

Padre Trails CC - Carmel Field Trip

Submitted Image List:

Group A

Category: Art - When photographing another artist's work, the photograph cannot simply be a literal representation of the artwork, and only a two dimensional representation in the case of three-dimensional sculpture. The photograph must transform it into something more than the original art, or communicate something new beyond what the original art is communicating. The photo must add value to the subject. 2-BWG and 6-FTP do this. The others fall short of this.

1. bgl-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. Try isolating your subjects with selective focus; remove them from the context someone else chose, and give it your own context. The light is nice on the lady, but adding some reflected light to the gent would have improved this shot.

2. BWG-art – 2nd place – Because of the tight crop and out-of-focus treatment of the trumpet leading line, plus the focus on the eyes, this image adds energy to a static subject and transforms it into something more than the original art.

3. CF-art – Nicely composed, but interpretation of the subject is too literal.

4. cj-art – Technically a good photograph, but interpretation of the subject is too literal.

5. cs-art – Well lit and composed, but the background isn't out of focus enough to avoid it being a distraction. I like the reflections, but I don't feel it's enough to make this more than a literal interpretation of the subject.

6. ftp-art – 1st place – Because of the tight crop on this subject, this image adds emotion and intimacy to a static subject, and transforms it into something more than the original art.

7. jh-art – Technically a good photograph, and this would make a great photo for the sculptor's brochure or website, but the interpretation of the subject is too literal.

8. jtd-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal, and the shadow crossing the date is distracting. Had there been a shadow of a plane, or smoke in the air, then the photo

would have been more than the literal interpretation of the monument.

Category: Beach - This category could have been divided into surfers, landscape, and dogs, so I had a hard time comparing these apples, oranges, and tomatoes.

1. cs-beach – The eye contact with the surfer is the best part of this photo. Unfortunately, his pose isn't very appealing, and the bright light reflecting off the surfboard is distracting.

2. bgl-beach – Technically a good photo, but an average beach scene.

3. BWG-beach – 1st place – The frozen action, the dog's expression, the ball in air at his feet, and the reflection all combine to make this a great photo.

4. CF-beach – The more interesting on the 2 beach landscape photos in this category, but beyond the sliver of golden light peeking through, the rest of the landscape isn't very interesting. Cropping out a lot of the sky and empty beach below, would bring the viewer right into the golden light.

5. cj-beach – If there was a 3rd place this would have been it. Great action and pose with the best background of the 4 surfing photos. Had the background been a little more iconic of the Monterey Peninsula (i.e. cypress trees were more defined) this would have snagged 2nd place.

6. ftp-beach – 2nd place – The man and dog are caught in a good pose, well placed in the composition, and nicely placed within the context of their surroundings. This says "beach" to me.

7. jh-beach – Great frozen action and pose, but unlike 5-CJ and 8-JTD there's nothing about this background that adds to the photo, and the colors are uninteresting. This image may have been stronger in B&W.

8. jtd-beach – Great frozen action and good background for Monterey Peninsula context. Getting the surfer from the front rather than the back would have made this a stronger photo.

Category: Bells – I see bells as some where between artwork and architecture. I'm looking for something more than just a snapshot of a bell taken by someone who knows how to use their camera. I'm looking for an image that is engaging and visually interesting, or a unique perspective, or abstract interpretation. I don't feel there was an image outstanding enough to award a 1st place in this category, so I awarded two 2nd places.

1. bgl-bell – Just a little flat and unremarkable. Interpretation of the subject is too literal.

2. BWG-bell – I applaud your creativity, but I don't think the framing and composition quite pull it off; almost there.

3. DF-bell – 2nd place – Thank you for giving me a more creative interpretation of this subject. Good composition and color, but your focus looks a little too shallow.

4. cj-bell – If there were something interesting reflected in the bell, you might have something, otherwise interpretation of the subject is too literal. And the blue at the top is a little distracting since it doesn't tie into anything else in the photo.

5. jh-bell – 2nd place – Good composition, selective focus and color. Although I feel the interpretation of the subject is too literal, it's a photo I could easily see in Architectural Digest or Carmel Magazine.

6. jtd-bell – Interpretation of the subject is too literal.

Category: Detail – Overall, I'm impressed with the use of HDR with restraint to get the lighting benefits of HDR while still keeping natural-looking images.

1. bgl-detail – Professional level photo and technically good, there's not much to grab my attention. Maybe really concentrating on one of the details, like the door woodwork, would have had a bigger impact.

2. CF-detail – 2nd place – Good balance between the look of HDR and keeping the image natural. I think keeping the top of the arch rather than cropping it off would have made for a more complete and stronger composition.

