

## 2014 Travel Pictorial Group AA

### Comments

#### 1. 11th Century Monastery

Looks like England...Grey ! Very nice tonal range. Nicely composed. I would try a 'touch' more brightness, or exposure. The area (bottom left background ridge) looks as though there is fog, or it has been lightened or darkened?! It is blotchy and looks unnatural. I would remedy that by darkening it. A beautiful black & white image !

#### 2. A Foggy Evening at Garrapata State Beach

Nice movement in ocean waters. Strong composition. Very good tonal range through out the image, with solid blacks, grays, and 'evening whites'. My eye continues to return to the strength and focus of this compelling image.....the rocks. Well done !

#### 3. Atelier St. Tropez

I like the scene. I want to approach and peruse the artwork. The exposure, color and cropping are fine. I do, however, find the background quite busy, and fighting with the selected subjects for attention. A longer lens to throw the background out of focus would solve that problem ( down the line, PS or LR could blur it quite nicely too). It would also be nice for the artist, or interested client to be in the scene, unposed.

#### 4. Church of Our Lady, Tyn, Prague

Very nice angle, and good color. Nicely balanced. Nice negative space at the bottom. Good exposure. The bottom right curves around leading me into the plaza, however, it could just as easily be taking me out of the plaza. Consider cropping, but not necessary. I like the small cafes, and the smattering of people clustered here and there. I would like to eliminate the black building on the right...oh well!

#### 5. Cliffs of Moehr

A nicely exposed image capturing the immensity of Moehr, as the castle on top seems so small in comparison to the enormity of the cliff. I would have pulled back a little to open up the left side thereby allowing for just a little more sea...but not much.

#### 6. Ertzburg Castle

Spectacular setting with balanced lighting and shadow areas. The capture angle, and composition work well.

## **7. Giants Causeway, Ireland**

A nice setting, composition, and exposure. The horizon line is a little off, always check! The couple seem totally impervious to the stunning scene around them, and they are commanding too much of my attention to just be sitting there. However, if that was your intention...it worked. I am torn between this beautiful setting, and them! Interesting ! I believe this image warrants being a black & white. It could be quite impactful.

## **8. Hikers Take a Break**

Sweet Image. I can feel their fatigue. A nice composition and good play between light and shadow. I suggest experimenting with the cropping.

## **9. Leaving The Park At Day's End**

Which ever way I am heading, this sinuous stretch of road takes me into the unknown. I like that. This image is very inviting. Given the title, I feel that the car leaving the park should be much more visible. Waiting a few seconds to capture it when it was just a little closer would have helped. You captured the soft, quiet light and pristine solitude very nicely.

## **10. Lunch in The Streets of Provence**

A good eye seeing the possibilities this scene offered. The street leads me right down to the subjects. Nice exposure, and framing effect, but the back of the woman's head bothers me. Moving the camera angle left, or pulling the curtain on the right over to block approximately 1/2 of the lady could have done the job, and add a nice lime green color to your composition.

## **11. Magnificent Mont St. Michele**

I like the cropping, as the smaller buildings below provide support and scale. I would like to see just below the wall at the bottom though. The grass, a street, a river, whatever is there would give it (me) an ending. It is a wonderful exposure, with open shadows, and the dark trees near bottom center displaying their deep red color. Very nice image.

## **12. Men's Afternoon Social**

A nice scene reminiscent of Europe...old men at the fountain, or square. I believe that backing off, allowing the composure to encompass the men's feet, plus more street brick, would solidify this image. It would also allow for all of the church to be included, if that was your intention. Good exposure, nice street image.

## **13. Messner Mountain Art Museum**

I believe the museum needs more room on the right side of the image, and you could afford to crop off a little on the left. Moving right may have been a good option. I would also crop just above the miscellaneous objects in the grass at the bottom, or PS them out at a later date. I like the clouds

**14. Milkyway Galaxy from Tassajara Road**

This is a stunning, and awesome image. The exposure is excellent. The tree and near-by hills are silhouetted against the vast display above. It is nighttime, but the foreground field is just visible from the light of distant stars, and maybe the moon. The framing leans heavily to the main subject...the sky. That said, I wonder if the sky was lightened 'just ever so slightly', would it be as good? A subjective thought. Beautiful image.

