



Eye to Eye Photographic Competition

“Taking a picture is like giving a piece of your soul away.
You allow other people to see the world through your eyes.”

Katja Michael



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"Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them."

Elliott Erwit



Foreword

In 2023, the Lions Eye Institute turned 40. As part of our celebrations, we decided to hold an inaugural Eye to Eye Photographic Competition that celebrates and brings together art and science. The competition aims to stimulate public interest in the causes and treatments of eye disease and the importance of eye health.

As an eye health professional for my entire career and a keen amateur photographer, I've always been fascinated by the connection between cameras and eyes. Just as an aperture on a camera regulates the amount of light coming in, so too does the pupil perform that function in a human eye. The analogies continue as we look at the other features of a camera and an eye, such as the retina, camera film and lenses.

We are delighted to present the finalist images of the Eye to Eye Photographic Competition in this catalogue. We have been amazed at the quality and breadth of photographic entries that draw our focus to human eyes, animal eyes, eye health and visual impairment.

We are very fortunate to work with so many inspiring organisations and individuals to bring this competition to life. I'd like to thank our sponsors – Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm, Fitzgerald Photo and Team Digital, our judges – Frances Andrijich, Steve Wise and Chris Barry, and all the photographers who submitted their entries and shared their art with us.

Special thanks also go to Dale Neill, who is a patient at the Lions Eye Institute and a photographer with experience running the Fremantle International Portrait Prize and other photographic competitions. Dale shared with us a wealth of his time and expertise and helped us to make the competition come alive.

Professor Bill Morgan
Managing Director, Lions Eye Institute




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"Photography is an
austere and blazing poetry
of the real."

Ansel Adams



Foreword

Since its establishment in 1983, the Lions Eye Institute has become recognised as a global centre for quality eye care and scientific research into the treatment and prevention of blindness. From small beginnings, it is now one of Australia's largest ophthalmology clinics, with approximately 60,000 patient visits annually.

As the local Member for Nedlands I love celebrating the scientific pursuits of our Western Australian research institutes. The Eye to Eye Photographic Competition is a unique opportunity to celebrate both the artistic pursuit of photography and the science of eyes and eye health.

I wish the Lions Eye Institute well for its 40th anniversary and encourage everyone to visit the exhibition and vote in the People's Choice Award. It promises to be a great event that shares some unique perspectives about eyes, eye health and vision impairment.

Dr Katrina Stratton MLA
Member for Nedlands

Judges



Chris Barry

Chris is an ophthalmic photographer at the Lions Eye Institute and has held this position for more than 40 years. His photography has won many awards for capturing the eye and its health in astounding detail, including:

- Winner Nature/Science category Australian Institute of Professional Photography x4 2004, 2005, 2006, 2011
- Best of Show Australian Institute of Medical and Biological Illustrators 2011
- Best of Show American Society Cataract and Refractive surgery x2 2007, 2011
- Best of Show Ophthalmic Photography Society x3 1996, 1998, 2007



Frances Andrijich

Frances Andrijich is one of Western Australia's finest photographers. Her extraordinary images – whether captured in the townships of South Africa, the Croatian countryside, or Indonesian slums – have earned her a growing national and international reputation. That said, Frances' heart lies in Western Australia and she has a passion for capturing the people and the places they live in.

Shooting intuitively and incisively, Frances' photographs can be lush and painterly; or witty and surprising. They are always technically superb. Frances' images grace the covers of magazines, feature articles, books and campaigns. Her portfolio is diverse, grown out of her ability to be versatile, and her desire for the extraordinary. It includes portraits, documentary, dance, corporate, landscapes, food and wine.

Frances is the recipient of numerous awards; she exhibits regularly and has published eleven books, as well as being a contributing photographer to four other books. In yet another way to share her clients' stories in a more comprehensive and engaging way, she has introduced the production of videos, creating short films for websites and social media. She has produced many of the Lions Eye Institute's recent videos and still photographs.



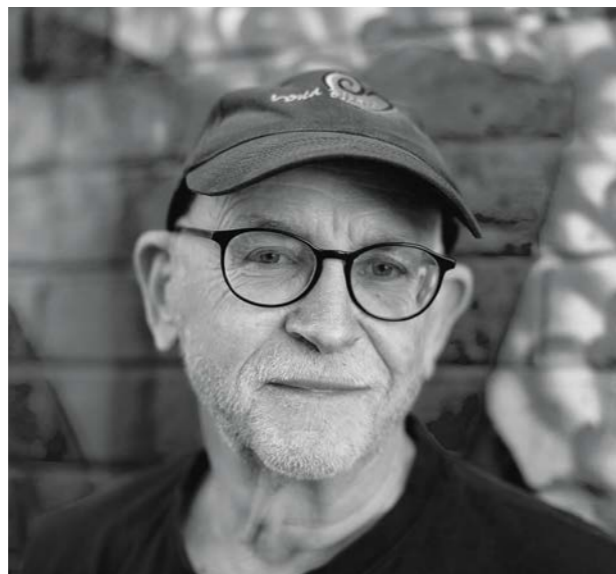
Steve Wise

Steve is the coordinator and medical photographer/videographer in the Medical Multimedia Design Department at Royal Perth Hospital – and a commercial and fine art portrait photographer outside of this position. Steve's fine art portrait photography delves past what is seen on the surface to discover who a person is and portray a story, an event, a place. He is a highly sought after photographer throughout Western Australia. His distinctive style and creative approach have earned him multiple photographic awards at state, national and international level.

With over 20 years in the photographic and graphic design industry, Steve works with a relaxed approach coupled with attention to detail and the highest regard for the service he provides.

In 2010, his first year as a full accredited member of the AIPP, Steve was awarded the coveted WA AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year Award, alongside the 2010 WA AIPP Wedding Photographer of the Year. More recently his fine art portraiture secured him the 2016, 2014 and 2012 WA AIPP Portrait Photographer of the Year and at a national level, the 2018 AIPP Australian Portrait Photographer of the Year. Most recently Steve was awarded the international 2021 winner of the Siena International Creative Photo Awards in Portraiture (Italy) and the 2022 Premier Award Winner Still Image Personal Work BCA Biolimages (USA).

Steve holds a R.B.I. Accreditation (Registered Biomedical Illustrator) with the Australian Institute of Medical and Biological Illustrators (AIMBI), in line with his work as a Medical Photographer at Royal Perth Hospital.



Introducing Dale Neill

The Eye to Eye Photographic Competition came from the spark of an idea from a conversation between Professor Bill Morgan, the Lions Eye Institute's Managing Director and one of his patients, Mr Dale Neill. Originally both members of the same local cycling club, when Dale was diagnosed with glaucoma he found his fellow cyclist was also an ophthalmologist, specialising in glaucoma.

