



StreetSolstice 2018

an Observation by Paul Malone



StreetSolstice 2018

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.

In this year’s collection we present entries that, although somewhat conservative in nature, have subtle subversive elements. A bit like the current political ‘Calm before the Storm’, this year’s Solstice has hidden pointers to revolutionary change. An over emphasis on a particular livid colour, and imbalance of ‘sfumato chiaroscuro’ or an incongruous juxtaposition of objects indicate to the observer a tangible electricity in the atmosphere.

Not that this has intimidated our intrepid contributors! Indeed, it has lead to a re-evaluation of priorities ahead of the marvelous opportunities that await. We hope that this spirit of optimism is communicated to the viewer ahead of the New Year to inform the choices that will undoubtedly present themselves as in a fearless urban mythology.

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

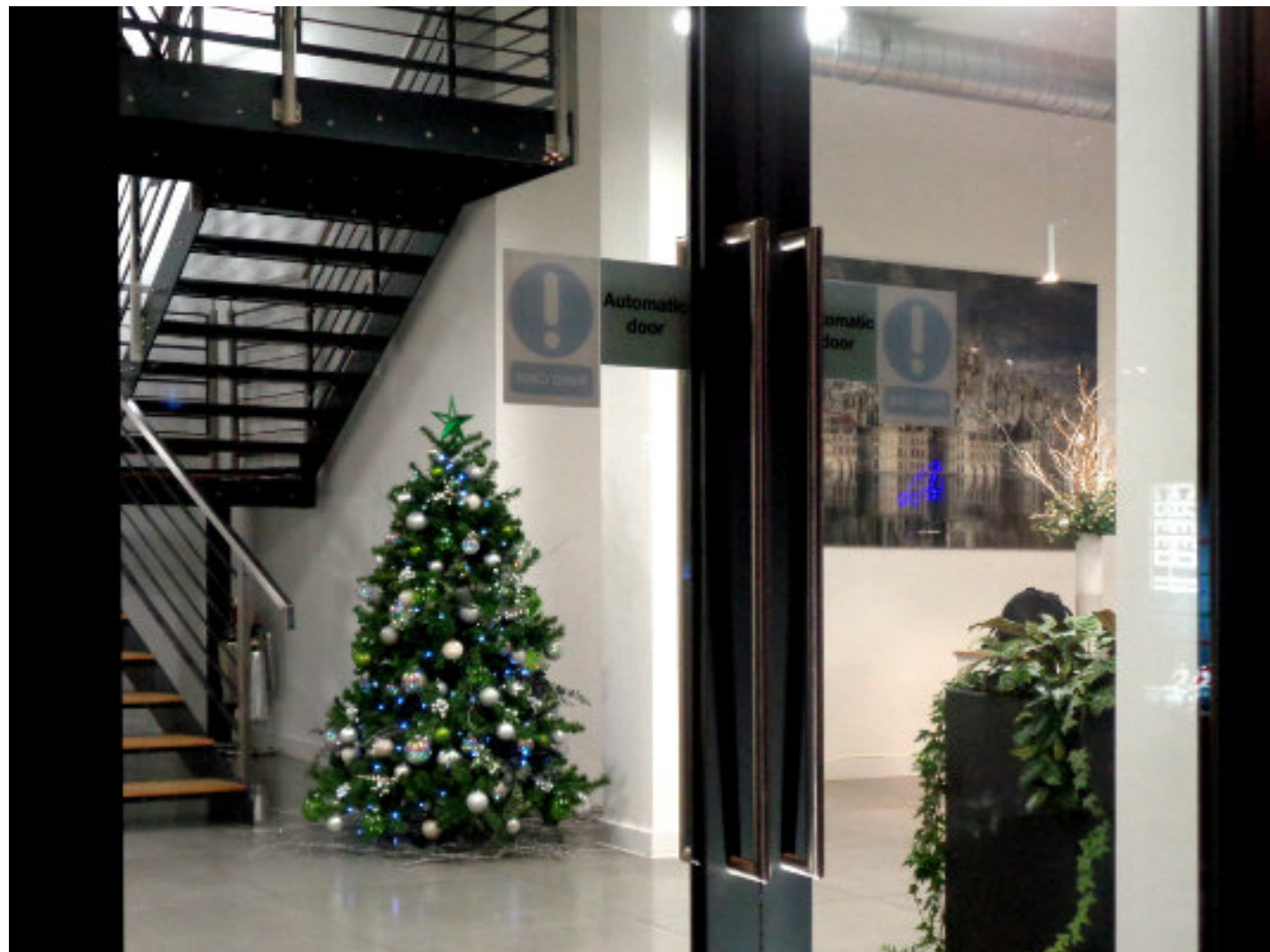
First Prize goes to McDonald’s Cup Tree, Hatfields, SE1

