



StreetSolstice 2017

an Observation by Paul Malone

StreetSolstice 2017

It is that Season again.

As the Earth reaches the solstice of its orbit, clearing the city streets of their more pedestrian elements, it falls to the structures of light to inhabit these spaces. This collection of images, taken on my milk round, covers London’s Bankside and South Bank districts.

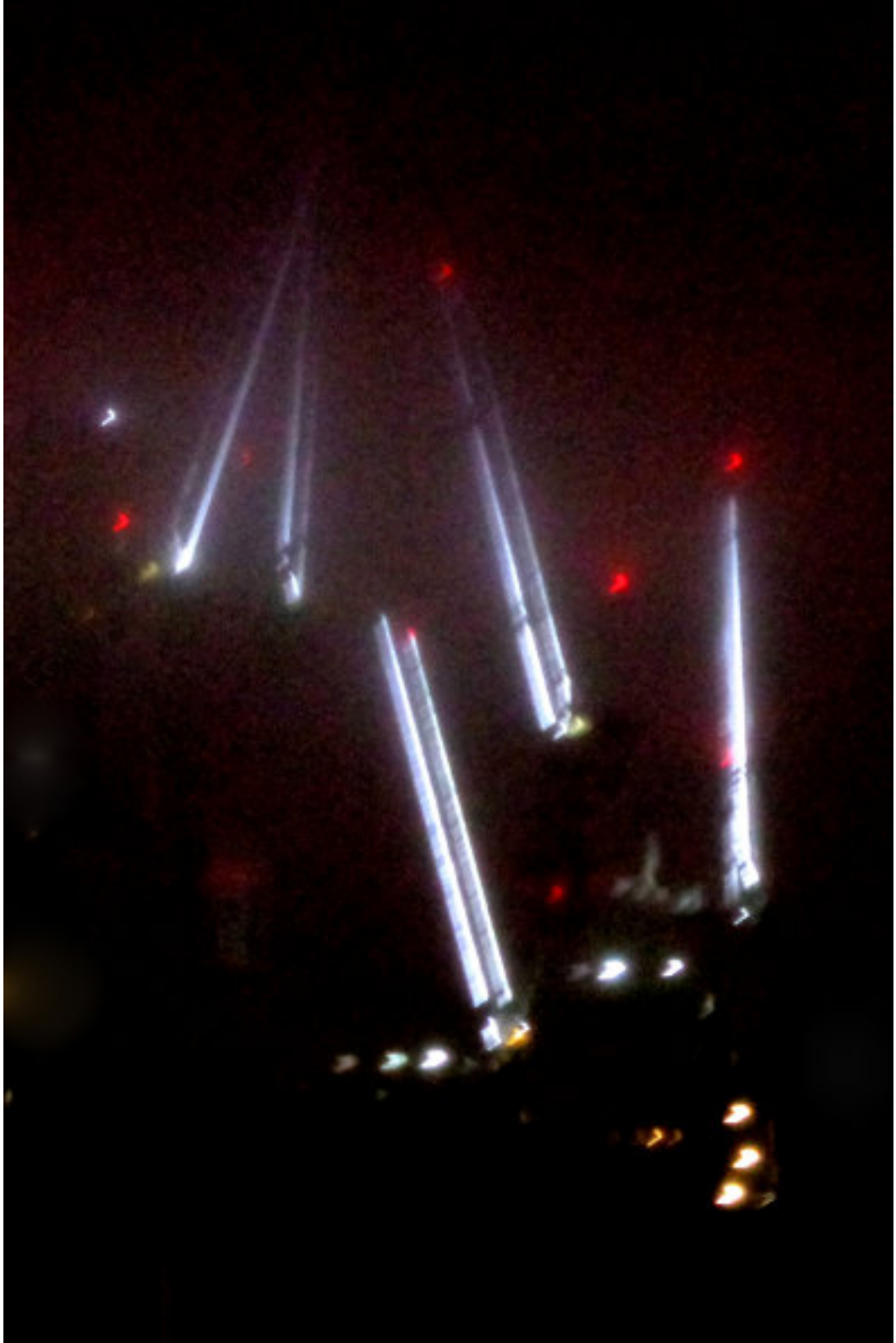
This year, the photonic landscape has been dominated by the cranes of the development at the Shell Upstream complex. With its multiple cranes and constellation of safety lights it presents a worthy competitor to the Shard. Indeed, as you will see from this the offerings in this portfolio, aerial congregations of light are very much the order of the day. Even if the participant lacks such elevated structures as the aforementioned, they make up for it in terms of their utilisation of reflection and neighbouring inclusions.