And so a plan was hatched. Dale who is a photographer and teacher by background agreed to be the Lions Eye Institute's independent consultant for the Eye to Eye Photographic Competition. He is experienced in running the Fremantle International Portrait Prize for many years and stays involved in a range of different photographic training workshops, international tours and competitions.

We are so grateful to Dale for his support, guidance, expertise and wisdom in helping us deliver the Eye to Eye Photographic Competition. We've also enjoyed his sense of humour and natural talent for telling a story, both with photographs and words.

This is Dale's story, in his own words, about his journey with photography and glaucoma...

“ I was in my early 40s when I received the diagnosis of glaucoma from Dr Peter Richardson. It was a pretty dark afternoon. Glaucoma was the curve ball I hadn't counted on.

My life had revolved around commercial photography, teaching photography at The University of Western Australia and TAFE, surfing and riding my Mercian bicycle a couple of hundred kilometres each week.

My tears dried quickly. Resilience, adaptation, and medical intervention were my chosen tools. I drew on the words of George Eastman, founder of Kodak for inspiration.

'Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. And you will know the secret of photography,' said Eastman.

It's probably no coincidence that physics was my best subject at school and the study of light and lenses was at the top of my list when I was in my mid teens. George Eastman became my guiding light.

Glaucoma is the silent invader. It's the thief in the night. You don't know it's there but it is. Each and every night. Little by little, pixel by pixel, the glaucoma thief takes away your light. It's a bit like putting on weight by one gram each day. You don't notice it. But unlike being overweight there's no glaucoma diet to replace the lost sight.

I adapted. I started using autofocus and wide-angle lenses. I bracketed exposures. My new cameras had white lettering on black bodies. I was very fussy to choose

cameras that were engineered with great intuitive logic. I stopped putting black things on top of other black things. I reluctantly stopped racing down steep slopes at 80 kilometres per hour on my bike (my wife Marg threatened divorce if I continued). I used my tactile sense to adjust camera controls. These days I rely more on hearing than I did before and I'm certain my sense of smell has sharpened acutely. I can now smell a sheep ship, fresh cinnamon roll or a burning electrical wire before most other people.

Two decades ago I became a fan of famous American photographer Margaret Bourke-White. Bourke-White said 'saturate yourself with your subject and your camera will all but take you by the hand.'

Great advice. When I covered the Boxing Day tsunami in India I was literally saturated in the subject. When I made images of returned prisoners of war in Hellfire Pass, Thailand I imagined I was there in World War II and those images are now with the Australian War memorial. I listen to people, not just their words but how they say them. I observe their movements. When I photographed 'Farewell My Son' and it was hung in the National Portrait Gallery, I was no longer a photographer, I was a part of the subject.

I hope I will be taking photographs until the day I die. Even if someone has to point me in the general direction and prop me up. I hope for the best, expect the worst and take whatever comes along with open arms... and my wide-angle lens."

Seeing through a child's eye category



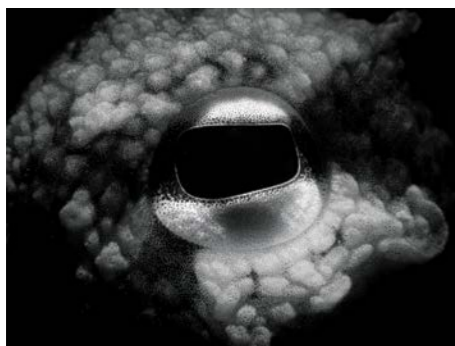
Doorway to my soul
Sophia MacKinnon

I took this photo on my Mum's phone when I spotted my dog (Foxy) lying on the couch looking very photogenic. I took several shots of her with different settings. When I was flicking back through them a few hours later, I found this one really moved me. I played around editing it for a while making it just the way I wanted it. When I look back on this photograph now it seems as if I can see right into her soul in a way I've never captured before.



The eyes capture it all
Georgia Fields

This photograph tells the tale of a friendly 'Greenie' who mistakenly flew into my window. The tiny bird, momentarily stunned and bewildered, was captured, safely nestled in my mother's hands. But it was the helpless bird's captivating white rimmed eyes that captured the moment. A moment when nature and humans were one. This image was taken seconds before the bird was released into our native garden. A raw, unedited photograph showing how 'the eyes capture it all'.



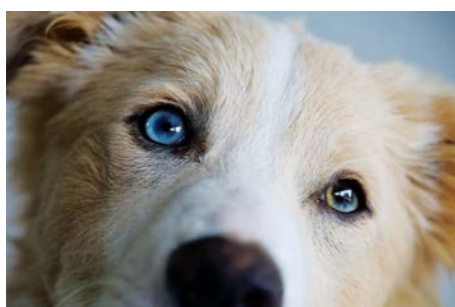
The eye of a gloomy octopus
Sam Bayes

Due to its personality, the octopus is one of my favourite animals to dive with. Often, an octopus will reach out its tentacles and play with its reflection in my camera lenses. This octopus was a bit shy. Even with the octopus's reluctance to see me, this photo captures how the octopus was feeling at the time and a curious spark in the octopus's eye. Often used to scare away predators, the strong contrast of the octopus's skin is shown in black and white.



Flight into oblivion
Michael Kaye

Flight into oblivion is a response to a real event that happened north of Perth, documenting the devastating fires of 2022. The monochrome photograph captures the tension and fear of being near to the fire and is a moving portrayal of the power of nature. It conveys a sense of desperation, but also courage, in the face of a natural disaster. The photograph, captured over my back fence showcases a unique perspective on the fire.



Eye love treats!
Amaya Dobbe

This is of one of the cutest puppies ever, who I have the privilege of looking after. His unique, different coloured eyes are something you can't forget, which makes this image very close to my heart. Trying to capture a photo of your pet is extremely difficult, so I used something that this puppy loves: treats. Hence the name of this image: 'Eye love treats'. I held the treat directly above the lens until he was fully focused on it, and then... snap! The perfect picture of his stunning eyes.



Freddy the frog
Amaya Dobbe

This beautiful, friendly frog was lounging about on a log in nature, eyeing off anything and anyone who came by. I noticed his stunning eyes, so I crept up as close as I dared without scaring him, hoping he wouldn't hop away. He was so friendly, almost smiling as I snapped a picture. I love how frogs have such exquisite eyes and dream of how awesome it would be to have nearly 360 degree vision like they do!

