

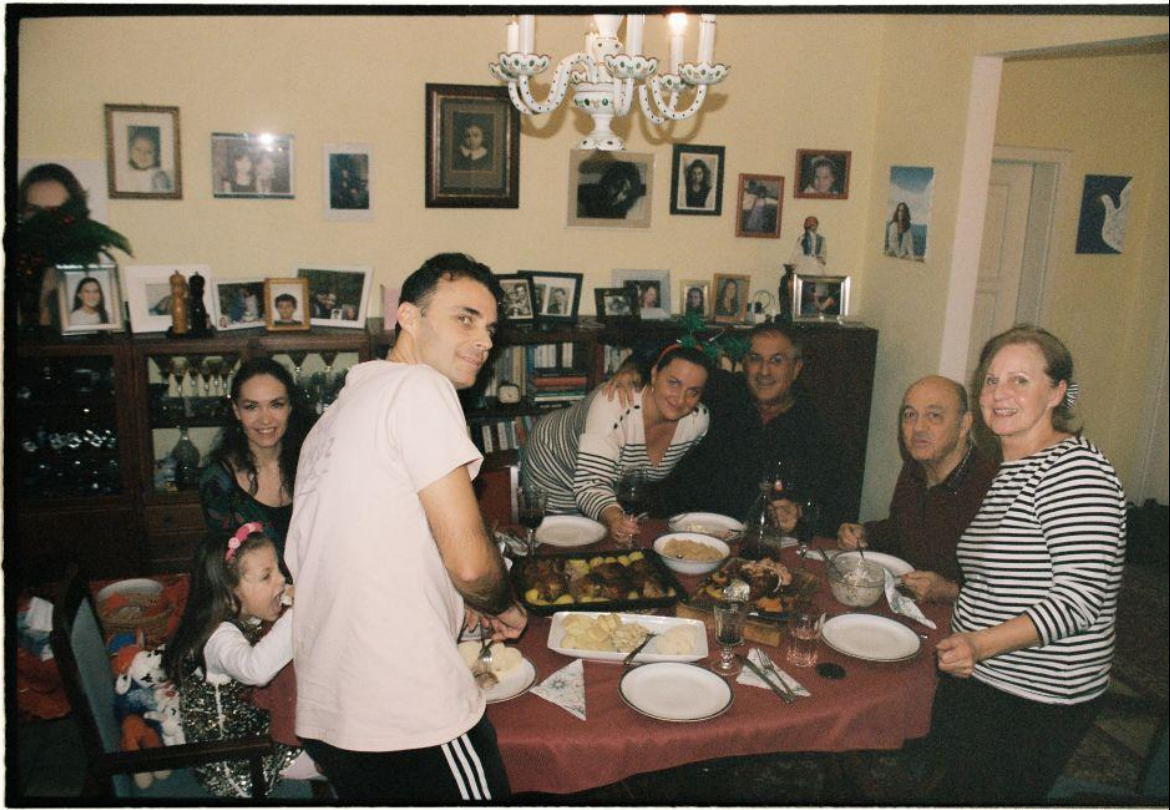
2026 Photographic Competition Finalists

1. Echoes On Platform 4



Echoes on Platform 4 captures the intersection of memory, presence, and motion. Created as a dual composite, combining two separate exposures, the image balances the crisp stillness of the solitary figure against the stark yet dynamic background motion blur of a passing train. While the train represents the unstoppable forward movement of time, the platform serves as a quiet space for reflection. This piece reflects my connection with my grandparents, contrasting the enduring bond of past generations with a reflection on how our familial roots silently shape the way we move into what comes next.

2. And Here We Will Always Be



This photograph considers the home as a living archive. Within a single frame, family photographs, inherited objects and shared rituals exist alongside three generations gathered around one table. Rather than documenting celebration, it attends to the ordinary, the repeated gestures that quietly shape family history. The youngest child, absorbed in her meal, continues the ritual without acknowledging the camera, suggesting that memory is formed not through performance but through repetition. For me, the photograph reflects the way domestic spaces preserve both presence and absence, holding the past and making space for the future.

3. What Was, What Is, What Lies Ahead



This photo represents the Past Present Future because:

In the past, she stands behind the glass untouched by the world around her. The raindrops blur her view, separating her from memories she can't escape.

In the present, she looks out with a blank expression watching the rain fall. Everything feels unclear and heavy like she is trapped behind her thoughts with no way to reach what's on the other side.

In the future, she will keep looking forward, even if the glass is still there. The rain will pass, her view will clear, and one day she will step through to whatever is waiting beyond.

