

Padre Trails CC - Carmel Field Trip

Submitted Image List:

Group AAA

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. 8-MMC and 10-SDN do this. The others fall short of this.

1. cjc-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. Adding a painterly filter alters the original artists's artwork from a literal interpretation, but I think you can do better.
2. ck-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. I do like that you chose B&W for this subject.
3. cmk-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. For a better approach to this statue, see 6-FTP in Group A.
4. dhg-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. For a better approach to this statue, see 2-BWG in Group A.
5. jnh-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. Although I appreciate how you use the trees to frame the statue. A live bird on his shoulder or head would have been value added and elevated this photo to something more than just the statue.
6. kw-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. For a better approach to this statue, see 6-FTP in Group A.
7. LHP-art – I'm not sure if this photo is more about the flowers than the art. Having the red flowers out of focus and more fighting framing the artwork on the wall would have been a better approach to combining these elements.

8. mmc-art – 1st place – Adding the living contemporary young woman in color with technology in her hand juxtaposes nicely with the monochrome sculpture of the elderly couple from another era. Although I like how the red scarf and green phone grab your eye and bring the viewer where you want them, I think this would make an interesting B&W photo, too, but because the living woman would become more similar to the statue.

9. pb-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. For a better approach to this statue, see 2-BWG in Group A.

10. sdn-art – 2nd place – Whimsical composition. By isolating a portion of the artwork in this way, you've giving it your own new meaning. I think burning the edges a bit would have been a good finishing touch.

11. SG-art – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. At least try for some interesting shadows.

12. TG-art – Of all 3 groups, this was the most interesting version of the Charlie Chaplin wall. I like all the framing elements but I'm not sure what's being communicated by the framing.

Category: Beach - Most of the photos in this category and group are a little 1 dimensional. They capture 1 element well (e.g. light on the water) and create a nice stage, but there are no actors on the stage, no star of the image. My advice to this group is to find ways to combine multiple elements into harmonious compositions.

1. cjc-beach – This has all the elements of a great photo (good composition, good pose, good wave, good sunset light), but it needs to be in focus.

2. cmk-beach – 2nd place – Good composition, and I think B&W works well for this image. The surfers could have been striking better poses, but a bit beyond your control.

3. dhg-beach – Great stage, but where are your actors? This is like making a great spaghetti sauce, but there are no meatballs, or pasta.

4. kw-beach – Great stage, but where are your actors? This is like making a great spaghetti sauce, but there are no meatballs, or pasta. It's okay to have a crooked horizon if it serves a purpose; this doesn't.

5. LHP-beach – Great stage, but where are your actors? This is like making a great spaghetti sauce, but there are no meatballs, or pasta. This has a similar composition to 2-CMK, but that photo has 2 surfers as the actors on stage.

6. mmc-beach – You're close to having a good photo, but the point of view is too ordinary—a human looking down at a bird. When shooting wildlife, whether a bird, ant or giraffe, get eye-level with them and show people a perspective they don't normally see.

7. sdn-beach – 1st place – This photo says Carmel to me. The wave breaking on the rocks with the bay and Pebble Beach golf course and mansions in the background. It is further enhanced by the vibrant colors.

8. SG-beach – You have a good landscape composition but there's nothing interesting to fill in that composition—no dramatic color, nothing interesting about any of the people, an almost absence of lighting contrast.

9. TG-beach – Great stage, but where are your actors? This is like making a great spaghetti sauce, but there are no meatballs, or pasta.

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 AAA group provided a stronger set of images than the A group for this category.

1. cjc-bells1 – The post production effects are pleasing, but I think that the subject being identified as a bell gets lost. Good composition especially with the slots of light across the top.

2. ck-bells – 1st place – I can't tell where the real bells begin and reflections start—good illusion. Good composition, lighting, color, and creative approach.

