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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

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## Group A

1. Ceremony  
*Good image placement, could use some extra element to tell the story of what the service is for ? something that adds a location.*
2. Aged  
*Very nice, lots of color, details. Composition is dead on, solid base with good visual direction. The vertical band of blue gives viewers a good*

*idea of shape.*

3. Amigo the Condor  
*Nice use of open space, gives room for the Condor to fly into. Light gives good separation of the feathers.*
4. Anxious to ride  
*Charming child, maybe having an inner action with a bike or skateboard would add to the shot. Light and shadows work well.*
5. Aquarium  
*Very nice architectural image, with good flow of people bring us to the building. The angle of the crosswalk is nice part of image, more so than if straight on into the building. The light also works well in separation the angles of all the walls.*
6. Black and White Big Sur Sunrise  
*The fog adds a great separation of the different bays, as does the broken clouds. Nice shot worth the effort.*
7. Butterfly Curtain  
*The light is rather flat, needs some strong shadows or highlights to separate the fence and building, if light is unavailable try some off camera flash to give some highlights.*
8. Carmel River Beach  
*Interesting location, shot needs some warm morning or evening light, it may not be warm for the person on the sand bar but would work for the shot, worth redoing with better light.*
9. Cat woman Eating Doritos  
*The colors work well in flat light, the girl is too small in the frame, 65% of the frame does not tell a story. Don't be afraid to get in close, in fact kids will love it.  
Your hero is in 30% of the frame, with 70% of clutter.  
Move in tight, and the colors "POP" and little details start to work for you, those big brown eyes twinkle like a curious cat*
10. Days gone  
*Full of history, composition is good, ties several subjects together. the shade from the trees also has a nice effect.*
11. Did You Find It  
*Funny shot, would work for a "make a caption" contest. even in snow you need to carry some detail, with no detail you lose some perspective.*

12.     **Diffused Fronds**  
*Very Nice image, I like how the Fronds cascade across the background, lighting works well in highlight and shadow.*
13.     **Ed Rickets and His Lab**  
*Good composition, difficult with two powerful subjects. both the artwork and building have nice highlights, The wires and electrical work needs to be cropped out it's a big distraction. If this was for a client or print, you could rent a tall plant, which would cover most, then retouch.*
14.     **Electric Motor Wilder Ranch**  
*Great colors and background, in this case it has a good amount of background, nice shot.*
15.     **Fall Colors**  
*Great light, hitting the bank and the light just hits the far side of the stream. The small patch of grass in foreground give a perfect perspective to establish the size of the stream.*
16.     **Fractured Rock**  
*Fantastic image, light is perfect, you could crop in about 10% coming in just a little make the color of the grass pop Out.*  
  
*The detail is in the rocks and visual lines they create. Removing a portion of the water you increase the impact. The spot of warm light gives a wonderful refraction off the water on the rocks and river grass. That the image you want.*
17.     **Gears, Wilder Ranch**  
*Again coming in slightly would improve the image, be sure to keep the patch of yellow at top left, even that small amount of color brings the image out. Nice work*
18.     **Golden Tracks**  
*picking up the tracks was a good idea, one seagull looks like Its sitting on the others head, try to keep some separation, unless their side by side. Also keep the horizon even, the left side drops just slightly, hard to notice at first. Overall still a good shot.*
19.     **Honey Bee**  
*This shot also could be tighter, on a shot like this we don't need to see the entire flower. Detail in the highlights is good.*  
  
*You don't need the entire flower to tell a story. The bee looks a little awkward hanging upside down.*

20. Life's Been Harsh  
*Great location, you have a lot of sky that not helping much, The foreground is very nice lots of detail.*
21. Maui Sunset  
*Nice shot, would work with a travel agency, I think the two people take a little away from the remote island image, I could be wrong.*
22. Mono Lake sunset  
*A few seconds late, needs some more detail on rocks, looks a little flat. You still would carry the orange sunset.*
23. Pelican Departure  
*I think the image is more powerful cropping in slightly to remove the single pelican on the right of frame. In the first image, the bird on the far right is far enough away it draw your eyes back and forth. By removing him or her, it gives the main group a more powerful look taking off. Having the main group of birds lifting off at the same instant keeps you eyes focused on the subject without wondering back and forth. The line of waves at an angle opposed to straight on give a nice flow to the image.*  
  
*Overall very nice.*
24. Pelican Landing  
*A great shot, great light and detail throughout. Image could be slightly larger.*  
  
*A small change, bring the pelican up, and change his position in frame more to left with less space at bottom than top of frame will give a feeling of motion by giving him extra space to fly into.*
25. Perkins Park Overlook  
*Very nice combination of colors and textures, pathways Has a nice flow throughout the image.*
26. Point Pinos Light House Backlit  
*Nice view, gives a solid perspective, even being backlit you could have some detail in the black. Just a little fill from a flash would bring it all together.*
27. River Grasses  
*Very abstract, also very nice, image keeps your attention.*

