PADRE TRAILS CAMERA CLUB

*Pictorial Competition #3 (Negative Space)*
*June 29, 2014 - Returns on August 6, 2014*
*Judged by:* Dan Danbom

Group AAA

## 01. A Man and his Best Friend

Interesting photo, that clearly shows the two subjects in a charming embrace. Nice detail and expressions. The reclining feeling of the image tilt detracts from the impact, a more upright alignment seems more natural and more effective. The background is just background and not really negative space, as it makes one realize that it was used to mask unwanted features from the original image.

## 02. Asilomar Sea Grass

This is a nice still life, with a clear intent. Good attention to color and contrast but the whole image is the subject. The sand is the background that is a natural context. The right edge of the image fades in focus or sharpness, and that takes away from the full impact, but a pleasing image.

## 03. Autumn Leaf

A strong image, with a clear intended subject. It has nice color and is pleasing. The whole image has a single quality, of the same perspective. There is also an element of intervention in creating the image, so it does not seem a true nature study, but is contrived. (Which is not necessarily a negative) but the subject seems a little lost in the background.  A tighter crop with the box in the lower/right 1/3 intersection might make a more impactful image.

## 04. Carmel Gate

This is a pleasing image, with good focus, warm colors and a good use of managing depth of field. The softness of the top portion loses a little of the impact, as it seems the bar would be sharply focused on that focus plane. One certainly feels the roundness of the bar from the lighting.

## 05. Cool Pool on a Hot Night

This abstract is interesting. The figure is not sharply focused but rather soft. A sharper image of the subject would be helpful. It is definitely colorful and impactful. One is not sure of the meaning or contribution of the textures and/or color palate to the image

## 06. Curved Dune Abstract

This image makes use of light and shadow and makes one recognize the subject. There is definitely negative space, but the negative space being black detracts from the impact. Even some very minimal shadow detail would balance the highlights. And a bit less contrast would make the image less stark, suppling more information to the eye.

07.  Diagonal Dune Abstract
This is a similar image to #6 and would benefit from more shadow detail. It would help complete the frame and context of the image. It is clear the intent was to emphasized the pattern, and it does that successfully. However the black space, makes the image feel incomplete. One keeps looking for a boundary/feature to lead the eye back into the image.

08.  Double Negative
This image embraces the idea of negative space, but a little more detail in the shadow area could enhance the effect. It has an interest and appeal that leaves one wanting a bit more information and detail. But, it is pleasing overall.

09.  Facing Profiles
While this image is not a silhouette it has enough detail in the portraits 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.

10.  Fade to Negative
Interesting composition, that leads the eye into the image. The image seems so low in contrast that it does not seem sharp, but the right corner of the subject looks sharp. Perhaps a bit more contrast and a bit brighter/lighter treatment would increase the impact.

11.  Fallen Curl
Nice sharp focus on the subject showing details of the subject. The background is a contextual background that does not impart the concept of negative space. This has a definite subject that is the prime interest of the image

12.  Froth and Rocks
This is a pleasing still life of the shore. The line of the rocks leads the eye through the image, as does the contrast of the water feature, for a nice composition. There is good detail in the rocks which adds interest to the image.

13.  Ghost Tree
This abstract image seems rather dark. The black background does not add interest or information to the image, to help the view interpret the meaning of the subject. There isn't a frame or boundary to redirect the eye into the frame. It needs some type of visual reference to give more context to the image.

14.  Gloria Road Oak
This is a nice image that does make use of negative space, in the sense that the tree and foreground are a counterpoint to the clouds that gives more information to the viewer. One has a contextual understanding of the place and setting. The image seems a bit flat, but is pleasing overall.

15.  Heads Up
This is a very nice image, good focus and interesting subject. Nice lighting and detail on the tortoise head. The rest of the body in the water is also part of the positive image, suppling the details, but is not really a negative space, as it is necessary to interpret the image. It is part of the subject, just in a lesser emphasis.

16.  Jellyfish
This image has a nice complementing color scheme, with the juxtaposition of the orange and blue motif. A difficult subject given lighting and movement issues. Low light hinders a sharper image with more depth of field. The tentacles are part of the subject, and do not provide negative space.

17.  Leafy Layer
Interesting counterpoint colors, with the rust and green. Good focus on the subject leaves and use of shallow depth of field to make the subject pop. The nearly same brightness value of the background relies on color and focus to distinguish the subject.

18.  Lone Gull
This image has potential, but the ultra dark background makes the context harder to discern.  It is very dark, and the subject is not clear because it is so small in the frame. A lighter background to the image with a tighter crop brings this relationship into a more readily interpreted visual.

19.  Moon Dog
This image does seem to contain some "negative space."  Pun intended. But it does not really "speak" to the subject. (Woof!) More attention to image selection and feathering/ edge blending could improve the image appearance. Some of the image appears to be "borrowed," not from the photographer's own repertoire?

