

2010-2011 Images of the Year - Group A - Judged by Sandra Parker

Group	Title	Score	Comments
A Pictorial			
	Art in Nature Black Oaks		Artsy, yes. Would like a center of attention at focal point myself. nice pictorial story
	Mission Left Aisle		This image has nice leading lines but lowering the tripod and getting down lower would allow for a sharper image and a better viewpoint and a more powerful image.
	Mission Private Entrance		Shooting from the left or right of the door could remove the bullseye feeling of and bring more of the branch at the top right into the photo or eliminate it.
	New York Welcome		Shooting bridges can be tough and perhaps is better served shooting down the center of the bridge rather than leaving a feeling that the bridge is cutting the image into thirds. Some of the more distinctive skyline would also identify this as N.Y.
	Sentinels		Sentinels to me means very tall trees and a vertical image. These are nice trees but there seems to be a lack of a story here.
	Thingvellir Mountainside		With this title, I would expect to see more of the mountain. In Sacramento we call this 'Trumanized' as the colors seem to be exaggerated which is fine in this category if it lends itself to the overall image..
	Living on the Dune Edge		Viewer would prefer a lower angle so the bush led you into the frame and to the trees.
	Turkish Girl		I asked myself, what is the story here. To me the story includes the fingers holding the hat. . Stepping back would complete the image.
	Victorian Facades		Nice lines & colors. A slight shift of the camera to the left or right and the lightpole would not merge with the window.
	Water Power		Sharp rock in power position,nice light on water
	Tranquility		Cropping even tighter might provide the viewer greater impact.

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A Pictorial cont'd			
	Winter Path		Lovely lighting, a sense of winter in the cool colors and a sense of movement in the entire image....
	Maui Beauty	3rd HM	Nice lighting and position of the water lily
	Glasses	2nd HM	Nice idea, wish flowers were sharper and at least 1 flower complete in the image
	Classic Brass	1st HM	Clever idea, nice colors
	Nipomo Dunes	3rd Place	Detail, depth of field, horizon, leading lines....
	Sand Dunes 1	2nd Place	Nice light, nice leading lines, straight horizon.
	Reflections	1st Place	Nice leading lines with opposing lines in background. Nicely sharp, 1 spoon is completely in the photo. Congratulations
			General Note: Many judges have a certain fetish – power points, cropping. I've tried not to do that and to focus on the specific image solely for it's own sake. Well, in spite of that effort I learned today that a correlating title makes a big difference to me.

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A Nature			
	Pacific Tree Frog.....		Nice depth of field, a little more action would give this nature shot more of a story
	Adult Male House Finch		Sharp, good catchlight, nice color and position on the branch
	Brown pelican landing....		Nice capture of trailing water and reflection
	Burrowing Owl....		Nice detail in owl, enough background to show environment.
	Checkerbloom....		nice leading line of the vine
	CA Sea Lion swinging it's cub		Perhaps including the entire mother's body in the image would have made a stronger story.
	Eared Grebe Pair Tending Nest		nice detail in parents....
	Elephant Seals Mating...		Perhaps moving the pair out of the center of the image or softening the background of seals with depth of field would have made a stronger impact on the viewer.
	Great Egret catches fish		To the viewer, the low light of evening resulted in the fish losing detail.
	Night Heron& chicks		Capturing the night heron at all is an achievement to celebrate, I just wish the depth of field had softened the surrounding area.
	Otter with pup eating...		Nice detail, great catch light
	Lenticular Clouds		With the word lenticular cloud in the title I would expect to see the complete lenticular shaped cloud....
	Snowy egret bathing...		Nice action capture, a little centered & tight on the right...
	Mother and Baby Elephant....	3rd HM	Selecting just the left hind leg of Mom and the entire baby provides just the right nature story. Everyone is sharp and the position of the baby's legs give just the right amount of motion. It would be nice if the eye had a little catch light, but nice seeing.

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	Sea Lion Birth....	2nd HM	A few seconds either way and this moment would have been lost. The soft tilt of each head provides a rare moment in the natural food chain of life. A fine nature moment.
	Heron & Gopher	1st HM	The soft green background really emphasizes the scene. Not only are the eyes of the heron spot on, even the poor gopher is wide eyed with legs and tail splayed in great detail. Nicely done.
	Gulf Fritillary...on Beach Daisy	3rd place	Capturing butterflies is an art in itself, and with the lovely leading lines of the lime green stem and the daisy nicely positioned this is a winning shot.
	Otters sharing crab ...	2nd Place	Otters feeding each other is a rare capture. Otters feeding themselves is the norm. Excellent detail, catchlight, nicely framed.
	Grooming Baboons	1st Place	The depth of field is excellent and the detail in the fur is spot on. Excellent action shot, great eyes, expressive face of the recipient of the attention. Congratulations.

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Group	Title	Score	Comments
A Travel			
	French Café Patrons		Nice dog shot, backing up just a smidge could include top of heads
	French children dancing		Even though the children are the focus of the story, keeping the mans head and the foreground object whole would make a more appealing story.
	Amsterdam–Artist	3rd Place	Colorful, travel image. Prefer woman looking at photographer
	View of Hubbard Glacier	2nd	Nice leading lines, enough of ship and people to tell the story
	Tango	1st	Good sense of place, dancers nicely positioned. Good job.
			General Note: Telling a story in Travel does not mean forgetting basic rules, including showing all of something or none of something. Cutting off important parts distracts the viewer .

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Group	Title	Score	Comments
A Creative			
	Saddle Horn & Stirrup		The rope provides a leading line but I seem to be looking for a sharp spot that captures my attention.
	Sentinels		The snow makes a consistent pattern at the base of each tree but I would like more detail in the blacks and whites.
	Oak Cathedral		Creative, soft, effective but not quite as much impact as the winners
	bronze	3rd Place	Stunning and beautifully done but is hard to compete with the creativity of the next 2 winners
	Kaleido Close Up	2nd Place	Very thoughtfully created and very clever. This was a hard decision between 1st & 2nd.
	The Great Escape	1st Place	Not only is this wonderfully creative, the motorcycle image itself is excellent in many ways, including the rider's face angled back towards the road he/she escaped from, and the shadow extends back into the frame. Not easy to accomplish. Congratulations.
			General note: All were very well done and beginning this judging with this level of skill let me know I had my work cut out for me.

Note: Small submissions were not awarded HMs.