Eagle eye category



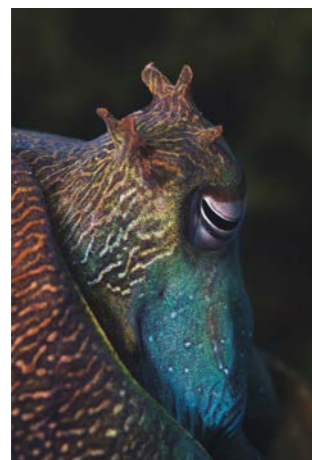
Eye of a survivor, salt water crocodile
Erick Kennedy

Photo taken at Broome crocodile park when I visited on holiday. The saltwater crocodile really is a survivor with its powerful jaws, body protection, and eye with three eyelids that can retract deep into its skull for maximum protection when on the hunt. This crocodile was in the large lake, completely covered by green algae with only its eyes visible. The sun was on my side, showing great contrast between the eye and the green algae. This photo showcases the beauty of the crocodile and the disguised apex predator hiding beneath the algae.



Barking owl eye
Ian Redmond

The barking owl is regarded as being a moderately large owl, about 40cm in length. Its bright yellow eyes can't swivel, which allows their iris to fully open and gives them the characteristic stare. Lack of eye movement is compensated by a remarkably rubber neck. With large eyeballs, this makes for very effective sight. Photographers know the value of an extra stop or two of aperture. Unlike other birds, the forward vision of owls gives them stereo vision like us, enabling much more accurate estimation of distance as well as increased night efficiency.



Aliens exist
Lewis Burnett

Diving at night with these colour-changing, shape-shifting cephalopods is an experience I will never forget. Watching them hover in front of my camera as they try and figure out what I am and why my lights are so bright at night. If aliens do exist on our planet, these are where we'll find them...



Meeting place
Tessa Ferraro

Meeting place is in the world of the agricultural cycle where flies meet around cattle's eyes. The female flies feed on facial secretions, such as tear fluid to obtain protein for egg development. It is important to monitor eye health regularly and treat as required. Good eyesight allows cattle to see their feed. This photo was taken during a processing session in the yards, treating other sick animals with pink eye, which is prevalent in summer. Agriculture is important in society as it supports livelihoods, provides raw materials, and builds strong economies through trade.



Death stare
Lewis Burnett

Coming across this massive male lion we couldn't help but be struck by the haunting beauty of his eye, a milky nebula inside, the window to his soul wide open. A true testament to the resilience and tenacity of nature, the perseverance in face of struggles that encapsulates the daily lives of animals in the wild.



Locust, WA
Steven Perkins

This locust photo is one of several I took on the day. I feel it has a sense of humour about it that I like and think we can all identify with. Also, I like the way it blends in very well with its surroundings. It was taken as is, in natural light with no interference from me. This shot was taken in my garden along with many others.

Eagle eye category



Shark eye
Mary Gudgeon

The white-tip reef shark's eye is a marvel of evolution, finely tuned for its underwater domain. Positioned on each side of its head, these eyes offer exceptional binocular vision, aiding in depth perception and precise hunting. Their large, round pupils are adapted to low-light environments, enhancing visibility in dimly lit coral reefs where they often hunt. Behind the pupils lies a tapetum lucidum, a reflective layer that boosts vision in low light by bouncing incoming light back through the retina. These adaptations grant whitetip reef sharks a distinct advantage in their nocturnal forays, making them formidable predators in their underwater realm.



West Australian seahorse
Ross Gudgeon

The West Australian seahorse is a captivating marine species, endemic to the coastal waters of Western Australia. These enchanting creatures possess remarkable adaptations for life in their habitat, including their unique prehensile tails, which they use to anchor to underwater vegetation. Their elongated bodies are adorned with intricate patterns and hues, providing effective camouflage among seagrass beds and coral reefs where they dwell. With their tubular snouts and independently moving eyes, West Australian seahorses display exceptional manoeuvrability and keen visual perception, aiding in both navigation and hunting for tiny crustaceans and other small prey within their ecosystem.



Map pufferfish eye
Ross Gudgeon

The map pufferfish, known for its intricate pattern resembling a map, possesses eyes that are essential for its survival in the diverse marine environments it inhabits. Situated on each side of its head, these eyes provide excellent peripheral vision, allowing the pufferfish to detect predators and prey from various angles. Their eyes feature a unique lens structure adapted for underwater vision, aiding in accurate depth perception and navigation through complex coral reefs. Additionally, the map pufferfish's eyes are equipped with specialised photoreceptor cells sensitive to different wavelengths of light, facilitating detection of potential threats and food sources amidst their colourful surroundings.



Bindi eye
Corrie Nottle

Our six year old border collie, Bindi, has heterochromia, where a lack of melanin causes one of her eyes to be blue and the other brown. The effect is striking, and the intense blue was the reason I sought to capture it so clearly in this photo. Obviously, always a challenge with an active border collie, it was exciting to be able to take a clear shot with the beautiful detail of our Bindi's eye in full view.



Spider eating fly
Bruce Finkelstein

I was lucky to capture this image of the spider eating a fly on a plant in the back garden of my house. It can be fascinating to see insects through a macro lens, taking the image and then making a print, the insect looks so different when all its details can be seen.



Octopus eye view
Joanne Watson

Shallow waters beneath Perth's Kwinana Grain Terminal allow divers to enjoy longer dive times to photograph life under the jetty. On one dive with my camera, I spotted a mound of shells and small stones, indicating the home of a local octopus. I waited for the octopus to venture out, and before long a tentacle snaked over the sand to explore me. Little suckers wandered the surface of my arms and camera, followed by the head of the octopus which allowed me to capture the eye as it engaged with mine. A rapturous experience for me as I exchanged many eyeballed moments with the wonderful creature.

Eagle eye category



I'm not crying, I just have scales in my eye
Sky Edwards

Macro photography connects us to otherwise overlooked animals. Brought to a human scale, tiny creatures are perceived as subjects of art, not merely objects. When I photograph an arthropod's eyes, it looks out of the frame and becomes relatable, a character. In seeing them, we advance our understanding and empathy. We begin to imagine how they see us, looking back. Cabbage white butterfly, *Pieris rapae*.



Golden glare
Laylah Garner

In the piercing gaze of the tawny frogmouth, I find a deep connection to nature's untamed spirit. As a volunteer at a wildlife centre, I've witnessed the resilience and beauty of these creatures up close. Capturing this moment was a testament to their silent strength and the importance of protecting their habitat. The intense, almost angry expression in its eyes speaks of the challenges wildlife faces in a world increasingly dominated by human activity. I hope to evoke a sense of awe and admiration for all living beings, urging us to cherish and conserve our natural world.



Motorbike frog
Samantha Wright

When I saw this motorbike frog, I got down at ground level to take the photo. I was learning to take photos of wildlife, and this was the perfect opportunity (and perfect model)! As I looked through my lens, I was amazed at the rivers of gold flowing through the frog's eye. I enjoy sitting by the pond built especially for this native species and will often hear their motorbike revving calls on balmy summer evenings. Such beautiful details, not only in the eye but the green patches that provide amazing camouflage.



