

01-anemone asilomar 2017.jpg

We marvel at nature's lines and forms and textures, and this image of the anemone does not disappoint. I especially like the soft blues and greens of the anemone itself. I find the edges of the image a bit distracting, competing with the main subject. Perhaps move in closer to the anemone (even extremely close for a lovely abstract)?

02-California Poppies.jpg

A wonderfully warm palette, allowing the viewer to feel the sun on these golden poppies. I particularly like the impressionistic background and the movement instilled with a diagonal flower line. The applied technique moves it from the photo world to the world of art, but, I would ask the photographer to be clear creatively about why this technique was used. For me, it takes a bit of the magic out of the image.

03-drops of water on leaf.jpg

Little bubble-headed creatures racing across a sea of green. That, of course, is not what this is, but the close-up approach and the tendency toward abstraction allow the viewer's imagination to go wild. An original idea that works very well!

04-Hummingbird_6892 1.jpg

This image is the definition of Cartier-Bresson's decisive moment. Capturing a bird in flight is difficult. Capturing a hummingbird in flight is close to a miracle. Well done. Ordinarily I would say the background, while appropriately softened, is a bit distracting ... here, I like that the bird is almost camouflaged in the background. More natural.

05-lifesaving.jpg

Speaking of camouflage ... this image is one of those that requires close study to be rewarded with the "surprise" subject. The viewer, when discovering the surprise, feels a little proud ... cocky. A good feeling. I might suggest cropping in a bit, as the surrounding mud (especially on the right side) is not all that appealing. I do like the deep crevasses. Adds nice depth to the image.

06-Old Reliable.jpg

An interesting subject that seems to take on a bit of nature's palette (and natural deterioration). The image works as a documentary, but doesn't seem to have the impact necessary to keep a non-vehicle-loving viewer connected. Perhaps moving in closer to the wonderful textures and colors of the main subject?

07-PG Pink Carpet.jpg

This image really captures the heart of the Monterey peninsula—various forms of nature

(sea, vegetation, distant hills) coming together in a stunning scene. It is well composed, with lots of fluid movement through the photo. The only thing that could add to this photo would be more interesting light. The light seems a tad harsh, appearing to wash out the colors of the foreground and mid ground.

08-Temple Spirit.jpg

An image full of mystery ... and energy. Also one that holds the viewer's attention, as we try to figure out exactly what is happening. I particularly like the right side of the photo with the mysterious figure and the shadowed hand ... and the glowing golden light. I am in debate with myself about whether the left-hand carving is too dominant ... leading the eye away from the most interesting part of the photo. You, the photographer, will be the ultimate judge.

09-Tour Eiffel.jpg

Full disclosure. I live in Paris. I've seen the Eiffel Tower thousands of times. I always challenge myself and my photo students here to find a way to show the Eiffel Tower as no one has seen it before. This image rises to the challenge in many ways. You have captured the beauty of the tower's lace-like design. Your creative additions are graceful and elegant, and do not shout "manipulation." And you have managed to evoke emotion from an inanimate form. Bravo (or Brava as the case may be)!

10-Boy in a Temple Window.jpg

A beautiful "set" to begin with —this temple is full of depth, contrast, and mystery. Add to that "set" a subject in just the right place with just the right clothes (down to the bare feet), and just the right emotion ... and you have a 1 + 1 = 3 moment. Excellent photograph!

Winning Image:

2nd Place:

09-Tour Eiffel

First Place:

10-Boy in a Temple Window