

2018 – Field Trip – Carmel Valley
Group A – Advanced Group
85 images from 13 members (2 more added later - 50.1, 22.1)

List of “Rustic Architecture” images submitted:

- 01 - FT18-architecture-BGL.jpg
- 02 - ft18-architecture-bs.jpg
- 03 - ft18-architecture-jba..jpg
- 04 - ft18-architecture-jhc.jpg
- 05 - ft18-architecture-jtd.jpg
- 06 - ft18-architecture-jz.jpg
- 07 - ft18-Architecture-kas.jpg
- 08 - ft18-architecture-kcj.jpg
- 09 - ft18-architecture-maa.jpg
- 10 - ft18-architecture-mmcc.jpg
- 11 - ft18-architecture-rdv.jpg
- 12 - ft18-ARCHITECTURE-SN.jpg

Winning “Rustic Architecture” Images:

Second Place: Margret Cordts #10

I had a very difficult time deciding between these two images—the first and second place ones. Both are strong and share at least a couple of traits. They both offer a sense of place—they put me in Carmel Valley. And both have two strong subjects in the frame—which creates a foreground and background. In the case of the two wooden structures, my eye moves easily between the smaller building in the foreground and the barn in the back. I also like the dark sky (I call this the “Ansel Adams effect” from his old image of Half Dome with a black sky). The two buildings create a visual diagonal line between them, which is always a stronger and more dynamic visual element than horizontals and verticals. I also like the overall dark tonality—it gives the image an authentic or aged feeling. An excellent photograph.

First Place: Joni Zabala #06

The strong vertical element of the spire, framed by the two trees, caught my eye immediately. Then I saw the fountain and adobe wall in the foreground and realized how these elements combine to create a scene, which tells a story. The church appears to be built out of old adobe bricks also. This image was very sensitively composed and there is nothing included which does not add. Another excellent photograph.

List of “Photographer’s Choice” Images:

- 13 - FT18-choice-BGL.jpg
- 14 - ft18-choice-bs.jpg
- 15 - ft18-choice-cmk.jpg
- 16 - ft18-choice-jba..jpg
- 17 - ft18-choice-jhc.jpg
- 18 - ft18-choice-jtd.jpg
- 19 - ft18-choice-jz.jpg
- 20 - ft18-choice-kas.jpg
- 21 - ft18-choice-kcj.jpg

22 - ft18-choice-maa.jpg
22.1 -ft18-choice-mmcc.jpg
23 - ft18-choice-rdv.jpg
24 - ft18-CHOICE-SN.jpg

Winning “Photographer’s Choice”

Second Place: Ken Jones # 21

This reflection image is very strong, I like the soft diagonal and repeated lines created by the trees coming in from the top left. The movement in the water is perfect for allowing motion to be a large part of the scene. This has an impressionistic feeling about it. It is difficult to get a reflection scene to work as well as this one does.

First Place: Mary Ann Avera #22

I think it is the soft, curvilinear lines in the tree that make this image so unique and successful. The tree almost appears like skin with the madrone bark as a decoration. I have seen a lot of madrone trees in this area, but cannot recall one like this. The two dots at 9:00 and 4:00 also add an anthropomorphic feeling to this image. Beautiful, sensitive and very striking.

List of “Good Eats” Images:

25 - FT18-eats-BGL.jpg
26 - ft18-eats-bs.jpg
27 - ft18-eats-jtd.jpg
28 - ft18-eats-kcj.jpg
29 - ft18-eats-maa.jpg
30 - ft18-EATS-SN.jpg

Winning “Good Eats” Images:

Second Place: Shelley Nemeth #30

This is a nice image of a vegetable stand in Carmel Valley at the farmer’s market. The composition works well with the triangular shapes created by the cauliflower and the negative spaces on either side. If this were mine, I probably would crop just a little off the bottom to tighten the scene and get rid of the blue plastic box.

First Place: John Drum #27

This is an interesting photograph of all the junk (well, cowboy items), hanging from the ceiling at the Running Iron. I’m always afraid something is going to fall on me or on our table when I’m there. I like the perspective of looking up and wonder if this would be even stronger with a little of the bottom cropped off. I think there might be some additional images here also—maybe moving in on several pair of the boots and other items. This image is interesting because it shows a side of Carmel Valley that we all love. BTW, the people who own the Running Iron are our neighbors.

List of “Four Legs & a Tail” Images:

31 - FT18-legs-BGL.jpg
32 - ft18-legs-bs.jpg
33 - ft18-legs-cmk.jpg
34 - ft18-legs-jba..jpg

35 - ft18-legs-jhc.jpg
36 - ft18-legs-jtd.jpg
37 - ft18-legs-jz-2.jpg
38 - ft18-legs-kas.jpg
39 - ft18-legs-kcj.jpg
40 - ft18-legs-maa.jpg
41 - ft18-legs-mmcc.jpg
42 - ft18-LEGS-SN.jpg

Winning “Four Legs & a Tail” Images:

Second Place: Shelley Nemeth #42

This is a well-timed image of the border collie in the air. The shutter speed was fast enough to freeze the action and hold the dog in focus. It’s also interesting that the dog is looking at you. It’s almost as though he was thinking, “Did you get that?” A good image for Carmel Valley.

First Place: John Avera #34

I like the perspective of the goat turning to look back at the camera, it is much more interesting than a straight on shot. The brown tonality of the goat is well-repeated with the brown leaves on the grass, which adds interest to the scene. I also appreciate that the goat is totally in focus, while the background is soft—exactly the appropriate f stop setting. A well composed and photographed image.

One suggestion I might make for taking shots of animals (and people)—make sure you are at their eye level or lower. When you shoot down on an animal or a person, the image feels awkward and is not as effective. Get down on one knee or even lower if necessary.