Blue dragonfly Noongar: djerakan noort (dragonfly)
Stuart Meachem

Common across Australia and found around any area of water, from rivers and lakes to swimming pools and ponds. Very active hunters, they capture prey on the wing, eating about 100 mosquitoes a day, among other things. The male colour is enhanced by a process called pruinescence, whereby they develop a covering of wax, absorbing all the colours of light apart from blue (which enhances the blue of the insect). Found at night, this one looks beautiful hanging there asleep, like many other daytime insects.



Blue banded bee roosting Noongar: ngoowak (bee)
Stuart Meachem

Larger of the two blue banded bees in Western Australia, it is seen roosting on a reed at night. Mandibles below its eyes allow it to clip on and tuck its legs under. Males roost at night, while females live in burrows. These bees don't live in hives like those imported by the early settlers that we normally see about. These native bees are not blue, the hairs reflect this colour. Light is refracted by tiny grooves along the hairs, which is why it doesn't look blue as it sleeps at night.



Spiny-tailed gecko Noongar: bibdjool (gecko)
Stuart Meachem

These geckos are common throughout Perth and the southwest of Western Australia. They have very beautiful eyes, 350 times more sensitive than ours, enabling them to easily hunt at night, preying on many types of insects and spiders. During the day, they prefer to hide high up in shrubs, bushes and trees, safe from predators like cats and dogs. These small reptiles are helpful in controlling unwanted pests in the environment, such as moths and cockroaches, and get all the moisture they require from these food sources.

Eagle eye category



Other minds
Hendrik Heuschkel

Peering into the eye of a cephalopod might be the closest we will ever come to meeting an alien intelligence. Broadclub cuttlefish, Ningaloo Reef, WA.



Dragon's eye
Hendrik Heuschkel

This nightly hunter could inspire fearsome dragons of fiction. Luckily, he is only the size of a finger and not interested in breathing flames. Spiny tailed gecko, Cape Range National Park, WA.



Galaxies
Hendrik Heuschkel

As we observe nature, we can find the patterns of the large repeating in the small; the branching of rivers and the veins of a leaf, the spiral of a tropical storm and the shell on the beach and, if we are lucky, we can see a whole galaxy in the eye of a tiny fish. Black saddle toby, Coral Bay, WA.



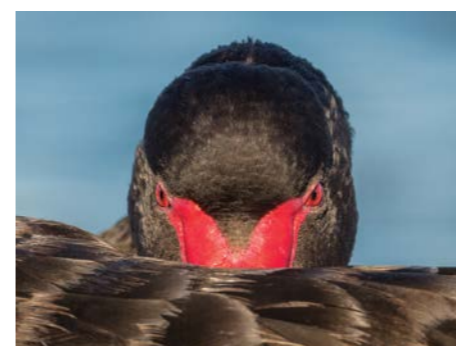
Pure love
Maria Balean

Pure love is a beautiful candid image of our beloved four month old Maltese shih tzu named Toby that I took with a smartphone. It captures his big round eyes expressing pure love from this innocent and gentle natured dog breed. His energetic and playful personality gives our home a lively atmosphere and excitement every time we come home. Seeing him zoom towards us with his favourite toy is a joyful welcome home present we get every time we come home. That's all we get from our little furball, just pure love.



I see you Nemo!
Tracy Lowthorpe Wales

We're often so busy in life that we forget to live - pause - breathe - allow ourselves to be amazed. How blessed I am, to share this life with my child. To rediscover the world alongside him. Feel the sun's warmth, the ocean's coolness, the gritty sand beneath our feet. To hear his voice as he giggles and exclaims 'I see you Nemo!'. There's truly joy and magic everywhere, when you see the world through the eyes of a child. May our own sense of adventure, wonder and curiosity never end.



Black swan watching
Beth Walker

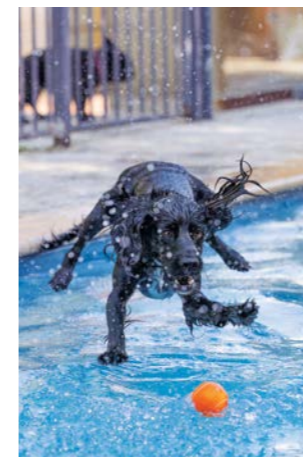
The black swan is an iconic West Australian bird. It is seen on waterways all over the state, and interstate. This picture was taken at Herdsman Lake, where black swans often breed. Black swans are also very protective parents. This parent had cygnets close by, so was watching me intently as I walked by. It was almost a Mona Lisa event.

Eagle eye category



Peacock spider
Susi Nodding

This colourful male (*Maratus speciosus*) spider is a member of the more commonly known 'jumping spider' family. This one lives locally at City Beach and can be found during the spring months amongst the sand dunes, actively jumping around on the onion grass looking for food and female spiders. Once he spots a female he will start 'dancing', raising his abdomen and jiggling from side to side. He is teeny tiny, no bigger than a pea. I used a macro lens and got very close to achieve this photo.



Eyes on the prize
Katie McDonald

This image was taken to capture the immense focus of our young working cocker spaniel, Jax. Jax's eyesight and focus is incredible, and his love of both fetching and water are almost obsessive. Combine his two loves and he is in his happy place, as am I with my camera in hand.



Observant osprey
Sue Harper

On a walk along the Canning River, I was surprised when an osprey landed right by the path with a large and cumbersome fish! The osprey was unperturbed by passers-by as it struggled to control its catch. Luckily, I could take a few close-up photos before the bird flew off. Ospreys have exceptional vision with a very high density of receptors in their eyes, giving them better visual acuity than us - perfect for hunting. I wanted to capture the steely and unflinching gaze in this apex predator's eye.



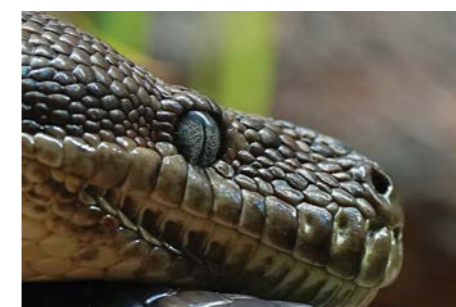
Nankeen kestrel
Rupert Lewi

This was the first time I had ever been close enough to a nankeen kestrel to take a portrait. I ended up taking quite a few photos as I gradually approached it, until it flew away. I was struck by how intently it was looking for its potential prey. Later on, while reviewing the photo I thought it would be a suitable entry for the Eye to Eye Photographic Competition because I was drawn to looking at the reflection of the sky in the eye.



