

Judges Comments - GROUP A

2. **Amtrak** - Strong composition, with good diminishing line down the side of the train. Interesting pattern of chips, bugs on the front of the train contrasting with the semi smooth side of the train. The naturally lower angle emphasizes the bigness, strength of the engine. Even the yellow line, contrasting the blue is a good counterpoint in color. Strong image.
3. **Cairn - Carmel** - Nice image, with good back light that brings out the texture of the stones and rocks, and gives a good three dimensional feel to the image. Good use of depth of field. Good exposure. It seems that a closer crop on the left side would emphasize the continuing line from the right side of the stones down the side of the rested on rock.
4. **Chipotle Lime Shrimp** - Dramatic image with a great capture of the flames and the vapor rising up out of the skillet. Good exposure for a difficult subject. A nice image overall. (A slightly tighter crop taking off the some of the right edge of the image tightens the composition a bit.)
5. **Crab Shell Kelp and Stone** - An interesting still life along the shore. Good placement of the bulb/bladder in the lower right. Good detail and sharp focus, nice composition. Well done. (could use a tad more saturation and contrast.)
6. **Diamond In The Rough** - Good image, strong colors and interesting subject. The larger block of the barn is balanced by the truck and distance view giving it a nice visual movement, one's eye travels through the image. Sharp details, but the sky does not exactly match the style of the foreground.
7. **Door At Rosalia** - Interesting image with good detail and a definite subject. Sharp and well exposed. A pleasant image. A closer crop off of the right side give a bit more emphasis of the movement from the staining of the upper left wall into the top of the door, and takes away the centered feel.
8. **Girls in Butterfly Parade** - An arresting image, with a lovely charm. Good composition, and context showing others in the background. Nice use of selective focus and depth of field. This is a really nice image. (The overly blue cast of open shade could be lightened and corrected to advantage.)
9. **Graffiti** - Good leading lines from the paint cans, a very happy accident that they had fallen in that arrangement. Good use of selective focus and depth of field technique. The nature of the image is that one's eye is led to the background but once there, there does not seem to be strong point of unique interest. One's eye tends to wander looking for the subject. Nice strong image overall.
10. **Hasta La Vista Baby! - Turn 5** is always an interesting place to shoot at Laguna. Crisp detail on the foreground rider, nice leading line to the edge of the frame, good placement of that line. The second rider is so far back in the composition that one's eye seems to bounce back and forth between the two as they are opposites on the curved line. (I am a little surprised the second rider seems to distract a bit, I wouldn't have thought so.) A tight crop of the front rider highlights his concentration and posture.
11. **Hay Bale Lifter** - Nice warm feeling with great patterns and textures. The hay bale lifter makes a good counterpoint in form and line. Good lighting, great details, good exposure, a very good image.
12. **Honing Wheel** - Subtle, subdued, understated image. It has a peaceful still life quality. Nice detail and compositional values. The slanting stand moves one's eye toward the wheel, horizontal support from the wheel to the seat. The diagonal of the wall finish and the vertical of the shovel and wall, sort of frame the

wheel. These elements give a deceptively strong movement to this subdued image. (Could it use a tad more contrast and a bit lighter to show the details in the darker areas, the details are there.) Nice image.

13. Horsetail Fall - This image has interesting movement up the dark ridge to the highlight near the top. Nice detail, good exposure. One is not sure where to focus one's attention, there does not seem to be a predominate subject to the image.

14. Lights Reflecting in Puddle at Base of Steps - This image leads one's eye to the distance and then one is drawn back to the reflection. Good placement of the stairs and the reflection. Pleasing image.

15. Lines and Shadows - It is easy to recognize the appeal of the play of light and shadow, the hardness of the branches against the softness of the sand. There is a bit of a busy quality that makes one's eye move back and forth finding a resting place or subject of the image. Interesting choices.

17. Monarch Mania - Colorful, sharp details, and interesting composition. The random appearing images makes one's eye keep wandering to find the subject. It is not a restful image, but interesting none the less.

19. Naked Ladies on the Hillside - This is always a challenging scene to photograph. The light is often harsh making it difficult to balance highlight and shadow and retain good tonal range and detail. A well executed image of an iconic local view.

22. Sea Swing At The Boardwalk - Very nice image with the sense of motion and action, but crisp details with good focus and vibrant color palette. The centered composition is dictated by the subject. The triangular nature of the top is carried out by the motion of the riders to carry that triangle down through the image, giving an interesting shape and balance to the image. Pleasing image.

