



Lights!

Camera!

Action!



Your Face When Your Crush Walks In by Richa



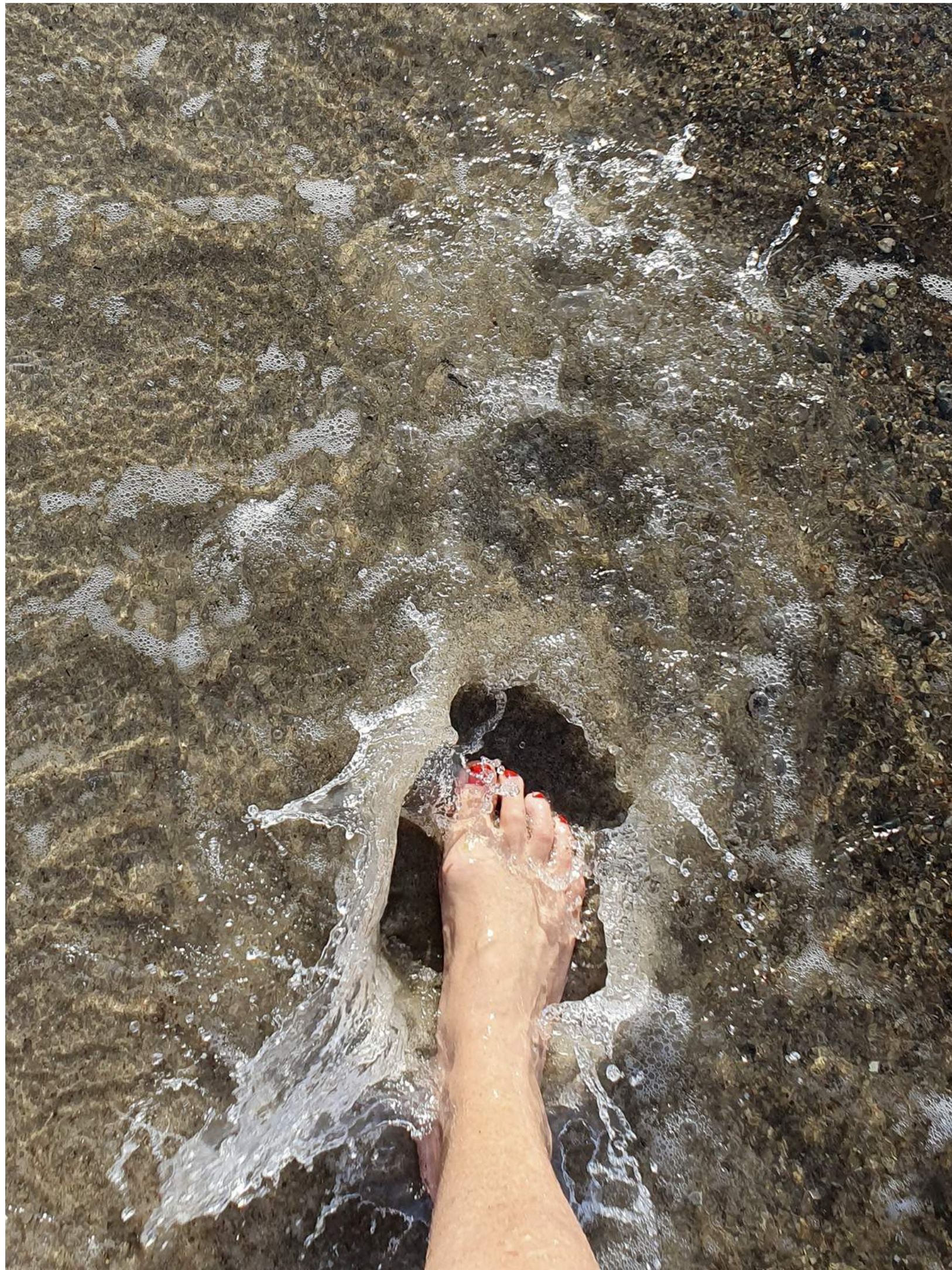
Rory on the Run by Paola



Richa's photo shows good control of focus, with the face sharply in focus, while the moving feet and rope provide the dynamic motion



