

PTCC-2017 – BLACK & WHITE GROUP A

60 images from 20 members

01 - 1970's NYC Boat Basin lovers.JPG

For me, the story here is the couple's body language. The woman seems to be loving and caring while the man seems totally oblivious of the woman's attention. Very nicely captured. To nitpick, I don't think the bag next to the woman adds anything important to the story. You could also darken everything but the couple a little bit. Another nice capture would be to zoom in on the couple and maybe just frame their heads. This image inspires us to think about how we relate to one another.

02 - Bean HollowTafoni.jpg

Gorgeous abstract image, very well composed. Great tonality and texture. Technically and artistically perfect.

03 - Best Friends.jpg

Hahaha. Compare this to the NYC boat basin lovers. How body language changes in a generation! There are some blown out highlights on the man's back and cap. The couple is too closely cropped. Please, leave some room to breathe and darken everything but the couple. A vignette would also help.

04 - Brewery signature.jpg

Creative point of view, but the composition does not work really well for me. The tonality is great, but the tilted building bothers me. I can't find a good suggestion here other than reshoot. Sorry for not getting what you were trying to show. I'm sure there is a good reason you decided to shoot it. Maybe you could explain to the group?

05 - Capitol Steps.jpg

This image has a lot of potential as an abstract image. Please, crop everything above the end of the stairs and the 3 steps at the bottom and you will get a much stronger image.

06 - Ceiling in Reagan National Airport.jpg

Wow, strong graphical architecture image! Striking!

07 - Coast Highway.jpg

This image looks like a diptych. On the left, you see the highway underbelly and on the right a massive gray wall. I don't see much sense in having this wall on the foreground. There is not useful information, it is just a large gray area and the bright highlight reflected on its narrow side works as a divider and prevents me from looking at the image as one. The image on the left is more interesting but that reflection on the pillar is very distracting.

08 - CRASHING WAVES.jpg

Wow, I feel the energy coming from the crashing waves. Great tonality on the water and foam. I love all those shades of gray but that dark part of the water on the lower right

does not look very good to me. You could dodge that area to have a more uniform tonality. If you want to highlight the presence of the bird, you could brighten the sky and the water behind it, otherwise clone it out. It is a great photo.

09 - Dahlia.jpg

Outstanding composition, tonality, and toning. I love the silky petals and the delicate shadows. It is such a pleasure the look at this image. Really a work of art.

10 - Ebony, Silver and Cork.jpg

Incredible detail in this instrument. Is it an oboe? The instrument looks perfect but the overall image looks a little too closed cropped for me though. I wish you had left a little more room between the subject and the left/right edges. I would suggest you leave the same amount on the left/right edges as the on the top/bottom. The reflection looks very good. The background could be a little less dark so we could see where the instrument sits.

11 - Eight Dalmatians.jpg

Fun image. The photo loses impact because the kids on the back are all looking at different directions. It would have more impact if shot from the front with everyone (this includes the dog) looking at the camera and you try to frame is so there is not much of the ground or the distracting background. Another impactful image would be to zoom in on the kid's or dog's head against a wall of spotted costumes.

12 - Elephant.jpg

Wow, what a great animal portrait. The texture on the elephant skin is amazing. Great idea to overexposure the grass on the foreground and the trees in the background to eliminate their distracting factor. A light vignette might help frame the elephant even more. Gorgeous!

13 - Elli Playful.jpg

Great portrait, composition, lighting and tonality. As far as I am concerned this image is technically perfect. It would be interesting to have the same model with other expressions like sad, normal, angry, making funny faces, etc. and you would have a wonderful portfolio.

14 - Elvis Underglass.jpg

Wow, this is a very creative photo. Dynamic, joyful, it brings the inner kid in all of us. It tells a story; I know he is having fun. No need to see his face in greater detail. It is a great silhouette. Excellent. Since I can't help not nitpicking, that dome on the left side is not necessary for the story, you might want to darken it a little bit to lessen its impact. I would not crop it out, because the image is not symmetric.

