

2017 IAPBP IMAGE COMPETITION FEEDBACK

****PLEASE NOTE:** Feedback is not given in the same area of the ballot as a vote. Judges can comment on any photo, whether they vote for it or not. Just because feedback is given does not mean that the judge voted for that particular image. Judges were not required to leave feedback on their ballots and they were made aware their feedback would be shared with those who entered.**



002 | Laboring Warrior
- Ashlan Taylor -

Such a beautiful image—and one I really want to know the story behind.
- Catherine Pearson



003 | Small Comforts
- Megan Bowen -

Lovely peek into their world! Great composition and lighting.
- Lena Hyde



008 | Almost born in the car!
- Dianne Hamre -

This looks right out of a magazine.
- Dawn Thompson



009 | Pieces of Me
- Kourtne Scholz -

I love the story this shows and tells. The tattoo of the puzzle piece drew me in before I put all of the pieces together: the placenta, baby gazing up at mama and then mama covering her breast keeping that piece of her private. The viewpoint, framing and care in the detail of this capture are all stunning.
- Darren Mattock



010 | A Sister Is Born
- Rebecca Coursey -

This is just a beautiful color photo. Very expressive on its face. I love this shot.
- Stuart Fischbein



013 | And The Light Poured In
- Rebecca Coursey -

It feels like I'm there... the light is so beautiful. Just how babies were born in ancient times, at the break of dawn.
- Rebecca Dekker



018 | Euphoria, Triumph, & Baby May
- Kayla Gonzales -

Captures that amazing moment!
- Rebecca Dekker



025 | Joyful Finale
- Elise Hurst -

The photographer captured an incredible moment of victory and pure joy of the mother. You can feel the love and happiness radiating out of the photograph!
- Tina Beckett

You see a lot of joyful photographs at birth but this works for me because it looks like its a few minutes after the baby came and she's still so excited. However to make this stronger, I would like to see far more expression on the people in the background as they are included in the composition.
- Jenna Shouldice



039 | Hello Before Goodbye
- Sarah Boccolucci -

Really pulled at me. It is such a powerful photo, and I can only guess the story based on the title. I just didn't find it to be composed in an original way, BUT I get that the power of this photo is not in it being a unique angle or lit differently. I guess this would also be my nomination for Honorable Mention.
- Lena Hyde



043 | Birth in Colour
- Hannah Palamara -

Wonderful capture!
- Lena Hyde



045 | Three's Not A Crowd
- Megan Bowen -

Simply fantastic. This image has it all.
- Lena Hyde



059 | This is Life
- Paige Driscoll -

Very moving, great shot.
- Stuart Fischbein



067 | With A Splash
- Elizabeth Farnsworth -

My heart lead me away from staged photos this year and more toward candids and in the moment shots. And BOY was this the ultimate in the moment shot! Technically, I found the picture composed perfectly.

Contrast, and sharpness were all on point, and the use of light was great. Great job with shutter speed in such a dark space. What spoke to me the most, though, was the story!

The doctor's face was so calm in the face (ha!) of that moment. Love that we can see hands supporting mom off to the side and nurses waiting in the background. Beautiful photo!

- Jill Krause

WOW. We spend a lot of time looking at birth photos at HuffPost Parents, and I've never seen an image like this.

- Catherine Pearson

The doctor isn't even phased. This cracks me up.

- Jenna Shouldice



069 | Between Worlds
- Kimberly Hammond -

Incredible timing.
- Dawn Thompson



070 | Reaching out for mom
- Diana Hinek -

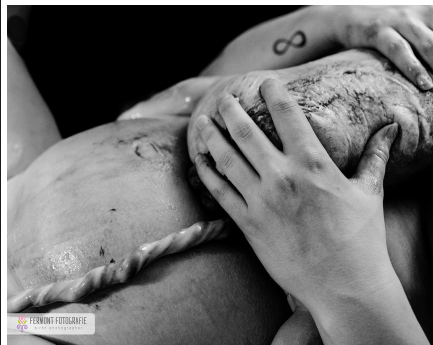
Technical and composition are excellent.
- Stuart Fischbein