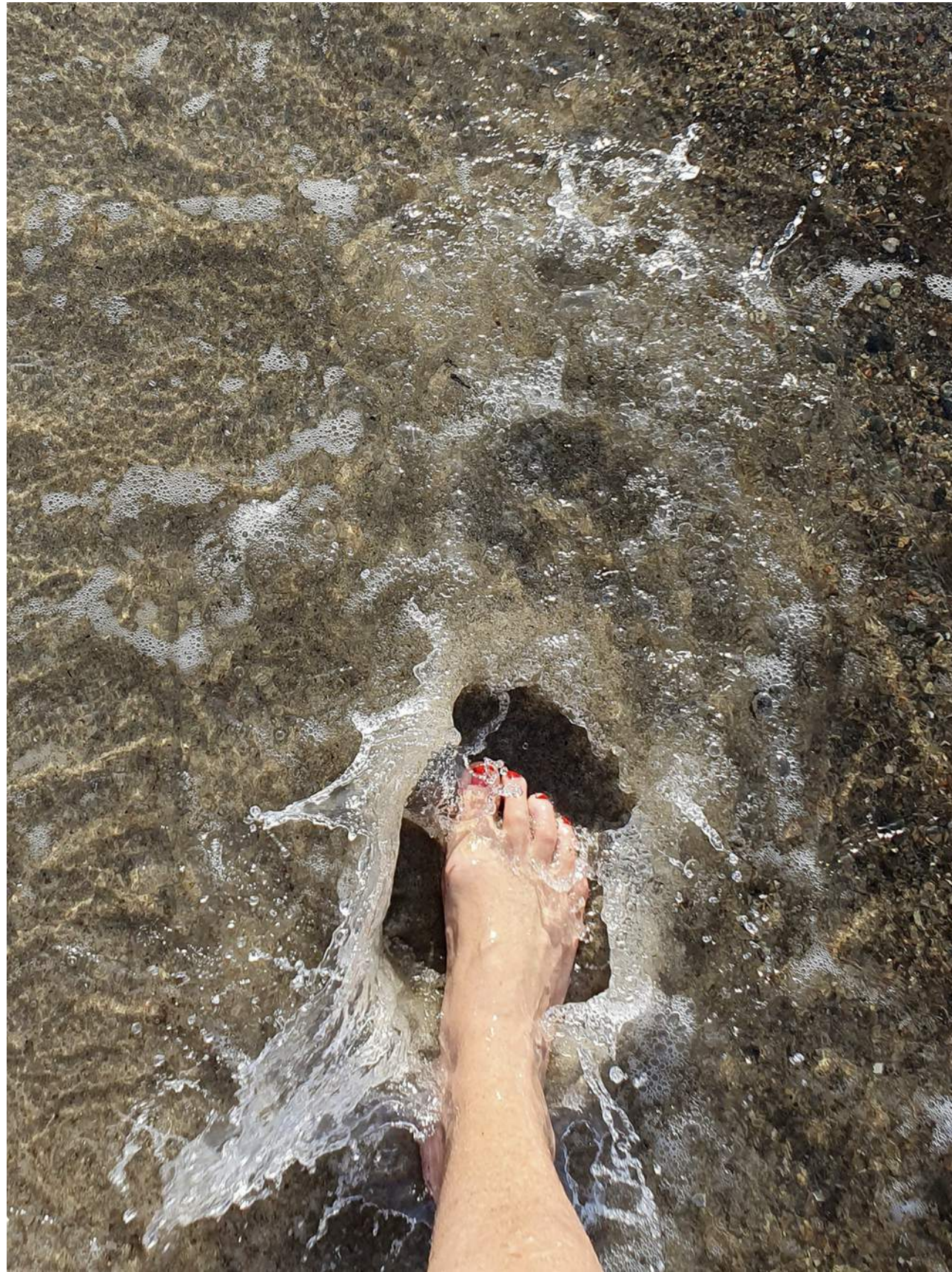
Paola showing her dedication by getting down for a low point of view. Nice composition following the rule of thirds.



Walking on Water by Natalie



Action just before the Impact by Marilyn



By Her own admission, this took a number of attempts! Almost monochromatic with just a splash of red.



In this photo, Marilyn's camera probably exposed for the overall brightness of the sky, with the result that in the original, the underside of the sail, and the people were very underexposed and dark. By using Photoshop "shadow boost" I brought out the lettering of the sail, and the appearance of the people. It is crucial to be aware of what exposure is being determined. Use the Histogram! Always expose so the the bias is towards the light (histogram to the right)



Beautiful Day by Malek



Dangerous Action by Hayam



A bit “static” for an action shot. There’s no real centre of interest, no obvious subject. The foreground is dominated by the Green pillar (garbage bin?) It’s always necessary to be aware of the total composition, and not let the main subject distract you from intrusions. Cultivate a “Whole Shot” awareness.