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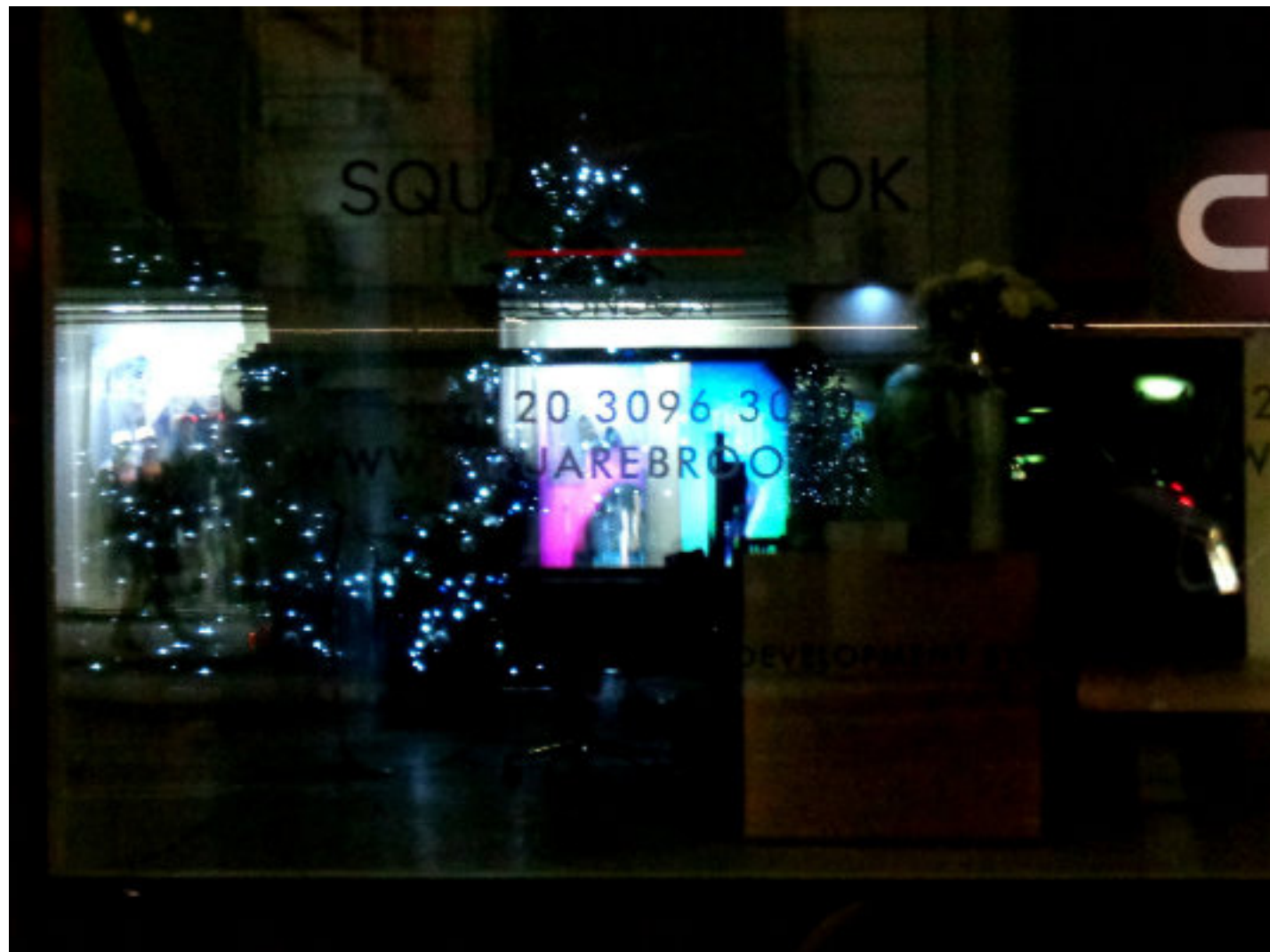
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Staircase Tree : 250 Waterloo Road



