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Sam received an Associates of Arts degree from Merced College, a Bachelors of Science degree, major in Mathematics and minor in Physics from California State College Stanislaus, and a Masters degree in Mathematics with emphasis on Computer Science from California State College Stanislaus. He has been interested in photography since high school. Joined the Modesto Camera Club and PSA in 1993, and started international competitions in 1995 and currently has over 1900 acceptances. Sam has been active in the Modesto and Merced Camera Clubs, the San Joaquin Council, the Gold Rush Chapter and PSA. He started the Gold Rush International Exhibition in 2010 and is the General Chairman. Sam has produced programs on Digital Imaging, Color topics, Travel destinations, Nature and Photojournalism, these have been shown at local travel and service groups, camera clubs, Gold Rush Chapter, Foto-Clave and the PSA International Conference. The PSA Journal honored Sam in the Distinctive Image article in September 2009 and has had two articles published in the Journal. He has four magazine covers, three for the PSA Journal and one for the Northwest Public Power Bulletin.

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Padre Trails Pictorial # 2

Leading Lines

Group A

1. Fall Vineyards

Nice fall color image with the road leading us back into the image. Exposure is good, image has a foreground, middle ground and background so it had good three dimensionality.

2. Helm and Sons

Nice lines on this wheel leading up to the center point and it is good that it is in one of the crash points. Still have some light in the sky so it's a good time to take night images.

3. Antelope Canyon From The Top

Not sure I have ever seen a view from the top of Antelope Canyon. Good idea for a leading line and the monochrome works well. The image overall is a very good image. I like the organization with the crack coming from the lower left and leading up to the right side of the image. Looks like you had some nice clouds in the sky also.

4. From Above - Morning Cleanup

I see many lines but don't really get the impression that they are leading me anywhere. The image is a little too contrasty for my taste and detail is hard to make out.

5. Chaco Fissure

This works well for a leading line with the fissure leading up to the one patch of sky. Exposure is good and everything appears sharp.

6. Nipomo Dunes

Nice early morning or late afternoon shot of the dunes. Good ripple pattern that leads us right into the shadow center of interest. Excellent exposure on the dunes and the image looks sharp from front to back.

7. Motorcycle Queue

Good perspective on the line of motorcycles. Looks to be sharp from front to back, exposure good. I might have cloned out the one piece of wheel in the lower left and also waited until the guy with the white shirt was out of the image.

8. millennioum bridge span

Good leading line of the bridge taking us right into the main building. The image works well as a monochrome image. I might have tried to move a little more to the right so the bridge didn't cut so much into the main building, of course that may have left you with too much blank sky.

9. Juan the Butcher

There was a lot of thought or luck that went into this image. The lights lead us right to Juan. The lighting is good because I don't see any harsh shadows as if an on camera flash had been used and the lights are not blown out.

10. Path to Good Fishing

Great night image with just enough light in the sky to get a little detail, much later and it would have gone totally black. The exposure of the walkway is good and even though it was someone else I like the green light at the end of the pier. Probably a sodium vapor light.

11. Aptos Creek In The Rain

This is a beautiful image with good exposure, good composition and sharpness where you want it. The log on the right leads us into the creek and the creek leads us on back into the woods. I like the slow water effect.

12. Bodie Leading Line

The water way leads us right into Bodie. I like the fact that you offset the horizon a little which adds impact to your sky. The image is exposed well and looks sharp throughout.

13. Weston Beach At Point Lobos

You have great depth of field. The foreground is really sharp and it extends back into the image. Good leading line going back to the little patch of water or something. Great exposure and the light on the structure is perfect.

14. Amanita Mushrooms

Interesting subject and placement for a leading line. Exposure is good as is the sharpness. Nice overall scene.

15. Sedona Sunset

Good leading line, I like the reflection in the water. Exposure is good but the saturation seems to be a little much especially on the mountain in the background.

16. From Above - Furrows and Field

From the title I assume you are in the helicopter and that is your shadow on the ground. The furrows lead you into the image. I don't know if you darkened the corners or if that effect was from the way the image was shot but it bothers me, almost like there is a spotlight on the image.

17. Sand Dunes

Nice classic image of the sand dunes. Definitely have a leading line with the ripples and the ridge of the dunes. Exposure is good and I like the low angle you shot the image.

18. Hotel Taprobane

I find the image very interesting and everything is technically done well. I personally don't think it really says leading line. Exposure is good and focus is good.

19. Furrows

The furrows do create a nice leading line. The exposure looks good. I know many people recommend darkening down the corners but it makes this

image look almost like viewing through a tunnel. Another judge would probably love it.