Good composition and definitely “action” However the photo was physically very small and low resolution. Always be sure to set your device to take the largest possible shot, (in iPhone under Settings>Camera>Formats). It’s easy to shrink things afterwards, but difficult to enlarge a small shot without losing resolution.

Contrast with Paola’s pics taken on the exact same model of camera phone, but at much larger size and resolution.



Butterfly In Water by Fatemeh



Crossing the Street of Stripes by Babs.



Using live view, Fatemeh “bracketed” the shot and then selected the best of the batch. This is a very good technique when capturing fast action. “Bracketing” means taking a series of shots varying the shutter speed and exposure each time. Most cameras can do this automatically.



Excellent use of exaggerated diagonal. We’ve talked often of how important it is to get the photo straight and level, but this picture shows how using an exaggerated “Tilt” can sometimes have very striking effects. You must be sure to make it obvious that it is an intentional tilt, not you just took the picture too quick! (Cropping and straightening post production is allowed!)



Taking The Plunge by Bill



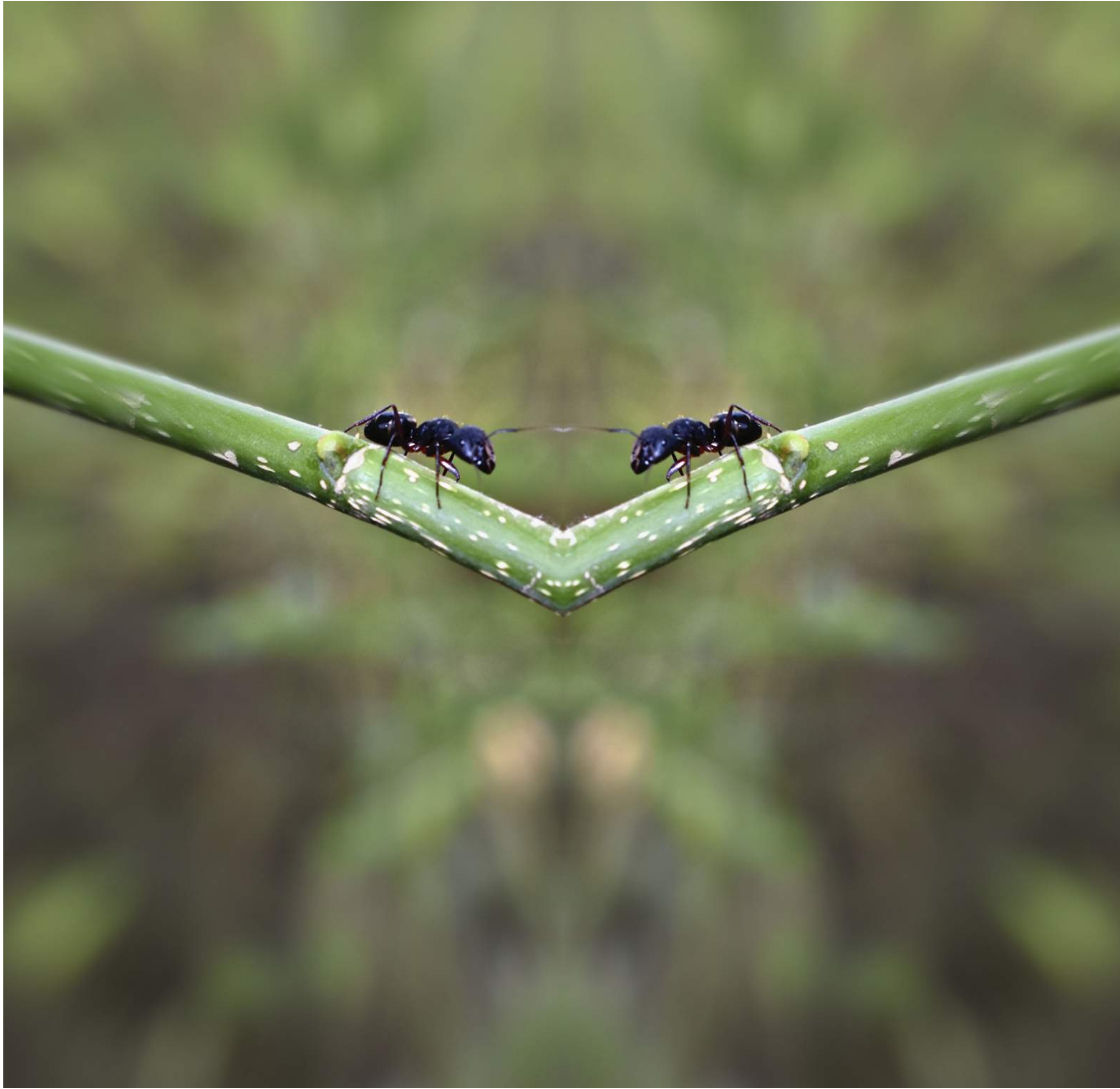
I deliberately included the spectator to the right, because the contrast of the dynamic of the divers with the passivity of the watcher adds to the impact of the photo. Again, using shadow boost, I brought out the features of the divers, while not overexposing the highlights of the white surf.



