

Image Competition -- June MMXVI

*Category: Creative
Judge: Doug Davlin*



A short Biography

My interest in photography grew while teaching psychology in Alaska. In our remote area there were no classes nor clubs (not internet, for that matter) to teach us the fundamentals. Magazines, books and friends were our resources. Our film was developed in the kitchen and the bath tub held our developing trays. Soon a degree of competence evolved and I found myself teaching photography to the high school & college students. Interest was so high that I had to give up psychology. In time, I was selected to be mentored by Sam Kimura, a native Alaskan and professional photographer. We worked together for about 20 years doing advertising, portraits, landscapes, still lifes, as well as private classes. Throughout the years I was able to work with 35mm, medium format and large format cameras. Many of those are still operational and part of my collection. Now I work mostly with the iPhone, GoPro, and a DSLR. One of my most treasured honors was to be selected as the Kodak teacher of the year. My student at the time was the national winner. In addition to land based photos, it has been entertaining to also do KAP (Kite Aerial Photography). Now, at age 76, the iPhone is my camera, the Mac is my "darkroom" ... and Epson is my printer. Still having fun ... still experimenting still learning. One of the best parts is the ability to share images and thoughts with friends all over the world.

My one-line philosophy: Perception is always individualistic. Images captured with the camera are not always what is desired to be seen. Mine are often surreal and chimerical.... quixotic and utopian.

General Judging Philosophy

My approach to grading &/or appraising photographs is to try to enter into a dialogue with the photographer to find out their intentions, why they took the image, why they used certain techniques. To help the dialogue we would look at the technical aspects; such as dust spots, focus, alignment, exposure, etc. Then we would move onto the more subjective analysis of the artistic side. Given an assignment.... such as "creative" ... does the image express or demonstrate all that "creative" can be? Does the image show not only what is, but does it go beyond and show what may be ... or could be? From concept to creation, what did you do to enhance your image ... to transform it from the ordinary to the extraordinary? The more you stretch and try different things, the more you may be able to accomplish. Try taking images with no lens on your camera such as using a pinhole. Try printing your images on media other than paper ... maybe like glass or metal. With an assignment of "Creative" anything goes. But, sometimes it does not go well, and the trash can is your best friend. and then you try something else!

Most of all, have fun with photography ... keep creating images and share your work with others.