Dots and Tree : Southwark Bridge Road



20 3096 30 : Southwark Bridge Road



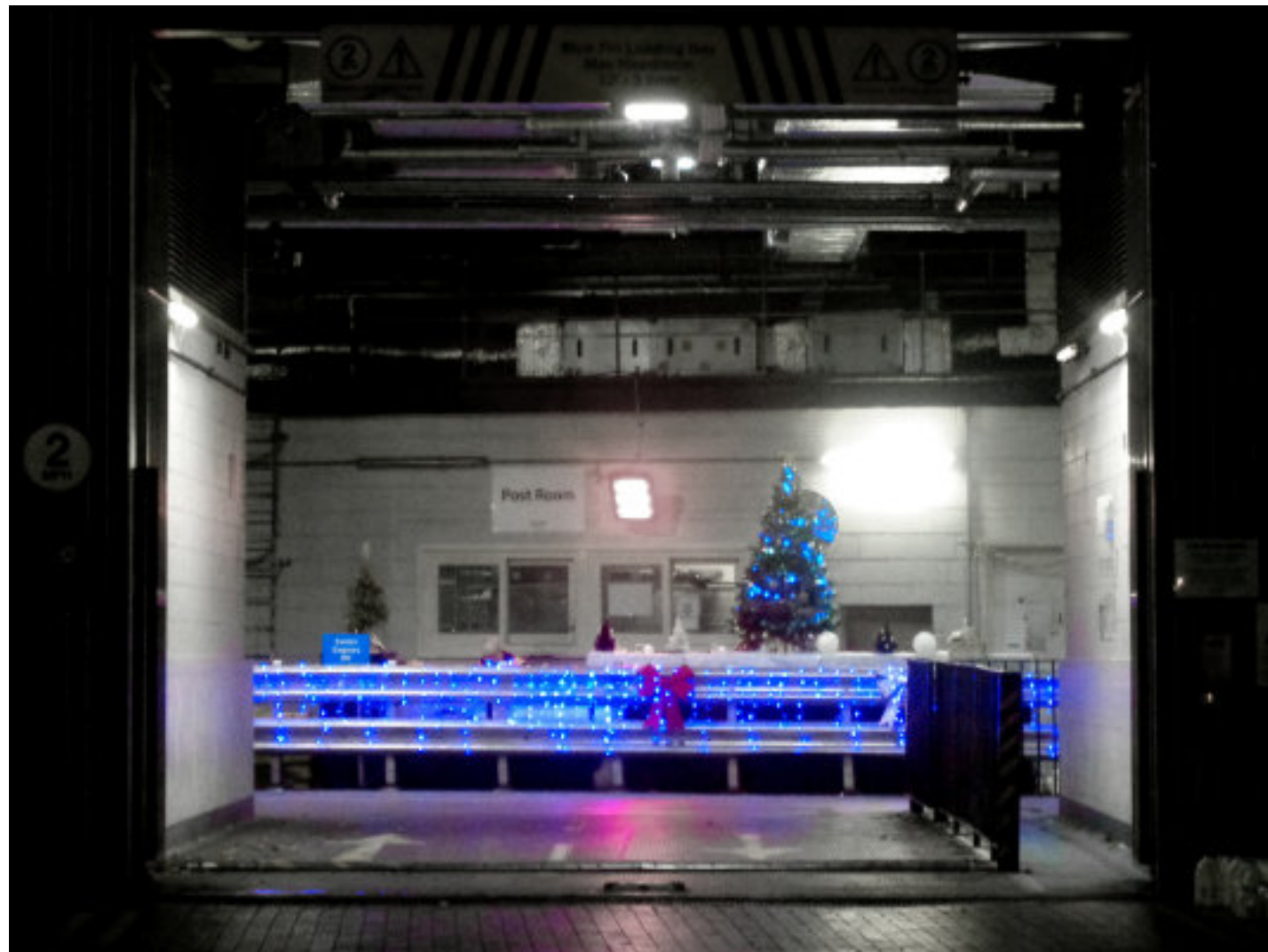
Yellow Tree : Great Guildford Street