Stationary Action by Hellen



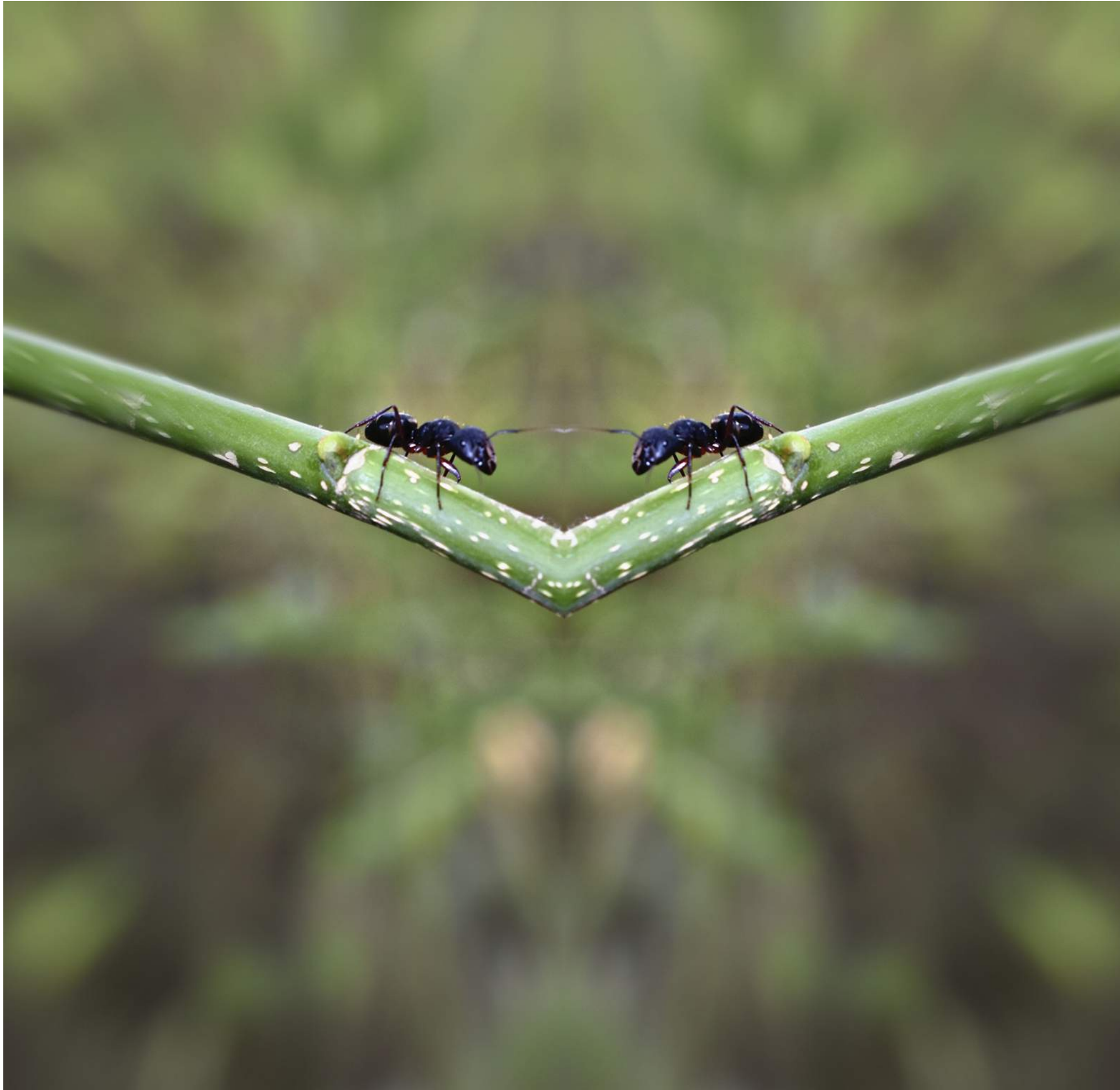
Although not specifically “action” this shows how being aware of the theme can stimulate taking a picture of something that you might otherwise ignore. I bet Hellen has walked by this a million times without it registering!