Peeping pelican
Sue Harper

This Australian pelican was huddled in a group on a grey winter's day on the Canning River foreshore. The pelican stood out from the crowd in its striking breeding colours, so I settled in to take some photos at a distance, taking care not to disturb the birds. The pelican nestled down as it began to rain, with fine droplets of water glistening on its black and white plumage. As the pelican peeped over its wings with those stunning yellow eye-rings, it made for an eye-catching image of this magnificent bird.



I ssssee you
Phil Barlass

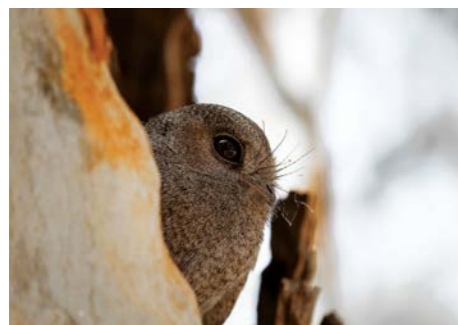
Reptiles are not everyone's favourite subject, but this snake was perched perfectly on a branch, and I just had to capture the image. At first, I was taken by the snake's intricate, interlocking scales but when reviewing the image I was astounded by the animal's amazing eye. I love the perfect roundness within the abstractness of the scales. The detail within the eye is fascinating. This image was a difficult shot as I did not want to use a flash and the low light meant a very slow shutter speed.

Eagle eye category



Honey eyes
Annie Leitch

This photo was captured within WA's UNESCO Fitzgerald Biosphere - internationally significant for biological richness, endemic species and high level of threats. Nectar and pollen are a ngoolboongor's (Noongar for honey possum) diet. A tiny mammal of limited mobility can only persist in environments with reliable supplies of nectar available throughout the year. The heathland of the South West is the only habitat that can sustain populations of the world's only truly nectivorous marsupial. We need to extend our 'sight' to issues affecting all landscapes and the critters within.



Whiskered sight
Annie Leitch

I have always been captivated by Australian owllet-nightjars. Neither owl nor nightjar, this bird is a distinct species widespread throughout our continent. Around their small bill and wide mouth are long rictal bristles with perceptive barbs for nocturnal hunting. In some ways, these help a bird feel. When we feel, we sense, giving us insight. Like owls they have a round head, cryptic patterns and huge forward-facing eyes. When I looked closely, I could see my reflection within those beautiful, reflective, bold spheres and for such a small bird, I felt so observed.



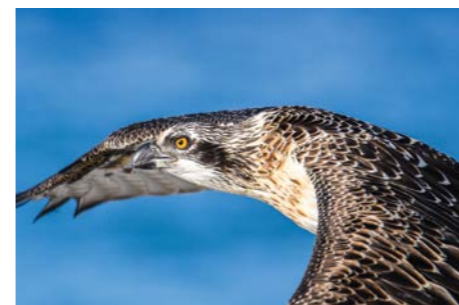
Lucy
Maree France

Lucy is our friend Jess's dog who she rescued seven years ago from a shelter in Darwin. She's an Irish wolfhound cross and all legs! Jess and Lucy are now living their best farm life in Manjimup, where I took this photo. The red dirt of their driveway was so vibrant as the sun started setting so I grabbed my camera and some nuts (believe it or not she loved them for treats) and took some portraits of Lucy. I love how her coat, eyes and gravel contrasted so well together.



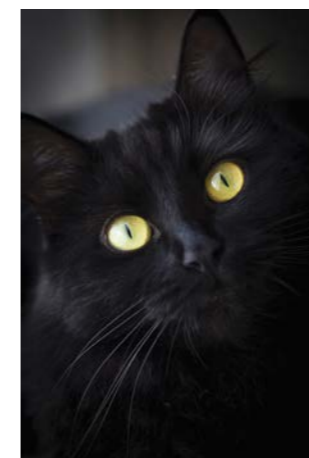
A rainbow bee eater's catch
Donald Chin

This was taken at Lake Gwelup, Western Australia. Rainbow bee-eaters are migratory birds travelling from Papua New Guinea to their breeding sites in and around Perth in November each year. Their beautiful colours caught my eyes three years ago and I have been photographing them since and witnessing how they catch their prey. Despite being territorial with their nesting pairs, come February, they will gather to migrate in flocks of hundreds to thousands as they embark on their migration north.



Eyeing out for the hunt
Aaron Raman

During an early summer's sunrise, an eastern osprey finally left its perch to hunt for breakfast. Whilst tracking its flight pattern, the beautiful morning light illuminated its brilliant yellow eyes as it glided in the sky looking out for its prey (in situ: coastal beach of Western Australia). When an osprey dives into the water, the eyes are protected by its third eyelid, termed a 'nictitating membrane'; a semi-transparent membrane which acts like a pair of goggles to see under water.



A cat called Frank
Alma Sarhan

Frank, a charming female cat, knew how to pose and work the lens. She was fostered by a Cat Haven volunteer, and I had the pleasure of taking her photograph in a home setting. The room had a large window and like a true showgirl, Frank obediently sat near it, the natural light illuminating her eyes. Normally I crawl under beds and behind furniture to get shots of cats...so this was a dream shoot. Cats' eyes are mesmerising... it's how they control us, after all.

Eagle eye category



Cudda the double-dingo

Natacha Issler

'Mum, what's that big black thing in front of your face?'

'It's my camera, Cudda.'

'What are you doing with it?'

'Well, I was photographing the sheep in the paddock, but they weren't very impressed with your howls, and walked off!'

'I'm a much more handsome subject anyway, Mum.'

'You are probably right, my boy. And that look of yours always steals my heart, even when it is through a reflection!'

'I am always keeping an eye out for you, mum. For us dingoes, protecting our family comes first.'

Human eye, window to the world category



Opening her eyes to a new worldview

Corrie Nottle

Beautiful Olive snuggled into her Mum at just three weeks of age. I sought to capture the clear window light reflection in her eye as the focus while keeping the rest of the shot soft and muted. As with any newborn, the shot symbolises the lifetime of endless views to be seen through her eyes as she makes her way into the world.



Worried eyes

Mostafa Mozaffari

The subject of my photo is a graphic health warning on a cigarette pack. I found it while roaming around Bibra Lake in Western Australia; sitting on the dried grass, she had gazed at the passers-by. Her worried eyes were going to tell me something, maybe an omen. I stayed for a while, took a photo and left. Later, I found that a fire had burnt approximately seven hectares of bushland around Bibra Lake.



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Delight in the small things

Kerryn Roodt

To my little girl, every creature is a wonder, and none more so than the tiny snail that crawls on her finger. She marvels at its little shell, its slimy trail, and its gentle pace. She teaches me to slow down, notice the beauty in the small things and take time to delight in the insignificant. What we adults dismiss as trivial, she cherishes as precious. The snail may be nothing to us, but to her it is everything. And that is a lesson worth learning.