20. Mission San Juan Bautista

The aisle makes for a good leading line to the altar area. The exposure is perfect, no burned out areas or dark shadows. Looks like it could be an HDR image. The colors look nice and soft, inviting and the reflection on the floor is a nice added touch.

21. made you look

The building lines all point up so we go with the flow. The exposure on the building and shrubbery is good. The key stoning look from possible a wide angle lens pointed up does not bother me on this type of image.

22. Mustang Reflections

Very dark and brooding image and I think the black and white adds to that feeling. Good exposure without anything blown out and you still have some detail in most of the blacks.

23. What A Waste

I agree with your title but at the same time it does make a very interesting image. The exposure looks good without any deep shadows or blown out areas. Looks like it might be an HDR image. I see many lines but down have the feeling they are leading me anywhere.

24. Golden Gate

The bridge deus make a nice leading line. Image taken at a good time of the day, just after sunset when the lights are on but there is still detail in the sky. Exposure looks good and the light reflecting in the water is wonderful.

25. Hawaiian Ruins

You fooled me, I did not guess this was in Hawaii, looks like many places in the Sierra foothills. Anyway the image is properly exposed and looks sharp from the rocks in the foreground to the trees in the background. The sky helps set off this pleasant scene.

26. Carmel River

The river leads you right out to the bay. The addition of the person at the end of the river is a nice touch. Image works well as a monochrome image. Exposure and focus looks good.

27. The Road to New Idria

The image is a nice image with good exposure and sharp focus, but the road is almost lost to me. Without the road being more dominate I really don't get the concept of leading lines.

28. Runners Crossing Bixby Bridge

Good leading line and good perspective with the date of the bridge in front and the closest runner and the runner way in the background. I do feel that the image could use a little more contrast to make it pop.

29. Pulling Out In Tortel Chile

Good image with the walkway leading us in to the boats and the people there. Exposure is right on and everything looks sharp.

30. Hawaiian Banyan Tree

The root leads one right into the trunk of the tree. This is one image that I would have liked to have seen in color. The monochrome looks really busy, maybe the color version did also.

31. Golf Course Entrance

Pleasant image with a dreamy quality to it. The roadway leads you right down between the rows of trees. Exposure is good and perspective is also good. I like the soft dreamy feel to the image.

32. random seagrass

Very simple image with distinct shadows. Works well for a leading line although I don't have any idea what it is leading to. Good texture on the sand and the shadow is interesting because it is hard to tell what is throwing it.

33. Winter In Lamar Valley

Beautiful image. Nice leading line and the placement of the components of the image is handled very well. You have good depth in the image from foreground to background as well as from sharpness to fog shrouded.

34. The S Curve

Well I guess the head and neck could be considered a leading line to the body. Exposure is good and the background has been handled well. Nice to have a little glint in the eye.

35. point reyes climb

Good leading line and it works well in monochrome. Glad you had a person on the pathway as that adds interest. The harsh light doesn't bother me in this image in fact I think the shadow of the fence adds.

### 36. Thunderbirds

Maybe this should be called trailing line but I can see where the smoke leads to the planes. Exposure is good and from what I can tell the planes are sharp. The nice blue sky helps make the planes and smoke stand out.

HM – 3 – Antelope Canyon From The Top

HM – 9 – Juan the Butcher

HM – 10 – Path to Good Fishing

HM – 20 – Mission San Juan Bautista

3<sup>rd</sup> – 11 – Aptos Creek In The Rain

2<sup>nd</sup> – 13 – Weston Beach At Point Lobos

1<sup>st</sup> – 33 – Winter In Lamar Valley

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## Padre Trails Pictorial # 2

### Leading Lines

#### Group AA

#### 1. Cayucos pier

Using the pier as a leading line is a great idea. The selection of a monochrome image works well with this image. I like the way the water in the foreground goes along with the line of the pier. Your image is a little out of center, it might have bothered me if you had placed the horizon and the end of the pier right in the center.

#### 2. Mothership

Everything leads up to the circle in the dome. Exposure and color looks good. I am bothered a little by two things. The black portion in the upper right is really massive and the shrubbery is a little much. Don't know if there would have been a position to lessen the effect of those two items.

#### 3. Pride of Madeira

Not something that I would normally think of as leading lines but I can make the connection. The overall color of the image seems just a little washed

out. If you didn't use a polarizer you might want to give that a try it would help the sky and intensify the flowers and leaves.