Greeting Colleagues After WFH by Richa



Before the Chaos by Paola



Clever use of editing mirror technique by Richa. Nice balance, and the mirroring has brought out a curious “Rorschach Test” feel to the bokeh’d background. Can’t you see the giant bug?



Chaos theory illustrated. Some curious artefacts in this photo, such as the “outlining” of the butterfly and odd focus effects on the plant. This may have been caused by water/dirt/oil on the lens. Always be sure to obsessively clean your lenses. Even though you may not be able to see anything on your lens, the slightest smear can dramatically affect the image.



Thirsty and Brave by Natalie



Take Action by Malek



Lovely use of Black and White. Natalie is our Monochrome Queen!



Levelling! Nothing else to say!



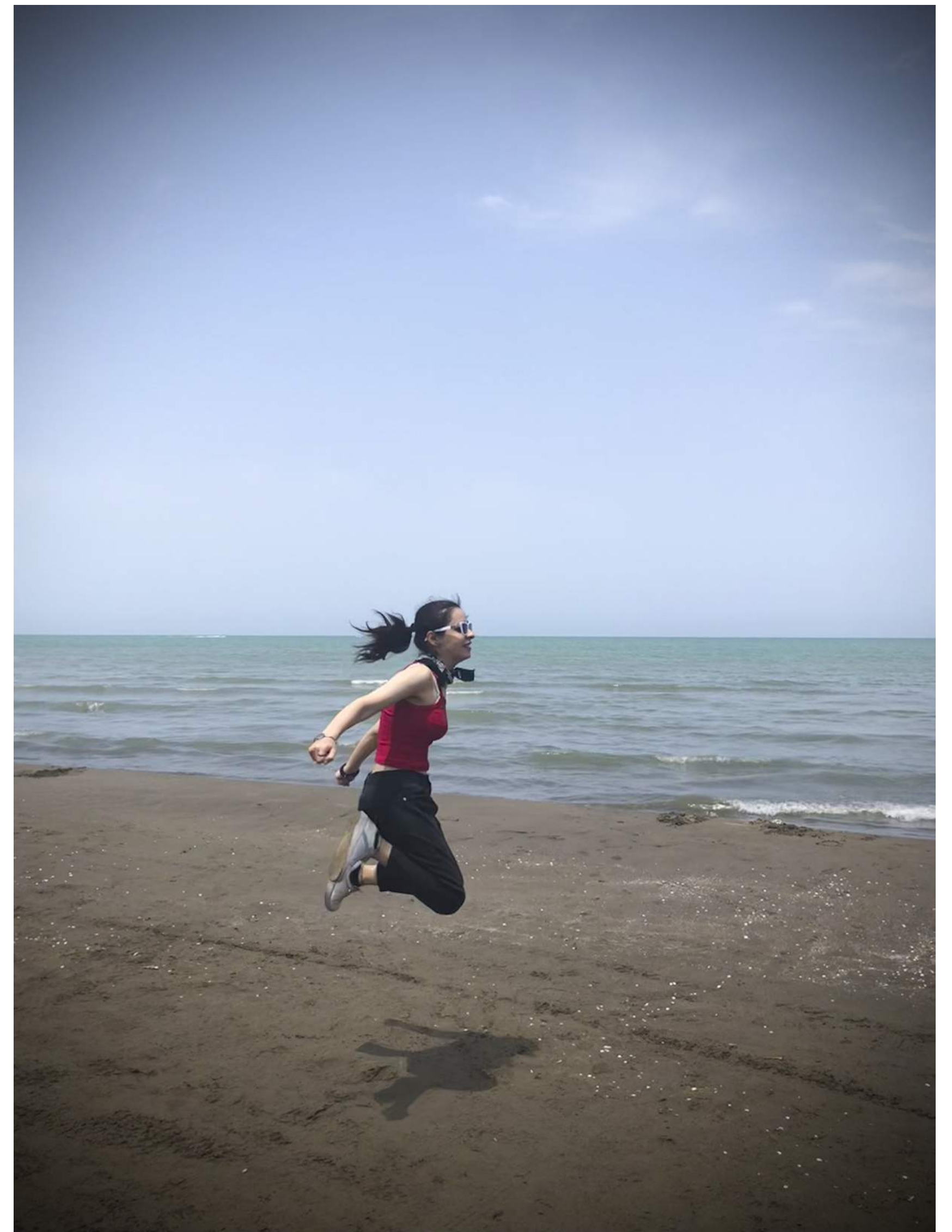
Birdies in Action by Marilyn



Nice example of impact by Repetition in the row of birds. Some discussion of whether this picture is "Too Blue". Compare with Natalie's B&W bird.