073 | Gentle Caesarean Birth
- Belle Verdiglione -

Really nice to see a C-section being shot so beautifully!
- Catherine Pearson

Detail, detail, detail! I love all the detail! The contrast and sharpness are so good here. Love that the image is not overly smooth. Lighting on babies face, highlighting that newborn smoosh, all the way down to the wrinkles in mom's tummy skin- so good. I love that this is not the typical CS photo of baby lifted over the curtain, baby in the air. I love this peaceful moment that almost makes you forget half that baby is still inside the womb.
- Jill Krause



082 | To infinity and beyond
- Marry Fermont -

This image is perfect as a B+W! I love the light, detail and rawness of this capture. And of course, the infinity symbol there in the background anchoring the moment with an expression of infinite love in this tender early moment of bonding and connection.
- Darren Mattock

So many beautiful details in one shot; the cord, the tattoo, the vernix, .. Love it!
- Marijke Thoen



100 | First Look by New Dad
- Sharona Steed -

Really moving photograph capturing real emotion.
- Stuart Fischbein



111 | Surrounded by her boys
- Cat McAteer -

The composition on this is incredible. There is SO MUCH story in this one shot.

Absolutely LOVE that you captured the whole family, the support person, AND that encouraging banner hanging in front of the room. I think B&W was the perfect choice for this, and you did a great job keeping all the details clear and exposed well despite having a few lighting situations happening in one shot.

- Jill Krause



116 | Within Herself
- Veronika Richardson -

I just keep coming back to this one. It's different than most photographs taken at a birth and tugs at you. It's very editorial.

- Jenna Shouldice



125 | Overcome with joy after catching his son.
- Jaydene Freund -

Most emotional too me.

- Dawn Thompson



126 | Joy
- Erin Heuser -

Sweet moment that tugs at your heart when you read the caption... but I didn't chose it based on technical execution. The use of lighting distracts from the content (the foreground is too bright) and the moments on either parents faces could be better. I would like this photograph to tell me what's going on without a caption.
- Jenna Shouldice



127 | Proud Big Sister
- Jaydene Freund -

I ultimately didn't chose this one because of technical. It's too washed out for me and distracts from the photograph. Otherwise it's quite sweet.
- Jenna Shouldice



134 | Above-body Experience
- Danica Donnelly -

Nice perspective....this image really draws you in.
- Lena Hyde



137 | She Rises in Strength
- Katie Lewis -

So much emotion and power here!
- Lena Hyde



141 | Reflections of a Homebirth
- Catherine Brown -

Just incredibly well seen!
- Michele Anderson



148 | Road to Deliverance
- Jaydene Freund -

I connect with the passion and pain in this mother. Without seeing her belly, we know what is happening. The setting is interesting and stressful knowing they are rushing to the hospital. The composition make me feel like I am in the car with this mother. The crinkle around her eyes and nose, wide open mouth, her husband reaching out to her and her arm grabbing the assist handle all help tell the story.
- Molly Flanagan

Love the use of shallow depth of field here that focuses on all the intense detail in moms face. That's exactly the face I imagine I'd make if I was in late stage labor in the car! Lighting and composition are great, especially considering the photog had limited space to work in. Love that we can see the driver (dad?) supporting her up front, and we still get to see her other arm supporting herself. A technically great photo that tells a wonderful story.
- Jill Krause

This would have been much better had the photographer used a higher aperture.
- Jenna Shouldice

Wow. Incredible capture and emotion.
- Michele Anderson

I love everything about this. The rawness of mama's expression - body, mind and soul - highlighted by the B+W and light. The viewpoint allows the physicality of the moment to captured in the whole frame. I felt like I was inside the car. Just brilliant! I love how this also shines a light on some the reals of birth.
- Darren Mattock