4. Domino Effect

Very interesting effect. I like the simplicity of the image and the repetitions of everything except the top three circles. Monochrome works well for the image. The implied horizon being low in the images gives strength to it.

5. Heart Shaped Leaves

Nice line of leaves leading up to the two colored ones. A polarizer may have helped intensify the color and taken the sheen off the leaves. I might have cloned some of the smaller leaves over the bright area in the background but you would have to be careful not to get it on your leaf line.

6. Leading Lines Fence

Good idea using the fence as a leading line into the forest. I would have liked to have seen more of the path if that were possible. Moving to the left may have let you do that and that would also have eliminated part of the right hand side that isn't really doing much for the image.

7. Leading Lines Sunrise

The walkway does lead you right into the sunset. I think the sunset and sky exposure is right on, but the lower portion of the image is a bit dark for my taste. I would probably lighten up that area some.

8. Dancing Reflections

The image is very graphic in design. I find the top portion of the image to have a lot of interest but the bottom really doesn't do much for the image. I think I would have cropped right about where the concrete hits the right edge.

9. Alhambra Fountain

For me this is a bit of a stretch for leading lines although I can see where the water is all kind of leading to the center piece. The image looks like it was taken in the middle of the day and therefore is very contrasty. This would be much more interesting with early morning or late afternoon light.

10. Alley In Marvoa, Portugal

This has a nice leading line with the alleyway steps going down to the building at the end. It could use something else at the end of the alley like a person or dog or something.

11. Canyon Walls

The canyon walls support the leading line of the dirt road. The exposure on the rocks is right on. I like the light hitting the far canyon wall. I might have darkened down the sky somewhat to keep it from drawing my eye up there.

12. Carmel Mission Walkway

Very pleasant leading line image. The pot, flowers and greenery in the front being repeated down the line works well. The color of the image seems a little flat even though the image has good dimensionality. Maybe some contrast would help.

13. Cathedral at Milan Italy

Definite leading line with the center aisle going to the alter. The color seems off to me. Maybe it did have that green glow or maybe the white balance needed to be changed. Centering of the image from left to right doesn't bother me in this image.

14. Changing Color In Midstream

I see a lot of line in this image and I like the image but I don't get the impression that it is leading me anywhere. Good job on the exposure of the whites of the waterfall.

15. Coyote Lake Park Trail

Nice leading line and the image is very pleasant overall. Good color and exposure. I really don't see anything that I would change. Very nice image.

16. DC Metro

Several lines are leading the viewer to the end of the station. Good job on the exposure, it is not an easy task to get the exposure right with this type of lighting. If it were mine I would crop or clone out the little part of the red circle right on the bottom edge.

17. Dome

This looks like the same dome roof that was shown earlier. And the things I suggested in the last image are not an issue here. Only thing I might have done is to have the complete first ring. Color is good and the gold goes well with the blue sky.

18. Douro Valley Road, Portugal

Good leading line and the setting is also interesting. I like the placement of the vehicle, it adds interest. The image does appear a little dull to me, think I would increase the saturation a little.



19. Drawbridge with Halo

The road takes you right to the drawbridge which it would have to do. The image was taken at the right time of night, shortly after sunset before the sky goes black. Exposure looks good.

20. Elkhorn Slough Trail

The path makes a good leading line and the trees give it a nice place to go. The exposure on the trees and grass and the front part of the path is good, but the sunlit part of the path and the water and sky looks burned out.

21. Fall Color and Snow

Very pleasant scene with the fall color framing the stream. The image seems a bit flat like it could use more contrast and parts of the sky is burned out.

22. Golden Gate Lights

Nice long exposure night shot. The leading lines of the truck (I assume) light as well as the bridge itself work very well. Good job.

23. John Lennon Memorial

I don't know if you arranged this or found it this way. Someone put a lot of work and effort into this design. Almost everything leads right to the word and the whole image works well.

24. Lake and Leaf

Nice leading lines. I like the monochromatic effect and the one spot of color with the leaf. Because of the spot around the leaf my guess is you found it this way. I may have moved the leaf closer to the camera and made it take a more prominent role in the image.

25. Leading Lines Bixby Bridge By Moonlight

Good leading line with a bonus of an "S" curve. The image overall looks a little dark but if it was photographed with more exposure you would have burned out the lights on the bridge. I might make a duplicate layer and adjust levels to lighten the image and then put in a layer mask to have the original lights show through.

26. Leading Lines Monterey Beach

The waves make nice leading lines taking you right into the sunset. I would probably lighten up the foreground a bit.