Foam Party by Hayam



Suspended by Fatemeh



Again, a very small image from the phone camera has produced loss of resolution and some fuzziness after enlarging.



Excellent! Use of “Vignetting” to focus attention on the main subject. Vignetting refers to the use of a framing device, in this case shadows in the corners. It can be done either by applying a filter in camera or subsequently using editing techniques.

Clear separation of the subject’s shadow gives good dynamism.

Fatemeh I hope your rewarded your neice for her efforts!



Anyone for (Beach) Tennis? by Bill



Copacabana Beach, Rio. World centre of Beach Sports! I like the contrast again between the passivity of the (male) watchers and the efforts of the woman. I used the “High Pass filter” effect to boost the sharpness of selected parts of the image.

“High Pass” refers to producing a very high contrast image layer, removing the color (desaturating) then applying it on top of the original image. It can only be done using post-editing programs. see <https://www.photoshopessentials.com/photo-editing/sharpen-high-pass/>

If searching on the web, be aware that high pass filter is also a term used in audio recording. If you start reading an article on audio high pass filters expecting to learn photo techniques you will be very confused!



Felled by a Fellow by Babs

Every Person Has A Story by Richa





Unfortunately Babs couldn't join us so we don't know the story behind this!

On the other hand, Rich told us the very affecting story of the domestic worker pictured here.

The darkness of the photo background was a sober example of the using photo techniques to tell the darkness of the background story.

Also shown here is the clever use of splashes of red color on the fingernails against the black and white photo to emphasise a very specific part of the story.





Marriage in The Air by Paola



Very interesting dynamic sky colors and patterns. Paola explained the title as a reference to Jacques Brel's "Ne me quitte pas"

Il est, paraît-il
Des terres brûlées
Donnant plus de blé
Qu'un meilleur avril
Et quand vient le soir
Pour qu'un ciel flamboie
Le rouge et le noir
Ne s'épousent-ils pas?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2wmKcBm4Ik>
Full lyrics here :<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/jacquesbrel/nemequittepas.html>

It seems,
That scorched lands
Give more wheat
Than the best April.

And when the evening comes,
The sky blazes.
The Red and the Black
Don't they marry?

Do Not Leave Me

Rough english translation by Bill. Seems that Paola has already won next month's theme of "Songs/Titles"



Running For Gold by Dirk



Play The Game by Hellen



Showing the use of “Flare” which technically is an aberration in the lens caused by too much light reflecting internally in the lens elements

However, carefully used, Flare can result in some very dramatic photos. To see the effect, try covering up the ray of light shooting out to the left. The picture appears far less dramatic and startling.

Usually we would try to avoid flare. In other circumstances flare can ruin a photo by producing unintended and unwanted intrusions of light.

It is possible to reproduce this effect in editing, but never really looks convincing.