153 | Untitled2
- Sisel Lan -

It's peaceful and a touch lonely, too. After the work of birth is done, sometimes, it does feel like the mom is alone for a bit.
- Michele Anderson



154 | From The Water She Soared
- Breanna Merryman -

The viewpoint, light and framing are awesome for this capture! Again, the tattoo tells a story and the light draws you right to the wings. And without it, we wouldn't be able to see the water. Bravo!
- Darren Mattock



161 | Before the first breath
- Karen Dalton -

I love the light and detail in this capture. The capture of baby's face in detail near the surface before being brought up to mama for that first miraculous breath is spectacular.
- Darren Mattock

It's almost alien-like...that blue glow in the water and the clear vision of the baby's face. Beautifully done.
- Michele Anderson



168 | As she rose from the depths into the hands of love
- Hannah Palamara -

What a moment! Great use of shadow and light. Great B&W conversion. Love that the detail is so good we can see water droplets on mom's arm.
- Jill Krause



174 | Ascension
- Lucy Pryor -

love the atmosphere of this one (and the trolley in the background is a funny detail :-))
- Marijke Thoen



189 | Birth Waterfall
- Michelle Collins -

This image grabbed me as the pick of similarly themed images. I love the rawness of the moment, the colour, perspective and quality of the moment capture. The detail is exceptional!
- Darren Mattock

There were a lot of waterfall photos this year, but this one was my favorite!
- Rebecca Dekker



198 | The Comforting Last Kiss To Her First Baby.
- Samantha Noel -

This is a good moment but the photographer could have used their body to compose differently to make it more effective. I wasn't drawn INTO the image enough to pick it as a winner.
- Jenna Shouldice



220 | I've been waiting for you
- Vanessa Mendez -

loved the pure emotion!
- Michele Anderson



230 | It Takes a Village
- Alanna Farmer -

I love how the birth professionals and midwives are having so much fun while mother remains so focused
- Rebecca Dekker

This one really made me laugh and I wonder who was stronger.. the mother or the lady on the left :-)
- Marijke Thoen

I loved this one but in the end the two people on the right didn't have enough expression for me. Had the photographer stuck with this shot for longer until all 5 faces where expressive it would have been that much stronger.
- Jenna Shouldice



242 | In These Hands, I Hold My Heart.
- Veronika Richardson -

Sweet, yet dramatic capture. An image to treasure.
- Lena Hyde



245 | All of her, all for them
- Monet Moutrie -

This stands out to me among the new post partum photographs because of the two nursing children. And the mother's expression seems more natural than some others.
- Jenna Shouldice



256 | Push and Pull
- Mary Nieland -

Good conversion, great light. The composition is wonderful, filling the frame beautifully with all of the essential parts of the story. I like the father's hands gently holding her and the way she is pushing her chin on his fist. Including her arm grabbing the bed frame in the foreground leads the viewer into the image and makes us connect with the pain and beauty in her face. The lines of the father's arms, the mother's arms, and the striped linens all lead the viewer to the mother's face. The detail of the curled cord on the right of the frame is a lovely bonus that completes a perfect story.
- Molly Flanagan



273 | Waves Within Waves
- Jennifer Mason -

I love that the lens is partially in the water.
- Michele Anderson



266 | The journey begins
- Catie Stephens -

Lot of similar images to this one and this one was standing out.
- Marijke Thoen



292 | Catching Her Baby, Born Via Surrogacy
- Leilani Rogers -

I love the emotions and de light in this image.
- Marijke Thoen

A little note, it looks like this photo is retouched. If so I find that unnecessary and distracting. Otherwise I like the moment.
- Jenna Shouldice

