

### Viralstjames Week 3 Photo competition - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020

This week the challenge is a little more abstract, and the theme is 'Light, Shadow and Texture'. This is a bit of a passion with me and has informed my photography for some years!

As you'll have seen from the video, this can be either indoors or out, and the type or quality of your camera / phone is almost immaterial as we are looking for perception, interest, and possibly surprise – in that the viewer may need to think before knowing what the picture is of – and they may not get it – possibly a bit like a Jackson Pollock painting:



So, the important thing is to look around you – really look – things large, things small, shadows, light passing through and past things, light making an object more interesting.

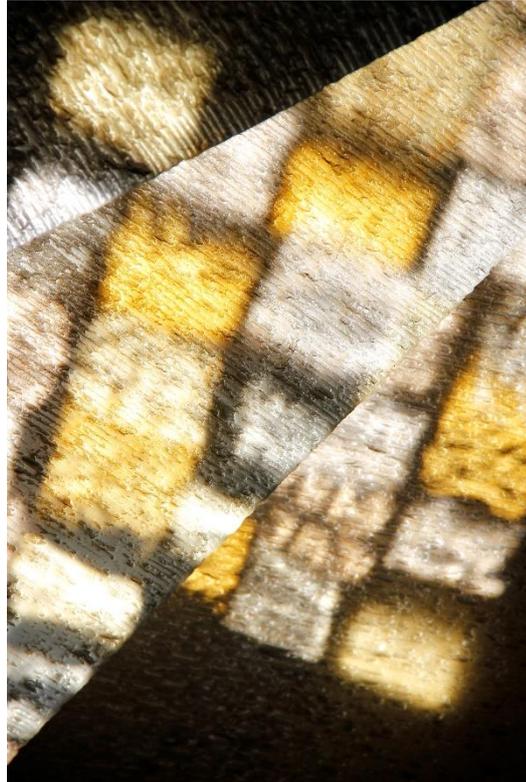
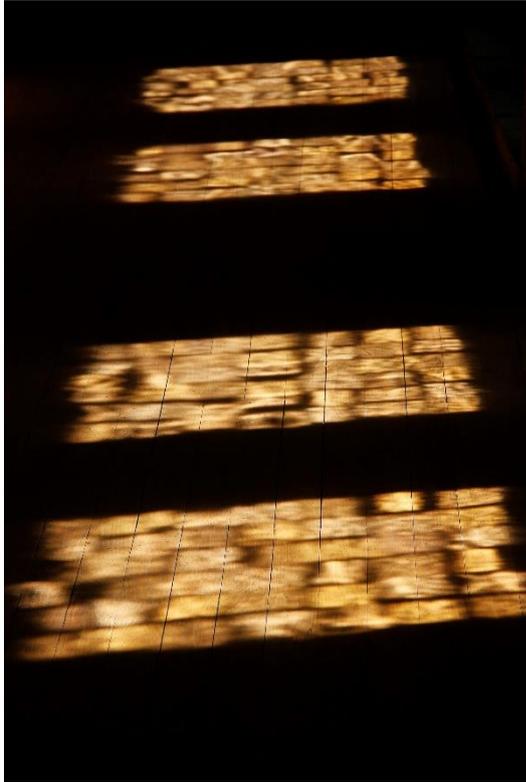
Technically, you may be bringing together the points raised in the last two weeks of competition – depth of focus and exposure. An abstract picture does not need to conform with rules – the exposure can be all over the place, and the picture, or parts of it, may not be in focus at all.

Once you have spotted something that interests you, take more than one photo – examine different angles, try focussing on different points (if your camera allows this) and try varying the exposure.



This view of part of an ancient wooden sculpture in the British Museum picks out one detail, emphasising the texture with strong light and shadow

Here are two views of light passing through windows at Annecy Castle, in France. The quality of the old glass imparts colour and texture to the shadows cast – on the left onto a timber floor, where further texture is added by the floor board lines, while on the right the colour is more emphasised as the light hits stonework. Note that the left hand photo is quite severely under-exposed



This one is taken through one of the same windows – the glazing bars provide both a strong grid and a reference that helps you identify what the photo represents, and if you look carefully you can make out a tree outside.

If there is a strong element, such as the grid of bars, think carefully about alignment and angle....

You can see from this series that on subject can yield a number of interesting images.....



You can, of course go completely Jackson Pollock and produce an image that defies description or easy identification and is a texture or form for its own sake, like this view of water patterns in the Diana Memorial Fountain in London

So, this is photography much more as art than representation

As with last week's winner, there can be a recognisable reference in the photo, such as these ferns at the Glasgow Botanical Gardens Victorian glasshouse – two textures in one photo. I've use camera angle here to get what I wanted, and I did have to lie on the ground!



GOOD LUCK!