

Padre Trails CC - Carmel Field Trip

Submitted Image List:

Group AA

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. 4-JZ and 7-PAM do this, and 2-JHC comes close. The others fall short of this.

1. jb-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. Replace the flowers with people laughing and you would have had something. What makes this more than documenting someone else's painting? Push yourself further to find a second element to complement and add value to another artist's work.

2. jhc-art – Well done isolating your subject with shallow DOF and framing tight on the face. See the 1st place photo in Group A for a better approach to this subject. Nice dodging and burning. If there was a 3rd place this would have been it.

3. jmi-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. What makes this more than documenting someone else's painting? Push yourself further to find a second element to complement and add value to another artist's work.

4. jz-art – 2nd place – Conceptually this was my favorite but it could have been stronger by showing more of what he was painting in the background. Burning the strong highlights on the artist and dodging his hand with brush and the painting would have brought the viewers eye in better.

5. kcj-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. What makes this more than documenting someone else's sculpture? Push yourself further to find a second element to complement and add value to another artist's work. Also, think about isolating just a part of the artwork and add some warmth to it like 15-SCL did with this same subject, and an even tighter crop with buying the background like 6-FTP in Group A.

6. KS-art – I like how you used a flash to create a stage-like feel for your actors, but beyond that I think your interpretation of the subject is too literal. What makes this more than documenting someone else's sculpture? Push yourself further to find a second element to complement and add value to another artist's work.

7. pam-art – 1st place – The drama of the sky is what makes this image. Also well composed with the buildings and wide angle perspective. Lining up the end of the trumpet with some swirling clouds would have really tied the 2 boldest elements together.

8. rdv-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. Replace the flowers with people laughing and you would have had something. What makes this more than documenting someone else's painting? Push yourself further to find a second element to complement and add value to another artist's work.

9. scl-art – Because of the tight crop on this subject and warm color temperature, this image adds emotion and intimacy to a static subject, and begins to transform it into something more than the original art. See 6-FTP in Group A.

10. BS-art – Flawless documentation of another artist's work. Interpretation of the subject is too literal. Push yourself further to find a second element to complement and add value to another artist's work.

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. I actually think the Group AA collection here exceeds the Group A collection. many of the images in this group would have been stronger with some cropping.

1. cea-beach – 1st place – The stationary man in red, all the other people in motion, the composition of horizontal color blocks, and the overall color palette combine to make this an exceptional photo. This is art.

2. jmi-beach – I like the action and composition, but the hint of motion blur is distracting. This either needs crisply freeze the action or play more into the motion blur. This just looks like there wasn't enough light to pull off the shutter speed you would have liked.

3. jz-beach – I think this would have been stronger as a horizontal image with most of the sand and sky cropped out. The open sun spot in the clouds is an unattractive distraction from the great golden rays at the horizon and light reflecting off the water.

4. kcj-beach – 2nd place – Great job aligning so many moving elements into a well composed order. The color isn't very interesting so this might have been a stronger image in B&W.

5. KS-beach – Cropping this image on all 4 sides would have made for a stronger image. I think the dog making eye-contact with you is good, but it's almost lost; some dodging on the dog would have enhanced this feature of the image. I think the colors of the sunset could be deeper and richer as well.

6. pam-beach – Creative composition and good lighting. The dog is spot on, but the human isn't very interesting; a more expressive pose from the human would have made this image a winner.

7. sci-beach – Great frozen action, pose, composition, and color. A solid photo but not transcendent. Cropping in tighter on the surfer might have made this a stronger image.

8. BS-beach – You captured a great moment between these 2 boys but it's not much more than a good snapshot. Also, it would have been a stronger composition if the subjects were placed more to the right (rule of thirds). This would have been a stronger image cropped in tighter on the subjects.

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 was surprised that the AA group provided a stronger set of images than the A group for this category. It was hard to choose winners with so many contenders so I ended to awarding a 3-way tie for 2nd.

1. jb-bells – Good warm color and post production treatment, but I think the composition could have been fine tuned to be stronger.