Human eye, window to the world category



Eye see you on the Fremantle line
Christian Horgan

Strangers on a train, we caught each other's eye. They had amazing energy, we began to talk. I asked if I could take their portrait, they agreed. Using my phone, I took this image on the moving train. I edited and shared it with them, fortunately to their liking. They're an artist who works with photography. The conversation flowed all the way to the city. Our worlds have collided a couple of times since. Strangers no more... meet Sam. Eye contact breaks down barriers. Something I will never take for granted.



Eye catcher
Samantha Wood

This portrait reminds me of the magic of connecting with children. His eyes hold a quiet curiosity and it's as if I could see straight into his unfiltered world full of possibilities and unburdened by adult worries. This connection sparks something within me. I remember the boundless joy of my own childhood, a part of me I had let fade with time. In this moment, I rediscovered the power of simple wonder and the beauty of seeing the world with fresh eyes. Perhaps you, too, can find your inner child waiting to be reawakened.



Peek a boo
Joe Geracitano

The world through the eyes of a child - unconditional love and trust for her mother.



Window to the soul
Lori Caddy

I asked my husband to widen his eyes to create the look I wanted for this image - I wanted something a bit bizarre, or freakish looking even. I took this image with my Olympus OMD EM1ii and a strobe light in an octobox. I had a dark background and positioned myself and my husband's hand (holding the mirror) so that I could focus on the mirror, with his eye reflecting in it. I wanted to create this image in black and white as I think it draws attention to the texture in the hand and sleeve.





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Human eye, window to the world category



I got your back Mum
Brendan Tompsett

The maternal bond is an exceptional one, particularly so between mother and daughter. I took this photo the first day I met my dear friend's daughter. We were walking around her new house exploring the garden and nature. The thing that struck me was how young Taylor was taking it all in. A child's eyes are constantly absorbing new input. I could tell too that my friend was an amazing mother, and it was obvious that Taylor felt loved and nurtured as she seemed so comfortable with her life and environment.



Window to the soul
Philip Elliott

Chloe is 17 years old and ready to see the world in all its glory. Her curious mind and beautiful eyes will enable her to see so many amazing things in her lifetime. I'll be looking on, sharing her adventures when I can and wishing her the best.



Brother's eyes
Tammy Watson

My brother Terrance allowed me to capture this portrait of him. I love how the eyes tell the story of the soul within and evoke so many feelings within the audience looking into them. My brother has always been my muse when it comes to photographing eyes. He has the most crystal clear, blue eyes that stand out and express such emotion. Editing the photo into black and white highlights every intrinsic detail within the eye and tells more of a story with the distraction of colour taken away.



Child's innocence
Natasha O'Brien

The image captures just how unique the eye is, this child's eye is captivating. I noticed this eye and was immediately drawn to the intense colours and variations. After capturing the mesmerising image, it prompted me to research heterochromia myself. It's spellbinding.



Book worm
Tammy Watson

My beautiful daughter Lillian, the ultimate bookworm. She spends all her spare time reading, fascinated with all genres from the classics to fantasy, romance, non-fiction and history books. A couple of years ago she mentioned she was struggling to see the board at school. We made an optometrist appointment, and she was diagnosed with myopia at the age of ten. Since then, she has worn glasses, and it has made her world much easier! I took this photo to capture her amongst her world of books.



It's a wide world
Kim McAvoy

My daughter has very large and remarkable eyes and they draw comment everywhere she goes. I have taken many photos of them since she was young, and this is my favourite, showing off their beautiful colour and her fabulous lashes. Her view of the world is always curious and expectant and the windows in her eye reflect the life she is looking forward to. I hope she achieves all the potential that is evident in her gaze.

Human eye, window to the world category



Aanya
Fiona Birt

This soulful woman looked up towards me, having just turned after placing her offering to the sun god Surya and his sister Chhathi Maiya into the Hooghly River. Our eyes locked. Amidst a sea of bodies and faces, the intensity of her gaze from a single functioning eye was captivating. The radiating beauty, spirituality, and generosity of spirit of these Hindu devotees is truly humbling. Taken at the Chhath Puja festival at Mullick Ghat, Kolkata, November 2023.



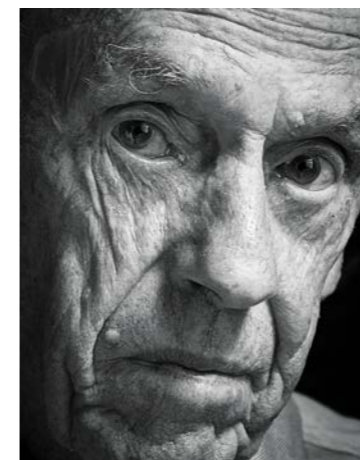
Always seeing something, never seeing nothing
Philip Barnes

This toddler, lost in imagination, held up the pretend camera to capture the world around her through the lens of her mind's eye. She giggled as she pretended to snap pictures of flowers, trees, and her toys, seeing everything in vibrant colours and shapes. She pretended to adjust the settings on the camera, zooming in and out to focus on different subjects. Her small hands moved confidently, framing each imaginary shot with precision and creativity. In that moment, she was a little artist, capturing the beauty of her own unique world.



Broad Arrow Mick
Andrea Vose

He said his name was Mick... 'Dundee?' I asked, he laughed. It was a hot and dusty drive down the Goldfields Highway from Lake Ballard. We stopped for a cold beer at the historic tavern. Greeted by thousands of messages from worldwide visitors on the colourful walls, doors and ceilings, we ordered at the bar. I am inspired by the outback and western country, so I wandered around chatting to locals. I saw Mick, his soulful, blue eyes contradicting his rugged, weathered appearance. I knew I had to make his presence in the pub a permanent memory.



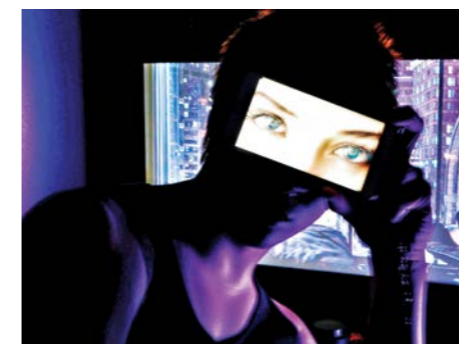
Old eyes
Jeff Spickett

An eminent member of the Western Australian community who had been awarded an OBE, who was very committed to Rotary, being District Governor. He was also involved with scouting, holding the role of Chief Scout Commissioner for WA. I met him in his later years as a Rotarian and a regular attendee at a gym a couple of times a week. He kindly agreed for me to take a few images and this one was taken at his home using natural lighting. I used a monochrome format to emphasis his features.