3. cmk-bells – Good strong composition. Great look to the out-of-focus blur. I suggest dodging the inside of the bell a bit to draw more attention to it. Maybe burn in the brightest areas of the outside of the bell for more detail, and less competition for the viewer's eye for the dark inside of the bell.

4. jnh-bells – Interpretation of the subject is too literal. I want to see more dynamic composition and lighting.

5. kw-bells – 2nd place – Great composition. Nice job identifying interesting framing for your bell subject. I like the background, too, but this would have been a stronger image if the background was a lot more out of focus, and the colors were deeper from using a polarizing filter.

6. LHP-Bells – Good composition but I think it could have been stronger by pushing the bell to the left a little. I think the post production effects are too heavy-handed.

7. mmc-bell – Good composition, but a little flat. Try giving a dodge with a little halo to the bell to make it pop.

8. sdn-bells – Good composition, but the hints of reflection are distracting. Either eliminate all the reflections like artifacts, or really include them as part of the image.

9. SG-BELLS – The composition seems a little weak and sloppy. Either tighten up the right angles or really skew the perspective. I would have liked to have seen some light added to the bells to make them stand out, like reflecting some light when it was shot, or some dodging and burning in post production.

10. TG-bells – You're going to have to push harder to keep up with the company you're in for this category. Interpretation of the subject is too literal, and I can barely make out a bell in there.

Category: Detail

1. cjc-detail – I think you should pick a detail and zoom in on it. There are too many details competing for the viewer's attention. You as the artist need to make some decisions as to what you want your viewer to see.

2. cmk-detail – 2nd place – Good composition and color, but the image looks over-sharpened. A good photo should have sharp edges and no white halos.

3. dhg-detail – I'm, assuming your subject is the gate, but it gets a little lost in the flatness of the lighting. Work harder to isolate your subject from its surroundings to draw the most attention to it.

4. jnh-detail – 1st place – Excellent photo. This would have been a contender in Group A. Great composition, color, detail, lighting, and depth of field.

5. kw-detail – 2nd place – I like everything about this image except the white sky; it draws the viewer's attention away from the great composition of lines, shapes, and intersections.

6. LHP-detail – This would have been a more complete composition if the lights in the right side window was on to balance the other windows. Since that was probably out of your control, I would have composed this shot to exclude the dark window and right side of the building. I think the HDR in this photo causes it to be unnatural rather than surreal which is likely what you were going for.

7. mmc-detail – I think cropping out most of the leaves across the top would have made for a stronger composition, and brought the viewers attention in more on the architectural detail. Good color and light.

8. pb-detail – I think the tree interferes with rather than complements the building. The simple composition of the beige peaks jutting into the blue sky uninterrupted would have been stronger.

9. sdn-details – I think you should pick a detail and zoom in on it. There are too many details competing for the viewer's attention. You as the artist need to make some decisions as to what you want your viewer to see.

10. SG-detail – Good subject selection, but a better example of this subject is Group AA's 5-KCJ. It's all in the lighting and time of day.

11. TG-detail – The wavy gate is the most interesting detail in this photo but it is de-emphasized by all the other less-interesting subjects. Zoom in on the gate, isolate it,

and celebrate it.

Category: Dog – Overall, this group needs to improve their post production work with regards to exposure and color reproduction.

1. cmk-dog – Interesting random action. I think cropping to just the dog and little girl would have made a stronger image. Image looks over-sharpened; should look crisp with no white halos along the edges.

2. cjc-dog – Looks like a hint of hand-held motion blur. Image needs some contrast and post production refinement. Good pose and reflection of the dog.

3. dhg-dog – An okay portrait, but could be more interesting with a slightly different pose.

4. jnh-dog – honorable mention – Clever approach to this category. Color could be much improved. Very effective having the dog face peeking out of the shadows

5. kw-dog – Great pose for a dog portrait, but the composition is off. The wood fence on the left is distracting. A blurred background would have made the subject stand out more.

