

Judges Comments GROUP AA

- 2. Alaskan Sunset** - Nice image with pleasant complementary hues, the gold contrasting the blue mountains. The lower black hills seem a tad soft of focus, or is it a mist in the foreground hills. Perhaps a more horizontal crop would have brought a horizontal rule of thirds balance with a little less sky, (which does not have much contributing detail.)
- 3. Autumn's Last Light** - Strong image with character and interest. Nice feeling of light and depth from the shafts of sunlight. The close crop to the base of the trees, could be mirrored in a tighter crop to the top of the tree more toward the sunlight as an alternative. A good strong image.
- 4. Blooming Cactus** - Good diagonal composition adds a sense of drama. Colorful, with the warm tones of the browns and golds complementing the composition.
- 5. Boy at the Fair** - A dramatic expression and direct eye contact of the boy is engaging and draws one to the eyes. Good exposure and sharp focus. The close crop to the left, could use a little more room to let the image seem centered as he appears to be posed looking out of the frame. It seems counterintuitive but a tighter crop of just the face, no right ear, captures the young fellow's intensity.
- 7. Clearing Storm - Yukon Territory** - This image is a nice image with interesting clouds and a definite fore, mid and distant composition. The uniform lighting makes it appear a little less dimensional, but overall a nice composition with good technique.
- 10. deYoung Museum Sculpture Garden** - This image has a nice compositional flow with the rocky path leading the eye, to the sculpture. The sculpture being in a thirds position is good. The image has a good exposure and a restful ambiance. The ambiguity of the sculpture itself, does make one look a time or two to try to make sense of what it is, or is supposed to be. That might be the disadvantage of the subject, it is not readily recognizable, and that detracts a bit.
- 11. Early Morning in the Palouse** - This image definitely has contours and nuances of color and shades. It is well executed with good depth of field and a almost dreamlike quality. There is almost the thirds at work in this composition with the golden sky picked up in the foreground golds. Very pleasing image. But by subject's random nature, one's eye has a tendency to seek the image center or subject. Which probably does not matter it is a very pleasing image.
- 12. Electric Aurora** - Pleasing reflections of an iconic place and activities. It is a nice composition with the reflections leading one's eye to the main attraction. Sharp and crisp.
- 13. Evening Color - Inside passage, Alaska** - This image has a nice compositional flow with the sky drawing a contrast to the mountains. The centering of the clouds make a natural focus to the mountains and the lower horizon give breath to the open sky. It seems it might be a bit underexposed, so that the colors are not a bit more saturated. Surely a pleasant reminder of a wonderful adventure.
- 14. Evening's End of the Road - Mt FitzRoy, Chalten, Argentina** - This is a very interesting image. The largest peak offset from the lonely road, with both features each side of the centerline. A dramatic landscape with definite fore, mid and distant compositional interest. It could use a little more contrast and lightness in post processing to enhance the interesting features, and composition.
- 15. Faded Flowers (Melancholy)** - This image is well composed with the subdued color palate. It has a soft omnidirectional quality of light, with easy shadows for the most part, showing the soft light. The muted

colors are pleasant and the image has a crispness that is good.

16. Fogged In - There is a definite feeling to this image. Soft and hard with the contrast of the boats to the seagull. The seagull is in a good compositional relation to the tallest mast making them almost offset reflections of one another.

17. Gazing at amazing Sunfish - This image has an interesting overall tone, and somewhat ethereal quality. The color cast is a product of the lighting, and gives a sort of eerie appearance. Difficult conditions to photograph this subject, but a good result. (The other object behind and overlapping the sunfish, distracts from the impact of the sunfish's shape a little making one look twice to distinguish the true shape of the sunfish.)

18. Hen Bud - This is a nicely rim lit image with pizzazz and pop. The spider webs add detail and interest to the image. There is a nice glow to the stalk/stem. Good focus and appropriate use of depth of field, (the lack of it.) The dead center composition, seems a little static, perhaps a little off center would create more drama.

19. Jellies of the Monterey Bay - Interesting subject in a natural appearing setting. Nice detail and clear focus on the main portion of the image. The natural screen of the water's depth makes the subjects stand out, and brings them to the forefront. A nice image.

20. Kiyosumi Garden At Sunset - The stepping stones are a good lead the into the image, but also a little away from the center of interest. One's eye has to make a leap to the building over the water and the distant features. The reflections bring the sky and mid ground together with a pleasant harmony. It seems that this image is a tad underexposed. Pleasing image overall.

21. Kristen racing at Santa Cruz - Colorful, and intense. This image shows the determination of the riders and the intensity of their competition. The image seems a tad soft, but an even tighter crop brings out the intensity of the young ladies' faces, compared to the unessential background context. It is a strong image that could have even greater drama with the tight crop.

