

PTCC-2016 TRAVEL GROUP A

49 images from 17 members

Chester Ng was the judge for Travel, and stated that the following (*in no particular order*) were elements he looked for in his judging. - framing and composition, quality of light, defining moment, gesture, mood and emotion, engaging or provocative content, sense of story, sense of place (travel), originality and uniqueness, unusual perspective, humor, imagination, the unexpected, contextual depth and meaning, metaphors and symbolism, open ended or layered narratives, aesthetic design, visual presence, tension that captivates, spatial depth, clarity of intent, absence of distractions, attention retention, difficulty of getting the shot, color harmony, technical mastery, restrained post-processing.

01 - 300 steps to Point Reyes Lighthouse.jpg

Good composition. Good use of leading lines. Nice dark somber mood but would like to see the left side shadow and steel fence line lighten just a bit. Sense of place, sense of loneliness.

02 - Airborne.jpg

A sense of danger with a provocative perspective. It's a travel photo but without a clear sense of place.

03 - Arches Jump, Arches National Park.jpg

Good framing and use of a figure to illustrate scale. Just enough contextual elements to define place. While a nice documentation of a personal trip, it needs something else to separate this from a vacation photo. Perhaps strong backlighting with long shadows may add uniqueness to the image.

04 - Autumn Retreat at the Wawona Hotel - Yosemite Nation Park .jpg

A mix of stillness and seasonal change adds some visual tension to an otherwise ordinary scene. Foreground chairs gives spatial depth in a generally monochromatic scene highlighted by complimentary colors.

05 - Baroque Garden at Ludwigsburg Palace Germany.jpg

Good composition but colors seem oversaturated with a magenta cast. Tones appear flat even in this bright high contrast day.

06 - Big fish in Klamath California.jpg

An unusual and unexpected adds quirkiness and humor to this subject. While travel related, it does not instill a strong sense of place.

07 - Big Sky Country-Wisdom, MT (1 of 1).jpg

Good story elements. Perhaps a slight crop on the right to add more presence to the yellow rider. Primary colors appear a bit saturated.

08 - Bixby Bridge - Big Sur, CA.jpg

Nice perspective and mood of the Bixby. Side lighting and clouds adds to drama.

09 - BON VOYAGE.jpg

Great story telling about travel. Sense of place is the airport. Nice perspective. Perhaps make the

composition less symmetrical. Magenta cast.

10 - Cabo Beach Cactus.jpg

Not visually clear on photographer's intent. Title says cactus but iron wrought handrail is much more prominent and takes away story on cactus. Attention to detail needed (right edge, top left corner flare, tilting horizon).

11 - Cabo Beach Umbrellas.jpg

Needs an interest element to finish story (e.g., person, animal, toes on the right corner, etc.). Would prefer more content on the left and less on the right.

12 - Setting Sun at Cannon Beach, Oregon.jpg

Wonderful quality and placement of light. Clouds and reflections frame and complete the scene. An example of when center placement of main subject works. Nice warm color palette.

13 - Children Sailing Boats At The Tuileries Paris France.jpg

Great sense of story and place. Would like to see more on the left side. Colors a bit saturated for my taste.

14 - Come for a Bike Ride in Steamboat Springs, Colorado_.jpg

Great angle and perspective channels the eye to the main subject. Creates nice eye movement. Would crop on left. Another example where symmetry works.

15 - Dafodill Hill.jpg

Dreamy tranquil sensation in this scene. Great composition.

16 - Early Morning Street in Havana, Cuba.jpg

Need more clarity on what photographer wants viewer to see. Perhaps isolate geometric design of just a few windows or go in closer on the couple in the street. White balance on the warm side and colors a bit oversaturated.

17 - Easter Celebration in Schwabenheim Germany.jpg

Colorful, nice composition. Sense of place. Would like a flatter, planar view correcting keystone tilt effect.

18 - Fresh Laundry, Lucca, Italy.jpg

Great capture. A defining moment with the outstretched arms. Consider cropping off the top and bottom. A square composition would make for an interesting visual design if you can pull it off.

19 - Iguanas By Spa.jpg

Great start. Lowering down to their level and zooming in would make the image more powerful. Crop bottom and top to give iguanas more presence.

20 - In the halls of the Louvre.jpg

Lovely story but it feels claustrophobic in an otherwise huge museum. If you have more on the right, I would at least complete the curve on his back.

21 - In the streets of Guatemala.jpg

Eye catching subject. Technically perfect. Want more environmental context to tell me it's

Guatemala.

22 - Inside the Whale - Sea Princess lobby.jpg

While this image suggests travel, it needs more to retain viewers interest. An isolated view of the curved stairway juxtaposed with the elevator or other architectural elements might create a unique view of the lobby.

23 - IRISH WAGON RIDE .jpg

A difficult subject to make interesting. Perhaps panning with a slow shutter to create motion blur for an abstract pictorial might make for a more dynamic image.

24 - keeping reykjavik tidy - iceland.jpg

Conveys a good story about Iceland's citizens and their concern for environmental issues. Fits best with social documentary category.

25 - KILLARNEY REST STOP.jpg

Not clear on photographer's intent. Left side too busy. Main subject not apparent. Color correction needed. Come in close, closer and closer to have clear definition of your story.

26 - Labyrinth at Lands End, San Francisco .jpg

Nice mood and story. Good composition with shapes and forms. Vignetting on top right corner.

