

PTCC – Black & White Jan 1, 2017

Group AAA

12 images from 4 members

01-Bodie Buildings.jpg

Your photo evokes memories of the past, it tells a story of an once vibrant place that has suffered the effects of time. The decay of the buildings, the broken semi-buried wheel and the overall tonality reinforce that idea. You have used those elements very well to convey your message. It is a beautiful and pleasant image. No bright distracting spots and no excessive drama. I like to keep watching it and let my mind bring back my own memories. Not that I lived in a place like this, but the essence of the image inspires me to remember places I've lived in or visited. it is a gorgeous image.

Nitpicking: you might also try to move to your left and move the camera to the right to eliminate some of the distractions on the left side of the tall dark building that are not really relevant to the story. You might even get a more pronounced perspective which would add more impact. A light vignette would also help frame the core part of the story.

02-Capitola Wharf in Winter.jpg

This looks like a panorama. If you took various images and stitched them together, you did a great job. The image is a little bit too contrasty for my taste and the composition would benefit from a more angled view of the wharf. The horizontal composition divides the image in 3. The wharf is the main subject right? All the other elements have a supporting role and should not shine brighter than the main subject. The sky is too contrasty and overpowers the wharf and the foreground has too much texture and does not contribute much to the image. It looks like that are sun rays coming out of the clouds but they are too washed out. You might want to darken the sky and the foreground quite a bit, leave the horizon bright and silhouette the wharf against it. That would add drama to the image and make it a lot more interesting. In addition, if you can show the sun rays after darkening the sky, you will have a "WOW" image.

03-Cupola.jpg

So the story here is an architectural view of this beautiful cupola. I like the tonality and the subject stands out pretty well against the gray sky. The composition bothers me though. It looks like the cupola is tilted and off-center. if you have a chance to photograph it again, try to get it centered.

04-Death Valley Dunes.jpg

Gorgeous landscape image. My only suggestion is to clone that sliver of sky on the top left and let the clouds cover more consistently the top part of the image. You got a great composition with the dunes. I would make it stand out a little more by increasing the brightness of the mountains and sky without increasing contrast. It is a striking image.

Nitpicking: The trees at the bottom are kind of distracting, you might want to clone them out .

05-Hanging Steel.jpg

I think this image is way too busy and lacks a focus point. It took me a while to see the two workers, for example. What are you trying to show? Men at work? The location of the construction? How the construction impacts the environment? Maybe this image would work better in color so you can see the separation of its various elements? Maybe I am missing the point here, so you might want to explain to the group what you were trying to accomplish and why you left elements in the picture, such as the metal structure at the top right for example. If you want to show the men at work, a lower point of view would probably be more interesting, especially if you can frame them against a bright sky. I am also guilty of trying to show everything because a scene can be so amazing. But I learned that when you try to show too much, viewers end up not seeing anything.

06-Milky Way in Bodie.jpg

Beautiful sky. I like the use of silhouettes in the foreground but here they are kind of unbalanced. I think the image would look better if you had the space between the two structures and the border more consistent. Right now, the one on the right is closer to the border than the other one and to me, that makes the image unbalanced. You could also try to walk around and find another point of view showing just one of them. Try placing it in the middle, at the rule of third, and right next to the border without any space to create some tension. Then choose the one that looks better. Another option would be to eliminate the objects altogether, which would highlight the Milky Way and create an almost abstract image. So many options....

07-Santa Cruz Wharf.jpg

Wow, very nice indeed. Very nice composition and the angled line of lamp posts adds tension and interest to the image. The image is very well balanced and I commend you for including those clouds on the top right. It is a very pleasant image to look at. The clouds on the right, the flags on the left, and the darker water on the bottom right frame the image nicely, keeping my eyes' focus on the wharf. Nitpicking: lower the contrast on the pillars.

08-Sonoma Barn.jpg

The horizontal composition splits the image in 3 parts. We have the sky, the trees and the fenced grass. Which one you want us to focus on? When I look at the picture, I can't help but have my eyes focus on the sky which is the brightest element in the picture. There is too much texture on the grass in my opinion. The fence posts stand out because they are dark against a light background but the barn itself gets lost against the trees which have similar tonal values. My suggestion is to darken the sky quite a bit and dodge the barns' roof so it becomes the brighter element. A vignette would also help you frame the picture better. Right now, there is nothing to block my eye from leaving the picture.

09-Texture.jpg

Interesting abstract image with wonderful gray tones. The diagonal line adds some interest. I'm not sure about that dark rectangle at the top left. No, wait. I tried to visualize the image without it and I actually like it there. Yes, it is distracting but without it, the image would look just too blah. By being right at the border, it adds tension and intrigue. It makes me curious to find out what it is and why the photographer left it there. You might want to move the dark spot to other locations too. I have a feeling that it would look awesome right in the middle of the rock. Experiment and have fun. With the technology we have today, there is no reason to limit creativity.

10-Vintage Audi Racer.jpg

Wow, excellent tonality. Masterful technique, composition. Great lighting and contrast. Beautifully done. No nitpicking here.

11-Weathered.jpg

Interesting approach here. The square format works well here. You might want to move the branch a little bit to the left, there is too much dark on the left compared with the lighter gray on the right. Also, the out of focus area is too bright so my eyes go right there all the time. I would darken that area and lower contrast in the area in focus. Compositionally, the area in focus is too close the edge. Here you might want to apply the rule of thirds.

12-Wrath in the Garden of the Gods..

Gorgeous image and very nicely composed. I would just clone that bright area on the top left next to the border. My eyes are leaving the picture through that spot. Nitpicking: the highlights don't need to be so intense. You might want to brighten the clouds behind the trees to make the trees silhouette better.

13-Boy at Aquarium.jpg

Wow, great portrait! Great expression in the boy's face, tonality, composition, lighting and background. Gorgeous image!

14-Mallard Duck.jpg

Nice capture and beautiful tonality. Given the symmetry, this image would work well as a square and I would leave a little bit more breathing room on the right. As far as I am concerned, this photo is technically perfect.

15-A Cowboy's Inspiration.jpg

I am not sure what I am looking at. That is because you eliminated any environmental context and I can't figure out what he is doing exactly. Was this intentional? What is your message here? What do you want to show us?

Winning Images:**Third Place:**

10-Vintage Audi Racer

Second Place:

01-Bodie Buildings

First Place:

13-Boy at Aquarium