22. New Bay Bridge Opening, Sept 2013 - There is a nice compositional flow from the near side to the distant horizon. One's eye is drawn to the distance and the placement of the high span near the right third intersection. Nice basic exposure, and even a slight increase in contrast would bring out the graphic flow a bit more dramatically.

23. Old Vineyard Supervisor, Mendocino - This image has complementary soft color palette from the even lighting. Nice color harmonies that reinforce a nostalgic feeling. The left side seems to overpower the right side of the image with two strong graphic elements, but the leading line of the fence/vineyard stakes leads the eye back into the frame. The green of the trees counterbalances the roof.

24. Peewee Soccer - This is just such a magic moment of determination and concentration. Nice color and balance, sharp focus and tight composition. The faces could be a tad lighter. The directional lighting adds to the three dimensional quality.

25. Practicing ski jumping in Sept. - Interesting setting, but somehow the image looks static. For a dramatic action taking place, it looks frozen and somehow not quite believable. (I wonder why the clouds are obscured between the forward half of the skis.) The lighting feels inconsistent between the background and the ski jumper.

- 27. Skate** - This is a nice sharp image, good placement of the skate off center. Good details and subtle color palette. This image is probably best loved by the Mom Skate.
- 29. Smoky Sun** - Interesting subject, the kind of thing one would walk by without noticing. Nice sharp details. The not level horizon is an issue. (I know the pole is likely leaning. In this case a leaning pole is more believable than the water being out of level.)
- 30. Squid Fishing** - Strong graphic image, with good composition. Good interplay of complementing colors. (personal opinion, just too much photoshop, not enough photo)
- 31. Stunt Biker** - This is an interesting image, but somehow it looks static, frozen with no sense of showing action. One's experience tells one that the rider is likely high up somewhere in mid air, but there is no context to give a visual reference. A context showing how high, or over what obstacle, this action is taking place would make the action more contextual and less static.
- 32. Summer Fog** - This has a certain drama about the setting. But the foreground tends to overpower the boats and the uncertain nature of the distance. Also the texture in the fog (vertical striations) tend to distract from the overall ethereal quality of the image. Good focus and depth of field.
- 33. Tattoo Artist** - This image is definitely unusual and arresting. Sharp focus, and a dynamic crop/pose with the head tilting in the frame is good. The yellow/green background counterpoints the blue black of the tattoos. But, the yellow/green distracts somehow, the tone makes it even more difficult to consider the subject. The fill flash is subtle but the cross color lighting values do not help the image. The yellow green vignette on the edges of the scalp, neck and shoulders adds another unnatural element to an already overwhelming image. It seems counterintuitive because of the vivid colors, but this image seems stronger in black and white.
- 35. Wet Ride on the Lochsa River** - Good action shot. One gets the feel of the raging waters, and the turmoil. Good placement of the raft, one can follow the water line, where the action is moving through the frame.
- 36. Yosemite Gold** - Nice image, with a balance of the foreground to distance in the trees. Color contrast of the trees to the sky, the dramatic cloud that sort of parallels the rock face, and contrasts the light and dark in that relation.

Awards -

Honorable Mention - 34. Waiting for the Next Job - This is a good image, with strong composition and interest. A good contrast of colors, and well saturated. Sharp image with good depth of field and a leading line drawing one into the photo. Good execution.

Honorable Mention - 9. Deep Thought - Good crisp detail, sharp focus on the eyes, and even light emphasizes at the texture and contours of this subject. The folds and the shadows in them help emphasize the texture. A good quality of light color and source, with good tonal range enhance this nice image.

Honorable Mention - 26. Sheep in the Snow - This image has a great feeling or mood. Nice selective depth of field concentrates the sharp details on the sheep. Good composition with the sheep low in the image. The image might be a tad stronger by cropping off the left a bit more. Overall a very nice image.

Honorable Mention - 1. Afternoon Snack - Very nice image. Good stop motion action, showing the

wings' translucent quality. Also good exposure and color values, and crisp focus on the subject. A very good image.

3rd Place - 8. Country Barn - One of the strengths of this image is the different light values on the fore, middle and distant parts of the composition. The strong middle section with the pop of yellow gives good dimension and depth, and the barn placed fore and right, allows the yellow hills to lead to the barn. Even the brighter end of the barn helps give this a very pleasant dimensional quality. Good image.

2nd Place - 6. Bucking Bronco - This is a really nice image. The capture of the peak of the action, the selected focus on the subject, the nice fore-lighting and some rim-back light make this action stand out from the background. Good color, exposure, and a decisive moment. Nice image.

1st Place - 28. Sleeping Cat - This image has several strengths. Great soft light that emphasizes the details. Good depth of field so that everything looks crisp and three dimensional, with good shadow detail and good highlight. The contrast of the hard metal with a sheen and the soft kitten. Very nice image.