2. jhc-bells – Nice fluid lines crossing the frame; great overall composition. Good job identifying a more unique bell than most. The colors seem a little too saturated. Rather than applying uniform saturation over the whole image, try just saturating the color(s) that are most important to the image, and leaving the others more natural.

3. jmi-bells – I like where you are going on this shot, but I think it's unfinished in post

production. I suggest dodging the wall on the left and buying the wall on the right for better framing of the bell; and brightening there color bell to pop out as the dominant element. The resolution or focus on the image is a little off; maybe cropped too tight in post?

4. jz-bell – 2nd place – I think you might enjoy and be inspired by the recent work of Will Furman. Good balance between the bells and the reflection, and good bokeh on the lights in the reflection. I would have liked to have seen something more meaningful reflected in the glass. The poor shape of the tree ends up being a distraction.

5. kcj-bells – 1st place – Excellent composition and color. I think closing the aperture 2 more stops would have given you the DOF to make this photo flawless.

6. KS-bells – 2nd place – The most dramatic lighting of all the bell photos in 3 groups—good job seeking out a more challenging shot. Maybe dodge the bell a hint to make it pop more.

7. sci-BELLS – 2nd place – Great composition, lighting and color. I especially like the spot of extra warm light reflecting off something in the basket. Would have been nice to add more reflections like that on other areas of the bell, but that would have just been extra credit. It's a great shot as is.

8. BS-bell – I think more effort is required to compete with your peers in this category. Interpretation of the subject is too literal.

Category: Detail –

1. jb-detail – 1st place – This image says “Carmel-by-the-Sea” to me. Good composition and color.

2. jhc-detail – Good contrast and composition in the top third of the photo, but the bottom two-thirds is dark and cluttered. There's a lot going on that needs better order to it.

3. jmi-detail – I think more could have been done with this subject like zooming in on a section of the door with the sign and some ivy framing. I'm not seeing much artistry in this snapshot.

4. jz-detail – 2nd place – Interesting intersection of lines, shapes and textures. It all leads the eye up to the window so I would have made that a little more dominant, but overall very creative shot.

5. kcj-detail – 2nd place – Good composition and cropping decision. Good color contrast and saturation while still keeping it natural. Interesting arrangement of architectural features.

6. KS-detail – The round tree in the middle just blocks any chance of this being a good architecture photo. The viewer's eye goes right to it and it's just seen as blocking the house that is your true subject. Composing this shot with the gate further over to the right would have balanced better with the peeked roof.

7. pam-detail – 2nd place – Strong composition. You have to ask yourself, “What does the color contribute to this image?” I think this would have been a stronger image in B&W. I also recommend burning the top and edges, and dodging the painting to make it pop.

8. rdv-detail – Good composition, but I think more could have been done in post-production to refine the colors and lighting.

9. sci-DETAIL – Good job isolating your subject from the background. Because the birds are looking left, I think a stronger composition would have been to give a little extra space on the left rather than the right.

10. BS-detail – Strong composition. I think the image would have been improved if the lower foreground had been in focus. The plaster spot behind the ornamental roof is a little distracting and could have been hidden with a slight compositional adjustment. I think a softer light like 2-JHC would have been more aesthetically pleasing.

Category: Dog – Overall, this group was much more creative in their subject selection than Group A.

1. BS-dog – So out of focus I'm surprised you entered it. Also, looking down at a dog is a common point of view. Try getting eye level with the dog for a more interesting portrait.

2. cea-dog – Clever interpretation of the category. The inmate looks right out of the camera and could use some post production refinement such as better color reproduction.

3. jb-dog – Clever interpretation of the category, but a little one dimensional. A dog's nose in the bowl would have made this shot.

4. jhc-dog – 2nd place – Great composition, color, lighting, and selective focus. Good job getting your perspective down to the dog's level for a more interesting point of view.

5. jmi-dog – Clever interpretation of the category. I think zooming in on the subject would have made for a stronger photo, as well as lighting the shadows on the dogs face.