List of “Off the Beaten Path” Images:

43 - FT18-path-BGL.jpg
44 - ft18-path-bs.jpg
45 - ft18-path-jba..jpg
46 - ft18-path-jtd.jpg
47 - ft18-path-jz.jpg
48 - ft18-path-kas.jpg
49 - ft18-path-kcj.jpg
50 - ft18-path-maa.jpg
50.1 - ft18-path-mmcc.jpg
51 - ft18-path-rdv.jpg
52 - ft18-PATH-SN.jpg

Winning “Off the Beaten Path” Images:

Second Place: Shelley Nemeth #52

This scene of the winding road disappearing into the trees in the distance makes a strong image. I like the perspective it was taken from and there is nothing in the scene that is distracting. I might suggest getting a little lower with the camera—maybe 2-3 feet off the ground. Also, I think the resolution would be better if the ISO were not so high (3200) and the background would be sharper with a narrower aperture such as f/18-22. The aperture setting of f/5.6 allows only a limited area of the scene to be in sharp focus.

First Place: Mary Ann Avera #50

These large oaks with their heavy, arching limbs make a very strong image that certainly reminds me of Carmel Valley. I appreciate that there are two trees in the scene and that they mirror or repeat each other to an extent. Eliminating or reducing the bright light of the sky above adds to the moodiness of feeling of mystery in this location. This was a very well seen, composed and exposed image. Well done.

I am not sure what the weather was on this day, but I have found that photographing the old oaks during or right after a rain makes the colors saturated and brightens the green moss.

List of “People” images:

53 - ft18-people, jhc.jpg
54 - ft18-people-bs.jpg
55 - ft18-people-jtd.jpg
56 - ft18-people-jz.jpg
57 - ft18-people-kas.jpg
58 - ft18-PEOPLE-SN.jpg
59 - ft18-people-kcj.jpg
60 - ft18-people-mmc.jpg

Winning “People” images:**Second Place: Ken Jones #58**

This is a strong image of the two people on their Indian motorcycle slathered in black leather. It's such a classic pose and the black and white conversion makes it even more compelling. It just wouldn't be the same if they were on a Japanese bike! Very well done.

First Place: John Drum #55

This is a wonderful portrait of the guy who drives the wine trailer around CV Village. You captured an excellent perspective and facial expression. The de-saturation makes the tonality even more interesting. I appreciate that it is tightly cropped, eliminating any distractions and allowing the viewer to focus clearly on the person. Very well done!

List of “Valley Views” images:

61 - FT18-valley-BGL.jpg
62 - ft18-valley-bs.jpg
63 - ft18-valley-cmk.jpg
64 - ft18-valley-jba.jpg
65 - ft18-valley-jhc.jpg
66 - ft18-valley-jtd.jpg
67 - ft18-valley-jz.jpg
68 - ft18-valley-kas.jpg
69 - ft18-valley-kcj.jpg
70 - ft18-valley-maa.jpg
71 - ft18-valley-mmc.jpg
72 - ft18-valley-rdv.jpg
73 - ft18-VALLEY-SN.jpg

Winning “Valley Views” images:

Second Place: Margret Cordts #71

One would think that CV would provide a myriad of scenic views with the rolling hills, vineyards and sometimes interesting skies; but I have found the valley to be very challenging and occasionally rewarding. It's not easy to combine elements and make them work together to form a scene that is unique and compelling.

This scene of the vineyards and view to the east, which I think was taken from El Caminito, works well due to the interesting curvilinear lines of the vineyards and how they are echoed by the rolling hills. The brighter green areas also provide visual interest and relief from the summer brownish tones. The composition is well done—my eye moves easily from the foreground to the hills in the far distance. A very nice landscape of CV.

Be careful using spot metering.

First Place: Mary Ann Avera #70

I think it's the sky that sets this image apart and makes it so strong. The foreground works well also—the lighter lower right leads the viewer into the scene and the two small yellow/golden bushes add a lot of interest. I also appreciate the lack of structures and little man-made interference. But it's the dark sky with the streak of orange that makes this image sing. Very well done.

List of “Business of Wine” images

74 - ft18-wine -jhc.jpg

75 - FT18-wine-BGL.jpg

76 - ft18-wine-bs.jpg

77 - ft18-wine-cmk.jpg

78 - ft18-wine-jba.jpg

79 - ft18-wine-jtd.jpg

80 - ft18-wine-jz.jpg

81 - ft18-wine-kas.jpg

82 - ft18-wine-kcj.jpg

83 - ft18-wine-maa.jpg

84 - ft18-wine-mmcc.jpg

85 - ft18-WINE-SN.jpg

Winning “Business of Wine” images

Second Place: Bill Shewchuk #76

A well done close up photograph of corks from Holman Ranch Winery. The random arrangement and warm tonality combine to make this a successful shot, which certainly speak of wine in CV.

The lighter area at the end of the cork in the center of the image helps direct the viewer's eye into the scene.

First Place: Ken Jones #82

A very well done composition. I like the areas of the image where you decided to cut it off—the front of the cab and the tire. This helps to frame the scene and direct the viewer into the part of the image where you want him or her to go. Having the sign in the upper right also works very well. If this were mine, I probably would darken the light area behind the tire and in the window of the truck. But, having said that, they do work to offset each other in a way.

I think it's important to remember that photographs do not have to capture a scene, but provide one that the photographer can work with, much as a plein air painter would. I'm a big believer in re-touching or correcting an image so the areas you want to emphasize stand out against the other areas that are not so relevant.

The Overall Group A Winning Images are:

HM—#82- “Wine” - Ken Jones

3rd place—#50 - “Path” Mary Ann Avera

2nd place—#55 - “People” - John Drum

1st place—#22 - “Choice” - Mary Ann Avera