As word of the StreetSolstice prize spreads among the community it is heartening to see more residential offerings entering the fray. Despite meagre resources they try to compete by agility and creativity. Although no winner this year, this contingent is something to keep an eye on as it ‘comes up on the rails’.

And now for the annual StreetSolstice Prize for that project which defines these conceits. The theme this year is ‘Picture in Picture’ due to the way most of the participants have gone for multi-layering in their projects.

First Prize goes to ComputaCenter, Blackfriars Road, SE1

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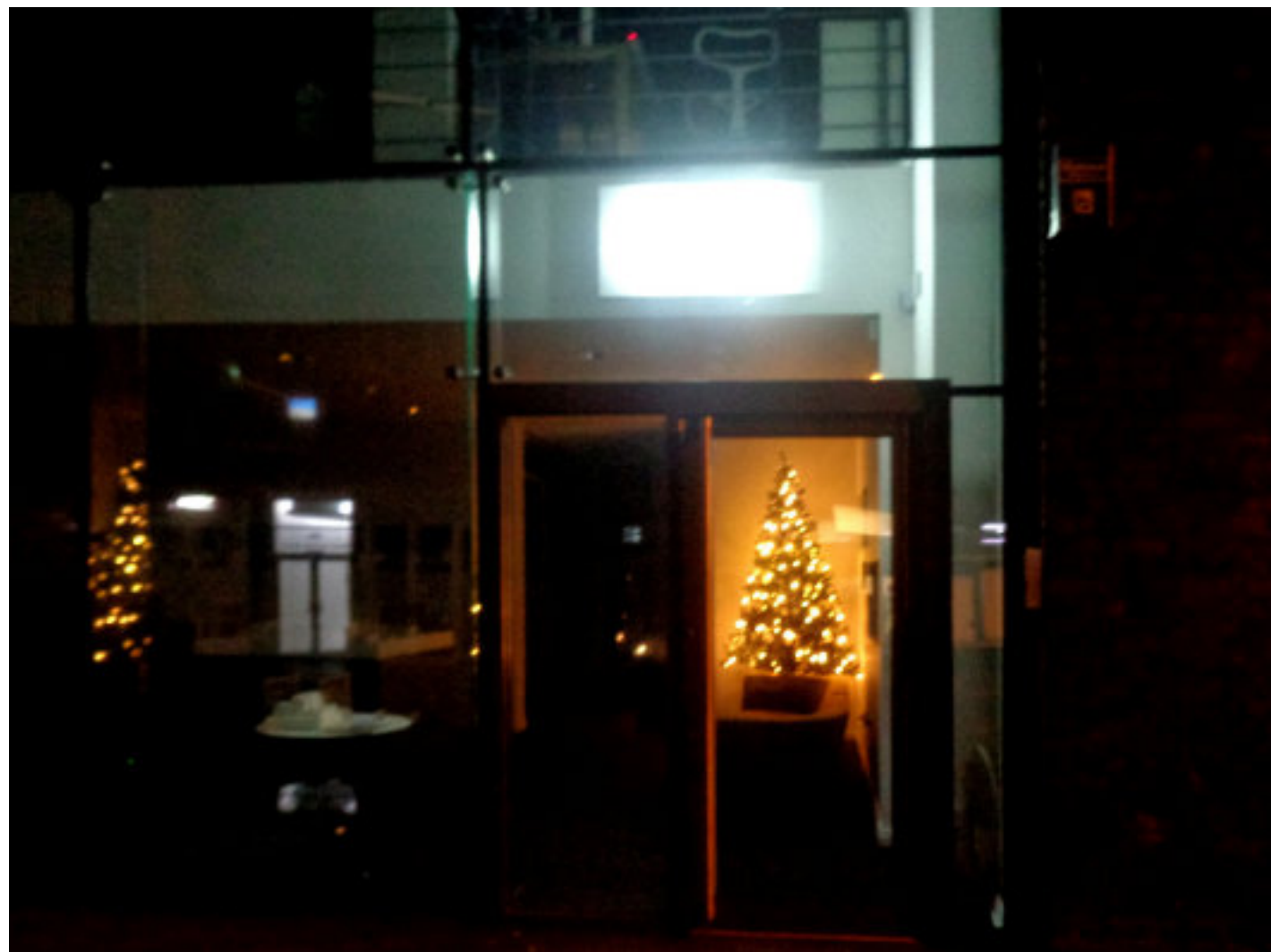
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e-Tree : Better Bankside, Great Guildford Street