28.    **Sax Valves**  
*Highlights are very smooth and well placed. Shooting metal is not easy, however you pulled it off nicely.*
29.    **Solitude**  
*The colors are a little soft, some warmer light later in the day may brighten the image. Very telling image, it's easy to see a pioneer wife standing in the window waiting for her husband or watching her children.*  
  
*The shack could be slightly larger to give more details, while not giving up the solitude feeling. Also the grass in front of the shack has been cut, it looks more isolated without showing that.*
30.    **Testing a New Lens On The Cat**  
*Your lens works ! Also your image works as well. Red background has nice visual separation, and you carried detail in white and dark fur.*
31.    **The Lamp Post**  
*I don't think to need as much of the post to establish that it's a lamp post. Cropping in a little makes the details of the shade really stand out.*
32.    **The Red Light**  
*Not sure what I'm looking at. It does have an interesting pattern and related highlights, not sure that helps, it does have some artistic value.*
33.    **Tractor Seat Wilder Ranch**  
*Interesting view, all the different rusted and colorful items In the background works well with the brighter white seat. Excellent light.*
34.    **Two Lilies In A Pond (s)**  
*Image needs to be cropped in maybe 25% You don't need so much of the lily pads to establish a Lilly Pond. In doing so you remove the upside down leaf and uses the dark water to frame the flowers.*  
  
*The Lilies are overwhelmed by clutter and darkness. By moving in the colors are more vibrant, and you get rid of lots of items to don't need. The bright leaf is gone and is not distracting anymore.*
35.    **Vulcanization**  
*Image is framed well by the small bit of blue roof tiles and small green plant. Even small amount of color help with holding the image.*

## Winning Photos Group A:

- HM    **Aged (tank)**
  - HM    **Black and White Big Sur Sunrise**
  - HM    **River Grasses**
  - HM    **Two Lilies In A Pond**
  
  - 3      **Pelican Landing**
  - 2      **Fractured Rock**
  - 1      **Fall Colors**
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## Group AA

- 1.      **Wild Maple**  
*Very nice image, both the composition and colors have a natural flow, keeping the viewer focused on the little details.*  
  
*Perfect. Green portion is a great visual holding the orange flower. Exceptional technically and esthetically.*
- 2.      **Garapata Beach**  
*Nice sharp and rich, contrast is just right to hold details in full range of tones. The large rock has an interesting similarity with the rocks in the surf.*  
  
*Perfect. Great tones and holding details in both black and white area. Exceptional in esthetics and technically.*
- 3.      **Pastures of Heaven**  
*The overall image looks a little light, a slightly darker tone would bring the clouds out.*
- 4.      **Sand Andreas Fault**  
*This image is to light as well, the blacks are muddy, and the clouds are barely visible. The image itself is nice, maybe a little less sky.*

5. **Abandoned**  
*? Looks like you placed two images on the two windows on the right  
? The only two windows that are clean, and images don't fit.*
6. **Autumn Leaves**  
*The lines above and below the leaves are too harsh and take away from your main subject. The leaves are good but need to fill more of the frame.*  
  
*The black lines from the boards distracts from your shot.*  
  
*Getting in a lot removes the lines and cleans up the two bottom leafs. Remember you don't need the entire leaf in the shot, having a portion bleed off frame can help a lot.*
7. **Barge On The Beach**  
*Good use of different images giving direction in both foreground and background. A gradation filter or gel filters could add a new visual.*
8. **Big Basin State Park**  
*You have some distortion with a wide angle lens, not always a bad thing, but with a subject as a fence I think is best to keep everything in line. However it's an artistic call.*
9. **Boathouse**  
*Nice afternoon light, the reflections on the water are very special. In this image lots of water works well with all the reflection's carrying off frame.*  
  
*Very nice, the large body of water is carried well with all the reflections down to edge of frame. The only thing I would do is tone down the metal gate slightly so it's not a draw.*
10. **Chichi Cemetery Guatemala**  
*Backlighting the markers gives nice highlights and separation. I'm not sure you need all the hillside at top of frame, all the markers going uphill already establishes the hill. The trees and brush don't add anything to your shot.*
11. **Door County Autumn**  
*Very nice location, the image is too light, needs to be darker to bring out the autumn colors, the tree on the right leans out of frame, this should be cropped out to strengthen the visual.*

12. Earring  
*After telling everyone to move in tighter... this may help to show more of the face to help establish what is wearing the leaf. Good use of "Found Art" or not placed for effect.*
13. Flowers After the Rain  
*You also have a rather large blank area in the center that cuts the image in half, it's called a river. Try to position yourself so more flowers fill in the gap.*
14. Golden Sulawesi Sunset  
*Nice cloud formations, they work well with a lots of sky.*
15. Gold hills  
*Good scenic, sky is somewhat pale, needs to be filtered to hold together.*
16. Ice Chunk On Lake Tanaya  
*The ice chunk works well within frame, I like the light coming through to form a pattern.*
17. Isle Of Tomea  
*There are less powerful visuals to hold the viewer. This type of shot works best with something special like a boat with fishermen up close to form an environment.*
18. Kaleidoscope Water  
*I like this, the water appears abstract, the only thing I see would be a little more color in upper right.*
19. Merced River and El Capitan In Snow  
*Foreground works nicely leading into mountains. Maybe a filter to add some more contrast to bring more detail into the mountains.*  
  