Tree with African Head : Old Union Yard



Festive Yellow : America Street



Blue Barrier : Blue Fin Building, Loading Bay



The Tree Next Door : Great Suffolk Street



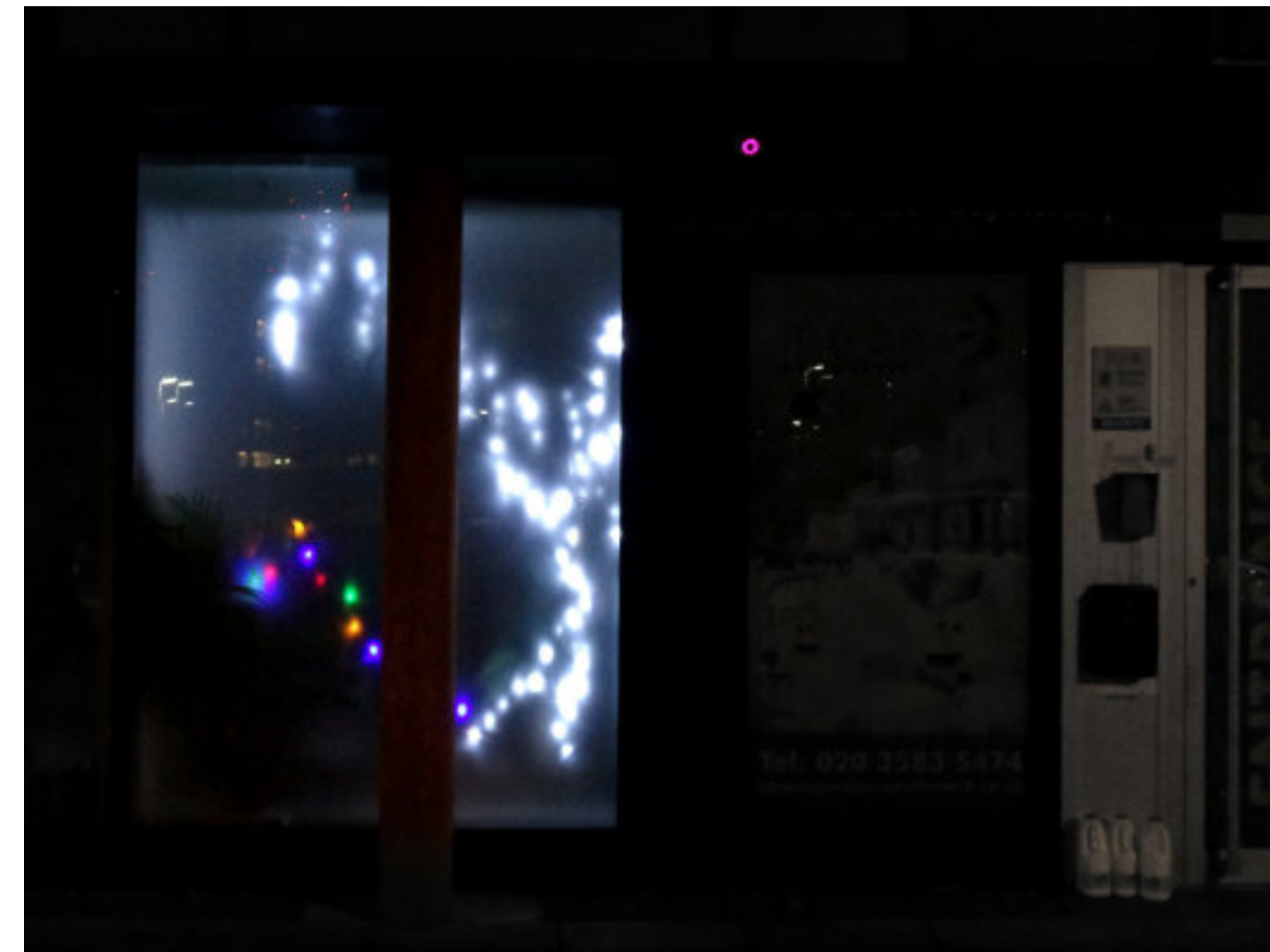