Africa Centre : Great Suffolk Street



Two Trees : Great Suffolk Street



Prohire : from Ayres Street



Star Burst : Borough Market, Cathedral Street



Tree with Coffee Machine : 100 Blackfriars Road



Reindeer : Sanctuary Street



Tree with Grid : The Forge, Lant Street



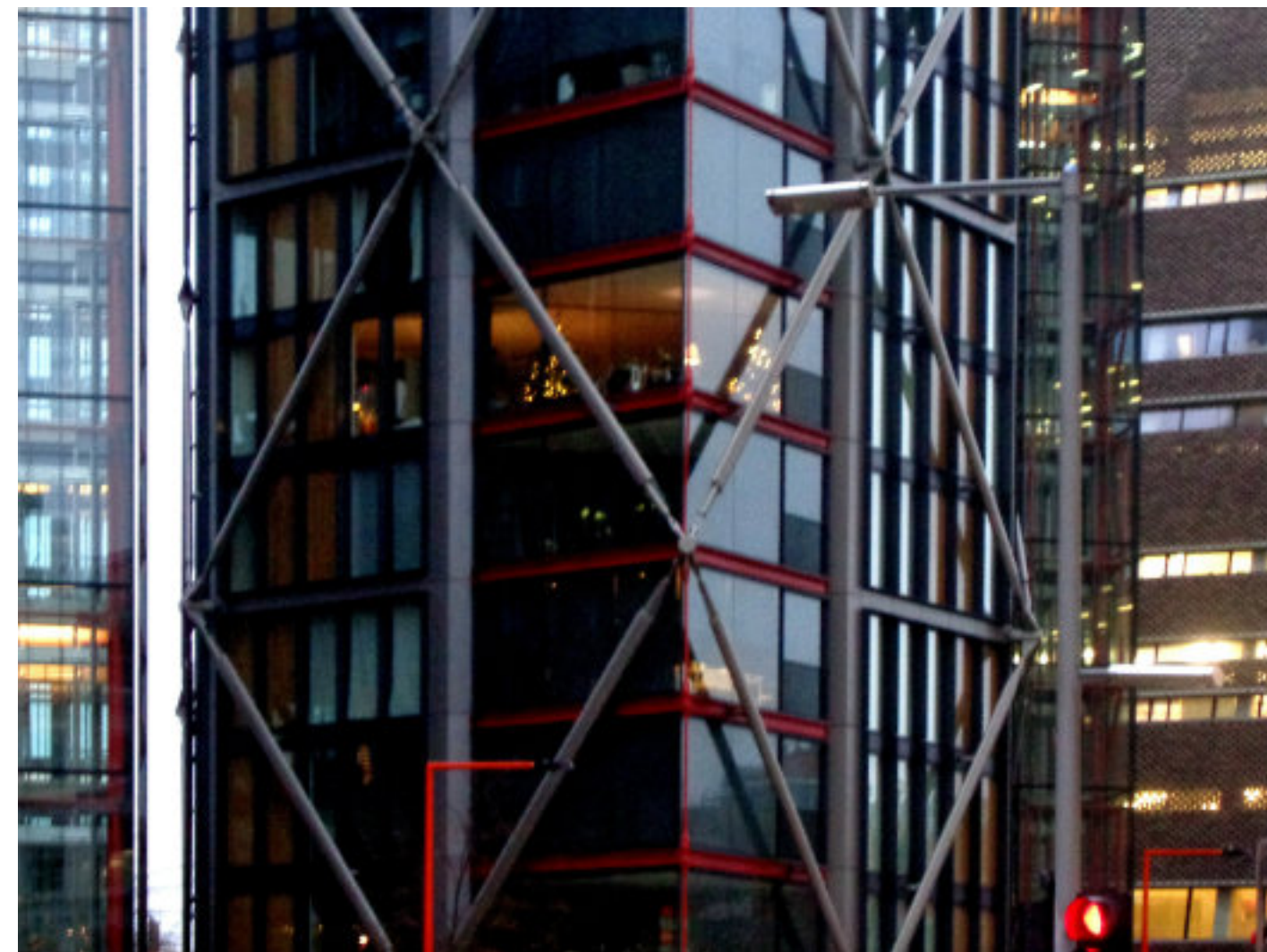
Blue Arch : Lant Street



Rainy Plaza : Saint Georges Circus



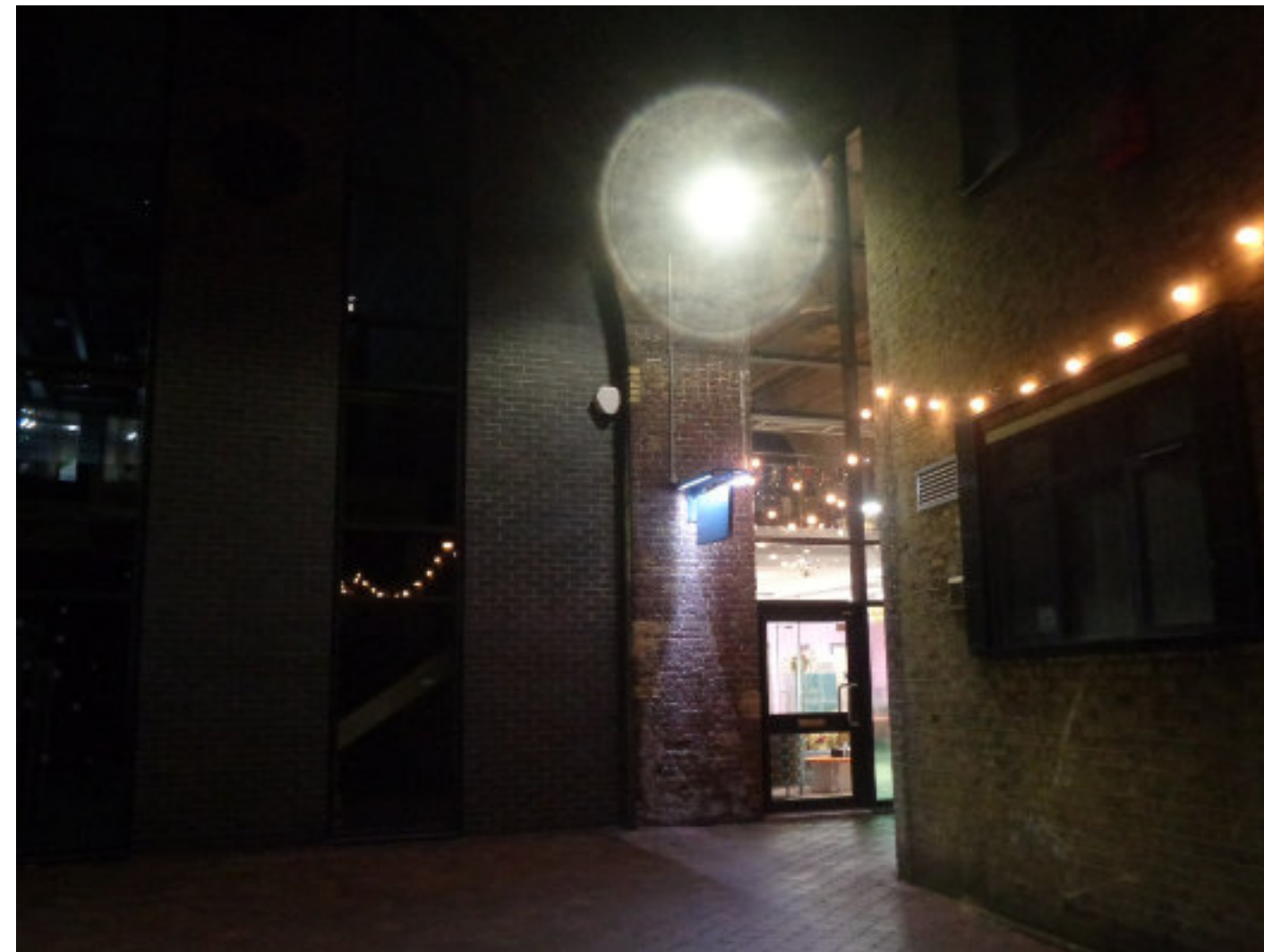
Foggy Cranes : Shell Centre from Blackfriars Road



