

Judges Comments:

Group A

Black & White Images:

Puddle Reflections – Chris Johnson

Good seeing of this scene. Without the title, just looking at the image it looked messy but the title cleared that up. Good placement of the tree and building.

Rooftop – Brooks Leffler

Good graphic patterns in the rooftop. Good range from black to white. Fairly good detail in the lightest and darkest parts.

Stairwell to Hell – Bill Shewchuk

This was really hard to figure out without the title which is the way I first looked at the images. With the title I can make out the stairwell. Interesting stairwell that makes for an interesting pattern shot.

3rd Place – Sunshine Through the Darkness – Carol Fuessenich

I really have no idea what this is a photograph of, or if you created the image, but I do like what you have no matter how you got there. Great abstract pattern.

2nd Place – Dahlia – Dominique Gallet

Love the texture you were able to capture in the petals of this flower. The image has the feel, to me, of soft creamy petals.

1st Place – Megan – John Avera

I like everything about this image. The placement of the person in the frame with space to look. The material used to wrap the head and body, the sparkle in the eyes and the placement of the hand. Great image.

Creative Images

Creative can mean many different things to many different people. To be a creative image you do not have to use Photoshop or some other program to add filters or alter the image, you can create creative images in the camera. But, to me there has to be some sort of alteration of reality.

Butterfish – Ken Jones

Good blending of the two different scenes, the butterfly is definitely the main subject, but the underwater scene comes through nicely.

Driving through a space tunnel – Margaret Cordts

Good creation of the tunnel. You did an excellent job blending the rightside up and upside down parts of the image.

Full Steam Ahead on the Golden Bear – Bill Shewchuck

Unique angle of view and good saturation of colors. Maybe just a little too much of the water for me.

Mission San Luis Obispo – Frank Penner

Pleasant scene of the mission and the painterly technique goes well with this image. Like the leading line of the path and the bench.

One anemone encircling another – Margaret Cordts

I like the abstract part of the image encircling the realistic part. Nice bright colors.

3rd Place – Light in the Darkness – Carol Fuessenich

Very unique image and well placed in the frame. I like the arrangement of the lights. Not sure how this was put together, but if the dark (trees) were cut out of an image you need to be careful, I see a little white outline on some of the limbs.

2nd Place – Yesterday – Janet Beaty

Very moody feel to this image. Like your viewpoint and the placement of the wheel. Good saturation of the bright colors.

1st Place – The Watchman – Chris Johnson

Very nice image. Good use of texture and the blending in of the hoodie with the background. I like the realistic part of the face and it is placed at a crash point. I am intrigued by the apparent transparency of the hood over the left part of the face and head.

Nature Images:

American Green Tree Frog (Hyla Cinerea) – Carol Silveira

Image is sharp and well exposed. Good placement in the frame. Little bothered by the part of the belly that is pressed against the glass.

Chives – Allium schoenoprasum – Brooks Leffler

Good rendition of the Chives. I might have tried to isolate fewer flowers.

Female Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna) Drinking Nectar – John Drum

Having the background nature opens up additional images that you can use in Nature. This image is a good example of that. Nice catch of the hand feeding of a hummingbird. Exposure is good and background is handled well.

Fox squirrel at picnic table – Frank Penner

Nice close up image of the squirrel and good that you have him doing something. Image is sharp and good catch light in the eye.

Helmeted Guinea Fowl – *Numida meleagris* – Judi Clayton

Good exposure and focus on the Guinea Fowl. Background blurred out nicely. Good placement in the frame and nice catch light.

Meerkat Stares Down the Photographer – Shelly Nemeth

Placement in the frame is good giving the Meerkat room to move. Depth of field is good with the Meerkat sharp and the background out of focus. Good exposure.

Five-fingered Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) – Mary Ann Avera

Nice capture of the Fern, everything looks like it is in good focus. The pattern created is really quite pleasing. Color and exposure is good.

Gulls (*Larus...*) prepare clams for lunch – Gerald Gifford

Unique set of images showing how the Gull takes care of lunch. Images are good, but do appear to have been really sharpened.