Tree in Strips : Bear Lane



Dark Tree, Light Tree : Union Street



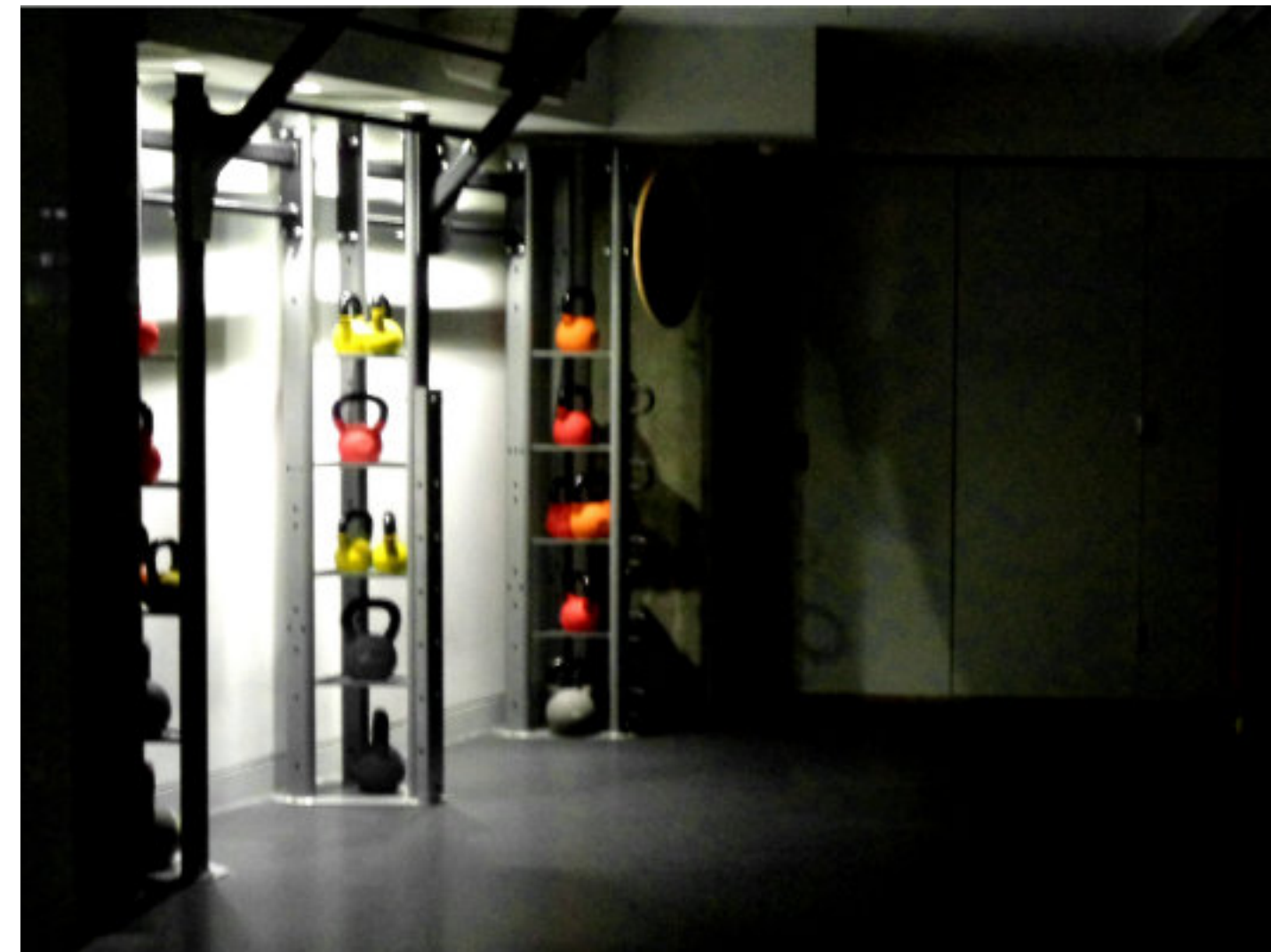
Tree with Flourescent Lights : Southwark Bridge Road