6. jz-dog – Tough one. You really captured something special between the woman and dog, but the guy is just a distraction. Next time, ask him to move a strike a better pose for you.

7. kcj-dog – Clever and subtle interpretation of the category. Good composition, but I think you could have done more in post production to make this photo sing.

8. KS-dog – There's a lot going on in this photo, and I think you needed to do a better job aligning the subjects most important, and isolating them from the rest of the clutter.

9. pam-dog – I think desaturating the background was a good choice to make your subject pop more. I think the composition could have been stronger—remember the rule of thirds.

10. rdv-dog – 1st place – Good composition and great job dodging the dog to draw more attention to it.

11. sci-DOG – Good composition and playfulness. Too bad more of the dogs aren't looking at or facing the camera.

Category: Choice

1. jhc-choice – 1st place – Great composition, light, and tones. I think this would be a stronger composition if you cropped out the black sides and went vertical.

2. jmi-choice – Well composed sunset landscape/seascape photo, but it looks like you pushed the saturation of the clouds too far resulting in posterization. If making the clouds blue is important to you, there are better ways to achieve this effect without the negative side effects.

3. kcj-choice – An okay surfing shot. A bigger wave, bigger spray of water, more of the surfer's reflection on the water, more dramatic light would have elevated this image.

4. KS-choice – Compared to everything to all the elements in the window, the white lamp is one of the least interesting yet it draws the viewer's eye the most. Consider cropping out the left third of the arch which includes the lamp, and brightening up the shadows on the mannequin and make her the star of the stage.

5. pam-choice – 2nd place – Good decision to desaturate the background, and good depth of field choice, too. Well executed wildlife shot.

6. rdv-choice – This is almost a great shot except for the post coming out of the woman's head. You really have to be aware of those compositional details when you're lining-up your shots. Having the background just a little out of focus and some burned edges would have improved the image, too.

7. sci-CHOICE – 2nd place – Not many interior architecture photos in this competition. This once is very well executed. My only suggestion would be to use a little HDR on the bright white windows to make what's visible outside the windows more apparent and pleasing.

8. BS-choice – 2nd place – Good composition. This photos tells a story. Maybe dodge the canvas a bit.

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. 2-JB and 7-KS are a good example of this.

1. cea-sign – Nice composition, but the light on the leaves on the right distracts from the subject, which could use some dodging to bring it out more. Good framing with the lights along true bottom and metal rods across the top.

2. jb-sign – 1st place – Both humorous and strong composition. The sign is one dimension, the car is a second dimension, and the abstract composition of lines and shapes is a third. Much more than just shooting a sign. Good decision to make it B&W.

3. jhc-sign – Good composition and interesting subject. There's something off about the out-of-focus background I can't quite put my finger on. Did you mask the sign and blur in post production? Good color.

4. jmi-sign – If you're going to shoot in the shadows, you're going to need to brighten it up and adjust the color temperature in when you shoot it or in post production. The outer edges of the sign look over-sharpened.

5. jz-sign – Good compositional stage for the sign. A straighter horizon across the top of the fence would have strengthened it. Catching water in the air hitting tyne sign would have added an extra dimension.

6. kcj-sign – Good composition, color and light. A well done one dimensional photo of a Carmelite sign.

7. KS-sign – 2nd place – Clever use of the shadow to create a second dimension. Cropping in tighter on the sign and shadow would have made for a stronger image, and gotten you 1st place.

8. pam-sign – Humorous, intriguing and ironic. Good decision to desaturate to highlight the sign text. I think burning the edges would have added a nice polish to finish the image.

9. rdv-sign – Okay composition, but you need to do more creatively.

10. sci-SIGN – Good composition, light and color. Good burn on and defocus of the background to make the subject pop. I like the visual suggestion of the colorful tree leaves are tea leaves.

11. BS-sign – Good composition. I think some contrast would have been an improvement; come closer to hitting your white point on the white sign. I like the contrast between the sign type, and the formality of the composition and wood.