23. Soap Film Up Close - This image is sharp and crisp, colorful and interesting. By nature it does not have a particular point of subject, so it becomes an abstract that works on the basis of the color and random forms of the color. It is what it is. Well done and interesting.

24. Steps to the Old Red Door - Nice old world feeling patina to this image. Nice even lighting that adds to the subtle effects of the image. Perhaps a bit too subtle. Could the angle have included a bit more of the steps on the right, and a bit more door as the destination visually? Pleasant image.

25. Storm Over Arches National Park - Nice detail and crispness to the image, good balance of exposure between the sky and foreground, throughout the image. The foreground seems to overwhelm the image, making it seem a disproportionate majority of the image. (A little tighter crop along the bottom at the knot on the left, brings the rule of thirds into play to advantage.)

26. Sunbeams Under the Golden Gate Bridge - This is a nice image with obvious appeal. The contrast in materials, time and function, with the sun shafts blending both entities. Interesting contrast and juxtaposition of lines and curves, with the similar color balance of two different subjects.

27. Sunrise Over The Palouse - This image has a good feeling of the sense of the scene. A nice balance of close interest, middle detail, and the overall value of the sunrise. One has a sense of what this place feels like to stand there and be a part of the experience. Good technical work, with an emotional appeal.

28. The King's Refection - This is a very well done image, exposure and balance, to hold the subtle shadow detail and the highlights of the king. Good sense of depth and light. This is such a difficult image and so well done, one hates to question the composition. (Perhaps a little less of the top black and a little off

center to the right, would bring into play a little more dynamic feeling, which one realizes was not the original intent.)

29. The Shot - This image has a strong feeling of intensity and concentration. The diagonal line of the balls, the stick and the player gives a dynamic feel to the composition. Nice overall exposure and warmth of color lends itself to the overall tone of the image. A bit of side/rim light behind the player would help him not blend into the background making him a stronger element, or even that part of the background a bit lighter. Nice image overall.

30. Tossing the Dough - This is an interesting vignette that displays personality and context. Good use of selective focus brings one's attention to the hands and activity. This is a nicely imagined image. A tight crop vertical selection of the cook brings the focus to the action, and makes a centered subject with more impact. Much of the background does not add necessary information to the image.

Awards:

Honorable Mention - 18. My New Truck - This is a very well done image. The truck is centered, but taken at a slight angle to create a counterpoint movement of perspective. Nice lighting, foreground and rim lighting, for good three dimensional quality. Warm evening light that is not too exaggerated to be distracting. A very nice image.

Honorable Mention - 20. Old Woman Smoking Cheroot - This image has a dynamic feel with the subject leaning forward and making a triangle of her face, arm and bowl that keeps leading the eye back to the face and eyes. Good lighting that is crisp, yet not harsh, with some fill and main light. The lighting emphasizes the texture of her skin and brings the character lines into crisp focus. Strong image.

Honorable Mention - 32. Woman with Pets at Pompidou Center - This image is a whole story in itself. The contextual possessions that reveal much about the subject, the instrument, the dog's scarf, the cat, her apparel, and her scarf. Each of these elements gives the viewer a clue to her personality, and her shy acknowledgement of the camera. Good lighting, interesting crop/subject placement. The negative space relieves the intensity of the subject. A very compelling image.

Honorable Mention - 1. '57 Chevy - This is a strong image, good crisp detail, sharp and good tonal range. Nice placement of the fin in the off center positioning that leads the eye across the image and into the image. Strong image.

3rd Place - 16. Meditating Monk - This is a dramatic image, with nice soft main light and a crisp backlight to give greater dimension to this image. The sharp details of a resting face is striking. The background figures add contextual dimension and information that makes this image stand out. Very nice image.

2nd Place - 21. Petals - This seemingly simple image is very complex with good nuances of light and color. The backlight give a crispness that makes the petals pop from the background, but the subtle reflections add a soft counterpoint, to the crisp focus of the petals. Very complex, good color, subtle nuances, a very compelling image.

1st Place - 31. Trees in Winter - Ethereal and magical. This image is well done, good composition,

with the dark tree off to the third area, and supported by the other darker trees to the left. The white frothy trees are mirrored in the right, and the lower left. Good tonal range, keeping lights and dark in range, with good detail in both. A very nice image.