3. cj-detail – Nice use of HDR and still keeping the look natural, although I think you shave too much of a halo on your edges.

4. cs-detail – 1st place – Good and appropriate use of HDR. I think the surreal enchanted quality added by HDR complements the same characteristics in the architecture and setting. My only suggestion for this image is to correct the lens distortion so you get straight right angles.

5. ftp-detail – There's a lot going on in this image beyond architectural detail. If there's a story in this collection of subjects, I think you need to do more to guide the viewer through it. It's an intriguing image, but a little confusing.

6. jh-detail – Professional level photo and technically good, there's not much to grab my attention. Maybe really concentrating on one of the details, like one of the windows or the stonework, would have had a bigger impact.

7. jtd-detail – Unfortunately, I think this image suffers from several bad creative decisions: the decision to mute the color, the decision to make the sky gray, and the decision not to correct the perspective distortion. I appreciate that you're taking creative risks and encourage you to continue to do so, it just didn't work for this image.

Category: Dog

1. bgl-dog – The light in the upper left corner should be on the dog.

2. BWG-dog – 1st place – Very well composed, good color, light, and post production work, too.

3. CF-dog – Good creative interpretation of the category. The black rock on the left side is a little distracting. I recommend removing it.

4. cj-dog – 2nd place – Great expression. You really caught that moment. Nice selective focus, too.

5. cs-dog – Good composition, light, and color, but I think the post production effects on the dogs are a little overdone. Great reflection off the water, too.

6. ftp-dog – I think this would be stronger in the Signs category. This photo seems more about the overall street scene of which the dog is just one of many elements. This image might be stronger in B&W. I'm not sure the color adds anything.

7. jh-dog – Good composition and use of the shadows as a leading line. I think dodging the dog's face to bring out its expression would have made this a stronger photo.

8. jtd-dog – Good frozen moment and expressions. I think some dodging and burning to separate the dogs from their background would have made this a stronger image.

Category: Choice

1. bgl-choice – honorable mention – Yes, Carmel is always under renovation; well illustrated. As a former planning commissioner, the satire of this image made me stop and chuckle.

2. CF-choice – I think you need to be absolutely sharp for shots like this, and the composition could use some adjustment to make it stronger. More could have been done with the color, too; looks a little green cast.

3. cj-choice – Great action and perspective of the water and clouds for a strong composition. I think more post production polish could have been applied to lighten the rushing water, saturate the orange at the horizon, and make the clouds more dramatic, plus some burning of the edges. Just some ideas.

4. cs-choice – 1st place – Great color and light and effective use of HDR without being overdone. Solid composition and it sums up Carmel well.

5. ftp-choice – 2nd place – Excellent representation of Carmel. Good light, color, and composition.

6. jh-choice – This is a textbook professional photo for this artist's website and advertising (I'm guessing Steven Wright). But it tells me nothing about who you are as an artist and how you perceive Carmel.

7. jtd-choice – Good moment captured between these two kids. Effective dodging of the edges. Good natural colors and skin tones. I think giving a little air between the girl and the right edge, and trading the extra space at the bottom for more headspace at the top would have made for a stronger composition.

Category: Sign – Like photographing art, when photographing signs, the photograph cannot simply be a literal representation of the sign. The photograph must transform the sign by adding other subjects or context juxtaposed to the sign, and together form a relationship, and that's what makes a piece of art that illustrates the artist's unique perspective. The photo must add value to the subject. 5-FTP is a good example of this.

1. bgl-sign – honorable mention – Pushing the sign too the left or dodging it a bit would make it more central to the composition rather than a label for the building. Is the image more about the building or the sign? Good color, light, and post production polish.

2. CF-sign – I like the illusion you created by not quite knowing where the display items begin and signs on the glass start, but I think the foliage in the lower left corner is distracting out of focus.

3. cj-sign – I think you could have done more creatively with this sign than a straight shot.

4. cs-sign – 2nd place – Nice color and composition. The lights lead the viewer's eye right into the sign. A shallower depth of field to defocus the background more would have brought the sign out more.

5. ftp-sign – 1st place – Good inclusion of a person reading the sign to add another dimension. His expression of bewilderment and the highlights outlining his profile are good, too. Well done.

6. jh-sign – honorable mention – I like what you're thinking having the colorful sky fill in the letters, but I think it would have been a stronger composition to crop in tighter and leaving just a little sky as a border. The foliage in the bottom left corner is a little distracting.

7. jtd-sign – Cropping a little off the top and allowing a little more image at the bottom to let the pipe breath would have made a stronger composition. Having the background

out of focus would have been better, too. Good light and color.