

2014 - Images of the Year

Group A

Judged by Wil Furman

Nature:

1. **A pair of Brandt's Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) in mating pose** – Bird on the right doesn't look like it is reacting to the left bird. Not as clear as it might be. It is tough trying to capture these things, which happen so fast. Shooting in bursts gives you a better chance.
2. **California Gull (*Larus californicus*) with sea star** – Brighten the yellow of the hue. Also brighten the lower beak. Emphasizing the highlights on the starfish will help it also.
3. **Bald Eagle with salmon head** – Good shot.
4. **Brandt's Cormorant Feeding Chicks** – Excellent. Brighten the chicks eye, and the mama's eye too. – 2nd prize
5. **Brandt's cormorant feeding young** -
6. **Bufflehead on Takeoff** – I would darken the background bird because it is so bright, and we are mainly interested in the one taking off. Brighten the water droplets and splash from the feet, as it adds action and drama.
7. **Egret with Sardine** – Very nice. Excellent. 3rd prize
8. **Great Blue Skimmer Dragonfly (*Libellula vibrans*)** – To make it more powerful, I would darken every vein on its wings, and then brighten the green. Perhaps knock back the yellow a bit too.
9. **Greater Flamingos** – Nice. I would brighten the side and back feathers (individually).
10. **Eared Grebe & Hatchlings** – Bring out the hatchling . We can't see it enough
11. **Haliotis rufescens** – Darkening the pebbles a bit on the left and bottom will draw more focus to the shell.
12. **Harbor Seal with Pup** – Darken the sand a little
13. **Elegant Tern Catches Fish** – Good shot. I would put an eye glint in the bird, that we can see. Also put a gradient at the top to darken the water a bit.
14. **Juvenile Green Heron Stalking Prey.** – Very nice. Beautiful – 1st prize
15. **Juvenile brown bear attempting to catch salmon** – Ok. Adding a brighter glint to the eye will help it be stronger, and darkening his right paw (the water) will make that less distracting, pulling us away from his face.
16. **Kestral with mouse** – Well done

- 17. Learning To Hunt** – Darken the mama’s chest area around babies head will pull us more to both faces, and make it stronger. Nice shot.
- 18. Mushroom With Bones From Small Carnivore** – Looks set up. No central focus.
- 19. Otter Resting In Kelp Bed** – Increase glint in the eye. Perhaps rotate the image ?
- 20. Lion Cubs On Giraffe Kill** – Good shot. Perhaps crop the lower left, which will pulls mama more into the picture. P- HM
- 21. Harbor Seal With Pup Right After Birth** – Very nice. I would perhaps darken the red of the blood, which will make it less distracting.
- 22. Pair of green-winged teal** – Very nicely done
- 23. Leopard Gaze** – Brightening the leopard’s face and eye , and darkening the sky (& tree) will pull us more into the power of the gaze.
- 24. Red Tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)** – Nice shot. . Needs the edge between bird and sky cleaned up.
- 25. Red-winged Blackbird Chasing Great Blue Heron** – Interesting shot. Good. A dance! Would be nice with music, and a series of similar shots of birds . - HM
- 26. Northern Elephant Seal Battle (*Mirounga angustirostris*)** – Very nice. Wonderful tones.
- 27. Sea Otter - *Enhydra lutris* - with Two Clams On Its Chest** – The second shell detracts from the overall effect. It is beyond the usual. The power of the good image is in the shell he is eating from, and his/her face
- 28. Tufted puffin** – Excellent shot, well printed.
- 29. Weaver Building Nest** – Would be much more interesting inverted 180 degrees. But the shot and content is good
- 30. Sea Otter Eating Grebe** – Interesting
- 31. Yosemite's El Capitan in Winter** – Well shot. It could be improved by putting a gradient on the sky to darken it, and darken the clouds also, which will emphasize El Capitan more.

HM	Red-winged Blackbird Chasing Great Blue Heron	Peter Monteforte
HM	Lion Cubs On Giraffe Kill	Doug Steakley
3rd	Egret with Sardine	Peter Monteforte
2 ND	Brandts Cormorant Feeding Chicks	Peter Monteforte
1 ST	Juvenile Green Heron Stalking Prey	Peter Monteforte

Creative:

- 1. Autumn Leaves** – The red jars me. The yellow and blue are ok, though the two overlapping yellow leaves in the middle confuse me.
- 2. Dandelion climber** – Nice concept, and well executed. Nice framing and edging.- 2nd prize
- 3. See no evil** – Clever and well done. Holds the viewer’s interest though it becomes unsettling after looking at it for 30 seconds. What does it mean? We are asking ourselves, but you give us no clues. – 1st prize
- 4. Speeding Condor** – Good job. The lens flare above the far wing is distracting, and i would take it out, and have a stronger image. - HM
- 5. The Witch and the Haunted House** – Well done. It would be nice to have a little hint of the ground, ie, a distant tree or something, to give the house scale and anchor the bottom left. – 3rd prize
- 6. Wire Man** - Looks like artwork, not a photo. Is that a string or wire bent in the position? Lighting it would give us a clue and add interest. We don’t have a clue.

