

PTCC-2017 – BLACK & WHITE GROUP AA

12 images from 4 members

01 - Aloe.jpg

I love abstract plant images and this one has a lot of potential. The camera set focus on the front leaves however, so most of the image is out of focus. It is very distracting specially because it is a large area and it is the brightest one. Try using an aperture of 11 or smaller and focus on the middle leaves to try to get everything in focus. Also, try to compose overlapping leaves without empty spaces between them (like the dark areas at the top to get a more uniform composition. Another suggestion would be to have everything out of focus.

02 - Cactus1.jpg

Another abstract plant image. This one has a very nice composition. Here too, try using a smaller aperture to avoid having the left side out of focus. In my opinion, the image has too much contrast. You might try opening up the shadows to have a more consistent lighting throughout the image and thus more shades of gray. This would also mitigate the focus issue. There are some distracting bright dust (real dust, not sensor dust). The image would look better if you cleaned that up. The trick to clean that is to duplicate the layer and set the blending mode to darken. Then apply Filter->Noise->Dust & Scratches. Select the minimum amount that eliminates the dust.

03 - Cactus2.jpg

Same observations as in cactus1. This composition, however, does not work as well as cactus1.

04 - Cactus3.jpg

This has a nice composition too. View cactus1 comments

05 - Experience Shadows.jpg

Very creative image and well executed. I would darken the out of focus area on the left so it will not be so distractive. That will also help frame the brightest part of the image which is also the most interesting one. You might also consider making this image a square cropping out the out of focus area to get something like yin-yang. You will get a much stronger image.

06 - Frozen Dandelion.jpg

This image has a lot of potential as a pure abstract. Clone out the stem so we don't make any association with a flower, keep that beautiful background and vignette the corners. It is a very radiant image that suggests optimism and looking at it is a great way to start the new year. The words that come to my mind are: new beginnings, genesis, creation...

This image does not work for me as a flower photo. I think frozen flower photography works best when you can see the ice texture covering part of the flower, making it look

painterly and dreamy. For good examples, see Ryuijie (http://www.westongallery.com/ryuijie_pages/ryuijie_color_ice_1.htm).

07 - Liquidambar seed pods.jpg

Great composition but the branch and a busy background behind the pods are very distracting. My suggestion is to darken the branch quite a bit and darken the two out of focus pods on the right just so to emphasize the fact they are on a different plane and create a three-dimensional illusion. Darken the pod partially hidden too. When in the field, try not to have overlapping pods by moving around to find another point of view.

08 - Otter Theater Act 1.jpg

Hahaha, here is an interesting story about mama sea otter waiting for the next bus to the fish market. She is apprehensive because it is getting late, judging from her long shadow, and dinner will be delayed. The quality of the image could be better (too many distracting highlights on the sand, too much contrast in the fur, highlight on her head blown out) but this image can evoke so many delightful stories in our minds.

09 - Structured Steel.jpg

Wow, impressive. Great composition and tonality. I can see so many shades of gray. You were able to compress so many levels of metal making it intriguing and chaotically beautiful. It stirs up a sense of orderly conflict if such a thing is possible. It is busy and soothing at the same time. When I stare at it for a long time the movie "Thirteen Ghosts" come to mind. I wonder how many lost souls we would be able to find trapped in this diabolical structure.

10 - Voelklingen steel mill.jpg

Gorgeous image that looks almost like an illustration. The focal point is beautifully framed by the dark walls and archway. This image reminds me of old War II photos and I feel a soldier carrying a gun could show up at any moment. Beautiful and evocative. The texture is fantastic. The image is stunning.

11 - Wave Window.jpg

Hahaha, this is at the Aquarium right? Amazing experience being there. You did a great job avoiding all those people's heads LOL. The image is a little boring though and does not capture all the energy of the moving water. Next time, try a few things like overexposing it by 1, 2, 3 stops. In Photoshop you can try this: apply a levels adjustment layer. On the levels dialog box, grab the highlight sampler and click on some light gray spots. Stop when you see something you like.

12 - Witness Of Time.jpg

Beautiful landscape. High contrast works very well here. Great composition, the tree is beautiful and the rock path helps frame the image nicely. Gorgeous!

Winning Images:

1st Place: Witness Of Time

2nd Place: Voelklingen Steel Mill