

Delores Frank

I retired from a 24 year career as a Pharmaceutical Consultant with The Upjohn Company. I enjoyed my career and the years with Upjohn provided me with the skills that have shaped the rest of my life-discipline, hard work, and professionalism. Since then, I have earnestly pursued my second career as a photographer. It is the best time of my life. I love all the aspects of photography; the pursuit of the image, the excitement of seeing what I captured and the ultimate joy of creating a beautiful print. I'm a member of a group called Ten Eyes. Our goal is to create Fine Art photography. Because of Ten Eyes, I have developed friendships which have been influential and supportive and encouraging.

My favorite images are those that express emotion. I like to find the ordinary and turn it into something extraordinary. I used to use Velvia film and scan my images with a Nikon Coolscan. These days, I am all Digital. My pictures are captured with my Canon 5D Mark 2 and-or my Canon 10D. My digital darkroom work is done using Adobe Photoshop CS5 and, I do all of my printing on the Epson 3880 printer with archival Epson Ultra Chrome K3 ink using a variety of different archival papers.

For me, photography is more than a passion. It is a way of life. My trips are all photography oriented and because of the focus, they have been extremely rewarding. Making prints is my greatest goal. I tend to work an image over and over until I feel it has reached the point where it looks perfect for printing. Most of my work is done using primarily darkroom techniques digitally. Some of the prints have been manipulated, but usually in a small way that makes them as true to life as possible. On rare occasions, I will do something very different with a photograph and, it is obvious that it is unique.

Padre Trails Camera Club Group A Creative 2012

1. Post Coital Smoke ---This is a fun image and when you make someone laugh you can consider an image a successful one.
2. Aquarium--- In my opinion, this is not a very creative image. I believe saturating an image is an enhancement of whats in the image and not creating something new. I also prefer to see more details in the shadow areas.
3. Backlit Otter --- I like the idea here however I believe the image is a little difficult to read. It might be better if more of the otter's face was viewable.
4. Beak Full Of Pixie Dust --- A clever way to use what is a somewhat weak image of an egret. In my opinion, any image of an egret needs to have good detail in the feathers and face. I also believe this image is a little flat
5. Blue --- Lovely eyes are always catching. I like this image but as a creative image, I'm left in doubt. I think the idea of creative images is that they go beyond the "norm". So, while the eyes in this image are lovely, I'm not sure how creative the image is.

6. Boardwalk Hotel --- Over all, I like the effect of this image. Uses edges to outline the buildings makes the image different enough to be viewed in a fun manner. I think the maker made a good effort here to create something different than it would have been if viewed as captured.
7. Bodie --- I like this image. I've been to Bodie many times and it is always cold in the winter. Must have been painfully cold on this day. A good effort here to make an image something more than reality.. The old truck is great as the focus of the image and the surroundings work well, in my opinion.
8. California Poppy --- The colors are very appealing in this image...the strong yellows against the vivid greens. This image is almost an abstract and I think it works.
9. Dexter The Singing Whale --- Well, I like what the maker has done with an image which on its own, might not be the best shot of a whale. Adding the music, helps it and it is a creative way to handle the image. I also like the darkening of the corners of the image which forces my eye to the center.
10. El Capitan ---I personally do not believe the colors of this image work well for me. The shadow areas seem to be too dark and the pink of the trees against the orange/pink of the mountain are a little difficult for me.
11. Fishopper ---Again, judging is based on the opinions of the judge. I personally would rather see more of the restaurant and less of the sign. I think the edging of the image is good but I prefer to see more of the building and wharf.
12. Fogalicious --- In my opinion, this image works as a creative image. The colors are good together and the overall effect is pleasing and interesting. The image is sharp and that is important to make it work well.
13. Great Egret On Purple --- I like the idea here, but, I would rather see more detail in the egret and in the shadows. I feel that this image is overly exposed and perhaps trying again with a little less exposure and some restoration of detail might help the image. One of the reasons I prefer shooting images as RAW images is that the RAW program offers many options for regaining lost detail.
14. Its Your Choose --- I think this is a clever image....it is eye catching and makes one think. Good sharp details and a fun handling of the image overall.
15. Johnny Rockets --- More of an abstract with good colors that play off of each other well. I like the effect and the balance of this image is also good.
16. Lily Pads --- I like the idea for this image and the colors are excellent. I'm left longing for someplace in this image where I can settle on something. A lot of lily pads with a single frog, or, an insect....or something in the image to make me stop moving around the image.
17. Moon Over Betrand --- I think this is a good image. There could be more detail in the snow and there may be more than I see on the computer.. Nevertheless, I think the image works well and is an appealing one.
18. Office Glen --- Good use of off-setting the message box. The maker has managed to create a "comic book character" and for that reason, the image works well.

