

## Winners of the Inter/Micro 2008 Photomicrography Competition<sup>1</sup>

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As all of us have seen, there are beautiful worlds visible under the microscope. Specimens of all shapes and colors often make for some striking imagery. Attendees of Inter/Micro 2008 submitted their best images for the Photomicrography Competition. We selected four winners.

Kristin L. Bunker of the RJ Lee Group took the Best Overall Photomicrograph recognition for her asbestos bundle image (Figure 1). Most Unique Photomicrograph went to Jan Hinsch of Leica Microsystems for his flow pattern of a molded plastic part (Figure 2). Sebastian Sparenega and Kelly Brinsko, both of McCrone Research Institute, each received an Honorable Mention for their photomicrographs of a DDT rainbow (Figure 3) and polyester PEN melt (Figure 4), respectively. (See page 177 for information on the 2009 competition.)

There are a number of factors in assessing the quality of an image for the competition. These include, but are not limited to:

- Even, well-distributed illumination in the field of the image.
- Portion of field of view utilized for primary subject matter.
- Depth and breadth of focus.
- Placement of specimen within the image (may be centered or artistically offset).
- Brilliance or representative color and contrast.
- Uniqueness or originality of the specimen or process/procedure shown.
- Information revealed.
- Beauty or impact of the image.
- Subject matter and composition.
- Difficulty of specimen preparation, imaging, or reproduction.



*Figure 1. This image by Kristin L. Bunker shows a bundle of fibrils of chrysotile asbestos with prominent "knees." Microscope conditions include crossed polars and a Red I compensator. Replication of color in the photomicrograph compared to actual view under the microscope is excellent. Illumination in the field of view is balanced, and the natural effect of the fibers displays an ethereal artistic quality.*

<sup>1</sup> Held at Inter/Micro 2008

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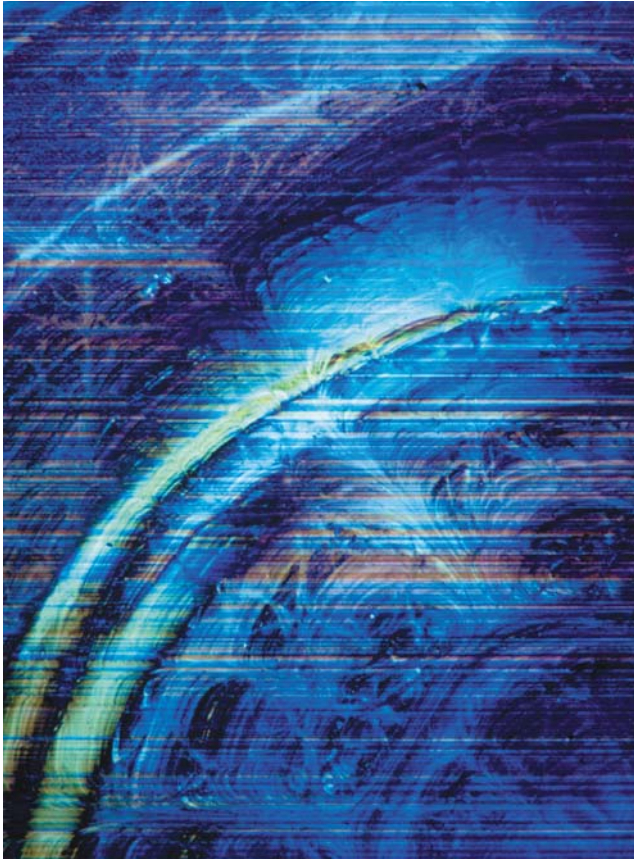


Figure 2. The subject of Jan Hinsch's image is a microtome section of an injection molded plastic part. It was obtained using a Leitz Orthoplan 1.6x objective with polarized light and a full waveplate nearly in parallel position. This photomicrograph exhibits delightful geometric patterns and color presentation. It displays a clean distribution of light intensity over the image with sufficient points of contrast to accentuate the specimen's character.

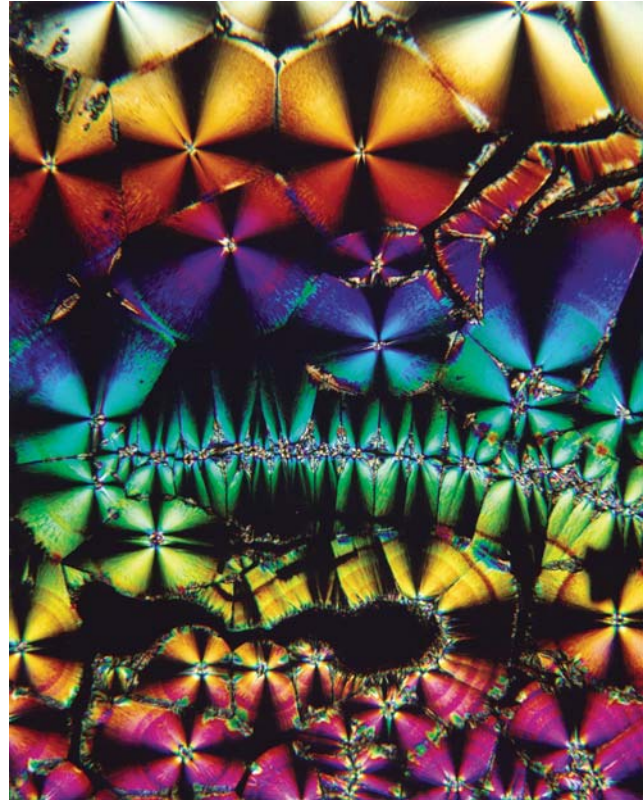


Figure 3. The DDT Rainbow by Sebastian Sparenga shows a fusion preparation of the pesticide p-p'-DDT [1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis (p-chlorophenyl) ethane], crossed polars.

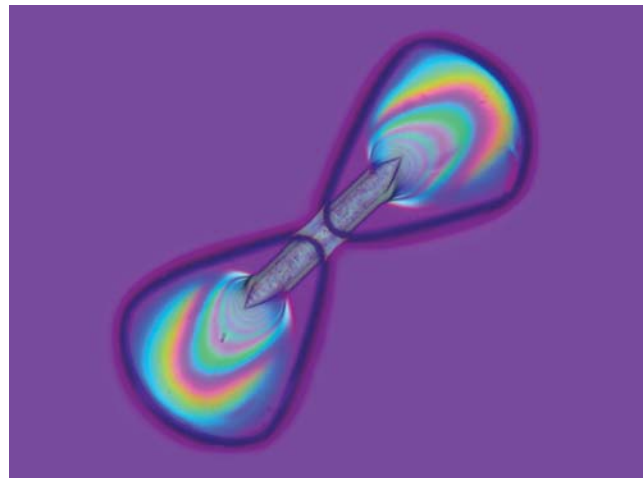


Figure 4. Kelly Brinsko's photomicrograph is a polyester PEN fiber mounted in silicon oil on the hot stage at melting-point transition. Microscope conditions include crossed polars and a Red I compensator.