

PADRE TRAILS CAMERA CLUB

Pictorial Competition #3 (Negative Space)

June 29, 2014 - Returns August 6, 2014

Judged by: Dan Danbom

Group AA

01. Azine Askance

Interesting photo, with a low key feeling. It is a nice portrait. Good color, skin tones, and highlights in the hair. The aspect of negative space is missing with a black background that does not add to the information or content of the image.

02. Bound Together

This is a nice still life, with a clear intent. The negative space adds to the character of the image with the piling's reflection. There is nice detail and a composition that is not centered and has room for the eye to explore the subject.

03. Burrowing Owl's Last Light, Athene cunicularia

This image has a charm about it that is quiet pleasing. There is a clear intent of negative space framing the subject. However the subject is so small in relation to the background areas that it loses the impact of the eyes staring at the viewer.

04. Celebrity Century Monterey Bay

This image is interesting with several nice elements. But the color balance tends to be on the very cool greenish hue in the clouds. Also the near rock, the right mid rock and the ship tend to make the eye roam around the various elements. It seems to need a clear subject emphasis.

05. early morning dewdrops on pine needles

This has a charm and sparkle that is engaging. Clear focus and good depth of field. Nice catchlights in the droplets. The negative space element is part of the image's backdrop which is effective, but does not stand out as a separate element to the composition. Nice image overall.

06. Eddystone Rock

This is a pleasing tableau of the shore. The line of the little island leads the eye through the image, as does the contrast of the water and clouds, for a nice composition. There is good detail in the foreground rock which adds interest to the image. The foreground rock being to the left adds dynamic interest to the composition

07. Emerging

This abstract image is very abstract. It is what it is... albeit an interesting color combination.

08. Fireplace Flames

The negative space adds context and information to the image. One has to imagine the wood in the shadow where the detail fades to black. There is enough transitional information, to help fill in the missing detail. A tad more shadow detail would be helpful, but over all a successful image.

09. Flag Day

This image would be a impactful vertical image, with a more focused emphasis on the subtle variations of color and density of the overlapping and backlit flag. Simply leaving additional space for the sake of negative space takes away some of the impact of an effective image, as the image is sharp, focused and colorful.

10. foggy sunrise over Carmel Valley

This image is classic a silhouette that has enough detail in the foreground to convey the details of the image, and a distant aspect that give a context and depth to the image. It uses the negative space to give dimension and contrast to the image.

11. Green Umbrella

Interesting image, but not sure of the if it is a positive impact of selective spot color. The image is of one scene or subject: woman with umbrella somewhere deserted. There is no real element of negative space, as the "not of the woman" space is a context of where she is standing. It has a flat two dimensional feeling of one space.

12. just the two of us

There is a definite thought to negative space, with the smaller figures along the wave line that leads the eye from the lower right to the figures, and beyond, giving a sense of depth and dimension. The figures are place in the upper left 1/3 intersect area, which adds a sense of movement within the image. It seems a trifle dark overall, but an nice image.

13. Monarch Butterfly at Monarch Grove Habitat, Pacific Grove, CA

It is not clear that the spot color adds to the effectiveness of this "nature" tableau. It seems affected and forced. Also if the butterfly was in the lower left 1/3 intersect it would not feel so off center, but a selected compositional choice.

14. Moon Rise over Monterey Bay

This is an image that does make use of negative space in a natural occurrence in the image. It has a sense of when and where the image was taken that is derived from the image. The color is a bit intense, and seems slightly forced, but this does occur naturally at times.

15. morning coffee

This is a nice image that has technical merit, with consideration to the idea of negative space that adds to the image. While the window lattice is not technically negative space it plays that role, by adding a semi translucent background that adds information and context to the rest of the image. Nice subtle lighting, slightly selective focus adds depth and interest.

16. Multicolored Rose

This image has good color and tonal qualities and sharp focus of a pleasing subject. The lighting on the rose is very nice. However the attempt to add negative space by cropping part of the main image is not successful. Negative space is not just black background, but something that contributes to the success of the image.

17. Mussel Shell Half, Garrapata Beach, Big Sur

This image has a charm and natural appeal. A clear subject in a context that brings some more information to the image. Good focus and exposure, with effective lighting. A pleasing natural tableau.