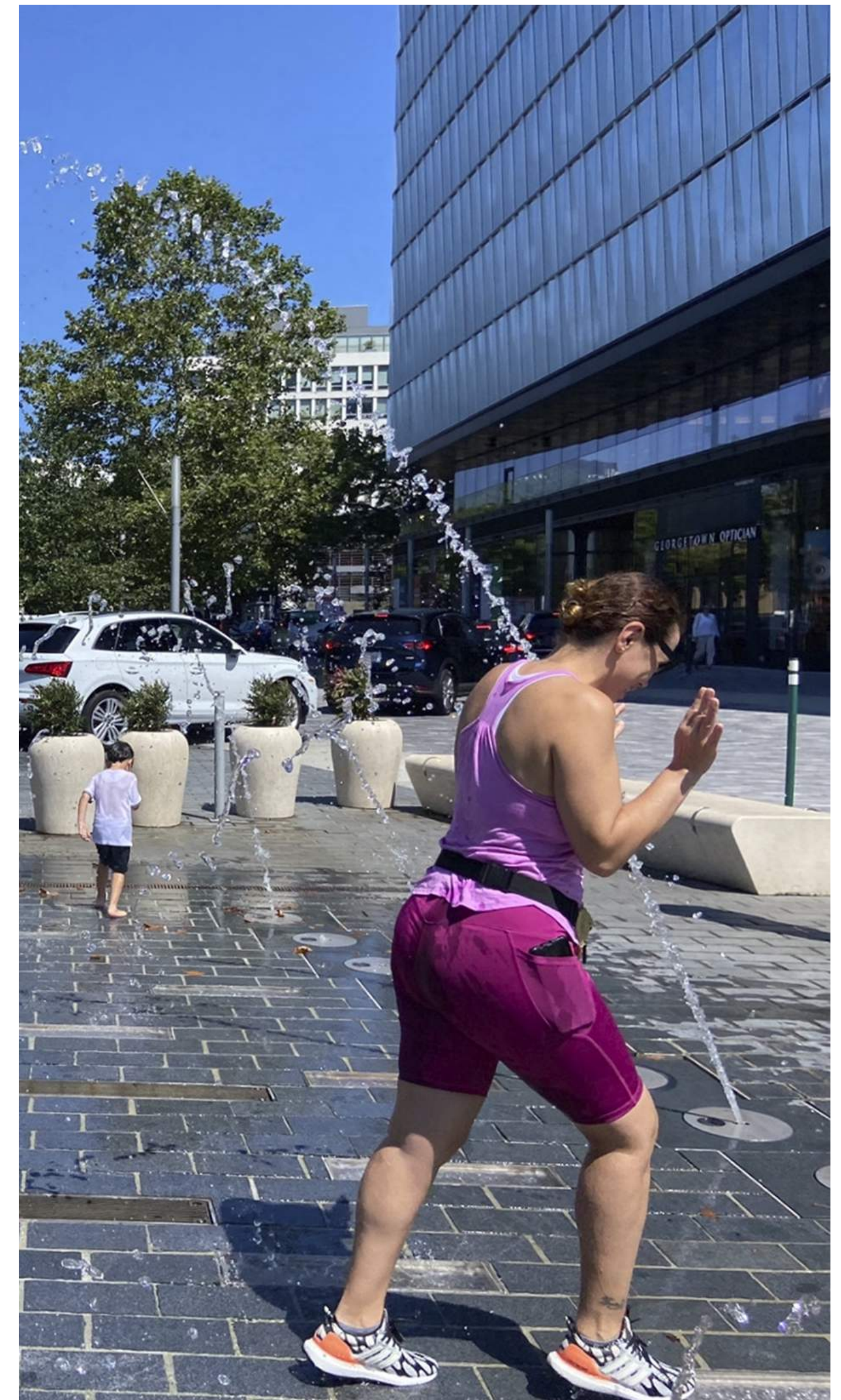
<https://petapixel.com/what-is-lens-flare/>

The second important element of this photo is not actually part of the image, and that is permission. Especially where children are concerned, many people are very averse to having photos taken. Even in this case as Dirk explained, even though it’s his own daughter, it was important to get her permission to allow the photo to be shown to the group.

Always be clear about your intentions when shooting pictures especially of potentially vulnerable people. It’s OK to shoot first and ask permission afterwards for those spontaneous moments.

Another example of a “passive” secondary subject enhancing the picture.

Hellen was also aware that the bottom of the photo is cropped unintentionally i.e., the woman’s foot is not wholly in the shot. This is explained by the instinctive tendency to put heads and faces in the centre of the shot, which nearly always results in cutting off the feet! As a general guideline, place faces/heads in the top third. Or even, get the feet in the frame, then move to incorporate the whole body, retaining the feet. Again awareness of the “whole shot”





Playground Fun by Natalie



Trying Not To Get Wet by Marilyn



Another passive/active contrast!



The only enhancement that might be possible to this would have been to have the child's face showing. However spontaneity of the moment has still produced an excellent shot.



One Way Ticket by Malek



Boys and Girls in Action by Hayam



What's to say?! Super humour, perfectly framed, lovely color, great story.



Good composition and exposure, unfortunately diminished once again by the small size and resolution inhibiting enlargement.



You Missed the Starting Gun by Bill



Blowing my own trumpet! Excellent colors, super mix of expressions and movements. The threatening/absurdity of the cannon (the starting gun!) really appealed to me. Used the High pass technique to enhance individual runners faces. Fortunately, I had seen these people coming and had plenty of time to set up for the shot.



Swan Lake by Hellen



Fireworks for the Fourth by Babs



Originally this picture had a very overall blue cast to it, probably caused by the automatic whitebalance of the camera being affected by the blue water.

I edited just the swans to get them white.