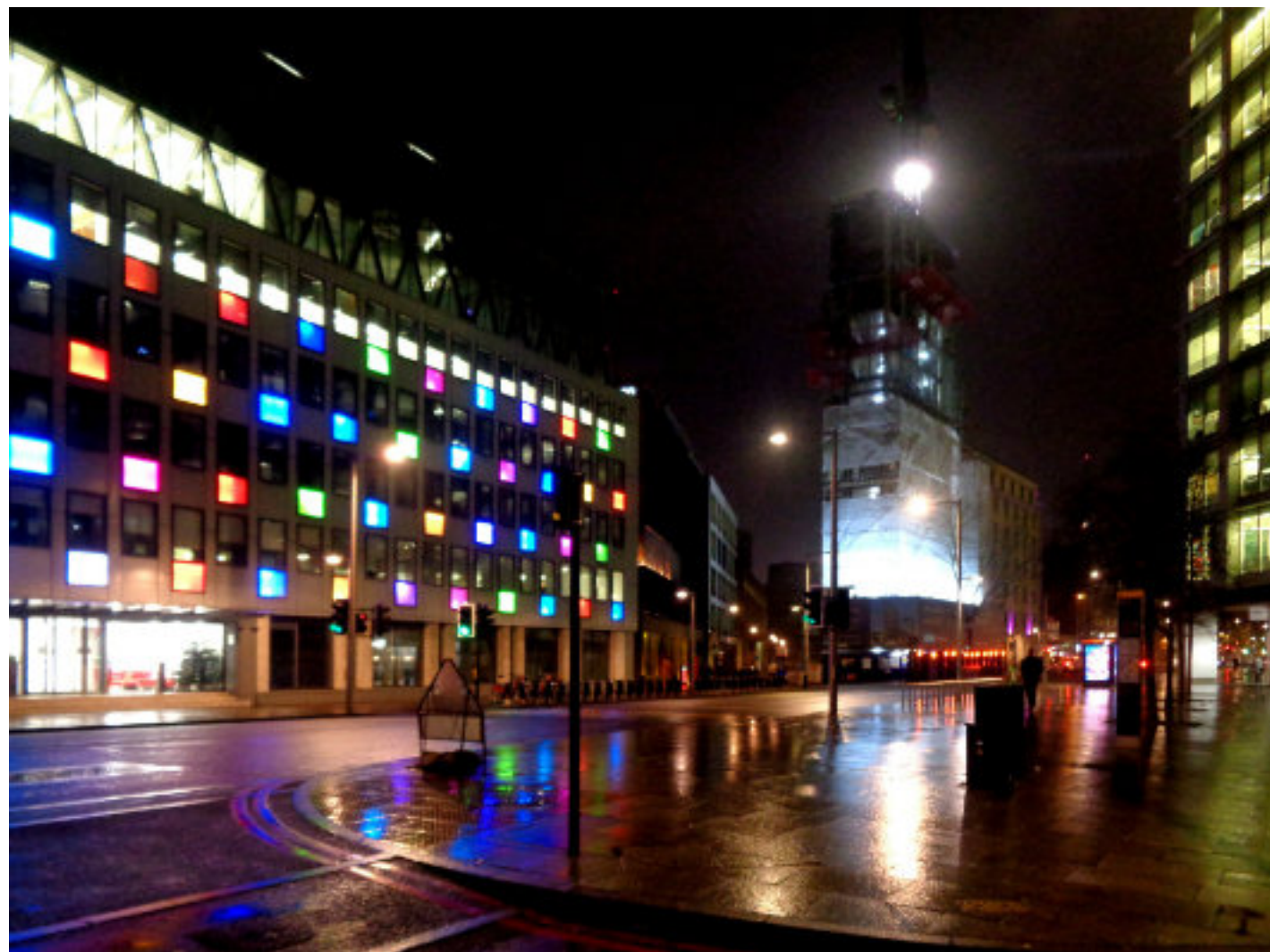
Solo Tree : NeoBankside



Union Tree : Union Street



Strings of Light : Iron Yard



Rainy Plaza : Southwark Street



Matrix Light Curtain : Great Guildford Street



Tree Glass Etch : Paris Garden



Tree Sky Foyer : Blue Fin Building



Christmas Stockings : Sanctuary Street



Two Dark Trees : Union Street



Festive Mess : 61 Southwark Street
Second Prize



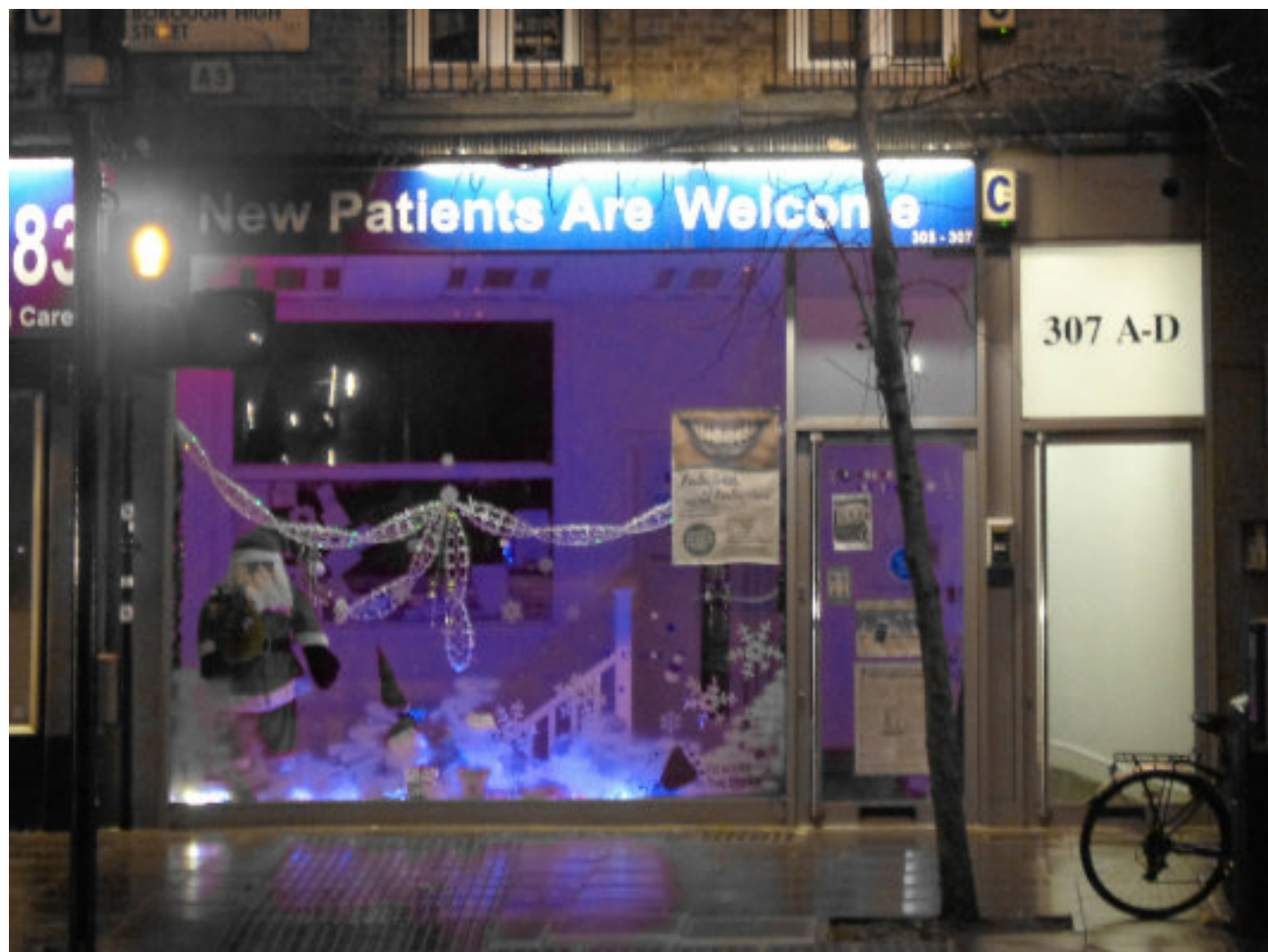
Blue Star : Contemporary Applied Arts



Shell Centre Building site : from Union Street

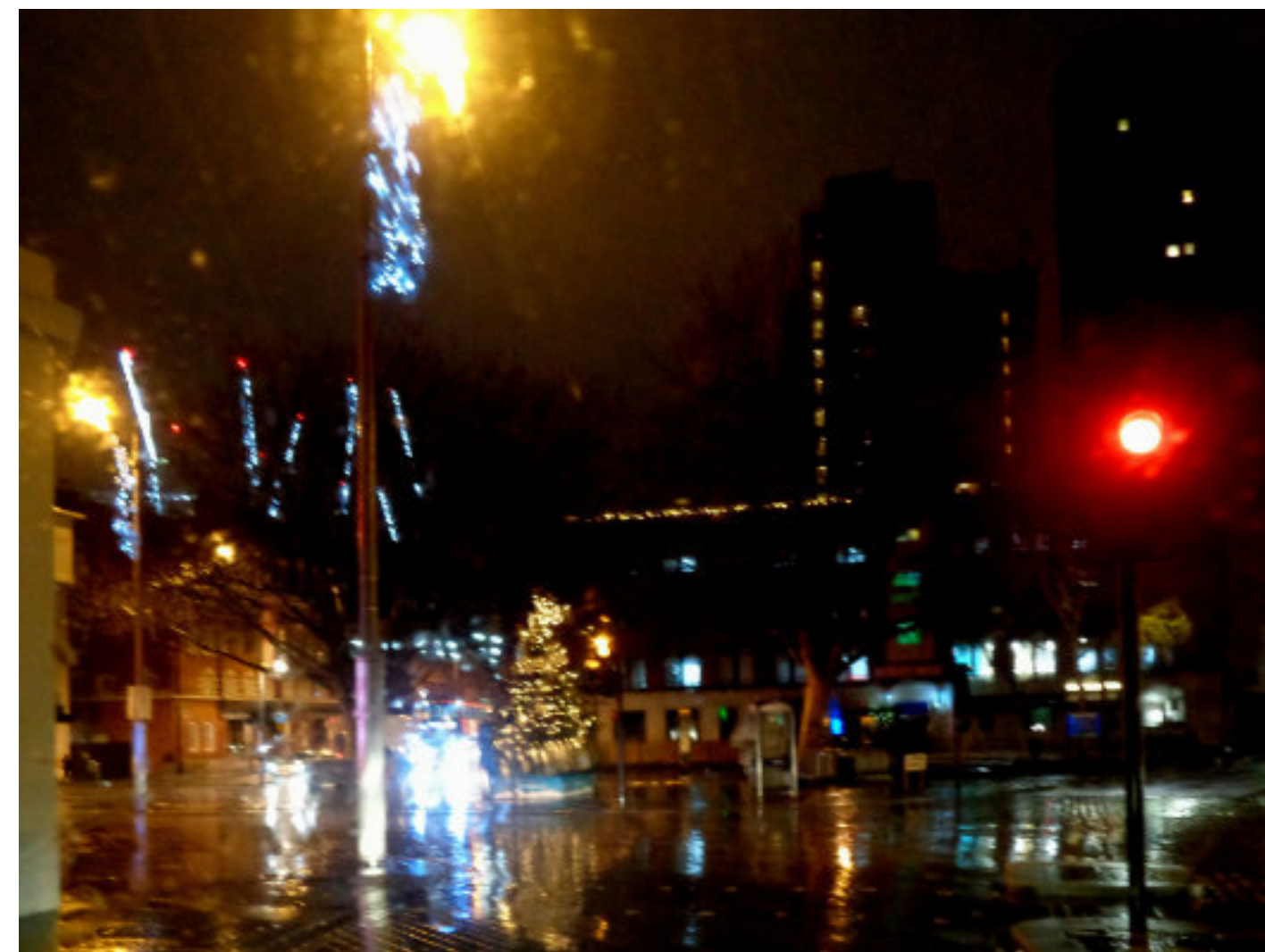


Shell Centre Building site : from Theed Street



Dentist : Borough High Street

First Prize



Rainy Plaza : Waterloo Road



