Chairman's Competition 2010-2011: Triptych and Diptych

Five images – two sets
Choose one from: three prints (triptych) or sequence of three (digital)
and one from: two prints (diptych) or sequence of two (digital)

You are asked to submit a diptych and a triptych (five individual prints or digital images). These must be in two sets – a trio (triptych) and a pair (diptych). The print sets will be viewed together, and the digital sets will be viewed in sequence. If you wanted, of course, you could submit just one set, or one print set and one digital set.

Prints can be on individual mounts (eg three mounts for the triptych) or three or two prints on one mount. Individual mounts should not exceed 40 x 50 cm. If using one image per mount, you have the option of flush-mounting prints or off-setting them close to one side of the mount if you wish to make your set appear continuous. You can mix print and mount sizes (large, small, square, letterbox, etc). Entries can be used individually in other competitions (easiest if one print per mount), before or after this competition, but it would be nice to see something new.

How you arrange the set of prints is up to you (some examples below). Display will be on panels which we will have available shortly, providing two rows capable of taking up to ten prints side by side on two rows.
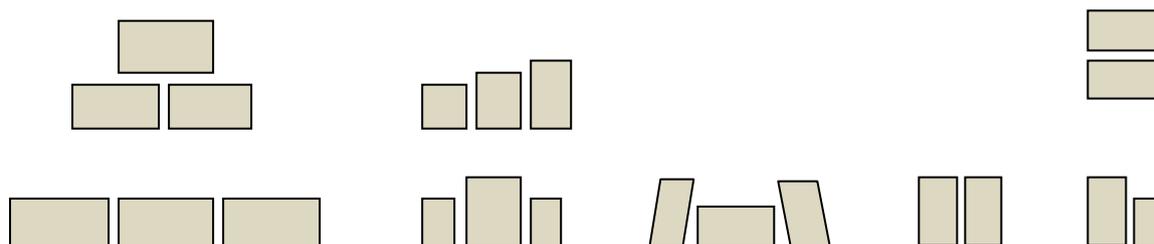
The point of triptychs and diptychs is that they say something more, or something different to the individual images taken separately. This might be to tell a story, describe an event, explore a relationship, relate a history, show the breadth of a panorama – or whatever you choose. You could slice one panorama into three images, show three images taken in different places at different times, or rearrange one or more images to achieve your required effect. A digital sequence can use surprise or shock, as well as have a distinct time lapse effect.

 A diptych presents a different view and different challenges to a triptych, which is why I want you to do one of each. Traditionally, a Triptych has a larger central image and is presented as a symmetrical, balanced and calm arrangement, whereas a Diptych is often used to explore duality, conflict or contrast – but, as you can see from the examples overleaf – anything goes.

Judging will be in four categories – print triptych, print diptych, digital two-image sequence and digital three-image sequence. This comp is not scored, but I will be judging the images on individual image quality as well as on how well they work as a set .

I hope you enjoy this assignment and find the images you produce for it to be worth the effort!

There are many examples of triptychs and diptychs in art and photography. They first appeared as portable religious altarpieces. Arguably, the most famous triptych in art is this altarpiece by Lucan Cranach the Elder.

The triptych with the Holy Kinship, Lucan Cranach the Elder, 1509.

Interface: from a collection of portraits of mixed race people and mixed couples
By London-based photographer Shambhala. www.intermix.org.uk
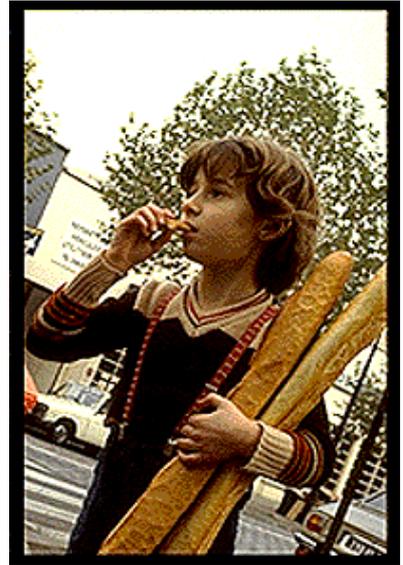
Bread   www.paris.org

www.fotoviva.co.uk

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www.mattlauder.com.au

karmat on
www.dpchallenge.com/forum.php?action=read...
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C-print www.pidsadny.com/immediacy/immediacy.html

www. rachelmello.com/   Whether you know it or not   Rachel E. Mello

David Brayne: Diptych with the Portraits of Luther and his Wife www.lib-art.com/artgallery/

Kristin Guest

These two were on
www.strongphotography.wordpress.com

Tyler Bradley

Aussie Rules by Gordon McGregor on www.pbase.com

PS: Have you got a set of images that never worked individually? Here's your chance to see if they work as a set...