Running Man LEDs : Trundle Street



Silver Star with 3 Milk Bottles : Southwark Street



Solstice Weights : Pocock Street

Third Prize



McDonalds Cup Tree : Hatfields

First Prize



Tree with Dashes : Great Suffolk Street



Rainbow : Waterloo Road



Taiga and Tropical : Great Suffolk Street
Second Prize



Trees with Coffee Machine : Blackfriars Road



Ultra-violet Waterfall : Pocock Street



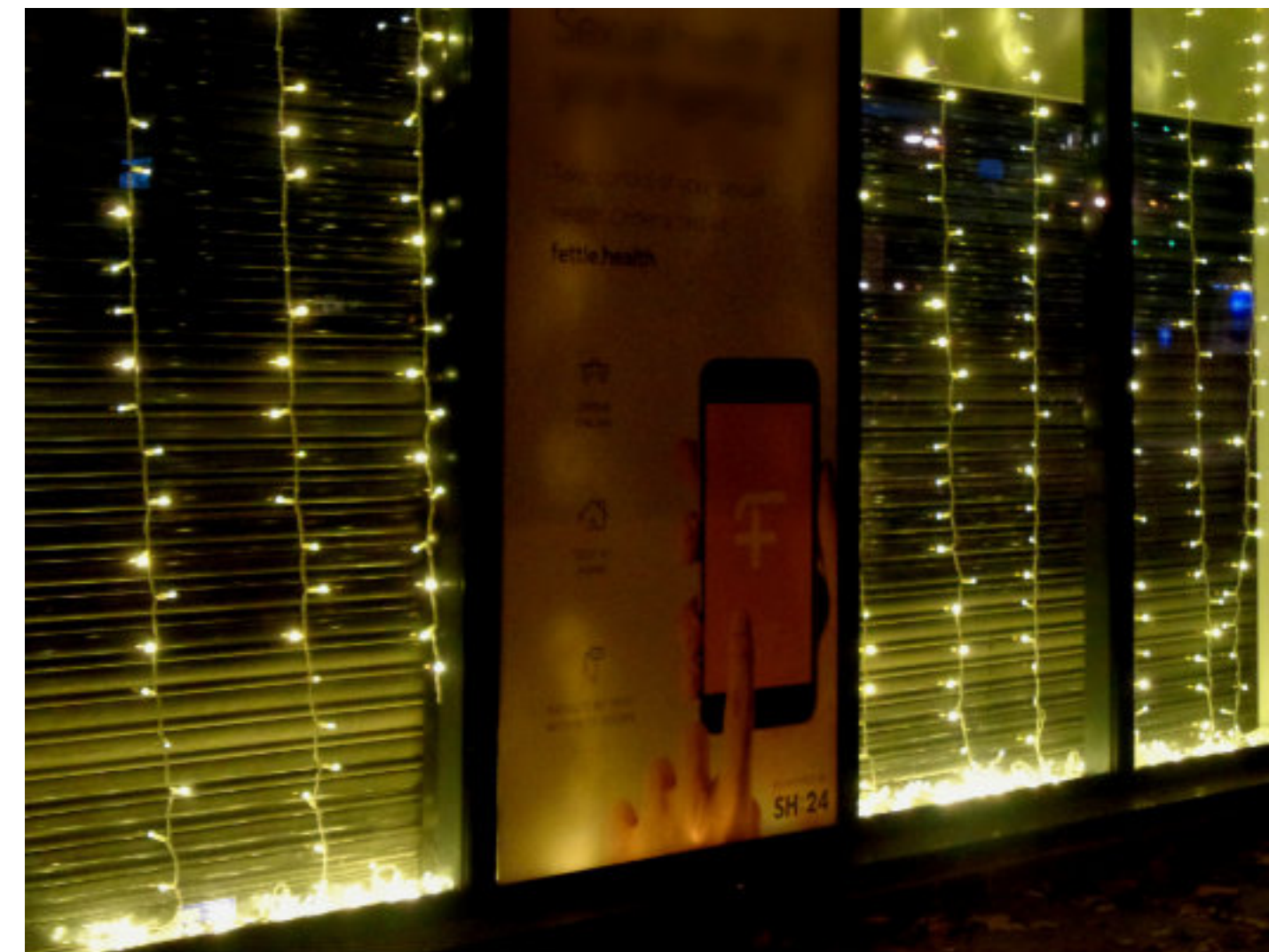
Corner Lights : Hatfields



Santa's Socks : Paris Garden



Tree with Princess Margaret : Borough High Street



Yellow LED Curtain : Burrell Street



Awaiting an Audience : Price's Street



Loading Only : Colombo Street



Tree with Portraits : Lant Street

StreetSolstice Prize 2018

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. Arguments continued long into the night and, in the process, driving the cellar of the judges to extinction. The 2018 theme of ‘Asymmetry’ was thought appropriate this year as so many entries reflected this dynamic. Still, as with that of 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 : 'Solstice Weights : Pocock Street' Somewhat oblique, this gym interior manages to collate its solstice entry using only the material to hand. In this case it is the coloured weights used by its more athletic occupants. On its own this would not have been sufficient. However the subtle use of the stands which emulate the branches of a tree elevate this submission into a minimalist atmospheric. Clustering to one side (with shadow on the right) integrates into the ‘Asymmetry’.

2nd Prize : 'Taiga and Tropical : Great Suffolk Street' Making the most of the ‘Asymmetry theme, this ‘advent calendar’ style entry manages to combine the display of its inhabitant of the Taiga boreal forests with their existing tropically themed interior design. Not everyone could get away with this but creative use of their window profiles brought it off.

1st Prize : 'McDonalds Cup Tree : Hatfields' Almost lost in this busy street and overshadowed by its more celebrated neighbours we come across this gem of the conceptual. Adopting a creative answer to current exhortations to recycle that of the the single use, it achieves its aim in classy style. Looks like several mornings worth of coffee cups have been harnessed into this festive offering...A well deserved winner!



StreetSolstice 2018

Photographs taken on my milk round (Round 04) in the London districts of Bankside and the South Bank during the winter solstice holidays of 2018

All photographs, layout and texts by Paul Malone

www.plasmazine.co.uk/streetsurfaces

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