*The image is muddy with no strong black. By making it slightly darker the details and color on the mountain and sky really show.*
20. Morning Double Tall  
*The steam is very nice, but the mug needs some fill to bring out the color, not a lot just to help brighten it up. The handle is right on the edge, needs to move 1/2 inch either direction.*
21. Mustard in the Vineyard  
*Colors work good on an overcast day. The grape vines going to top of frame helps carry perspective.*
22. Napa Grist Mill  
*Your tones all work well with the subject, but it's cluttered with*



*so many things fighting to be the hero. With so much in frame maybe closer on one portion such as the work area and one building or pull way back for farm setting. Tough call.*

23. Peek-a-boo

*You need to watch little details for a close up shot. A leaf on lower left has a big brown spot. It's in the details, aside from that it's a good effort.*

24. Pelican

*The pelican has a feather that is falling out, and the tail feathers are a little rough, NOT YOUR FAULT but keeps a good shot from being a great shot. Some cropping and adjustments could help, I still can't stop looking at it.*

*This is a great shot that gets beat up from some feathers starting to molt, The background is a little busy and some feathers are not helping, however you can rescue this to some extent by cropping them and some background out. The rocks now are more dramatic, you get a better look at this great face.*

25. Red In gold

*Great colors, the section of mainly bark is offset by the smaller red tree. The only issue I see is the tree on the right is leaning out of frame. Maybe it's me, but having that just draws your eyes away.*

*When you look at a photograph, think about what you see first and where to eyes goes next.*

*The right side a tree or two leaning out of frame. Stronger image without it.*

26. Red Titius

*The sky works a lot better when dark enough to hold the clouds. Mountains and foothill are nicely varied and cloud shadows work well. A little too much of red dirt in foreground, it also has **tire tracks that take away from a nature shot.***

27. Rusting Away

*Nice grouping, the white panel really draws you away from subject, the old weather wood and dead leafs and twigs also work well. Cropping in just a little would remove the white panel and hold your attention better.*

28. Santa Rosa Creek Road Barn

*Nice scenic, put a couple horses on the lawn and it would be special.*

*The horses are actually easy, talk with the owner and ask if he has or could help you with doing a shot with horses. Explain this is your hobby, and you always try to make each photograph special. Offer the property*

*owner and the person who owns the horses a print when you're done. Be sure to follow thru with a print and maybe have it in a frame, not only are you likely to get a good shot but will be welcomed back.*

29. **Sierra Sun**

*Great location, the sun spot has confused your setting. You need to darken the image, you don't have any black areas, that's very important for contrast. The people in the shot are easy to retouch.*

*The sun has confused your setting. Needs to be darker and have black tones in trees and rocks. The people on the left are a little distracting, and can be retouched out.*

30. **Skiff**

*Good visual throughout, nice dark sky.*

31. **Slippers Hanging at Wild Cat Canyon**

*Nice piece of folk art, hard to read writing even close up*

32. **Stream At Kahn Ranch**

*Nice, the rock in lower left is a good balance and holds frame together well. Maybe toss in some nice leaves in to give an added touch.*

33. **Tail From The Past**

*Good dramatic angle nice highlights, the chrome needs a little help. If possible have someone step on the brakes the red taillight would "POP" The crop on bottom works, but needs some more space on the left side of frame.*

34. **View From The Front Seat**

*Very nice, very interesting layered look. The long tree trunks works nicely in the open space.*

35. **VIP Bungalow**

*The wood at bottom and left of frame tend to box in the image. Better to have an ocean all around to express the isolation of the bungalow.*

*The boards at bottom and left tend to block the image, removing them gives you a wide open appearance.*

36. **Yosemite Falls and Meadow in Winter**

*The tree is not special, but the mountains are special, and the waterfall is very special. I hope you photographed the mountain without the tree.*

37. Yosemite Winter Wonderland

*Great shot, tree branch's frame the image very nicely, and the river curving around forms a nice visual flow.*

*YES I know the tree on left is leaning out of frame, but here it works because it's covered in snow and has a dark tree behind to keep us vertical.*

**Winning Photos Group AA:**

**HM #9 Boat House**

**HM # 30 Skiff**

**HM # 34 View From The Front Seat**

**HM # 16 Ice Chunk On Lake Tanaya**

**3. # 17 Kaleidoscope Water**

**2. # 37 Winter Wonder Land**

**First Place has Co-Winners**

**1. # 1 Wild Maple**

**1. # 2 Garapata Beach**