HM	Speeding Condor	Ben Grasmuck
3 rd	The Witch and Haunted House	Carol Fuessenich
2 nd	Dandelion Climber	Chris Johnson
1 st	See No Evil	Chris Johnson

Black and White:

- 1. Lights on the Golden Gate Bridge** – The concept is good, but the upper left needs more of the light pole and arm of the roadway. It is night, so why isn’t it on? The bright squares in the sidewalk to the right pull away the eye from the tail lights,
- 2. Nipomo Dunes** – Good forms, well done.
- 3. Prayer Beads** – Bracelet is distracting because it is too bright . The power is in the fingers and the eye goes always to the brightest thing in the frame. Good shot though. Not sure you need the bracelet. What does it add? The beads are the subject of the fingers and our focus is there. – 2nd prize
- 4. Remnants of Bodie** – i don’t know it’s a ghost town, so it looks like any suburban or rural ranch, which makes it lose interest. Then it becomes a junky car with no romance.
- 5. Scotty's Staircase** – Nice composition and the texture of the walls is good. Perhaps a bit too much walls in the upper left. Perhaps darken clouds in window some. – 1st prize.

6. **Sonja** – The hairs across her eyes bother me and distract. Her teeth don't look that good so i would dodge the gap in her front teeth seen through her lips. Nice pose. You could minimize her arm pit area by burning that corner. Her arm isn't that interesting for the space it occupies. Honorable mention

7. **The Forgotten Underwood** – Ok but overall seems flat – uninteresting. Probably the angle of the camera. No mystery. One glance and I got it.

8. **Underside Of Mushroom** – Very nice. Darkening the white “ring” n the lower left a bit will held. The veins are nice, and the angle good. Fade the stem off, we aren't interested in that, and it distracts from the veins. – 3rd prize

HM	Sonja	Chris Johnson
3 rd	Underside of Mushroom	Peter Monteforte
2 nd	Prayer Beads	Doug Steakley
1 st	Scotty's Staircase	John Avera

Pictorial:

1. **'57 Chevy** – Nice. - HM

2. **Dream Catcher** – Good.

3. **Cranes in the Snow** – Needs cropping. Ok shot. Tells a story.

4. **Dune Footprint** – Nice execution and framing.

5. **Meditating Monk** – Well done.

6. **My new truck** – So so. Ok as a truck ad.

7. **Old Woman Smoking Cheroot** – Well done, all the way around. – 2nd prize

8. **Mt. Fuji reflected in Tanukiko** – Very nice. Good tones. Cropping the left trees and hill is perhaps stronger, leaving just fuji and the barren tree on the right. That would make Fuji stronger. – 1st prize

9. **Petals** – Beautiful. Well done, framing, placement, and color. – 3rd prize

10. **Trees In Winter** – Nice tones and composition.

11. **Woman With Pets At Pompidou Center** – Cute. Brighten the whites of her eyes. And darken sidewalk on upper right.

12. **Racing Rock** – Ok but not as strong without seeing the mountains around the racetrack, to give it context.

13. **A Reflection of the Past** – Ok, but consider cropping on right and bottom.

14. **Saguaro Sunset** – Well done. - HM

15. **Scarlet and Chrome** – OK.
16. **Stool With Shadow** -
17. **Yosemite indian village** - Very good. Powerful and effective. - HM
18. **Milky Way In Soberanes** – Good. -HM
19. **Yosemite Waterfall** – Interesting

HM	Yosemite Indian Village	Richard Bucich
HM	'57 Chevy	Ben Grasmuck
HM	Saguaro Sunset	Gerald Gifford
HM	Milky Way In Soberanes	Doug Steakley
3rd	Petals	Sharon Blziek
2nd	Old Woman Smoking Cheroot	Doug Steakley
1st	Mt. Fuji reflected in Tanukiko	Gerald Gifford

Travel:

1. **Battery Lighthouse at Dusk, Crescent City, CA** – Excellent! – 1ST PRIZE
2. **Big Ben and Passing Buss, London, England** – Fresh and interesting. Moon could be lightened to increase impact, and to balance the clock and bus. – 2ND PRIZE
3. **Caricature Artist Pompidou Center Paris France** – Nice.
4. **Fun in the sun** – Orange shuttle tender detracts from the red, white and blue. Too many elements to be very strong.
5. **London Eye, London, England** – Very nice. More reflection of lights in the water would be good, don't need as much sky. – 3RD PRIZE
6. **Men Playing Petanque In The Shadow Of The Eiffel Tower** – Camera is too far away to pull us in. Try cropping in?
7. **Musicians on Boulevard Saint Germain Paris France** – Nice. Could be better if you cropped it a bit, bringing us closer, so we can see the faces more. - HM
8. **Peace Memorial Paris France** - - HM

HM	Peace Memorial Paris France	Peter Monteforte
HM	Musicians on Boulevard Saint Germain Paris France	Peter Monteforte
3rd	London Eye	John Avera
2nd	Big Ben	John Avera
1st	Battery Lighthouse at Dusk	Carol Fuessenich

Photo Journalism:

1. **DON'T DO IT** – Interesting.
2. **Filming the movie Sharknado on Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, California** – So-so.
3. **After a Long Cold Winter, Luxemborg Gardens** – Ball gets somewhat lost in its placement. Being against the ground would be stronger. Cropping would help also.
4. **Glassmaking in the hot shop at the Tacoma Glass Museum, Tacoma, Washington** – Cropping in would increase the power. The three guys and the glass is all we need to see. Then it is much stronger. – 2nd prize
5. **Oops** – Good shot. The cop makes the shot work. – 1st prize
6. **The birth of a elephant seal, San Simeon, California** - - Nice sequence. Well told story. The lower left pic might work by itself... - 3rd prize

3rd	The Birth of an Elephant Seal	Chris Johnson
2nd	Glassmaking at the Tacoma Museum	Chris Johnson
1st	Oops	Richard Bucich