27. Leading Lines Rollercoaster Road

The road being centered in this image doesn't bother me a bit, in fact it would probably look funny if it were not centered. Exposure is good and it carries out the theme well.

28. Color The Past

Nice job turning the image into a monochrome and then bringing back the color on the pots of flowers, it is very effective. Don't really see anything I would change.

29. Gateway to The Cross

Without the title I missed the cross. Maybe if you were a little more to the left you could have placed the cross right in the middle of the arch.

Exposure is good. Too bad you didn't have a better sky.

30. New York From Jersey

I don't know if you put those vertical bars in the image on purpose or just couldn't get rid of them but for me they detract. If you could have, it may have been better to put the lens through the bars to take the image.

31. Off To The Beach

Pleasant image and the post with Beach Access gives you a good focal point. I like the sky except for the white spot (sun?) in the upper left. I would have cloned some of those gold clouds over it. Probably would have punched up the saturation a bit also.

32. Over The Bridge To A New Adventure

Good exposure on the bridge. The image feels to me more like the side of the bridge rather than over the bridge. I might have tried to use a wider angle lens and moved to the left some, if that were possible.

33. Philodendron

Interesting pattern in the leaf. I can't tell if this is a natural look or if you did some process to it. Doesn't really matter. The exposure is good and it does carry out the theme.

34. Road To Somewhere

Effective leading line and a good title for the image. The exposure on the foreground is right on but most of the image seems a bit under exposed.

35. Safe Harbor

Very nice image, the composition is good and the exposure is good and everything is nice and sharp. I just don't really feel that it follows the theme of leading lines.

36. Salinas Valley Sunset

Good leading lines with the rows of crops. I think the image would have been stronger if you would have put the horizon somewhere other than right in the middle. Probably drop it down to about a third crops and two thirds sky.

37. Sky Tracks

Fits the category and the image works well in its monochromatic form. I like the curve of the tracks and the ominous looking sky. With the horizon going right through the middle of the image you give the same importance to the tracks and the sky. I think you should have put more importance on one or the other.

38. Technicolor Landscape

Very pleasant image and the exposure looks right on. I see patterns and various graphic lines, but nothing that says to me "leading line". I would not have put the horizon right through the center of the image. You could have it higher or lower but right through the center is somewhat static.

39. The Brooklyn Bridge

I like the placement of the bridge with it going at a diagonal through the image. My guess is that you had a gray sky that day so turning the image into a monochrome, for me, lessens that distraction. Very minor suggestion, I might have tried to move a little to the right or shot at a slightly lower angle and got the top of the one building on the right that the bridge cuts through.

40. The Red Road

Everything I see in this image is right. You have a nice leading line, the exposure is right on, you have good depth of field and everything looks sharp. You even put more emphasis on the land than the sky. Great image.

41. Tres Palmas Del Sol

I can see from your title that you put the sun in the image on purpose but when the image first comes up it is the first thing I see. My opinion is that the image would be stronger without the sun and just the clear blue sky.

42. Under The Capitola Warf

The image fits the category, nice leading line under the wharf. The image has a washed out look to it, like it needs more contrast but with that said it

does have some very bright spots and what should be deep shadows. Maybe it is HDR or some other process that has made it look more mid tone.

43. Under The Chrome Bean

I like this image a lot, I just don't get the connection to the theme of leading lines. The abstraction of the image holds my attention and there is a lot to see in the image.

44. Up The Spiral Staircase

Nice viewpoint looking up the stairs. Good leading lines with the center support, the stairs and even the bricks. Exposure is right on and the placement of the elements in the image is good.

45. Upskirt

This image made me smile. I was just there and thought about shooting her but for some reason never did. I hadn't thought about your creative angle but then again I wasn't thinking about leading lines. Nice image.

46. View From The Top

Nice leading lines going right into the center. I think you needed more depth of field as nothing really looks sharp to me. I do like the pattern and the idea although I think I would have moved the center of the structure more out of the center of the image.

47. Washington Bridge

Great leading line. I like the symmetry of the image with the sides of the bridge coming up from the same point and the front of the bridge completely filling the base of the image. Exposure is right on. Very nice image.

48. Warf Into Seattle

The image seems to be tipping. That is easy to fix in Photoshop. Exposure on the top half of the image is good but the lower half looks a bit dark.

HM – 16 – DC Metro

HM – 23 – John Lennon Memorial

HM – 44 – Up The Spiral Staircase

HM – 45 – Upskirt

3<sup>rd</sup> – 47 – Washington Bridge

2<sup>nd</sup> – 1 – Cayucos pier

1<sup>st</sup> – 22 – Golden Gate Lights