This has it all.
- Dawn Thompson



268 | 17 Years of Waiting: A Non-Fertility Miracle
- Neely Ker-Fox -

Beautiful, dramatic capture.
- Lena Hyde



298 | A Toe-Curling Contraction
- Leilani Rogers -

I can *feel* the contraction through just this one image.
- Michele Anderson



303 | Nothing Left
- Jen Conway -

You can feel for the mom in this one.
- Jenna Shouldice



331 | AMOR MEU
- Barbara Aviz -

So much emotion and PRIDE in mom's eyes!
- Michele Anderson



345 | Hot
- Coletivo Buriti -

I can feel the heat.
- Michele Anderson



353 | Sibling Love
- Melissa Wilson -

I love the contrast in this photo.
- Dawn Thompson



363 | Birth of a Mother
- Cat Fancote -

Perfect image, beautiful light
- Marijke Thoen



366 | Straight from Heaven
- Natasha Hance -

Birth is not exactly a peaceful event, so to capture such a peaceful and other-worldly image in the midst of it all is impressive. The reflections on the water indeed look like the heavens. I love the framing, the clarity, and the use of light and color.
- Michele Anderson



386 | Anxiously waiting
- Diana Bertrand -

I just love the emotions displayed here, overt and subtle. The focus on the young daughter and the look on her face that is captured in this home birth is precious and moves me. Makes me think about the future generation. It is a technically difficult shot and framed just right. Black and white often helps but is not the most important feature here.
- Stuart Fischbein



387 | Island of Serenity
- Christine Prichard -

love this complex composition. The mother's gaze feels otherworldly surrounded by the busy medical staff. The details of the two attendants in the foreground on either side of the mother add depth. This is an interesting and unique perspective.
- Molly Flanagan



399 | As the sun came up we welcomed you
- Rana Rankin -

Love that baby is centered and lit well, fading into mom's embrace and then dad's. Great job eliminating distractions from the story in the moment. I really like the mom's tattoos are on display, and love the symmetry.
- Jill Krause



414 | En caul, posterior, nuchal hand surprise babe
- KimBerly Eckhardt -

This is rare and stunning capture of baby en caul captured beautifully in detail with wonderful light, perspective and framing. Just wow!!!

- Darren Mattock

just amazing!

- Marijke Thoen

for composition and subject matter well captured

- Stuart Fischbein



438 | Love in the Dark
- Jessica Peterson -

The use of backlight and the emotion in dad's eyes got me.

- Michele Anderson



423 | Woman All over the world are Birthing with me
- Ashley Marston -

Captures the moment perfectly. Excellent B&W composition. Like I am there.

- Stuart Fischbein



456 | A Little Light Here Please
- Lauren Kamenitz -

ah, technology!

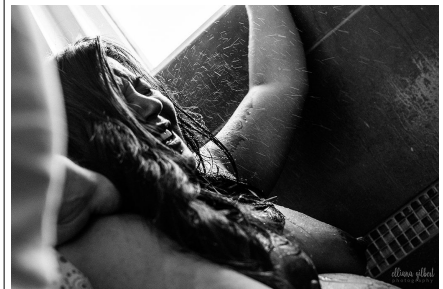
- Michele Anderson



427 | Just Born, and peacefully taking in her world
- Ashley Marston -

Love the peaceful feeling of this first moment of bonding. Beautiful point of view, angle and natural placement of baby and mama. Well done!

- Lena Hyde



463 | Droplets of Mercy
- Elliana Gilbert -

This capture is stunning as a B+W! The light and shadow so the droplets feature is stunning. The rawness, beauty and vulnerability of this moment make this outstanding!

- Darren Mattock



**465 | The Joy Of Giving Birth
Surrounded By Love**
- Zura Lagarde -

I enjoy the context in this photograph. It's not just the photographer zooming in on the mom, but including the setting and the support to give a better sense of the moment.
- Jenna Shouldice

The emotion in this is everything! I appreciate that this is likely a spontaneous kiss from dad, and not a staged one. Love seeing all those supporting hands in the frame.
- Jill Krause