Juvenile Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Survives Shark Attack - John Drum

Good exposure and focus, background is out which makes the Seal stand out. Nasty wound on the Seal, don't know I would have known it was from a Shark.

Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) Exhibition Mating Behavior – Chris Johnson

Nice and close up on the Otters. Good detail and even light in the eyes. Good action shot.

Tioga Pass Reflecting Trees – Jeff Hobbs

Nice image of the body of water, surrounding material and the tree reflections. The image is somewhat static without much of a nature story.

Variagated Meadowhawk – Richard Bucich

Good shot of the insect, background handled very well. The tips of the wings are out of focus so maybe just a little more depth of field would have brought them in.

HM – Sandhill Cranes (*Grus Canadensis*) At Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge, NM – Jeff Hobbs

Very nice images of the Cranes, they are lit very well with even good light in the eyes. Background out of focus works very well. Birds are well exposed and nice and sharp.

HM – White-Lined Spinx Moth (*Hyles lineata*) - Chris Johnson

Great image of the Moth and caught at a good time when there is an activity going on. The backside wing going soft doesn't bother me and the rest of the Moth is quite sharp.

HM – Imm. Western Gull with red crab - Richard Bucich

Good action shot with the Gull about to have the Crab for lunch. Good exposure and sharpness. Nice placement in the frame.

3rd Place – Honey Bee (Apis mellifera) Nectaring on California Poppy (Eschscholtzia californica) – Mary Ann Avera

Great exposure , placement and focus on the Bee. The image is nice and rich without being overdone. Pollen on the Bee adds to the story. Slight movement in the wings but that is fine with me.

2nd Place – Coyote (Canis Latrans) In Search Of Her Next Meal – Jeff Hobbs

Image is very sharp and exposure is right on. Love the placement of the Coyote and the reflection. The habitat is a nice touch.

1st Place – Heron Eating a Squirrel – Richard Bucich

One nice thing about evaluating images is you get to see and learn things that you might never be exposed to. I did not know that a Heron would eat a Squirrel. Great capture and congratulations for having the patients to get this shot. Well exposed and focus is great.

Pictorial Images:

Albacore Tuna – Jim Lambert

The diagonal line of the fish is good. Fills the frame nicely. Exposure looks good.

Candy Corn – Frank Penner

Exposure is good. Brought us right into the action. Background blurred nicely.

The Perfect Bird of Paradise – Jim Lambert

Nice bright colors so saturation is good. Exposure and depth of field looks good. Maybe the background could be a little more out of focus, looks like there are some marks there.

Ice Bubbles – Bill Shewchuk

Good rendition is black and white. There is a lot going on here, don't know if you could have simplified.

Red Bicycle Wheel – Judy Clayton

You kept good detail in the snow and the red of the wheel stands out nicely. Don't know if I would have included the piece in the upper left.

Rusty Pipes – Richard Bucich

Exposure looks right on and depth of field is good. The shadows seem a little harsh. There is a lot going on, don't know if you could have isolated something.

Cold Inflation at Reno Hot Air Balloon Races – Bill Shewchuk

Nice saturated bright colors. Exposure good, depth of field good. I think I would have cropped out part of the blue at the top of the frame and concentrated on the bright bottom portion.

Cherry Blossoms – Joni Zabala

Even with having the foreground flowers and the color in the sky in the background the image still looks flat. I think there is not enough light on the blossoms and I would have isolated.

Hotel Acme – Joni Zabala

Interesting point of view with the cup in the foreground and the hotel sign in the background. I'm surprised the depth of field looks so good with just a 2.2 f-stop.

Rainbow at Mono Lake – Carol Silveira

Good foreground, middle ground and background. Exposure is good and you had nice clouds that day. I don't believe I would have put the rainbow right in the center, but pointed a little more to the right or left.

Route 66 – Chris Johnson

Good detail on the road close up and fading out going out to infinity. Color and exposure is good. I would have cloned out that white truck at the upper right, it keeps making me look up there.