20.  Moonrise over Washington DC
This image has a lot of black, but it is not contributing negative space. It lacks context and locale information that would give visual references. The image could benefit from sharper image detail. The lack of image element proximity, makes the viewer's eye bounce around trying to interpret the image.

21.  Mount Aurunci Madonna shrouded in fog
This is a nice image that has technical merit, with consideration to the idea of negative space that adds to the image. The darks fall roughly at the 1/3 and 2/3 with the statue in the lower 1/3 and left 1/3. The shadow areas are not exact mirrors, but somewhat, to give a balance and symmetry. The clouds add texture and interest, with a sense of context.

22.  Museum Profile
This image has an interesting composition that has elements of negative space. This would be improved with a little more foreground detail. It is a pleasing image, with good detail in the mid to upper sections.

23.  mute swan lake
This image shows the intent of negative space. Good exposure, and sharp detail. The background supplies contextual information that helps interpret the subject. A closer crop from the right of the image, would exclude the awkward white area that competes with the subject. This is a well imagined image.

24.  Negative Light
This is an interesting abstract. It is what it is… and stands as presented.

25.  Old Blue Eyes
It is clear that the subject is a favorite of the submitter. Very cute subject and pose. The hair selection was done very well, but the edge of the arms could use more judicious feathering or selection. The background is not negative space, but rather a mask for unwanted background details. The subject is so striking that a simple less distracting background would be appropriate, with a closer crop to eliminate distractions.

26.  Out to Lunch
Great choice of subject! Good sharp focus to the eyes, which is important, plus overall focus and detail. The negative space is incidental to the image but is a nice contrast. A successful image.

27.  Playground Ladder Shadow Padre
This image works on several levels with the yellow/blue compliments colors, the bright sun and shadow reflecting a distorted image of the ladder. The blue adds to the composition, giving a place for the shadow to fall, so it is a functional negative space, that supports the overall feeling of the image.

28.  Reaching
This is an interesting image, but seems a low contrast. The negative space is incidental to the image. There is little contextual information, so it becomes more abstract than an image subject. It seems caught between being of a subject and an abstract image. But is does require a second look.

29. Reader Reflected
The negative space is really a neutral space with the slight reflection, that adds context and information to the image. It informs, a sense of tranquility and calm, without being a void of black or blank space. It adds to the image, but in a way that compliments the other components.

30.  Roof Peaks Padre
Interesting vignette. Good repetition of the peak detail in the vent details, even to the vent cap color repeating the facial color. A pleasing abstract of a common detail often overlooked.

31.  Sea Strand
This is a pleasing scenic, with nice color and subject. The composition could have more impact choosing more foreground (or sky,) to bring the horizon closer to a rule of 1/3s proportion. Or perhaps a bit more subject detail in the foreground to lend interest.

32.  Shadow on Old Wall Padre
Interesting abstract study. Nice attention to detail of the peeling paint adding interest and context to the image. The shadow area is sort of a negative space, but since part of the subject is in the shadow it tends to make it more contextual background that is part of the subject.

33.  Sun rises above Fremont Peak
This is a pleasant image, with nice sunset color and contrast. The centered horizon makes the image less dynamic. Cropping off the top sky so that the horizon is on near the top third, makes the rock in the foreground come to the bottom third adding interest and a bright/dark balance on the vertical thirds, and also nearly on the left/right thirds.

34.  That Puddle on Carmel Beach
This image has a nice feeling about it, and elements that work very well. If the image is flipped to right side up, and cropped with the couple to the lower left third, it becomes more focused on the couple and gives them a more prominence in the composition. The dark foreground has little contributing detail, but the sky has nice details that add to the feeling of the image.

35.  Tiny Wader
This is a charming image, with obvious thought to the negative space aspect of the challenge.  While the water is a contextual necessity, it is a color and texture counterpoint to the subject.  It adds to the feeling of the image. Very nice image.

36.  Two Flowers
Nice color and detail with the sharpness of the water drops. Sharp and clear, but with two competing subjects. There isn't a real negative space in that the white flower is part of the secondary subject, so it is just dark background.

37.  Two Pelicans over Asilomar
The negative space is incidental, not complimentary to the subjects. They seem in focus with a good stop action capture. The subjects seem relatively small in a large space that wants more focus or subject interest. They seem small, smack in the middle and static.

38.  Underwater Fantasy
This is an interesting image. Good item selection for the composite, so it blends well. However, there are two subjects, and two distinct images. There is no negative space, but two subjects combined into one image.

Winning images on following page…

Winning Group AAA Images:

HM – Froth & Rocks - Shelley Nemeth

HM – Reader Reflected - Susan Theodore

HM – Tiny Wader - Lynn Pigott

3rd Place - Playground Ladder Shadow Padre - Susan Theodore

2nd Place – Facing Profiles - Rod Heywood

1st Place - Mount Aurunci Madonna shrouded in fog - Greta Neuman