isn't perfectly focused, exposed brilliantly or composed strongly – take another one. Don't settle for anything but the best!

5. Entering the competition

Did you win last year? Yes? Brilliant then build upon your success and enter another class. No? Then do try again! The glory of winning a photography competition fades in time – but the lessons that you learn in competing will stick with you forever. Have you not entered before? Give it a go and follow the advice above, get your phone or camera out and get clicking. See you in September at the Show.

Classes for 2018

- 53. Stained Glass
- 54. Rivers and Waterways
- 55. Outbuildings/Sheds
- 56. Statues
- 57. Squares and Circles
- 58. Village Life