

2014 - Images of the Year

Group AA

Judged by Wil Furman

Nature:

1. **An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) lightens the load in preparation for flight** – Poop in the air? Would be of limited interest in the commercial marketplace.
2. **Alert Juvenile blue heron siblings-*Ardea Herodias*** – Good shot, but needs sharpening to try to overcome the out of focus.
3. **Bumblebee pollinating bush lupine (*Bombus bitarius*)** – Beautiful. 3rd prize
4. **Budding Devil's Club (*Oplopanax horridus*) in Sitka, Alaska** -
5. **Charlock Mustard (*Sinapis arvensis*)** – Ok, but could be a brighter yellow?
6. **Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catenifer*)** – If you darken behind the head on the body in back, the head becomes stronger.
7. **Hovering Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)** - Beautiful. – 1st prize
8. **Forster's Tern with Catch** – Excellent. - 2nd prize
9. **Honey bee pollinating flannel bush blossom (*Apis*)** – Darkening the wings will help us feel more comfortable with this bee seemingly suspended in space.
10. **Geat egret-*ardea alba*-with mating plumage collecting nesting materials** – I would brighten the eye and the green feathers to draw our eye there more.
11. **Green Darner in Flight** – Good shot. If you darken the yellow background a little the darner becomes stronger. - HM
12. **Humpback breach** – Nice splash, but overall feels awkward.
13. **Japanese Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) uses menacing body language to discourage other birds trying to feed in its space** - Beautiful. Excellent. HM
14. **Nectaring Western Tiger Swallowtail (*P. rutulus*)** – Very nice.
15. **Juvenile California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)** – Good shot. However, cropping the wing of the other bird and the bottom, will make it stronger.
16. **Probing for crustaceans** – We can't see the fish, which is needed to make it a strong picture. It looks like it is getting a drink of water.
17. **Live Tiger Moth (*apantesis proxima*)** -
18. **Reflections In The Eye Of A Red Tailed Hawk** - Good
19. **Scratching Ground Squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*)** – Weird position, distracting.
20. **Male Peregrine Falcon (*Falco Peregrinus*)** – Good, but would be better if the feathers were in focus.
21. **The Eyes of the Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)** – Excellent. Should darken the orange in upper right corner, though.
22. **Spotted Moray in Crevice** – Too bright. Darken the coral to highlight the moray.

23. The Endangered Tidestroms Lupine (Lupinus tidestromii) – Well done. Very nice. - HM

24. Well camouflaged american alligator-Alligator mississippiensis – Lightening the eyes and darkening the green foreground will make it more powerful.

25. Western gull-Larus occidentalis-feeds on beached giant squid-Architeuthis – Doesn't come together.

26. Snowy Egret Landing – Well done.

27. Tule Elk with Calf- very nicely done. Perhaps darken the white tails a bit. Good.

HM	The Endangered Tidestroms Lupine	Brooks Leffler
HM	Japanese Kingfisher	Gerald Gifford
HM	Green Darner In Flight	Julie Chen
3rd	Bumblebee pollinating bush lupine	Frank Penner
2nd	Forster's Tern with Catch	Julie Chen
1st	Hovering Allen's Hummingbird	John Drum

Creative:

1. Flat Rock with Foamy Sauce - OK

2. Having a great feather day – It is weak without light in the eye. 3rd prize

3. Nicole – I like the face, but the upper right soft focus leaves distract our eye from being locked on the face. Interesting idea. With work it could be quite powerful. – 1st prize

4. Soberanes – Not real interesting. What does it mean? Anything?

5. Spinning PinWheel Wire Man – I would have liked to see the sunflower have all its leaves. Where they are missing (by the blue-green spoke near bottom) pulls away from the power of the idea

6. Teeing off on 18th at Spanish Bay - Pebble Beach, CA – Ok – 2nd prize

3rd	Having a Great Feather Day	Ken Jones
2nd	Teeing off on the 18th at Spanish Bay	Chris Axe
1st	Nicole	Jeff Hobbs

Black and White:

1. Aloe Zebrina – Good composition. Could perhaps use a bit more brightening of the middle of the flower. – 3rd prize

2. Hispanic Lady in a Straw Hat – God job. I would brighten the glint in her eyes a bit. That if what we are looking at, and I want to see into her soul. She is nice and not threatening, and I want to feel closer to her. Darken the top of the frame above the hat with a gradient. – 2nd prize

3. Stainless spiral – Nice combining the feel of b&w and color at the same time. Good balance in shading. Darken the fabric it is sitting on. We don't care what it is on, and it distracts from the subtleties on the metal. – 1st prize

4. Waiting for the storm – The title doesn't really match the picture well. The wood blocks us seeing the storm. The storm doesn't look like a storm. You could make the clouds more contrasty, darker and lightning the respective areas. So much of the lower fence isn't so interesting, it is the top we are looking at. There is a lot you can do with the sky.

