

2012-Pictorial #1 Judge's Comments

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Dean Follis, Pasadena California

BFA Art Center College Of Design 1981
Post Graduate Study at UC Santa Cruz

Worked in Advertising as well as Fine Art Photography for over thirty years.

Clients include, Getty Museum, Bonaventure Hotels, Universal Studios, Disney and SeaWorld, Cannon and Playboy Magazine.

Work entailed both Studio and Location productions.

Worked with photographic architectural signing and graphics with Follis Design

Clients include, San Diego zoo, National Zoo, Waco Zoo, Colorado Springs Zoo
As well as numerous wild life centers throughout the US.

I was fortunate to study with many Masters of Photography while attending Art Center, and continued to learn from their endless love of Photography. Sadly many have passed away leaving the following generations to pave their own path with photography.

I learned quickly that we improve through a critical review of our work. Not the compliments.

Introduction to art

It has been explained to me that, to understand and appreciate any art form you need the ability to “see with your ears and hear with your eyes” embrace what you are viewing. When you see some images you can hear the sound of a train or a child associated with it and when you hear a sound you process that sound into an image. Use that sense when viewing photography or any art form.

Dean Follis

2011 Pictorial 1 Group A

1. Bedroom Eyes

*Good overall color and composition, nice color separation in background.
The hand and wrist are in a poor position, moving her elbow away from her
Body would lessen the angle and appear softer.*

*A white fill card would give her face a little more highlights without harming
the softness.*

2. Maple Seed Pods

*Very nice composition, red steams have a nice visual flow into the leafs.
Background color works well.*

3. Brass, Wood and Silver

*Excellent still life, very nice highlight on the black instrument, not easy to do
with black on black. Very good highlights on other two, again not easy.
All Separate nicely on black background.*

4. Marina Lightening

*The boats along the shore have a pleasing curvature moving your eyes toward the
lighting and back. The boats along the opposite shore are a little cluttered.*

5. Contemplating The Moment

*Young model looking into negative space gives viewers pause for thought, circles
On dress go well with similar shape of her hat, face paint gives a playful nature to
your image. A fill card would bring her face out a little more.*

6. Soberanes Wave

*Powerful waves in motion draws viewer within frame work of the rocky shore.
Above average use of static and motion in single image.*

7. From Above Eastbound Out of Kerman

*Interesting shapes with varied texture within each. Angle of lines are placed well
within frame, needs a little color in one section, like a field of flowers to make an
overall pop to the image.*

8. Egret with mast reflections

*The Egret is placed very nicely at the edge of reflections, gold tones give a relaxing
feeling to the shot.*

9. Done

*Excellent all around composition, miscellanies items in foreground help breakup the
otherwise plain grass area. The trucks, buildings and mountains are placed nice.*

Maybe Photoshop the satellite dish out of the picture, its 100 years out of date.

10. Bodie Windless

I'm not sure what this is other than I want it. Cropping works well on all sides. A lot of times when a close up fills the frame your eyes run off the image, this draws you back and keeps you studying every bolt. The flat light compliments the tough industrial image.

11. Thermal pool, Yellowstone

With the horizon line centered, you cut the image in two (cover top half then cover bottom half and you see that each do not compliment the other) Crop out 50% of the blue sky, down to where the clouds are darker. This gives your image a more powerful and dramatic look.

12. Chris MacAllister and His 1967 Lotus Around Turn 5 At Speed

A little far away with such a plain area of track. Could try some motion but would lose detail in the car. Slower speed would draw out the red spot behind the car ? worth a try.

13. From Above - Along Highway 46

Nice dramatic lighting for subject, placement of Hwy works well.

14. From Above Athenian School

Mono tones and clouds frame the shot and brings you into the frame. Easy to spend time going from building to building, a captivating way To study a small town. Better than most for this type of image.

15. Fallen Bristlecone Pine

Love the tones and texture of the weathered wood. Composition works well on all side but the lower left. The image bleeds out. You can easily correct this by placing a section of twigs on the ground, just enough to show a portion of frame, not too much and not centered at corner. When doing this make sure it has snow on top (same as the tree) or some dead wood.

16. From Above - Winding Dirt Road

You hit the best time to illustrate the rolling shadows, the black and white give a nice strong image.

17. Icelandic Stallion

Having the second horse in foreground and at a crossing angle helps frame the main subject very nice, plus having a second horse gives a nice warmth to the image.

18. Jelly near the boat ramp

The two smaller jellyfish going in a different direction give the large jellyfish a nice sense of motion. The timing of all three together works very well.

