



© TARU RANTALA

Garden variety

AP presents a gallery from 2015's **International Garden Photographer of the Year**

Rowan with red berries
Taru Rantala
Finalist - Trees, Woods & Forests
1 Taru's image makes use of the beautiful warm light, a result of the image being taken one autumn evening. The subtle abstract element of the out-of-focus leaves works perfectly to frame the main subject of the berries

The International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY) competition was launched in 2007 as a way of demonstrating that some of the most beautiful photographs can be taken just a few steps from your back door. Gardens are host to a number of subjects that can pay dividends for any keen photographer. While areas such as national parks and public gardens do feature in the competition, it's the images taken in the carefully nurtured green space of people's homes that are particularly

striking. The competition is also notable for showing just how versatile garden photography can be – landscape, still-life and wildlife all feature prominently.

Here we take a look at some of our favourite images from the 2015 competition, a selection that will hopefully inspire you to explore the areas that surround your own home.

If you would like to see the full range of winning images that were entered, visit www.igpoty.com to see what took the judges' fancy.

© MAGDALENA WASICZEK

The ballerinas **Magdalena Wasiczek** Overall winner

2 This stunning image of *Hydrangea petiolaris* is a worthy winner of International Garden Photographer of the Year,' says judge Clive Nichols. 'What I particularly like about the shot is the way the photographer has melted the rich purples and oranges of the hydrangea into the out-of-focus background, creating a delicious melange of colours. The focus on the single delicate hydrangea flower is spot on, creating a striking and unusual winter portrait.'





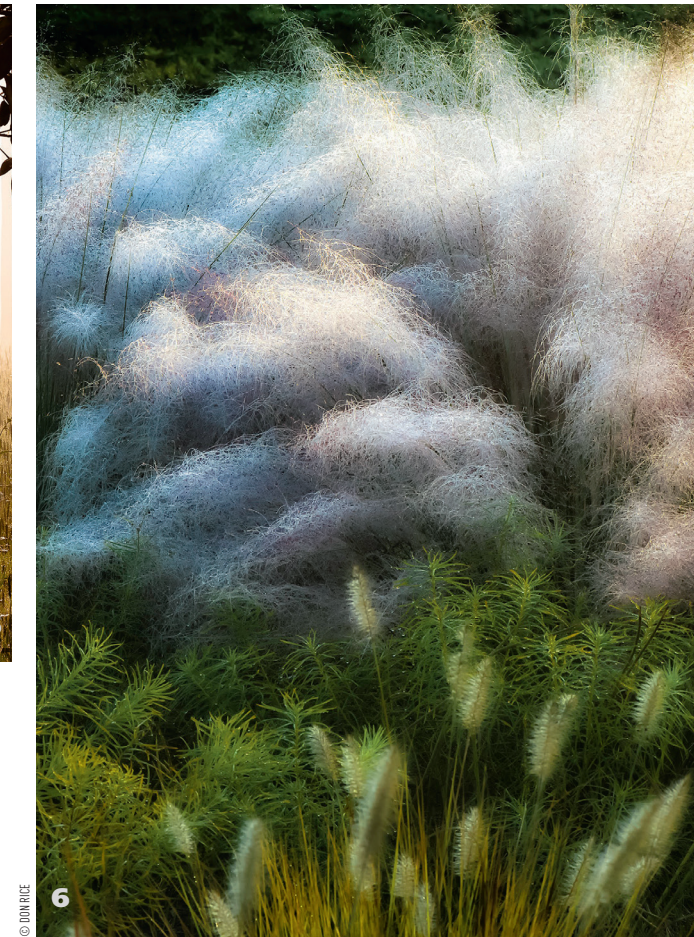
© STEPHEN MOORE
3



© ANIL SUD
4



© DON RICE
5



© DON RICE
6



© SYBILLE PIETREK
12

End of the day
Stephen Moore
The Beauty of Plants
- Finalist

3 Stephen has utilised the rays of the setting sun illuminating his garden shed as a perfect complementary background to the vivid red of the poppy.

Vase with dahlias
Sibylle Pietrek
The Beauty of Plants
- 2nd place

12 Sibylle, using flowers in her sister's home, has created an evocative and classic still-life shot using just natural light.

Breeze
Jacky Parker
The Beauty of Plants
- 3rd place

4 This shot of a spring-flowering *Anemone coronaria* 'De Caen' group blue flower features both stillness in the stamens and movement in the petals.

Portraits of iris
Don Rice
Portfolios
- Finalist

11 Don lit this image using a combination of a Speedlight configured as a remote with the camera's flash as a non-firing master and window light.

Tree in fog
Anil Sud
Breathing Spaces
- 3rd place

5 The strength of Anil's shot lies in the striking graphic quality of the solitary tree against the crawling ethereal glow of the soft light that permeates the fog.

Spiral
Stefano Coltelli
Macro Art
- 3rd place

10 When you break down this shot to its most basic components, you begin to see the virtue in creating clear and precise graphic images.

Muhly grass
Don Rice
The Beauty of Plants
- Finalist

6 The plumes of muhly grass are normally pink, but here they are covered with heavy dew, backlit by the morning sun in this kinetic shot from Don.

Parallelism
Jefflin Ling
Monochrome -
1st place

9 Jefflin used the Gradient tool in Photoshop to create this striking abstract and image of bamboo in Malaysia.

Empusa pennata
Patrick Goujon
Wildlife in the Garden
- 1st place

7 Patrick has employed striking bokeh here. The circle of light is the sun reflecting off a leaf - a great canvas on which to capture the conehead mantis.

Reflection
Beth Buglione
Trees, Woods
& Forests
- Finalist

8 The reflection in this Colorado river has given the colours of the leaves an opportunity to intensify.



© STEFANO COLTELLI
11



© JEFFLIN LING
10



© BETH BUGLIONE
8



© PATRICK GOUJON
7





© PAUL MARCELLINI



© STEPHEN DAVIS

Celestial cypress
Paul Marcellini
Trees, Woods & Forests - 3rd place

13 Paul has combined the two strongest elements of this scene: the uniquely shaped cypress tree and the vast expanse of the Milky Way.

Winter shadows
Stephen Davis
Trees, Woods & Forests - Finalist

14 While the light is beautiful, the real thing to note here is the still-living trees contrasted against the dead stag-headed English oak at the bottom.

Palm house
Zerina Kaps Young GPOTY - 1st place

15 Here we see the benefit of combining a striking graphic subject with black & white photography. This is an endlessly fascinating image, one in which the viewer can lose themselves.

Butterfly heaven
Sarah-Fiona Helme
Wildlife in the Garden - Finalist

16 A small white butterfly feeds on the powder-blue flowers of the forget-me-not. The focus is spot-on here.



© ZERINA KAPS



© SARAH-FIONA HELME

Exhibition 8 from the eighth International Garden Photographer of the Year is on show until 5 April 2015 at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB. Tel: 0208 332 5655. Website: www.kew.org. A book will also be published on 1 March, priced £18.99