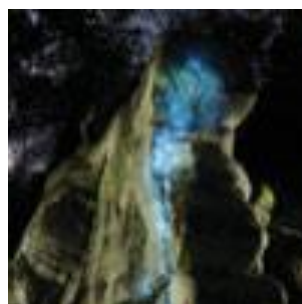
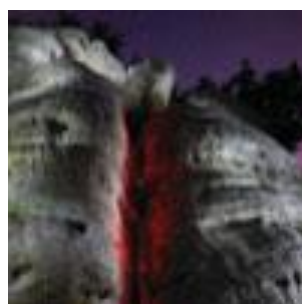
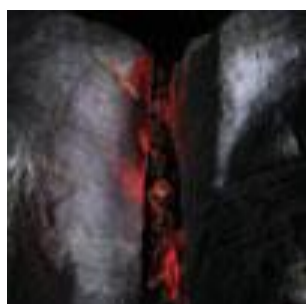


2012 BANFF MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS

GRAND PRIZE WINNER - NEAL GRUNDY

"Night Climbing documents a series of popular climbs undertaken in the Central Weald area of South East England. This series was created over the past three years, with each image exposed for up to an hour in order to fully capture the ambiance of the sky and the light trails from stars. The popularity of these outcrops has proved costly to the soft textured sandstone, which has quickly eroded through wear and tear. In the six years I have climbed at these sandstone outcrops their contrasting and evolving beauty has consistently overwhelmed me. By producing these images at night, I sought to recreate the juxtaposition of natural and man-made forms. Whilst the images were exposed, climbers ascended the route using head torches, rendering the climb significantly more difficult. Areas of concentrated light indicate the more difficult 'crux' moves of the routes."

Neal Grundy first began experimenting with long exposure photography and the painting with light technique over fifteen years ago whilst studying for a BA in Photography at the Falmouth College of Arts. He has always maintained a passion for night-time long exposure photography, which affords him a paradox of creativity and artistic control. His love affair with rock climbing began six years ago; this latest project is his first to combine his two main passions, photography and climbing.
www.nealgrundy.co.uk



SPECIAL MENTION - SANDRO SEDRAN

LIGHTS IN THE DARK

“Photographic documentation of underground caves is very difficult to achieve because of the hostile environment encountered. The mud, the water, the 100% humidity are great enemies of the equipment, which must be carefully protected, also against the countless knocks while hauling the bags. The decision to take a picture involves the unpacking of all the gear, often while in the middle of a narrow passage, or over a pit, or in water, and each time there is enormous danger of damaging the equipment. Like astronauts, cavers explore the heart of Mother Earth following the ‘rivers of the night’ and discover the hidden routes of that most precious and basic of human needs: potable water. Thousands of caving teams around the globe have to overcome countless difficulties, but often their reward is truly a feast for the eyes.”

Sandro Sedran was born in Venice, Italy in 1967 and works as an IT technician. Through his love of the Dolomite Mountains he discovered the wonderful world of the underground, and began caving on a regular basis. Over the years his main activity has been to document the caves of northeastern Italy, and this work has resulted in two guide books. Combining his caving experience and his love of photography, he began with a compact camera and more recently with more sophisticated reflex cameras. Caving is not an individual activity, and while working in a completely dark environment, Sandro is lucky to have a cohesive group of friends – the S-Team – who help him with the positioning of lights and posing as models to highlight the scale and grandeur of the underground environment.
www.esse-team.blogspot.it

