

## Group AA Critiques.

1. Carmel River Beach Walkers. Generally a nice composition with very clean border patrolling. I wish I could have seen the original image as this “photo negative” graphical style is interesting, but the lack of detail makes it difficult to judge exposure and sharpness of the image.
2. Contact... Jodi Foster would be proud. Nice composition even without the huge moon and alien spaceship... Makes me think the robot from the show “Lost in Space” will roll into this scene at any moment. I like the lines and positioning of the elements, even though they make things look a little busy. Also, I would have brightened up the sky/clouds a little more as for me the middle of the image is a little lost/weak (space ship helps). But an interesting effort.
3. Drinker at McWay Falls. This one’s really hard for me to critique as McWay falls and Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park are amongst my favorite landscape spots on the coast. So the person in the foreground really detracts from this great place (FOR ME). The background image is sharp and probably well-composed (but blocked by the woman). Also, it was shot in bright sunlight, which detracts from its beauty (as the shadows and the golden late afternoon light make that spot special), and by extension hers as it contrasts with her image. As a dentist, nice teeth (LOL). Interesting idea though.
4. Dusty Spirit... I like this image. Great composition. The sun through the dust flows, like a spirit. Very nice border patrol, with no distractions, although I’m not 100% sure of what the block is that the beams are projecting on??? More detail here would help. But very nice.
5. Fall Colors and Waterfall... Nicely composed fall colors... Once again, I would have loved to see the original image. Great warm color pallet, and nice lines. I think this would make a nice print.
6. Groovy... I like the neon editing (very groovy). Nice yellow and purple flower accents. A little too tightly cropped as I would have liked to see some more accent area and space around the truck, and bulls-eying the truck detracts from the depth it could have...
7. Highway 395... Nice collage of license plates, boldly cropped around the borders, in general. I like the beams off the plates and the “Show-Me\_State” plate on the top. I like this image.

8. I Never Saw a Purple Rolls... Cool car... I would have loved to see it in person. Nice composition... I would have blurred the background folks a little so that they can't be ID'd... Great Grill and lines. Also, nice depth. I do like the reflection silhouettes of the people in the front wheel. BTW... Purple's my favorite color... LOL...
9. Inside the Wild Echium. Nice composition and use of the rule of thirds. Border patrol could be better (cut the tip of the flower off on the bottom left, and the stamen on the right side). So when cropping, crop boldly... A little dark and saturated for my taste, but an interesting image.
10. Kicking back... Very cute image.. Not sure what's in the baby's left hand??? Good border patrol... Complimentary, well positioned components that are in generally sharp focus. Nice textures.
11. Sparks... Great composition of burning steel wool... Off center with lines that draw the viewer in. Nice foreground texture and background silhouettes.
12. Spinning Circle of Fire. Looks like you guys were out together. A little more contrast due to brighter circle. I also can't tell what sort of rock wall border there is on the right side??? For me, the crop is too tight in the foreground area as I don't get enough of a feeling of depth. Nice background and image in general though...
13. Steel Wool Spinning... I like the location and size of the primary object (brighter circle), with all the sparks flying off. Still unclear as to the rock wall on the right, and even though I like all the sparks flying off to the left and up, you've lost the background, and once again there is no foreground. Nice image, but for me, of the three steel wool images, I prefer the "Sparks" image... Just my preference, but all nice.
14. The Black's Hourse... I think I'm missing something here with the title??? I always like B&W images of white horses. The collaging effect works, EXCEPT the disconnect between the rear left leg and flank of the horse, and the missing rear right leg bothers me. I like the positioning of the eyes, and the way you've left more room to the left of the horse, so that there's a sense of the horse moving to the left of the frame. Also, generally with 4 legged animals I want to see all 4 legs...

15. The Great & Powerful Om. I like the positioning of the head. Starry eyes are interesting as well as the extensions of the mustache and beard. I like all the leading lines into the head as well.
16. Tokyo Cityscape Reflection... A nice reflection image. The abstract nature of reflections appeals to me much more than graphic art manipulations (stylistic preference only). I do like the mirror composition of the greens for the lower left of the frame versus the blues of the upper right side. For me this reflection is slightly too abstract to identify as a “cityscape”. But this is a nice image.
17. Work in Progress... Great title for this image. I like the composition of the macro lower right area, and the top of the image reminds me of the “color by numbers” type artwork we did as youths. I like the use of the frame to hold the image together since a blank page to the upper right would not hold interest as well.

### **Group AA Winners.**

#### **Honorable Mention.**

5 Fall Colors and Waterfall. Gerald Gifford

#### **3rd Place.**

7 Highway 395. Carol Silveira

#### **2nd Place.**

11 Sparks. Chris Johnson

#### **1st Place.**

4 Dusty Spirit. Chris Johnson