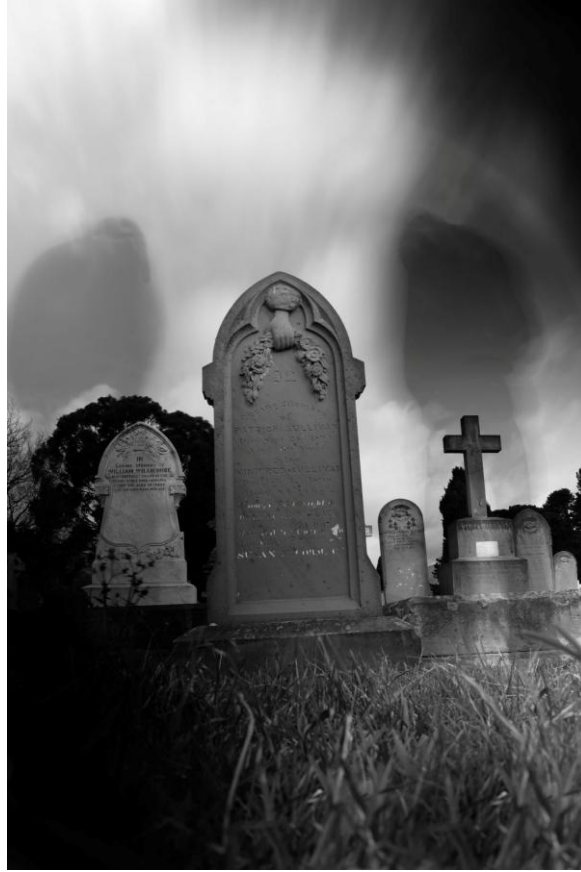
I used a clear plastic screen and sprayed water droplets on it to augment her profile whilst representing a window through rain on her face.

4. Blurred Nostalgia



My artwork explores the tension between contemporary digital photography and traditional darkroom processes. The photograph was captured on a mobile phone before being transferred onto photographic paper using an enlarger and developed through the three chemical stages of the darkroom process. Although captured in the present day, the traditional process transforms the image into something that appears to belong to another era. Its blurred aspect, monochromatic tones and imperfections evoke the visual qualities of 1970s photography, creating nostalgia within a contemporary image. I intentionally preserved fingerprints and imperfections as evidence of the physical interaction, experimentation and time involved in creating the photograph. These marks reveal the image's journey from a digital image to a processed, vintage photograph. By combining a modern image with a traditional process, I aim to preserve the physicality of traditional photography while reflecting on what may be lost as photography continues to evolve with modern techniques.

5. Life Goes On



I was on excursion with my photography class from school. We went to the Millingtons Cornelian Bay Cemetery. I decided I wanted to make a long exposure to symbolize the passing of time. I merged 2 pictures one of the sky passing by and one of me standing on 2 different spots to enhance the effect of time passing by because the 2 persons in the picture are fading away

6. Echoes Of Motion



'Echoes of Motion' explores the relationship between movement and time through the progression of a surfer. Employing a multiplicity photographic technique, I combined multiple moments from a singular wave I had photographed into a single composition, allowing separate moments in time to exist simultaneously.

Surfing's entire concept is defined by continuous movement, and the beauty of transience. Each moment prevailing briefly before becoming part of the past, and the next subsequently leading into the future. By layering these instants together, I sought to make the passage of time eminent, whilst challenging the conventional notion of surf photography as a medium that captures a singular, 'perfect' shot.

The ocean mirrors this perpetual cycle, as waves form, break, and dissolve, only for the process to begin yet again. 'Echoes of Motion' directly examines the fluidity correlating between past, present, and future, suggesting the continuity and course of surfing as an art form.

7. New Faces, Strange Places



Time; something we never have enough of. We are not guaranteed it, nor do we know how much we possess. Past, present and future all share a similar relationship with time. In order for there to be a past, time has to pass; the present is the act of time passing now, while the future is where time will take us. The complex relationship between the 3 shapes our own individual identity.

No one wants to believe their life is predetermined, yet to some extent it is. The time you first met your best friend determines your present self and, in turn, how your future will pan out. Your identity is a direct result of a blend of these. New faces, strange places is a direct commentary on this. The double exposure photograph merges two contrasting photos that are deliberately confusing for the audience. The clock clearly displays the idea of time, paired with a past sunset captured in a single moment long gone. The unconventional nature intends to represent the complex relationship of past, present and future.

8. The Yesterday Of Today



Port Arthur carries a heavy story and being there made me realise how much of Australia's history sits right alongside our modern lives. "The Yesterday of Today" explores that crossover using dramatic architecture and high-contrast backlighting. By keeping the observer in shadow against the history brickwork, the photo looks back at where we came from while asking how that past stays with us as we move into the future.

9. Stuck In the Past



The future is swiftly approaching. The walls are closing in. There is so little time left. And so much you have to do. These fleeting moments; they will decide the course of your natural life. The clock cares not for your idea of a comfortable present. The future is anxious to get underway. And yet you are still stuck in the past. You feel as if there is still something missing. Something left behind. Something instrumental to who you once were. Something that has not been a part of your for a long time. You cannot bear the present and you shy away at the thought of the future. You cannot find what you are looking for. You must move on.

Stuck In The Past is a conceptual work that is inspired by the feelings of procrastination and nostalgia. Nostalgia for the past, nostalgia for who you once were. Stuck In the Past is the vision of a world without future. Time is stuck in the present and your mind daydreams of the past. You procrastinate and hold off the future as long as you can. And each time you do it gets a little bit harder to move forward.

The subject reaches out to touch the past fondly but is just out of reach. The past is past. He is trapped on the other side of the glass. In the present. Turning his back to the future.

10. The Canal



This photo represents my Past, Present and Future through its subject matter and photographic techniques. I chose to capture the canal out the front of my house to portray the competition's theme. It has been a constant in my life from my past up until now. The blurred features and presence of the canal represent the past, the nostalgia I feel looking back at the fleeting memories I have shared with this setting. The colours and presence of the same canal in this photograph represent the now, how it has been with me and still is and the colourful nature of living in the present. Then, in the distance, are two faintly light-painted figures, one red and one yellow, that portray the future: visible yet intangible. Through this work's thoughtful composition and personal connection, it mirrors the theme of Past, Present and Future