Dawn Breaking Lights : 11 York Road (from Waterloo Road)

Third Prize

StreetSolstice Prize 2017

Criteria (in no particular order)

- 1) Stupidity per square inch 2) Creativity in the face of adversity
- 3) Metaphysical transformation 4) Being pretty

Once again the judges had a difficult time deciding and arguments continued long into the night; and in the process driving our cellar to extinction. The 2017 theme of ‘Picture-in-Picture’ was thought appropriate this year as so many entries reflected this technique (adopted from TV and the Movies) Still, as with all our endeavours, it is the taking part that counts. A big ‘thank you’ to all who took part.

So, without further ado here are the results...

3rd Prize : Dawn Breaking Lights : 11 York Road. Almost a non-contender for the lack of conventional decoration and being the first daylight entry of the competition, this entry wins 3rd prize for the use of a 3rd party (the Shell Centre cranes) to draw attention to itself. Picture-in-Picture is achieved by the illumination of the top floor as it looks out onto the city.

2nd Prize : Festive Mess : 61 Southwark Street. Again, at first this did not appear a contender but clearly this has a creative hand involved in the process. A Festive touch is apparent in the bubble wrap to the left as it sparkles in the high intensity light. One can only stand in open mouthed awe at the symphonic use of red - fire extinguisher, barrier, hard-hat and rear door.

1st Prize : Dentist : Borough High Street. What can one say... A modest dental practice that managed to fulfil all the criteria. With a start point of attempting to reassure their child clients with Santa’s Grotto it has entirely the opposite effect (1). With its eery purple-blue light, a Santa dressed in police high-viz and demonic looking helpers. But the icing on the cake is the disembodied smile hanging ‘Cheshire Cat’ style above the entrance. A well deserved winner!



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Photographs taken on my milk round (04) in the London districts of Bankside and the South Bank during the winter solstice holidays of 2017

All photographs, layout and texts by Paul Malone

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