19. Life in a thermal pool, Yellowstone National Park

*Hard shot to pull off, in this case flat light may be better than light
Casting shadows confusing the viewer.*

20. Looking Back

*Nice soft lighting and placement of little is great, however the glasses on the
gentleman cut right through the center of his eye, this make someone look mad
or irritated. Framing the eyes in the center or away from an eye has softer look.*

21. Old Bottles, Cerro Gordo

*The wall behind the bottles is so clean it takes away from the old bottles.
You can cast a shadow above and into one end of the bottles to both draw attention
back to them.*

22. Mono Lake Sunrise

*Overall it could be darker, the black area need to be darker and this would
Make your sunset more dramatic. Clouds give a strong horizon.*

23. NipomoDunes#4

*Great wind generated ripples and textures on the dune. The foreground is plain
And takes away from the main portion of your image. Crop out a portion of this
and some from the right side. The blue sky and black portion really adds to your
image.*

24. Old faithful geyser

*The light is a little flat, try to get some back light in a case like this.
The mist is blowing to the right so give more space in the frame for it.*

25. Our Lady of the Rosaries

*All the beads adds a nice weight to the stature, you can tell each has a story
of its own. Even the wall behind wavy lines add to the weight on her shoulders.
Back ground color give a soft separation.*

26. pelican feathers and red paint

*Very nice balance of color and texture. Peeling red paint gives both a placement
and bit of color. Nice shot.*

27. PG Shoreline

*Very nice image, the smaller purple plant brings you back into the pathway, without
the same color to frame the pathway your eyes tend to wonder away. Even the
uneven pathway pulls you along. Good subtle color.*

28. San Juan Eagle

*You have a little too much open floor space, cropping in a little would help, cutting
Into the large wheel is ok it could use a larger area and bring all the buckets out.*

29. Skull Arch, Alabama Hills

Nice detail in shadow and sunlight, the outer formation is well placed avoiding being centered gives the viewer an option to explore.

30. skyline through grasses

Good composition, the colors going from green to tan and giving way to the city frame the image well, but I think you need more dramatic light. Maybe the warm sunrise or sunset could bring that extra separation.

31. Soberanes Surf

Lots of great motion throughout your shot. Having the two formations in background give a nice balance.

32. Spring snowstorm in Sylvies Valley

You bring chills to your viewers, nice placement, the stream really pulls you along through the snowstorm. Very good location for this type of image.

33. Sunflower

Unusual view of a sunflower, the graceful form of yellow pedals overlapping one another growing away from the green leafs is a welcome approach. The dried tips on leafs seems ok but the bruising on the right side takes a lot. From the image, I think this would be worthwhile to redo with a better flower; You may find a series of abstract views.

34. Sunset Cranes

Orange, Orange, a little over the top with color. Maybe try working with Kodak Gel filters with different gradations. This could get a little expensive but gives more Control than single filter, and being gel you can trim them to match your shot.

35. The Exit

Nice image, colors work well with the natural lighting. Having the front door slightly ajar gives the appearance of someone in the room

36. Masked Bandit Eating Lollypop

Not sure you planned the color of the lollypop, boy's sweater and background either way take credit for it ! Even the face paint and his hair match the lollypop !

Could try some texture like an old postcard to make a better "pictorial image"

Honorable mention

#6 Soberanes Wave

#10 Bodie Windless

#27 PG Shoreline

#35 The Exit

Third Place # 15 Fallen Bristlecone Pine

Second Place # 36 Masked Bandit Eating Lollypop

First Place # 9 Done

2011 Pictorial 1 Group AA

1. Monument Valley after rainstorm
Nice clean landscape, the only way to enhance is to filter or look for more dramatic weather.
2. Armida wine tasting in Capitola
Bringing the wine bottle forward would bring the "event" more into the image, the wine glasses are more of a supporting image. Defusing the light kitting the bottle would soften the highlights.
3. Bad water Sunset
Excellent perspective, composition is well balanced.
4. Beach vacation
Great lighting, carries refraction's well in rough water. Nature of subject really draws you in to study the reflections.
5. Bicycle by restaurant in Capitola
The right side of image is more complex than the portion on the left, having a person sitting on the wall with a cup of coffee could add to the mood and breakup that area.
6. Blue Mountain Silhouette
Relaxing well balanced image, gradation of detail adds to the separation.
7. Bottoms Up Sea Stars
Nice composition of stars following the large crack across the frame.
8. California Peppers
Very nice colors, subject works well with reflections, you lose some detail in foreground. A little fill from a white card would bring them out without effecting the mood of the shot.
9. Canal in Venice
Nice reflection on water leading you down toward the end, sunlight adds balance to the shadowed area.
10. Cinnamon Sticks
I would expose more of the ends of the cinnamon to bring out the repeating circles, this would help bringing more visual impact.
11. Deep Purple
Flowers are placed very nice within the pattern of lilies. Having more in this case would lessen the visual.

12. Down the tube slide
I'd like to see the child more involved, with arms out or looking off a little to enhance the feeling of going down a slide. The color reflections greatly enhance the shot.
13. Garland Moonwalk
Image has a panic feel, as to escape down the path, Spot of sunlight gives viewer some relief.
14. Getting the Shot
The size and placement of the photographer gives us a threatening perspective to his work. The area of rock cliff and grass area are well balanced.
15. Hay-bale
The small child leaves the viewer to decide his fate, being swept away or playful interaction.
16. Beautiful Morning at the Mittens - Monument Valley
Not as powerful as the first, not a lot of separation from ground and sky.
17. Horse and barn
Lots of open space to establish an environment, very peaceful, stream frames the image nicely.
18. Infinite Glass
Image has a flow despite its repetition, a specialty product image.
19. LEAVING MONUMENT VALLEY
The road tends to bring us into the valley, the clouds keeps the viewer focused within the valley.
20. Lemon Pepper
The detail on the peppercorns is lost, with all the dried wrinkles you should try to bring them out as much as possible. Strong colors work well.
21. Limekiln Beach
Rock formation has a face looking out to sea. Foreground rocks keeps your eyes on beach with waves advancing then returning to the surf. Well balanced image.
22. Limekiln clover
Nice image, flowers form a nice central visual focus. Clean sharp colors.