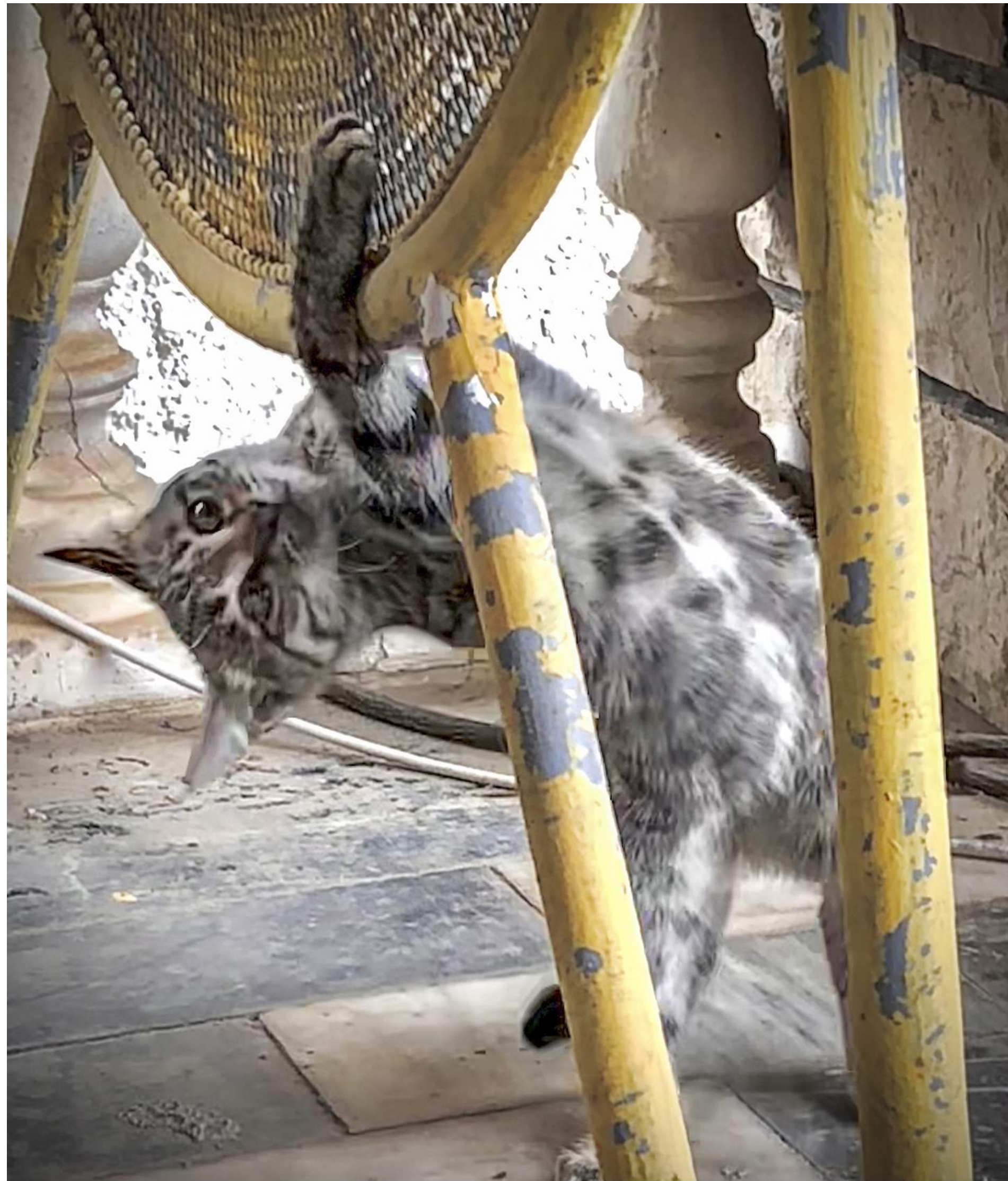
It is important to understand the white balance to get the true colors of the image. Take a picture of a pure white sheet of paper and see what color your image turns out. Then adjust the white balance to get it truly white. The white balance can be done post editing, but it's better to get it correct when you take the picture..



Fireworks are difficult – they are extremely bright and often very fast moving. It is difficult to expose correctly, since an auto exposure almost always results in a long shutter speed because the auto exposure interprets the photo as dark from the background. That results in a lot of movement both of the fireworks and of the handheld camera.

Fireworks really need a firm fixed position (a tripod) and high ISO, to allow a short shutter speed.

Nevertheless in this pic, the “wrong” conditions has resulted in an almost painterly, watercolor effect.



This month's Cat Picture! Pole Dancer by Fatemeh
You can never go wrong with cute pictures of cats!

Vote! Vote! Vote!

Send your choice of three photos (not your own) in no particular order to:
billos@pm.me

Next Month's Meeting:

Wednesday November 15th, 14:00 GMT

Theme: Your favorite Song or Book.
(see Paola's Marriage in the Air)

You can either do three pictures of one title, or three different songs/books.
Picture submission Sunday November 12th.