All the world's a stage
Lidia D'Opera

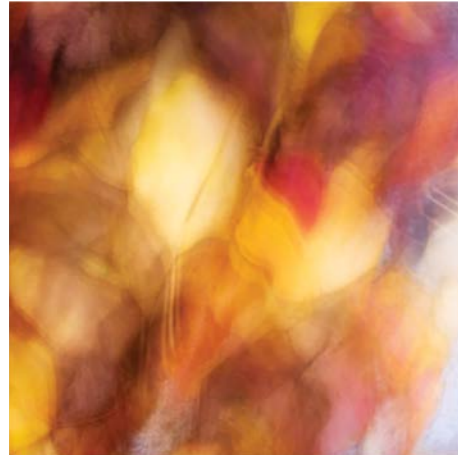
The title, borrowed from Shakespeare, seemed apt for a local identity and artist living in Fremantle. He is one of a kind, oozing uniqueness through his eclectic wardrobe. On first meeting him, he may come across reticent, however when given the chance, his personality matches his couture in vibrancy.



Untitled
Bryan Freind

There wasn't much forethought for taking this photograph, I just did it on the fly, it was taken after coming back from a trip overseas and I decided to take a picture with this idea in mind. It could've just been a spark in the moment sort of thing, but most of this was done with what I had lying around my house.

Seeing with the mind's eye category



My vision: a soft impressionist blur
Beth Baker

Up until I was 16, the world appeared as an impressionistic blur, and I assumed this was normal. While the natural world offered a lovely view, reading blackboards and participating in swimming carnivals proved challenging. One day, my year nine math teacher pulled me aside and said, "Beth, your answers are correct, but the numbers you used are not the ones I wrote on the board. It's time to get your eyes checked!" The moment I put on glasses, the leaves on trees became defined, and the numbers on the board finally made sense!



A blurred world – beach towel hide and seek begins!
Beth Baker

Before discovering the freedom of contact lenses, I would place my beach towel by people I knew or near a bright jolly umbrella or a life saver's flag. I would then count my steps to the shoreline; otherwise, a blurry mass of sand, bodies, and boards made it impossible to find my spot.



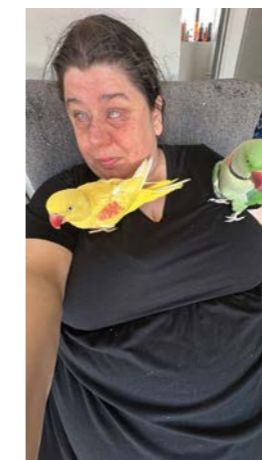
A forest of loneliness, eyes that cannot see
Robyn Jean

The image was created with a self portrait and composite layers to evoke emotion and empathy with the viewer. An image that asks the viewer to look deeper, to feel the loneliness of the ones who cannot see. The struggle to belong, to fit into an often uncaring world is like being trapped behind trees, behind eyes that cannot see.



Earth's eye
Kay Cypher

An aerial view of a dry, featureless, and colourless mud lake comes to life when it is seen from above. Flying the drone over the dried lakes near Damboring in the Midwest gives a very different view of the land that's seen from the ground. The hidden features in the land take on familiar shapes. Flying my drone over the area, I noticed that the dried mud and salt formed the shape of an eye in the earth. I named this 'Earth's eye' as the eye was certainly looking right back at me.



Winged love
Bianca Peterek

Winged love is a picture of two of my beloved parrots, RockyHorror and Brulee. Rocky has been trained as a psychosocial support assistance animal and he has biomonitoring training as well. This means he cuddles into me when I'm stressed or having autism related stress. He also lets me know when I need to take my ADHD medication. Brulee is learning from him and I wouldn't want to be without them. I took the picture using the Aira visual interpreting service.



Overcoming the struggle for focus
Adam Smalley

In life, we each face our own challenges, wrestling with the constant barrage of daily obstacles that can scatter and fog our focus. Yet, amidst these struggles, cultivating a clear and resolute vision becomes paramount. With a strong sense of purpose and vision, we can navigate and break through with our senses the unclear path of uncertainty, steering our lives towards clarity and purpose and finding focus.

Seeing with the mind's eye category



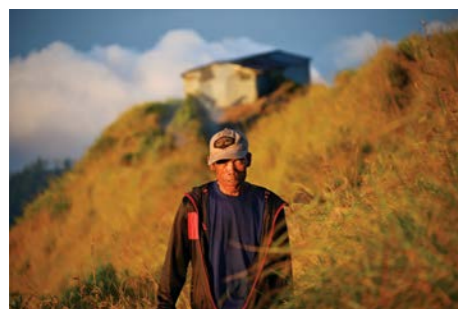
Beyond the ripple
Joel Dickinson

Sometimes the world looks better when viewed in a different way!



Cloudy with a vision of you
Christian Horgan

Just a thin layer of frosted glass separated us, yet it seemed like we were light years away, trapped in different dimensions. He looked down, I waved. He crouched down in an embryonic like state, peering into my world, and a connection was born. I felt like I was looking through the lens of a giant eye. Cloudy vision can make us seem so far apart... but only if we let it. Make the effort to connect. It's so worth it. Image taken looking up in a pavilion at London's Kew Gardens.



On top of the world
Tania Rutley

After a long exhausting hike to watch the sunset at the top of Mt Batur, Bali, I was awed by the beauty of the terrain. In the distance the clouds looming and a local man delivering water to the huts for the tourists caught my eye. He clearly had a sight impairment, and I couldn't believe how he was getting around like a mountain goat while I was struggling to stay upright on the steep and ragged trails.



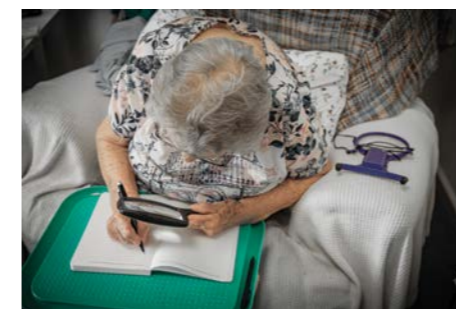
No more glasses
Sam Parkinson

This photo isn't just an image, it's a memory that we hold so close to our hearts. This is Tyler-Rose's first time putting in her contact lenses at home. After being a part of the Lions Eye Institute trial for myopia, it has slowed down the deterioration of her eyesight. She can now play sports without her glasses holding her back.