**15. Million Dollar Yachts and Condos**

Nice composition, and good exposure. The curve of the beach on the bottom left lead me in. A nice balance of color and contrast throughout, with pleasant open shadows.

**16. Morro Rock at Morro Bay**

A strong, bold image. Very nice tonal range, and contrast level. Good composition as the foreground grasses, the monolith rock, and the cloudy sky all hold their own strongly. The whites are very nice too. I feel the sun is a bit to bright, and I would utilize recovery, or highlight controls. By doing this it may influence the small lighter area in the top center of the rock and darken it at the same time. This is a subjective consideration. Nicely done !

**17. Nothing Like A Good Book**

A sweet image, but I suggest tightening up by cropping. The bag of avocados does nothing for the image, so eliminate it. The books at the bottom lead the eye up to the kitten. That is good. Crop the top down to just above 'Oceano' on the Chili book (above the kitten). The ends of the books will stop the eye from straying further up. Crop just at the edge of the bag on the right, leaving an approximate square.

**18. Old Town Square, Prague**

This image has a nice flow and design. I feel it could be a bit brighter, but not much. The left side of the image takes you to center and the right holds me there. The top brings me back to the square. There are just enough people in the square to make it interesting. Does the top need to be cropped a wee bit?? This could also be a nice black & white. Nice image.

**19. Olympic Size Swimming Pool**

Good choice for a black & white. Color would have been good too. A very interesting capture of glories past?! I would like to see a show of similar sites. It is composed well, but leaning down ( not level) a little on the right. There is a great tonal range, however the blacks, or contrast seem just a bit to strong. It is a good image.

**20. On a Paris Street**

An interesting Dude! First, I would have let the car drive on through. It fights for attention with our subject. It would have been nice for the background to be slightly unfocused bringing even more attention to the Parisian man. The exposure and cropping are good.

**21. Paris At Our Feet**

I feel the angle of your photograph would have been better were you able to move to the left and use the street between the foreground parks as your center. Granted, this is not the general rule but there are times when it works. As it is, I do not feel a comfortable balance. I also find the large dark area of the right center building disconcerting. It needs a little adjusting. The image has potential and has good atmosphere.

**22. Political Mural**

A provocative capture ! I personally like that the signal is on 'stop'! Or, is it 'walk'? The image is framed nicely, and speaks for itself. I feel it could be somewhat lighter. It could be part of a very interesting 'street photography' exhibit.

**23. Castle With River Boat**

Very nice composition and focus. The top of the image, namely the sky, seems unnaturally dark to me. The rest of the image is bright and cheerful. Fix that and you will have a cheerful and nicely exposed image.

**24. Provence Art Studio**

The scene choice and exposure are good, but subjectively speaking, I feel some experimental cropping (on the right side) will enhance this image considerably. Try cropping up to the center of the open door, and then move the cropping tool to the right until it is pleasing to you. Also, the top of the building is light commanding more attention than it deserves. Darken it a little. Of course an unposed artist in this image would be nice.

**25. Royal Castle, Warsaw**

A pleasant, relaxed scene. Well composed and exposed. You could consider a minor crop on the left, up to the end of the cafe tents, leaving an image fully focused around the inflated balloons. This is a suggestion, and not necessarily needed. Very clean and simple.

**26. Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

A memorable image. I feel it is a little too contrasty, and perhaps a slight opening of the shadows will be helpful. After this, check the walkway and see if it still looks good or needs to be darkened a little. I would also crop to between the 2nd and 3rd pole on the right. It will tighten up the image nicely and eliminate unneeded foliage.

**27. Washington Monument**

Striking contrast of values. I might consider centering this as it is so simple, and the clump of darkness off to the bottom right does little for the image (even if it is the White House !). Another possibility is to move to the left and arrange the Monument and the dark form into a pleasing or mysterious arrangement. A very nice exposure considering the contrasts.

Winning Images:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner: Morro Rock at Morro Bay

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner: Royal Castle

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner: A Foggy Evening at Garrapata

Honorable Mention: Milkyway Galaxy from Tassajara Road

Honorable Mention: Old Town Square - Prague

Honorable Mention: Political Mural

Honorable Mention: Lunch in the Streets of Provence

Honorable Mention: On a Paris Street

Honorable Mention: Leaving the Park at Day's End