5. When is the train coming –The pregnant woman is distracting and pulls us away from the girl. Darken all the lighter areas so we are pulled into the girl more.

3rd	Aloe Zebrina	Jeff Hobbs
2nd	Hispanic Lady in A Straw Hat	John Drum
1st	Stainless Spiral	Jared Ikeda

Travel:

1. A Foggy Evening At Garrapata State Beach, Big Sur, Ca – Almost - very strong. The foreground waves are where the power and interest are. Emphasize that, and darken the waves 50' and 100' out. – 3RD PRIZE

2. Leaving the park at day's end, Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada – Very good. Framing, tone, balance. Darken the lighter rocks a bit on the left will let out eye go more to the road. – 2ND PRIZE

3. Lunch in the Streets of Provence – OK but not strong

4. Milkyway Galaxy from Tassajara Road, Carmel Valley, Ca – Good. Nice framing. - 1ST PRIZE

5. Morro Rock at Morro Bay, Ca – Burn out of the sun weakens the picture. No detail there, plus it gave you a flare. Nice grass in foreground.

6. Old Town Square - Prague Czech Republic - Good

7. On a paris street - Very Parisian...

8. Political Mural – Very good - HM

9. Royal Castle Warsaw Poland – I like the color. – HM

HM	Royal Castle Warsaw Poland	Chris Axe
HM	Political Mural	John Drum
3rd	A Foggy Evening At Garrapata	Jeff Hobbs

2nd	Leaving the park at day's end, Valley of Fire State Park	Zoni Zabala
1st	Milkyway Galaxy from Tassajara Road	Jeff Hobbs

Pictorial:

1. **Afternoon Snack** – Good story, well told.
2. **Bucking Bronco** – Nicely done
3. **Eddystone Rock** – Nice mood. Good shot of the rock
4. **Country Barn** – Excellent. Might consider brightening the barn a bit to somewhat balance the yellow field. Nice composition – 3rd prize
5. **Endless Summer CA** – Good shot. Nice concept.
6. **Fireplace Flames** – Ok, but having some detail in the wood would make it better.
7. **Deep Thought** – Cute and well done. Fun. - HM
8. **Foggy sunrise over Carmel Valley** – OK.
9. **Morning coffee** – Coffee and steam are interesting and strong by themselves, without the water bottle.
10. **Masts** – Nice and well done.
11. **Out for lunch 2** - Darkening the darker lines will make the image stronger and more visually interesting. - HM
12. **Sheep in the Snow** – Well done. Good shot and great angle. – 1st prize
13. **Sleeping Cat** – Nice shot and composition. – 2nd prize
14. **Rusty** - OK
15. **Trees at work** – Make the sky stronger (contrast, burning and dodging), and it will be more interesting.
16. **SeaSwings-SantaCruz** – Clever and interesting angle and composition. - HM
17. **Soberanes Night Sky** – OK. Could be a stronger (brighter) sea and shore - HM
18. **Waiting for the Next Job** – Overdone HDR effects, seems phoney.

HM	Deep Thought	John drum
HM	Out for lunch 2	Ken Jones
HM	SeaSwings-SantaCruz	Chris Axe
HM	Soberanes Night Sky	Silke Laetz
3rd	Country Barn	Carol Silveira
2nd	Sleeping Cat	Carol Silveira
1st	Sheep in the Snow	Julie Chen

Photojournalism:

1. **Catch of the Day** – Good - HM
2. **Home is a Telephone Pole** – Not as complete a story as it might be.
3. **Homeless in Monterey** - Complete story. Good.
4. **night crew begins hand harvest of chardonnay by evening light** – Very nice. Good concept and execution. – 1st prize
5. **OK, We're Ready** – Very good. – 2nd prize
6. **Santa arrives in Carmel Valley without his reindeer, Carmel Valley, CA.** - We need to see Santa more, as he is the focus. Darken the pilot, as he isn't necessary (Santa has his own sleigh in the valley...)
7. **Sarah winning her black belt** – Good shot. Tells the whole story.
8. **Star of Texas Ambassadors play in Rothenburg ob der Tauber** - OK
9. **Sunset Paparazzi** – Very cute. Story well told. – 3rd prize

HM	Catch of the Day	Silke Laetz
3rd	Sunset Paparazzi	Silke Laetz
2nd	Ok We're Ready	Frank Penner
1st	Night Crew Begins hand Harvest of Chardonnay by Evening Light	Joni Zabala