15 - Fallen Roof Ruin.jpg

Gorgeous abstract image. Look at all those shades of gray! The only suggestion would be a little vignette just to contain the eye.

16 - Finish Line.jpg

Good idea and a great eye. I get the message. You don't actually need two mannequins to tell the story though. I would eliminate the one on the left which is obstructing most of the view. Move the camera so that the one on the right is not so close to the edge. Your image would be stronger. What is happening here is that both mannequins are lessening the impact of the other on the scene. The image looks busy. Now, look at that ceiling! What an interesting abstract there.

17 - First Born.jpg

Great interplay of the hands. That is the story, and that is where the focus is. The ring is just distracting and does not add anything important to the narrative. Move both hands down and have the small one follow the rule of thirds. This is such an impactful image that it would be awesome if you had a chance to reshoot. The image is a little flat, try increasing the brightness without too much increase in contrast. When using Photoshop, set the blending mode of Levels or Curves layer to luminosity when you want to change the brightness without affecting contrast.

18 - First Walk.jpg

Hahaha, too much to drink? Or the first walk means a baby learning to walk is trying to take the photo? LOL I like these kind of photos, the technique eliminates too much detail and sharpness and makes the image look painterly. The tonality is great and the border complements the Holga-camera shoot-from-the-hip kind of look. Love it.

19 - Fly Me To The Super Moon.jpg

Wow, what a creative idea. Very well done. I am not a great fan of unbalanced images, so if you had left more room at the top, I would be happier. But I understand that sometimes things happen so fast that you barely have time to compose. So you get a break here. It is a striking image!

20 - Follow me.jpg

This reminds me of the bridge to nowhere. LOL. The image has nice shades of gray on the wooden path but is little too much contrast on the sand. The path guides my eyes to a white sky, which leaves me wanting something more. A tree at the top would be nice. The technology is there, so why not experiment?

21 - Forgotten Home, CA 156.jpg

The image lacks drama. The story is the abandoned house so make it stand out. Darken the foreground and sky and dodge the house. Add a vignette to finish and le voilà. You could also show more around the house, it is too closed cropped.

22 - Fort Point Shadows.jpg

You gave us an overall view of this place which shows great potential for nice architecture shots. Those illuminated arches look interesting. Also, the shadow-light play on the floor. If you have a chance to go back to this place, you might want to explore those spots. Have fun.

23 - Garden Bust.jpg

Very dramatic image indeed. Reminds me of Medusa. Nice image.

24 - Garden Sun.jpg

Love the tonality and the gritty look. I would like to see the sun a little bit more centered though.

25 - Golden Gate Bridge and Fog.jpg

Wow! What a nice capture of the Golden Gate Bridge on a foggy day. I think the chain at the bottom helps frame the image quite nicely, otherwise you would not have anything to stop the eyes from leaving the image. The image is very well framed and the darker clouds on the top right also helps contain the eye within the picture. Great tonality.

26 - GRAND VIEW.jpg

Great tonality. To highlight the trees on the foreground, you could darken the other trees behind them so you would have more separation. Regardless, it is a nice image.

27 - Grumpy Spaniel Answers Door.jpg

Hahaha. Grumpy indeed. To highlight the dog a little more, darken the door frame and the bottom sweep, so they are not brighter than the dog. You could also clean some busy distractions around the knob and above the rack on the background. The details on the door are not important for the story. The dog is the most important element so you don't want anything else distracting your attention from it. You might also want to try to zoom in on the dog to focus more on its angry face.

28 - Hackberry Gas Station of the Past.jpg

Lots of interesting things happening here. The vintage gas pump, that thing that appears to be a toilet attached to the plant, the vintage car and what else treasures we may find. The composition however is too horizontal. All these elements are basically on the same level blended with a busy background. The hill behind to house seems to be protruding from the roof. The car seems to be going out of the picture. The pump is too close to the edge. I believe if you could move to your left and turn the camera to the right to try to find a better composition having the car and the other elements form a more pleasing diagonal line, for example.

