

Gene Morita

Gene has been taking pictures all his life, but only since 1998 has he really worked at photography. He has progressed rapidly through the ranks to reach the top levels in all categories. He's won several awards, including a first place at FotoClave in monochrome division and a first place at the 2005 Marin County Fair in Color Digital Images. Gene develops his digital images in PhotoShop CS2 and prints with an Epson 2200, and loves the wide range of tools available to photographers in this digital age.

PHILOSOPHY: Gene believes the most important aspect of an image is the immediate impact it has when first seen, when you experience that audible "rush." As a judge, he doesn't care if the important elements are not in the "Classic Thirds" if the image has that "rush." Light, to him, is one of the most important aspects, whether from the side or from the back, colorful or muted. He also likes people in an image, saying they bring humanity and perspective to the picture. Very knowledgeable about the digital darkroom and the changes that can be made there, Gene says that photographers still have to go out and take the picture as we always have. The joy still has to be there.

PJ # 1 Group A

1. A Daughter's Tears
Very powerful image, composition and framing all work nicely.
2. Eager youngster ready to take the helm
Great colors in the sailboats, the young child yellow rain coat really adds to the overall image. The white sign on the shed pulls your eyes Away from the subject, crop this out for s much stronger image.
3. F22 Raptor Performing At The Sacramento International Air Show 2010
Jet is framed within the clouds gives excellent depth to an otherwise static Shot.
4. Installation of chimney cap
The shot could be better at a distance, showing the entire side of the house would convey the more hazards than with such a tight image.
5. Judging Austin Bantams
Overcast days are great for shooting cars, it shows all the highlights. I would try to shoot the car more from the side, still showing the rear tire detail. This would stack the car and judges into a tighter group.
6. Marilyn watching newlyweds
A lot going on in the frame, at that distance the newlyweds are almost lost. Get much closer and have Marilyn almost as a backdrop.
7. Mika Kallio Goes Over the High Side Red Bull Moto GP 2011
Good timing, a big hurt waits ahead. Good work, worth the wait.
8. Motorcycle Stunt At the Watsonville Fly-In 2010
Nice framing, bike has plenty of open space to drive into, good balance.
9. Newlyweds pose beside the seine
A this distance the newlyweds are lost in a busy shot, bring them much closer. The newsstand would give you a Norman Rockwell feel.
10. Oops
Car could be more visable, look at angles not common, maybe shoot From the field or closer to car.
11. Pat's 57 Corvette
Easy to pick out the owner. On lookers help frame the car and owner nicely.

12. Rescuers Pull Drowned Diver From Water
Nice image, nice tight shot brings the rescue divers work out in detail.
13. Robosaurus Eating Lunch
Lots of action, hard to miss with that monster.
14. Street Walker - Calif St SF
The man is somewhat lost with the busy cityscape. I like the use of shadow and sunlight, getting the man in a better position needs some help, try getting close and maybe lower to put him higher in the skyline.
15. Teaching the next generation
Nice "people" shot. Colors work well, Children's interactions are captured very well.
16. The Sweet Pup.
Lots of good feelings, the therapy dogs paw on the fellow arm ties your shot together. Nice work.
17. Tora Tora Tora, Salinas Interntional Air Show 2011
Wow, good timing and compisition all works well. Elements have a nice seperation, and hold together well.
18. Traffic jam
A little busy, would like to see shot in a more open area.
19. War Protest at Windows on the Bay
Great "folk art" the god sign pulls you right to the chair and peace symbol and then you see the tombstones. Very nice, you told the whole story without people.
20. Yellow and Black
Interesting shot, Car photographed nicely, the balloon is a dead ringer.

HM # 17 Tora Tora Tora

HM # 7 Mika Kallio Goes Over the High Side Red Bull Moto

HM # 2 Eager youngster ready to take the helm

3rd. # 1 A Daughter's Tears

2nd # 16 The Sweet Pup.

1st. # 19 War Protest at Windows on the Bay

PJ # 1 Group AA

1. **Once Magnificent**
Nice, lots of detail throughout boats, soft light is a good contrast to amount of damage.
2. **Aubrey Huff Scores**
Composition works well, well balance within frame.
3. **Blowing bubbles in Rome**
Somewhat busy, maybe more dramatic as a close up with just his chest, head and bubble.
4. **Catastrophic Roadway Collapse**
Very nice night shot, detail in foreground helps establish the story. Mountains and skyline give good separation.
5. **Concentrating-on-the-weight-throw**
The image of the man is very nice, well placed, the weight is a little lost in the crowd.
6. **Cooling off at Fountain at Spanish Steps**
Lots of good details, people help frame the fountain, and buildings A long both sides also keeps your eyes focused. Even has a great billboard looking back at the fountain !
7. **Cowboy Life**
Graceful flow of steers, helped along by a cowboy in the ground fog. The steers are well balanced within foreground and sky.
8. **David_Ave._apartment_fire**
The fire should be the main focus in the shot. If the road is blocked you can walk through some front yards to get a better angle.
9. **Dog Agility Competition, Carmel Valley**
Good action image, would like to see more of the dogs face. Nice camera placement looking into the approaching dog.
10. **Early Morning Roundup**
Also a nice image, not as balanced as the first image.
11. **Fort_Ord_Mud_Run_participant**
All the kids have great expressions at the start of the race. You have a lot of space at the top of the image that could be cropped down.

12. Hanging netting to prevent a slide
Very dramatic, now the longer shot is used well to establish the risk at hand. The placement of workers from top to bottom of hillside also works well.
13. Hurricane_Irene_flood_damage,_Quechee,_VT
After the first glance you start to pick up the total amount of damage on and around the bridge. The image keeps the viewer interested. Nice.
14. I have been Good for Goodness Sake
Wonderful interaction between child and Santa. Both are well balanced and all the colors tie the shot together.
15. Love Found at the End of the Earth
Strong image, sunlight gives such an open image a gentle warmth. Placement of couple as such a small part of the frame draws you into the image,
16. making-it-through-a-mud-pit
Runners entering the pit at the top of the frame and coming out at the bottom of the frame gives a good detail of the size of the pit.
17. Man Against Beast at Rancher's Days
Well balanced, all the cowboys are captive to the moment, throughout the image, each one draws you back to the other, nice.
18. Meg Whitman stumps in Salinas
Difficult to tell this story with one image. Would work well as a series of three shots, showing the speaker and crowds up close.
19. Off The Record at US Open
That's quite a bit of cash he's walking with.
20. Parking in Rome
Looks like a Super bowl commercial. Wow what a great location to shoot cars.
Great trees and not a pot hole insight.
21. Rock Slide Area
The bent guardrail holds the image together well. The overall details hold up in the shot as well.
22. Start-of-just-run!-just-kids-3k
This shot could be more of the kids, and the excitement in their faces. A little too much area around them, the kids are photographed very well.

23. Tornado devastation, Monson, MA 2011
Great weather for this shot, storm clouds overhead, needs to have more damage in the shot. Looks like the trees have already been cut up and removed.
24. Toy Dog Peeing
Appears the toy dog is not a fan of the classics.
25. Unloading the Catch
The image lets you hear and smell the docks. Stands alone and tells the story.
26. West-Point-Graduation-Hat-Toss
Difficult to capture the feeling of Cap toss from above, if possible you need to Be in a lower position looking up.

HM # 13 Hurricane_Irene_flood_damage,_Quechee,_VT

HM # 4 Catastrophic Roadway Collapse

HM # 15 Love Found at the End of the Earth

3rd. # 14 I have been Good for Goodness Sake

2nd # 7 Cowboy Life

1st. # 25 Unloading the Catch