27 - Man fishing at Mouth of Klamath River.jpg

Over processed. Distinct halo suggests need for better masking. Lots of color noise. No contextual background to suggest sense of place.

28 - paris contrast.jpg

Great storyline with sense of place. A defining moment. Focus and depth of field seems slightly off. Watch those blown highlights.

29 - People fishing at mouth of Klamath River California.jpg

Interesting image but over processing of clarity/structure distracts.

30 - Peterhof Domes - St Petersburg, Russia.jpg

Architectural forms are interesting but need another angle to separate out foreground from the dome. Bare sky and mid day light is not conducive to keeping viewer's attention to this image.

31 - Rhine Castle Stahleck above Bacharach Germany.jpg

Wonderful image. Beautifully composed, moody with clarity of main subject and supporting contextual background. I would desaturate the blue and orange in the right bottom corner to keep viewer's eye from exiting the frame. Likewise, I would darken the horizontal flagpoles(?) a bit as well as the bright spot on the left bottom edge. Love the sky.

32 - Rocky Creek Bridge from HWY 1 - Big Sur, CA.jpg

Nice light from a good time of day. Highlights rocky textures. A feeling of warmth. Good composition. Maybe a little soft?

33 - Route 66, Kingman, AZ.jpg

Difficult story to convey with so many mannequins.

34 - Russian Orthodox Church, Ninichik, Alaska.jpg

Lovely, lovely image. Like the perspective giving emphasis to the foreground crosses. Nice light with a hint of sun breaking through clouds onto foreground and stormy background. Appears like there is a slight tilt to the right that should be corrected (vertical lines of buildings should be plumb). I would try a version cropping some sky off the top and the partial right cross on the right and some off the left side so the edge is closer to the white foreground stake.

35 - Seven Gables Inn - Pacific Grove, CA.jpg

Has a bit of an HDR commercial feel to this image. I appreciate the keystone tilt correction to keep the building lines straight.

36 - snake charm 5.jpg

A challenging picture to take with a poisonous cobra in close proximity. I struggle between looking at the snake (who is more in focus) and looking at the charmer's eyes (who is not in focus). Is it about the snake or the charmer or both. In a perfect world with the right lens and the right distance, a shallow depth of field with a 100mm on the snake and the charmer severely out of focus would be a great shot. But in this case, it may be better if there was more depth of field with both snake and charmer in focus.

37 - Southernmost Pool, Key West.jpg

Great shot... for a brochure. If you have a lot of megapixels, then crop out the sides and just above the horizon line. I think the more interesting shot is the abstract pool reflection and the railings. Go from ordinary to extraordinary by cutting out everything around it. A shot within a shot.

38 - St Francis de Assis, Taos, NM.jpg

Feels too pedestrian encompassing the entire structure into the image. The left side with the geometric lines and shadows contains strong elements of form and tones. Play with various crops.

39 - Stopping By for a Visit, Lucca, Italy.jpg

Lovely shapes and tones but is there a more unique perspective to differentiate this scene from so many others like this? The paper on the step is distracting.

40 - street songs - shrewsbury england.jpg

There's a sense of story in this street photography scene but not enough elements to convey it as travel. Watch out for blown highlights. I would crop out some foreground and a bit off the right.

41 - Setting Sun at the Taj Mahal.jpg

Strong graphic elements. Like the minimalist view. Needs some balance and closure on the left side. Maybe a little shadow detail on the bottom like how you have it on top would be nice.

42 - The Eiffel Tower From Pont Bir Hakeim Paris France.jpg

I waver a bit on this image. In general, I like it but something about the left side I struggle with. Do I crop or not? The light and statue with the strong green hue draws my eye and takes away from focusing on the tower. The portal on the right is tugging at me to go right too. Distortions of wide angle lens a little distracting.

43 - The Isle of Skye, Scotland..jpg

Mid day photos are tough because the interesting light quality is just not there, particularly for a general scene like this. Needs more. Perhaps a foreground element with a presence to define what is the main subject. Lacks mood.

44 - The Morning's Political Review, San Gimignano, Italy.jpg

Not enough elements to complete the story. Background has little context. Characters need a stage. Not clear on photographer's intent.

45 - The remains of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Scotland.jpg

Feels too tight of a composition. Need more interesting light for mood and emotion.

46 - The Swans of Bruges, Belgium.jpg

Wonderful image. I think it's worth trying another version where you'd crop down slightly from the top, darken the vertical sign(?) in the center and darken the side of the building down about 2 stops. This will keep the viewer's eye on the swans.

47 - View from Brooklyn.jpg

Good story element. Angle chosen creates a very tight compressed view with too many layers stacked up. A wider angle from the left side may do better to portray the story.

48 - Welcome to Yosemite Valley - El Capitan in Clouds .jpg

Interesting scene with clouds but much too dark. Lacks that luminescent glow you often see in many El Capitan photos.

49 - Woman Walking Dogs Pont Bir Hakeim Paris France.jpg

Good composition. Good color palette. Feels slightly overprocessed, oversharpened.

Winning Images:

1st Place: The Swans of Bruges, Belgium

2nd Place: Russian Orthodox Church, Ninichik, Alaska

3rd Place: Rhine Castle Stahleck above Bacharach Germany

HM: Setting Sun at Cannon Beach, Oregon

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