19. Orchid and Lava --- In my opinion, this image needs more detail in the flower to be a successful image. I think the background works well, and I like the colors and the blending of the colors. However, I think the flower, because it is the main point of interest, needs to have detail in the white areas. Again, this may be a computer issue as I'm looking at it there instead of in person.
20. Other Worlds --- I like this image a lot. It is a step beyond reality and it makes me think. Well done..
21. Pink Phalaenopsis --- Lovely colors and good placement of the image with the diagonal line from the center of the flower up to the top. Any diagonal lines in an image make it have more energy. This works better because of the placement of the flower.
22. Poppies With Haloes ---- Soft focus and beautiful colors and poppies that, while softer, are perfectly captured. Well done.
23. Rainbow Over The Bay --- I think this image makes good use of the empty space. While I might have preferred a different placement of the gulls, it still seems to work overall. Good lighting on the buildings.
24. Sailboard Fence --- An abstract of water skies.....with good colors. In my opinion, the image would be stronger if the skies were not straight up and down. Taking the image at a slant would make the image a stronger one. Nevertheless, the colors are very good and the end result is an abstract.
25. Sierra Water Fall --- I like the effect of this image and I think a lot of the appeal is the colors which work so well together. The tree stands out and the underlying photography is good. The soft shades of brown and gold and greens are very nice. I think the only thing I can think of that might improve this image a little would be to darken the colors somewhat so my eye is forced in to the tree and waterfall area.
26. Starry Landing --- Great capture of the egret (I just wish there were a little of the face of the bird). However, good work in turning this image into a better one by your efforts. The bird is sharp and has excellent detail.
27. Thistle --- In my mind, I would like to see this image with a little less contrast....but, that may be caused by the computer lighting. Darkening the corners would also help this image by making the viewer focus on the thistle instead of the background.
28. Twiggy --- An excellent abstract and I like the overall effect. The diagonal lines add a lot of energy to this image.
29. Yee Haw --- Oh my, out of the dust into ??? Lots of fun with this image and it is a good one. The maker has really gotten creative and made a new and different image than the original.
30. Zakim Bridge, Boston, MA ---I think this is an excellent abstract. I don't need to know what it was because what it has become stands on its own.

Three Honorable Mentions.....

Post Coital Smoke

Poppies with Haloes

Sierra Water Fall

3rd place to: Bodie
2nd place to: Other Worlds
1st place to: Yee Haw

Padre Trails Camera Club Group AA 2012 Creative

1. Neon Night --- The use of a photoshop filter here, or, perhaps two filters, is interesting, but, perhaps not as strong a creative effort as I would like to see. Also, I personally would like to see more of the vehicle.....so, either come in really close, or show me the wheels also.
2. Above Clouds --- I think this is a beautiful image with great color and impact. I'm not certain what makes it a creative entry, but, I think overall, it is a strong image and a good one.
3. Beauty of The Past --- I like what the maker has done with this old vehicle. I hope I can add a personal comment here....while this image does indeed work well, in my opinion, I still feel that overall, for creative images, all of us who use photoshop need to break away from the "obvious" filters. After a while, when one has seen lots of the same efforts, they become weaker efforts. This is not a criticism of this image because this works well. My comments are directed to any artist who is interested in making creative efforts. Getting beyond the filters offered and doing something different is difficult, but, when it works well, it is truly a success of creativity.
4. Bixby Creek Bridge Zoomed ---I believe the creativity here was in the taking of the image and it works for me. Keeping the main focus of the image with good exposure and in good detail while moving the lens has a nice effect here and it works
5. Bleached Roses --- --- Good use of black and white. Nice detail in the roses and using an edge adds to the image. I wish there was something in the center on the lower row because the "hole" that is created there is distracting.
6. Bottomless Bucket --- I think the bucket I'm seeing is actually the universe and I'm look down at a world somewhere in there. So, when you make the judge believe something is something else, I think you can consider an image to be successful. I would have liked to see more detail of "something" in the lower left but, overall, I like the effect.
7. Cherry Blossom Festival --- I believe this is a good idea which has not come off as well as desired. Whatever the maker has done here to make this a creative image, has also created a fair amount of noise in the image. Also, I feel, I would like to see a little more detail of the lights and images along the pathway to lead me into the image. The colors are excellent and present a happy effect overall.