Matilda Bay
Louise Robinson-Lay

Matilda Bay was my first introduction to Perth. It's become a favourite spot to watch the lights dancing on the water. I love experimenting with the available light and seeing if I can paint with my camera. This was a calm night in the protected bay and a good place to move the camera to blur the lights. Since getting a cataract due to uveitis, this is how I see night lights anyway, and not wanting it to stop me taking photos, I decided to represent my view of the scene as I experienced it.



New magnified life
Amara Blackwell

In the past twelve months my nan has gone through drastic changes with her rapidly declining vision, having lost a lot of self-independence and moving into care because of this. Once a lover of fine crafts and reading, she lives a new magnified, simpler life. Finding comfort in the everyday laughs shared between friends and family, and activities she can join in with low vision needs. She has remained optimistic about her sight and cheerful as ever.

Seeing with the mind's eye category



Seeing the detail
Jeffery Spickett

The use of monoculars is not seen much nowadays but was very popular in earlier times. The 'eye' topic reminded me that my father-in-law used one, and I used his one for this image. I used the colour format as it best shows the person using a monocular, which can be a very useful and handy tool and is easily carried around. The image attempts to show a person viewing the small object, using the magnification provided by the monocular to study details not discernible with the naked eye.



Vision impairment
Nola Hindley

Sight. An independence we far too easily take for granted. It is not until it is taken from us that we can truly appreciate its beauty. To watch one you love struggle with macular degeneration, to adjust and figure out a version of normal, tugs at our heart strings. All you can do in these moments is be there to support them, and help them find a way to rediscover simple pleasures in life through their own senses. I have hope and belief that one day soon she will find a way to smile again.

Staff category



Beetles
Bill Morgan

I was hiking up Mount Hopkins on a two day walk with my daughter west of Walpole. We looked down and saw these amazing multi-coloured beetles, which I've never seen before. I do not know what species they are, or even if they have been described. I've never seen anything quite like them. The beetles were hunkered down in between rocks and appeared like a little family. I thought the texture of twigs and granite amongst the brightly coloured beetles was an interesting composition.



Binocular vision – Scarborough Beach, WA
Shermaine Wong

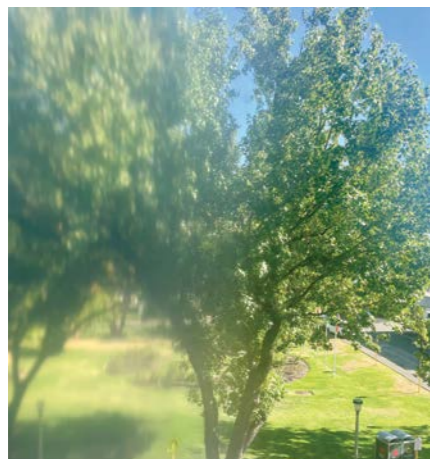
Through two small holes in a fence at Scarborough Beach, a captivating vista unfolds – ocean, trees, and sunset. This scene showcases binocular vision's synthesis of depth and dimension. Even with monocular vision, those with one eye lost can still appreciate the world's beauty. For those completely blind, beauty resides in memory, heart and soul. This image reminds us of the enduring beauty beyond sight, resonating in memory and essence.



Halo (an optical phenomenon), Coogee Beach WA
Shermaine Wong

Captured at Coogee Beach, a mesmerising halo graces the sky, a testament to the extraordinary ways we perceive the world. This optical phenomenon transcends mere sight and physics, resonating with profound symbolism. It embodies resilience, echoing the inner strength of those with vision impairment who perceive the world through senses beyond sight. It invites us to see not just with our eyes, but with our hearts and souls.

Staff category



Focus on the simple things
Fiona Flanagan

We all want to see that crisp, clear side of the tree but our minds are becoming increasingly blurred by what is real and what is not in many aspects of our daily lives. I wanted to capture that in this simple picture, taken from my office window at the Lions Eye Institute, using a clear plastic bag covering half of the lenses on my iPhone.



Estuarine crocodile eye to eye, Broome WA
Vaibhav Shah

I had heard about estuarine crocodiles in northern Australia and after moving to Broome I set my eyes upon one! At the questionably adventurous distance afforded by a 200mm lens, I seized my chance to capture the eye of this four metre man-eater who also lives in Broome!



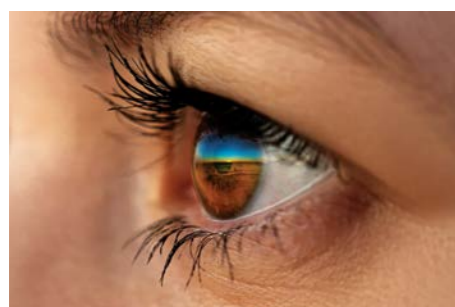
Do you see what I see?
JoAnne Forrest

As a nod to Paul Strand, the modernist American photographer, the photograph has been cropped to create a level of ambiguity regarding which species of animal we are viewing. Additionally, cropping is intended to elevate and bring a new perspective to somewhat common subject matter. Dichotomously, this has also uncovered details, through the lens of the eye, as to how the image was taken. These characteristics are all considered in the title of the photograph.



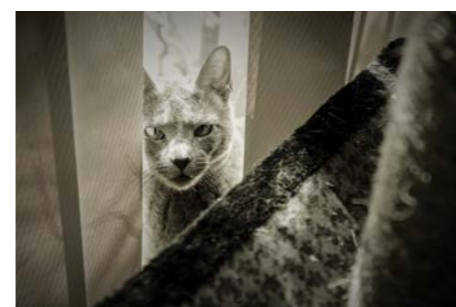
To be filled with laughter
Rachael Heath Jeffery

This photo was captured whilst I was hiking at Wilsons Promontory National Park, a 50,000 hectare safe haven for our native plants and animals. Off-white feathers below, faintly barred with dark streaks through the head, and the brown eye-stripe through the face transition seamlessly with the background.



My eyes see and show my inside to the world
Maria Hlushkova

Our eyes are the windows to our soul and allow us to communicate our emotions and thoughts with others, bridging the gap between our inner and outer worlds. My eye colours in this photo are blue and yellow representing the flag of my home country, Ukraine. With this photo, I am showing my inner pain about my country at war. But despite how dark these days are, I always remember one popular quote of the famous French author, Victor Hugo, 'even the darkest night will end, and the sun will rise'.



**Whiskered watcher:
A domestic eagle eye amidst the urban wilderness**
Jonathan Alexis

This photograph captures the essence of quiet observation amidst chaos. In this fleeting moment, our cat locks eyes with the camera, her sanctuary briefly interrupted by its intrusion. This image emerged while enjoying my hobby of photography, creating black and white indoor shots with natural lighting. The kids were reluctant participants and too busy causing chaos, which left our cat. Amidst their restlessness, the cat's poise offered a timeless reminder to embrace stillness amid life's whirlwind.

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