29 - Half dome over stone bridge.jpg

Beautiful landscape image with great tonality. The place is beautiful and the composition very pleasing. I don't think the border helps the image, it is a little distracting actually but other than that it is a perfect image.

30 - In Need of a Mechanic.jpg

I think you need more than a mechanic. LOL. The image has great tonality, the shades of gray are impressive. I obviously get the message of abandon, solitude, and isolation, even a little spooky. By making the abandoned car so "in your face", you are making sure that I have to deal with it, there is no way to disregard its state of neglect. The falling houses in the background look interesting and unconventional. I like it.

31 - In the Weeds, Hwy 41, Atascadero.jpg

More abandoned cars. Here the impact is reduced and diluted among the three cars. One car would be more effective. Or get rid of the car on the right and keep the one in the middle and the other partially blocked by the vegetation. If you must have three cars, zoom out and have them all in the frame in a diagonal line for greater impact.

32 - Inside Old Fort Casey, Whidbey Island, Washington.jpg

The alley does a great job of directing our eyes to the bright end. To add drama, you could apply a blur to the brightest area at the end of the alley to add a touch of mystery. Eliminate the distractions on the ground and walls. Better yet, put someone at the end but show only the legs as if he/she is trying to escape. Add tension to the image to make it more interesting.

33 - Jack O'Lantern Mushroom.jpg

Gorgeous image with great detail. I feel the need to balance the composition by having the same amount of space between the subject and the edges. To have more impact you need to negative space around the subject.

34 - La Defense Paris France.jpg

Gorgeous architecture abstract! Very nice. intriguing composition and great tonality. A suggestion: crop it to a square eliminating the intersecting line on the right. You don't need two of them. By keeping the two you actually dilute their impact. You will get a much stronger abstract.

35 - Looking West from Chualar.jpg

Nice rural image. Unless this is a journalistic photo, I would eliminate the power wires and the posts, especially that one in front of the house. There is not much happening in the foreground, so I would add some drama by increasing the contrast of the diagonal lines and darkening the out of focus areas. A vignette would also help.

36 - Megan.jpg

Fantastic portrait, beautiful lighting, perfect. Do you have more images from this session? I would like to see one where she is off center like this one, looking at the camera without the hand.

37 - Of a Feather.jpg

Nice pattern. For me, it only works as an abstract and for that you would have to zoom in closer. I find the base more interesting, so you could crop it square and eliminate the left half on the right.

38 - Point Pinos Exploding Storm Wave.jpg

Again, I can feel the energy coming from the crashing water. The image is a little too dark for me. The sky is great but you could lighten the rocks a little bit.

39 - Poppy & HoneyBees.jpg

This image is way too busy, especially at the top and bottom left. The bees are not arranged in a flattering way and two of them completely blend with the pistils. Maybe you could brighten the busy background quite a bit, but my suggestion is to reshoot and maybe not crop the flower so close.

40 - Prepare to Meet Thy God.jpg

Wow, it looks like a creepy robot in an old scifi movie. The image is cropped too close, I miss some environmental context. What are you trying to show? Did you find the text interesting? How does it relate to the pump? Is there a reason why is it wrapped around a pump? Is there a philosophical message here? I'm sorry, but I am not getting any of that. Please, tell the group what you were trying to show.

41 - Puddle Reflections.jpg

Gorgeous image, very creative, just brighten the tree a little more and darken the dirty soil at the top and bottom to make the reflection in the water glow. Really beautiful image.

42 - Quadracci Pavilion in the Milwaukee Art Museum.jpg

Spectacular architecture image.