23. Looking up at Antelope Canyon
Strong visuals, bringing your focus on every twist and turn. Very nice colors and shadow details still carry blacks well.
24. looking-good
lighting and highlights are spot on ! The open area helps establish the man space to look into. Simple small highlights on helmet and jacket give a nice separation while holding the image in a black field. Title could be "still a bad ass"
25. Lunch anyone
The somewhat harsh light works well with all the confusion within the image.
26. Magic color cascade
Excellent motion, the cascading light is remarkable sharp and colors separate nicely. An endless cascade of shooting stars.
27. Monet
Would be a nice addition to a series of flowers, very peaceful image,
28. Morning Clouds over Lake Powell
As if the sky opened a small window of blue, to put highlights on the lake.
29. Moving car
The image appears to be falling backwards with the larger images around the car, when taking this type of shot, use the zoom in both directions. The resulting motion may add (or take away) but worth a look.
30. Old Gnomes
The gnomes have the same shape as the trees, having the separation of trees and gnomes across the frame at that angle also complements the similar shapes.
31. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission framed by bougainvillea
Strong image of cross leading viewers into a field of blue, as if pointing to the heavens, nice balance of colors working together,
32. Packard Twelve
The highlights on every curve are as good as you can get outside a studio, maybe better in this case. The small black section of license plate draws your eyes away briefly, best to crop it out. The image will still hold with less of the spare.

33. Perfume Bottle
The bottle needs a little more light to bring out all the details, a lighter surface and darker background to get all the details.
34. Power and Peace
The mountains need some light across the face for separation.
35. Psychedelic color explosion
Good balance of color, blues and greens work well together.
36. Pt. Sur Lighthouse
Very nice composition, pulls viewer along the fog hold the image well and the red roof ties all together both in shape and color.
37. Raging bull
The use of motion helps to defuse the background and add to the sense of a "Raging Bull"
38. Smiling for The Camera
The cage frames the action but takes away from a more natural environment.
39. Soberanes Sunset
Very strong image, the foreground works well within frame. A portion of sky could be cropped in for a more powerful image.
40. Spinning redwoods
Not as dramatic as the cascade image, the direction does not hold up as well.
41. Stories untold
Great find, many sections could hold their own as well as one whole image. The subtle color on the door reads very well. The over tone of the image works the subject.
42. Sunflower
Not the best angle for this flower, the water drops do give a fresh look.
43. Technicolor Landscape
Nice landscape, clouds are strong enough to compliment the green hills. Similar shape of foreground and sky gives a good balance.
44. The Wave
You can hear the white water rushing down this formation. The natural lines on the formation guide viewer up in the clouds.

45. The Pier
Interesting shot, well balanced with the water separating the mountains, as well as the seagulls atop the poles.
46. The Skate
The skate is like a time capsule into the past. Sitting behind glass covered in dust or dirt from years of faithful service, you can't help but hear a child laughter while learning to skate.
47. Topography of a Leaf
Good shot, you lose focus on the upper portion which is very important when you have a subject of such interconnected detail. If the details were not tied so close together you could get away with it. Shoot more overhead to flatten the leaf. Take the time to reshoot this.
48. Tranquility
Hard to pose fish, but they carry a nice formation. Placing the white Koi between the two black Koi gives a nice color separation, good choice.
49. Trinity Church Cemetery
Nice contrast between the past and future side by side. Lighting and tones help build that theme. The image of a lifeless solitude carries very nice. there is a small bird just coming in the frame at top, but even adds to the solitude.
50. Truck in wildflowers
The truck sits too far to the left, you need some open space in front of the truck, to establish a space to drive. Also the foreground is barren of flowers, off to the right it seems to have a full field of flowers. To use the location, its best to have the truck among the flowers. A trick to add highlights to tires, just squirt some baby powder along one curve, make sure it's the correct curve.
51. Turning-up-the-heat.
A tough image to stand on its own, may not complete a story without the foundation of other images, could be other balloons in background.
52. Unwanted Facial Hair
Now you need a before and after shot, good luck.
53. Vintage Rolls
Shooting from a lower position would help show more details, with this type of shot you should avoid distortion.

54. Would you canoe

*Great location, needs some light across the mountains, this would also
Bring out the red canoes.*

Honorable mention

#39 Soberanes Sunset

#24 looking-good

#41 Stories untold

#26 Magic color cascade

Third Place # 4 Beach vacation

Second Place # 46 The Skate

First Place # 3 Bad water Sunset