8. Chihuly --- I personally love Chihuly glass and have a fair amount of images on my own web site of his work. I like the strong color and in fact, I think the way this image is handled works well. You have created a strong center of image with the good exposure and strong shadows in the center of the image.. Good effort.
9. Color Twirl in The Garden --- Truly an abstract of color and you have chosen a subject with very appealing tones and colors. Nice diagonal placement in the image.
10. Coy In Rose Fish Bowl --- Good job. This very micro photo of the rose reveals a never before seen item....two coy swimming in the rose. And, the color and shape of the rose itself with good sharp focus are excellent.
11. Disappearing Into The Night --- This image, I think, is almost perfect....except, I cannot see anything above the nose of the face. Again, this may be caused by the method of viewing....the computer. I like the mystery but I just wish I could see a little of the eyes to keep a tiny sense of what I'm seeing.
12. El Picador --- This images gives me a good sense of movement. Somehow, you have managed to create an abstract of this rider on a horse. The horse from rear to front creates a diagonal line and the colors are pleasing. This is a case where blurring creates the effect and it works.
13. Explosions In The Sky --- I think this is a strong image with excellent placement of the orange stars which work to keep the image lively. If the moon were there without the orange stars, it would be right in the center of the image and the white stars would not be enough to keep it interesting. It works well because of the maker's effort to keep it off center and the color brings it to life. Good job. I also find the border and drop shadow very effective for this image.
14. Flamingo Gathering --- I believe flamingoes are among the most difficult birds to capture. They always seem to be merging with each other. Unfortunately, this has happened for your image. The merged heads, in my opinion, do not help this image. I also feel it is important to keep detail in the exposure of the highlights. In this image, that appears to be lost in the highlights on the back of the flamingoes.
15. Iris and Rose In Red --- I feel the effect on this image is a little too strong. In my opinion, I find the image to be blurry and the strong dark lines around some of the flowers overwhelms them.
16. Mammoth Hot Springs Clouds --- I think this black and white is a little too grey. I think it would be a stronger image if the blacks were blacker and the whites whiter. Overall, it is a nice image of the hot springs, but, I think something is lost by the creative efforts.
17. Moon Ink --- This is a strong "mood" image. My critique is not a big one....I would prefer to see the image cropped so that the lower part of the image would take up less space overall. However, that being said, I think the created mood works well.
18. Morning After Fantasy --- The maker has done a nice job with the creative efforts here. I would have liked to see just a little more space between the

- view outside of the window so that the top balloon and the left one were not quite so close to the edge.
19. Morro Bay Snowy Egret --- I personally find this image a little hard to view. The creative effort here, in my opinion, does not work out as well as I think it could. It is a little strong for this image. On the plus side, the placement of the bird is good with a diagonal line by the spread of the wings.
 20. Natures Color Palette --- A great pallet of color...ending up with a pleasing abstract. The texture is an important part of this image and it is well done.
 21. Palms In The Sky --- Creative in the camera.....it looks like everything is in focus and you got what you wanted. I think I would like to see something in an image like that that stops me...and makes me take another look. Like, perhaps, a bird up thereor, an insect.....just to get me to look a little longer.
 22. Prickly --- I find this image to be a little difficult to judge. The image itself does not appear to be the most interesting subject and the creative effort here, while worthwhile, just doesn't seem to work that well, in my opinion.
 23. Red Crowned Crane Comes In For A Landing --- I like the movement of the bird and the fact that you have the face makes the image a better one. You have certainly done something different to the image, and that is noteworthy. I am not sure that I like the effect overall, but, that is simply my opinion.
 24. Red Crowned Cranes In The Snow --- Cranes are not easy to capture and you have managed to get in close with some activity...Again, I'm not sure I like the effect, but, again, it is simply my opinion. I think I would like to see you work a little on the head of the bird on the left and bring out just a little more detail of the eye etc. to make the bird a more significant part of the image.
 25. The Last Drop --- Interesting, but, I am not sure what I'm looking at. A little mystery here.
 26. The Magical Bird --- Wow, a very interesting abstract using a photoshop filter. However, I think this one works well. It is a very strong graphic.
 27. Watersports --- A nice, off center, shot of this flower. Keeping it off center makes it a better image. One comment.....the petal on the right is cropped off in an awkward place and that is a fault. The colors are good and the image is well exposed.
 28. Wave --- You have managed to take a so-so image of the cabin and wave and make it more interesting with the color effect and the effect on the sky. I might add, I've taken hundreds of so so images of waves and I think you have done a good job to make it better.
 29. Zooming In --- So much is thrown out of focus in this image, I'm not sure what I'm seeing. So, in my mind, the strongest points are the colors created Perhaps cropping a littler tighter might make the image stronger.....some of the top of the image could be cropped out,

Honorable Mention: Beauty of the Past
 Natures Color Palette
 Moon Ink

3rd place – The Magical Bird

2nd place – Above Clouds

1st place – Explosions in the Sky