



Photo: Richard Wiseman



Photo: Diana Iwi



Photo: Marion Davies

Photography Competition 2023

THE JUDGES: MYKE JACOBS, DIANA IWI & MARION DAVIES

This year's theme is *A Favourite Portrait*, and we are looking for eye-catching portraits of one or more people. There are no restrictions on where the photo has been taken; more important is that the portrait has impact and brings out something of interest about the subject and possibly the context of the photo. This is a chance to show your creative skills and to win one of the prizes mentioned below! The winning entries will be published in the winter issue of Suburb News.

Richard Wiseman, who died just over a year ago, was much loved, an amateur photographer and a past chair of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. An additional prize of £75 has been donated this year by his wife Lucy in his memory. This prize will be awarded for the best self-portrait in the opinion of the judges.

Some ideas and hints

Before you start, you may wish to think a bit about the type of portrait that suits your subject or subjects. Do you want them to be still or engaged in an activity? Should the background be neutral or hold some clues as to the subject's environment and interests? Are you looking for an expression that reflects their character? And then there is technique, for example using a wide aperture or portrait mode (available on all cameras and most mobile phones) to blur the background and isolate the subject for greater impact. And you'll want to think about lighting, if possible, avoiding harsh shadows in strong light or controlling the light settings for special effects – even mobile phones can give you scope for this. Finally, should your photo be in colour or black & white? Monochrome portraits can have huge impact by using light and shadow to focus attention on the subject.

The three examples here illustrate these points. The self-portrait by Richard Wiseman holding his baby grandchild shows the baby's face with remarkable clarity. The background was chosen by Richard to allude to his interest in the built environment, and is subtly out of focus. The camera, held to one side, is an important prop, as it hints at a self-portrait and his interest in photography.

The portrait of Iranzu is an excellent example of how important it is to make sure the eyes are in focus and the hint of a smile encourages one to imagine this is someone with a warm friendly personality. There is good depth of field as the face and hair are sharp with the back of Iranzu's hair and jumper alongside the lamp becoming increasingly out of focus.

The black and white portrait shows Renée and Margrit, who are obviously closely related and sharing a special moment with the photographer. Note that both faces are clearly in focus and the blurring of the background, which makes their features stand out. In this case, the subjects are wearing no make-up and their clothes are simple, so the image is uncluttered, warm and natural.

We look forward to seeing your photos – and don't forget to encourage your family and friends to enter too!



PRIZES

will be in the form of Amazon vouchers to the value of: First £75, Second £50 and Third £25 and the Richard Wiseman Prize for the best Self-Portrait £75.

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Competition Rules



1. Photos submitted must be consistent with the subject *A Favourite Portrait*, which must be a photograph of one or more human beings.
2. Your photo(s) can be submitted from 1 June until 30 September 2023 to: hgsra.uk/photocompetition.
3. No more than two photos per resident.
4. Your photograph(s) must be in jpg format and between 2-10 megabytes but the judges may, in exceptional circumstances, allow entries which do not meet these requirements.
5. All photographs must have been taken on or after 1 June 2023.
6. If you submit a photograph taken on private property you must have obtained the permission of the property owner.
7. All photographs submitted must, before being submitted, have the written consent in approved form of the subject(s) or, where applicable, a parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 or other vulnerable people. Such consent must, on request, be submitted to the judges, failing which they will not qualify for selection.
8. The decisions of the judges on all aspects of the competition are final.
9. When submitting your photograph please confirm that you have read the rules of the competition and please provide the details requested, including: confirming that you took the photograph, your name, address, email address, phone number and age, if you are under 18 years on 1 June 2023.
10. Please also submit a short note (not less than 25 and not more than 250 words) about how your photograph relates to the theme.
11. If you are submitting a cropped or edited image, please also submit a copy of the original, unedited image at the same time.
12. If you are under 18 years old on the date of submission, your photograph must be submitted by your parent or guardian, who must also provide their own contact details.
13. Submission of your photo will constitute confirmation that you are willing for your photograph to be reproduced (with acknowledgement to you) by Suburb News and by the HGS Residents Association, in print, on websites and any public exhibition of competition photos.
14. Photos will not be disqualified from the competition merely because they are cropped or the subject of a limited amount of editing, which, in the view of the judges, does not substantially alter the original image.
15. The best four photographs chosen by the judges will be published in the December 2023 edition of Suburb News.
16. Photographs submitted by under-18s may be judged separately and the winning photograph(s) may be published in Suburb News.
17. All submitted entries may be viewable on the HGSRA website after judging.
18. Some photographs may be offered for inclusion in the HGS Virtual Museum and, if accepted, will be posted by Heritage with permission of the photographer.