18. One Soggy Eagle, Petersburg, Alaska

This is an interesting tableau from nature with the closer remnants of natural elements around the eagle. The composition places the eagle in a near upper left 1/3 x 1/3 which adds to the high perch, with enough negative space in the background to give context and location information.

19. out for lunch

This image has nice color and balance. The negative space is natural and lends interest to the subject. It gives a context and informs. The subject is placed near a 1/3 intersection to give a more dynamic feel to the image. A nice image.

20. out of nowhere

Nice composition and detail in a common place subject, that brings interest and attention to small details often overlooked. Perhaps a bit more detail in the top area of the image would help the eye not wander out of the top of the image. Just a touch of bounding would keep the eye in the frame. A pleasing image overall.

21. Peaking through the Fog

This image has an interesting composition that has elements of negative space. This image would be improved with sharper focus on the tower. It is an image, that needs more attention to basic technique.

22. Red Sky at Night Sailor's Delight

This image shows the intent of negative space. Good exposure, and sharp detail. The background supplies contextual information that helps interpret the subject. This is a well imagined image.

23. Ripples on the River

This image shows the use of negative space. It is interesting with several elements that contrast making it almost abstract. The beach is a little too bright, and the figure very small so it is not clear at first. One wants to be able to zoom in a bit to understand the scene more quickly.

24. Silhouette

This almost presents as an abstract. The negative space of the palm adds information to the scene. Sharp focus, sharp contrast, complimenting colors, blue and orange, nice composition. A pleasing image.

25. Skyline in the Fog

This is a well intended image. However, it is so subtle, with so little impact, that it loses effectiveness. It does not seem to have enough contrast and substance to carry the image.

26. solstice sunset over Pfeiffer Beach rock

The intention of negative space is evident in this image. A bit more detail in the foreground would have enhanced the natural contextual information and relieved the darkness of the foreground in general.

27. sunset moment

Nice subject. The foreground subjects have enough detail to inform and provide a context for the image. The foreground forms a semi-negative space that give contrast and scale to the sky. A very successful image.

28. The LAMBOPRINCESS

This is an interesting image. Sharp focus, even light, clear detail. The apparent negative space appears artificially provided with masking to the image's natural background. This image would be more effective as a vertical close cropped vignette of this subject. In fact, the vertical image cropped tight excluding the tips of the elbows, makes the black dress a great contrast of negative space, counterpoint to the flesh tones and tattoo. That image would have been somewhere in the top three.

29. to the summit

Good composition, interesting color counterpoint of the red and green. Attention to natural negative space, that lends interest and information to the image. A nice image.

30. Transition

This seems to be an abstract. It is what it is...

31. trees at work

This is a nice image that gives a pastoral feeling. The placement of the foreground to sky relationship adds a feeling of open space and a dynamic movement across the image. The inclusion of a larger space of sky gives place to the idea of negative space.

32. up against the wall

It seems that there was a clear intention of negative space in this image. However the texture and detail of the upper portion is so intense that it distracts from the subjects on the bench. One's eye keeps trying to find a place to rest, and it is not on the subjects on the bench.

33. Watching the Sunset, Pacific Grove

This is a pleasant image, with nice sunset color and contrast. The overall image color seems a bit intense, or forced.

34. White and Black Rose

This is a nice image of the flower, sharp, good tonal range. However the odd crop of the image cuts off part of the flower. The apparent negative space adds no interest to the image, but detracts from the impact of the flower itself.

35. White Stallion

The intention of negative space is clear and does provide information to the image, context and setting. Cropping off the right of the image until the horse is in the lower left 1/3x1/3 sector would make this image more focused and a more impactful composition.

36. wildflower refreshed by rain

This image has a subtle lighting and good detail. The negative space is incidental but does not add information or context to the subject. The subject seems smack in the middle and static.

Winning Group AA Images

HM - Eddystone Rock - Brooks Leffler

HM – Fireplace Flames - Jim Lambert

HM – Out For Lunch - Ken Jones

3rd Place – Trees at Work - Ken Jones

2nd Place – Foggy Sunrise Over Carmel Valley - Joni Zabala

1st Place – Morning Coffee - Frank Penner