Slow day today – Frank Penner

Yeah wouldn't make me want to give him anything. Really good Photojournalism image. Good positioning in the frame and good exposure.

Sunset at Amboy – Carol Silveira

Nice sunset and sky. The sign and awning could have used some more light, maybe some flash would have helped and still kept the color in the sky.

Yosemite Dogwood – Richard Bucich

Kept detail in the whites of the dogwood petals but they don't appear tack sharp to me. Think I would have tried to isolate a few blossoms against the blue sky.

HM – Wheels and Cogs – John Avera

I like this image a lot. Very creative and a lot of thought put into making this image. The light source coming in from the left and throwing those neat shadows is a plus. I'm not as crazy about the darkness on the top and bottom.

HM – San Francisco Asian Art Museum – Judy Clayton

I like the symmetry of this image. I had to look hard to see that it wasn't a mirror image. I do think a little more depth of field would have sharpened up the background.

HM – Lost in Time - Carol Fuessenich

Very moody shot. Like the concept. Can't tell if the watch was added but I don't think so, it looks very natural there. I would have preferred to see some cropped off the top and right had side to move the watch more into a crash point.

3rd Place – Time Machine – John Avera

Image is extremely sharp and I think this type of image needs this type of sharpness. Interesting to see into the workings of the time piece, don't think digitals would look this way.

2nd Place – Floating – Chris Johnson

Beautiful image, love the background and the circles in the foreground. Nice separation between the circles. I've said many times that an image should be simplified and you need to move in, but I don't feel that way about this image.

1st Place – Wilted Cala Lily – Peter Monteforte

I was once told by a judge that you need to shoot flowers in their prime, but this image shows that is not always the case. Beautiful detail in the flower and perfect light. I like the placement and the diagonal thrust of the flower.

Photojournalism Images:

A morning firecrew marches into the burn zone - Karen Schofield

Good exposure. Good that you caught the full line of fire fighters. I think I would have cropped a little off the bottom of the image.

Highlands Firesky – Karen Schofield

The sky does look very smoky and the helicopter is carrying a bucket of water. Would like to be a little closer to the action but that is not always possible.

Winter Storm – Richard Bucich

Good PJ image showing the flood waters and the boat shows how you have to get around in a flood. Exposure is good.

3rd Place – Helicopters dwarfed by smoke from Soberanes Fire – Joni Zabala

I had just said on an earlier image that it would have been nicer to have been closer to the action and this image is just as far away or even farther, so why do I like this one better. The small size of the helicopters compared to the smoke really shows how big the fire is and just how much smoke it is putting out.

2nd Place – Elite runners start Big Sur Half Marathon – Bill Shewchuk

Looks like you caught them right at the start of the race. You can see a little blur of legs and arms as they make their first move. Exposure is right on and image has been cropped to just show the action.

1st Place – Firefighters battle trailer fire in Balleys Harbor, Wisconsin – Bill Shewchuk

Definitely a great PJ image. You have the fire engulfing the trailer and the fire fighters doing their best to get a handle on the blaze. Good exposure and placement in the frame.

Travel Images:

Palouse Country – John Avera

Very good representation of the Palouse area. Nice bright colors, good clouds that day, and the image is sharp and well exposed. Good placement within the frame.

Praying outside St. Francis Church, Antigua, Guatemala – Frank Penner

Exposure is good and the image is nice and sharp. I think I would have preferred to have him a little more toward the right side of the image. And I know you have in the title that he is praying but it really bothers me that the eyes are closed.

3rd Place – Kayaking Glacier Bay, Alaska – Joni Zabala

Nice point of view. Good foreground and background. Held detail in the snow and ice. Have some texture in the sky. Overall a good travel image.

2nd Place – Cana Island lighthouse – Bill Shewchuk

I like the perspective shown for this lighthouse. Horizon is nice and straight. Colors are good and the lighthouse is well positioned in the frame.

1st Place – Garrapata Sea Arch – Big Sur, CA – Chris Axe

This image proves that you don't have to travel all over the world to have a great travel image. This is beautiful done and is of a specific land and place.