43 - River View.jpg

Beautiful chairs but the image is too busy. Maybe you could move the chairs to another location having only the trees in the background and no other distracting element. You could then play with the position of the chairs: facing each other, with their back to each other, side by side. etc. Try shooting with a larger aperture to have the chairs in focus and the background out of focus too. Experiment and have fun.

44 - Rocky Shore.jpg

You cannot go wrong using long exposure when photographing water. It is a great image.

45 - Roma, Paris France.jpg

Great environmental portrait. I like the interplay between the woman and the posters of the woman and the man behind her. It reminds us of the problem of income inequality. Actually, I like the busy background. It matches the texture of the sidewalk. To highlight your main subject a little more, I would darken everything else a little bit and apply a vignette. The image has great impact regardless.

46 - Rooftop.jpg

Another great architectural abstract. Great composition. The photographer made an image as opposed to just taking a photo of roofs. He added value to the image by arranging all those graphic elements the way he did. To nitpick, I would clone the shadows on the lower right triangle.

47 - Self Portrait.jpg

Nice auto-portrait. I like the crop, it makes it different and more interesting. Very

creative.

48 - Stairwell to Hell.jpg

Great abstract image. You were very successful in making this image of a stairway different and very intriguing. You avoided the cliché that we all have seen hundred of times. The final image looks like a juxtaposition of broken image fragments, almost like a collage. A true fine art image.

49 - Strong.jpg

Nice tonality, I love all those shades of gray. It shows you know how to control light. I would lighten those dark areas at the top right to make it more uniform. It is almost an abstract.

50 - SUNSET DUNES.jpg

Nice nature photo with good tonality and great texture. You could also get more interesting abstract by cropping the top dunes.

51 - Sunshine Through the Darkness.jpg

Wow, Miró and Kandinsky would be jealous. What a magnificent piece of art. What a simple, elegant and striking image. Love it.

52 - Supermoon .jpg

Nice landscape. The entire image is very low key, the moon looks too bright. I would darken the moon a little bit to make its tonality match the rest of the image.

53 - Textures and shadows.jpg

Hmmm. Why did you take this picture? What are you trying to show? Why is it important for us to look at someone from the back doing something that we cannot determine what it is? Her hair looks very nice, so maybe darken everything else would make it more interesting.

54 - This Way Please.jpg

I think the image would be a lot stronger if the highlighted tiles were in a diagonal and since they are so bright, there is no need to have the desks so dark. A slightly lower contrast would work better in my opinion.

55 - Thistle After The Rain.jpg

I love the bokeh in this image. I also like your point of view. You managed to silhouette the thistle very nicely having the lower part dark against a bright background and the upper part bright against the dark background. Very smart. I think though that you cropped the thistle a little bit too close. I feel suffocated. Leave a little more room to breathe.

56 - To Drain the Swamp.jpg

Very nice tonality. You managed to accomplish a separation of all elements in this image. Compositionally though, I think the image would be stronger if you cropped the

top so you don't see the end of the stumps. That would provide a less distracting background for the valve and flower.

57 - Waiting for a Rider.jpg

Nice capture and tonality. I like all those shades of gray. If I can nitpick, I would darken the sky to highlight the bicycle even more. You might want to experiment using a wider aperture to have the bicycle in focus and all the vegetation out of focus. Everything looks too sharp.

58 - Waiting for the Tide.jpg

Nice shot. You might want to dodge the boat a little bit to make it more prominent and to add a little bit of drama to the scene. A vignette would also help frame the boat a little better.

59 - Wasted.jpg

I love what you did here. The uniform tonality makes it appear that the truck is disappearing while being swallowed by the plants. Great composition and outstanding creativity.

60 - Zebras.jpg

I love zebra stripes. Great panorama. This is a striking image. To nitpick, I would like to see a little bit more separation though. Maybe brighten the vegetation in the background?

Winning Images:

1st Place: Sunshine Through the Darkness

2nd Place: Megan

3rd Place: Puddle Reflections

HM: Dahlia

HM: Rooftop

HM: Stairwell to Hell