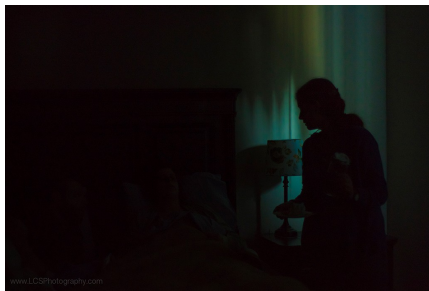
488 | First Touch
- Sarah Stanley -

What a great, spontaneous moment! And the lighting is divine. Skin tones and color are beautiful.
- Jill Krause



**489 | The shock of finally holding baby
in your arms**
- Rebekah Mustaleski -

I liked the comedy in this image. A unique perspective!
- Molly Flanagan



491 - Attending by winter's light
- Christine Scott -

Unsung heroines of birth...midwives and doulas. They work long and strange hours. I can relate to this image.
- Michele Anderson



498 | Budding Birth Photographer
- Tammy Schmit -

Incredible job fitting so much into the photo. Love that both siblings are off to the side. The lighting on mom's belly is perfect! And I like this in color, am glad you didn't convert to B&W or we'd have missed that they are a family of red heads. Lovely moment, composed beautifully.
- Jill Krause



505 | Alondra's birth - Future big sister
- Albany J. Alvarez -

I love the story captured in this moment. The look of awe on future baby sister's face, dad's smile while he is right in there and this bonded moment in everyone's becoming moment. Although this clearly is future big sister's capture! ;)
- Darren Mattock

This stands out for me, as you don't usually see a child that intimately involved in a birth. It's a moment you don't get all the time. She's not only present for her siblings birth but so enchanted by what's happening it looks as though she doesn't notice anyone else in the room. Usually you see this on a caregivers face or a support person but here it is a child and that makes it out of the ordinary for me. The technical is also done well in not just how the photographer used their camera, but where they stood and what moment they chose to photograph. Obviously, if I could see a baby's head it would be just that much more interesting, but it still stands out for me. I think this photo would still be interesting outside of a birth specific competition and that's what appeals to me.
- Jenna Shouldice

Color and skin tones here are so beautiful. Love the composition that puts sister's face right in the middle with the story being told around her. The emotion in her face is what grabbed me immediately.
- Jill Krause

loved the look on big sister's face!
- Michele Anderson



541 | The New 1 AM
- Ingrid Wilson -

I love the touch of humor here. And you can see the teamwork and love, even though the parents are not the focus of the **image**.
- Michele Anderson



555 | Daddy deployed
- Tammy Schmit -

Incredible capture showing what technology can make possible!
- Michele Anderson



561 | New Baby Bliss
- Robin Baker -

Gorgeous portrait.
- Lena Hyde



573 | Approaching life
- Deborah Elenter -

Of all of the 'emerging' themed images this year, this one stood out for me. I was hooked by the artistic beauty of the capture and the incredible richness of detail.
- Darren Mattock

Remarkable capture! Almost abstract in form.
- Lena Hyde



574 | proud Papa bears!
- sean sue -

this tells a story
- Dawn Thompson



575 | A kiss to calm the unrelenting surges.
- Krista Evans -

beautiful moment captured!
- Michele Anderson



582 | Unapologetically real
- Krista Evans -

real, beautiful, and even a little bit sexy, oddly enough.
- Michele Anderson



588 | Contemplation
- Jane McCrae -

I just love this kid, filling up the tub as if it's no big deal. This is interesting to me because it's a moment you just don't see very often.
- Jenna Shouldice

I love the atmosphere and how the boy is probably as sleepy as his sister in the background but still dedicated to filling up the pool
- Marijke Thoen

Colors, setting, real life captured well.
- Stuart Fischbein

Story of a family
- Rebecca Dekker



623 | My whole world
- Leslie Sullivan -

Beautiful B & W shot, with composition and emotion caught just right.
- Stuart Fischbein



642 | All in the family
- Lindsay Askins -

I love this one, this one really jumped out of the over 600 images for me straight away.
- Marijke Thoen