6. LHP-dog – Good frozen moment, but I think you could have cropped tighter for more impact.

7. mmc-dog – 2nd place – Great expression. I think you could have cropped a bit more off the top so the human's hand is at the top of there frame. Colors look a little dull and muted. If this was an artistic decision, I'm curious why, and if it's not, then spend more time in post production.

8. sdn-dog – 1st place – Disturbing image at first glance. I thought the dog's head was mounted like a game trophy. Great expression and way to go grabbing the viewer's attention. I think you could have punched up the highlights for a more polished photo.

9. SG-dog – Out of focus, distorted aspect ratio, poor color reproduction, too dark. But

good composition.

10. TG-dog – Great expression, but why is the aspect ratio distorted? Otherwise good portrait. The image is a little dark. Bring the highlights up so you have some white points in the dog's fur.

Category: Choice

1. ck-choice – Everything that is wonderful about this photo is in the white scarf. Look for some abstract compositions in there and crop in. Goof portrait of a mannequin but i think you need some shadow detail in the hat.

2. cmk-choice – Creative composition. I think it could be strengthened by lightening the sand in shadow to add contrast between it and the tree in shadow, then you would have a more balanced ring-yang between top and bottom.

3. dhg-choice – Good composition and good illustration of the relationship between the bird house and human house. I think it would be an even stronger composition by cropping a little off the right and bottom.

4. jnh-choice – 1st place — Good abstract color shapes. Your decision to add heavy grain works, but I recommend cleaning up the white specks in the shadow areas as they are distracting.

5. kw-choice – Good composition placing the door inside the arch, but I think it is diluted by the big green field of ivy on the right. Try cropping this out and building your composition around the strength of the arch with some ivy just around the fringe. Also dodge the door a bit to separate it from the rest of the wood around it.

6. LHP-choice – Good wildlife photo. For a stronger composition try cropping out most of the top and bottom for a long horizontal image of just the birds and their reflections.

7. mmc-choice – Good composition but everything else is a bit flat.

8. sdn-choice – Good composition and color framing for your naturally-colored subject. But you need to turn up the shutter speed to for a crisp image.

9. SG-choice – 2nd place – This made me chuckle—water before and after dog. Good story and composition, but I think the composition could be stronger by cropping tighter on the bowl and water stain.

10. TG-choice – Nicely composed row of lights, but there's no prize at the end of the leading line. A well executed photograph nonetheless. Good color and light.

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. 3-CMK is a good example of this.

1. cjc-sign – Good context for the sign. Having a car a little out of focus in the background would have put it over the top. Good composition, color and light.

2. ck-sign – I'm not sure if there's a strange reflection going on here or if it's a collage, but the interplay between the dog and sign type is a little distracting. I don't think you effectively pulled off the relationship between the two.

3. cmk-sign – 1st place – Strong composition, and good decision to go B&W. I think color would have made it more about the flag instead of the sign. Good relationship between the sign and flag with great lines.

4. dhg-sign – Good light and color, but an out-of-focus person on the bench would have added so much to this image.

5. jhn-sign – Interesting subject selection; good eye. I think catching this scene a few minutes earlier or later to fill the lower left wall with equal shadow, and dodging the crest area of the sign would have really enhanced this image, and made for a stronger composition.

6. kw-sign – Good color manipulation to complement the look of the sign. Good composition.

7. LHP-sign – Interesting subject selection; good eye. Good composition.

8. mmc-sign – 2nd place – Good selective focus, composition, color, and dodging and burning. Having the lights on would have added a lot. Good relationship between real flowers and the flowers in the sign.

9. sdn-sign – Interesting manipulation of contrast on the tree branches to complement the wood grain in the sign. I think you need to brighten up the sign to compete with them, though. Good composition.

10. SG-sign – Good subject selection but I think you could have gotten in closer and put together a more dynamic composition. Burning the edges would add to this composition.

11. TG-sign – The sign element of this image seems more like a footnote to the bright red phonograph rather than the primary subject. The reflections in the window don't add anything which is a missed opportunity to add an extra dimension to this photo.