

2018 – Field Trip – Carmel Valley
Group AAA – Developing Group
Judged by Doug Steakley

List of “Rustic Architecture” Images:

01 - ft18_Architecture_JB.jpg
02 - ft18-architecture-dp.jpg
03 - ft18-architecture-cjc.jpg
04 - ft18-architecture-dt.jpg
05 - ft18-architecture-IPL.jpg
06 - ft18-architecture-jfs.jpg
07 - ft18-architecture-bgl.jpg

Winning “Rustic Architecture” Images:

2nd Joey Bruno “Ironwork”

This is a well-seen and composed image of the ironwork against the sky. I like the section that you chose to show us and the trees in the upper right frame it well. The weathered metal represents CV very well. I also appreciate that the bottom wooden board is level and adds context to the image. Overall this is a very strong image.

1st Dale Thies “Old Barn”

*This is a well composed and exposed image of an old barn and fence in CV. I believe this is in Garland Park. The linear elements work well and are straight, as architecture should be. The sepia toning also works well for this image and reduces some of the problems created by the harsh light. I wonder if you could have included slightly more in the upper left to avoid clipping the roof of the barn. I don't think this is a major problem, but with the large files our cameras produce now we don't have to frame as carefully while shooting because images can be re-framed easily in post-processing.
Very well done.*

List of “Photographer’s Choice” images 5

08 - ft18_Choice_JB.jpg
09 - ft18-choice-dt.jpg
10 - ft18-choice-cjc.jpg
11 - ft18-choice-IPL.jpg
12 - ft18-choice-JFS.jpg

Winning “Photographer’s Choice” Images:

2nd Carolyn Comings 10 “river”

*This is a very effective image of the delicate plants along the river.
The log in the lower left frames that area of the scene as do the branches in the upper right.
The soft reflections in the water also work very well.
The warm tonality is also a plus.*

1st Jim Summers 12 “Gas Tanks”

*A strong image of the two old gas tanks in CV Village.
These have an old-time quality that takes us back to an earlier era of CV.*

I appreciate the simple, straight-forward composition and the angle, which allowed the metal pole to be placed between them. The subdued lighting also works well as do the combination of cool tonalities. Very well done.

List of “Good Eats” images: 4

- 13 ft18-eats-cjc.jpg
- 14 - ft18_Eats_JB.jpg
- 15 - ft18-eats-dp.jpg
- 16 - ft18-eats-jfs.jpg

Winning “Good Eats” Images:

2nd (No second place...)

1st Carolyn Comings 13 “veggies”

This is a nice, tightly composed image of vegetables, which works very well.

The complimentary red and green colors make each one stand out,

and the slight diagonal lines are effective. It works well to zoom into scenes like this and let the characteristics of the subject speak strongly. Well done.

List of “Four Legs and a Tail” images: 3

- 17 - ft18_Legs_JB.jpg
- 18 - ft18-legs-cjc.jpg
- 19 - ft18-legs-dp.jpg

Winning “Four Legs and a Tail” Images:

2nd—Joey Bruno 17

A straightforward and effective photograph of a person riding a horse with CV in the background.

It's nice that you left space in front of the horse and placed the rider in the upper third. This photograph reflects well on the life-style in CV.

1st Duane Peterson 19

A nice scene of a bareback rider in CV and a second horse. The lighting is harsh, but the exposure on the rider and horses works well. Sometimes when the light has a lot of contrast, it is effective to convert the image to black and white—you might try that with this image.

The placement of the horses in the lower left and the trail receding into the distance, make for a strong composition.

List of “Off the Beaten Path” Images: 6

- 20- ft18_Path_JB.jp
- 21- ft18-path-cjc.jpg
- 22- ft18-path-dt.jpg
- 23- ft18-path-IPL.jpg
- 24- ft18-path-lmg.jpg
- 25-ft18-path-bgl.jpg

Winning “Off the Beaten Path” Images:

2nd: Lillie Grossman 24

This is an interesting photograph of the weird human figure with two hats—this must be at the Running Iron.

I like the low angle or perspective this was taken from—shooting upward from a low angle.

This makes the face and figure even stranger.

The open aperture softened the background very well so it is not distracting and the strong, vibrant colors work well.

1st Joey Bruno 20

A well composed photograph of this old truck. The cracked headlight in the center of the frame is perfectly placed and the other visual elements surrounding it work well. This might also make a nice monochrome image. You might consider darkening some of the brighter areas of the scene, such as the upper right. Viewers are always attracted to bright areas and darkening would help emphasize the visual elements that are more significant.

List of “People” Images: 6

26 - ft18_People_JB.jpg

27 - ft18-people-cjc.jpg

28 - ft18-people-dt.jpg

29 - ft18-people-IPL.jpg

30 - ft18-people-lmg.jpg

31 - ft18-people-bgl.jpg

Winning “People” Images:

2nd: Barbara Ley 31 Farmer’s Mkt

This is a fun shot of the Farmer’s Market on Sunday afternoon. The interaction between the lady making coffee and you is nice. Let me suggest that when you have a cooperative subject such as this, that you take a lot of shots. A lot. Try moving in closer to photograph only her and be sure to pay attention to the background. When photographing people it is often a good idea to open the aperture as much as possible. Many portrait photographers prefer lenses that open to f/1.4 so the background is out of focus and not distracting. You will have much more control over these settings with a digital SLR camera.

1st: Dale Thies 28 Lots of People

This is a nice shot of the interior of the Running Iron Restaurant with a good crowd.

I like the even lighting and that it is so spontaneous.

The warm tones of the wood are helpful as are the bright colors in the variety of clothing.

Be careful of the large beam in the center of the image.

Perhaps you could have moved and placed it more to one side.

When taking shots like this, be sure to take quite a few and then make judgments about which ones are better in post-processing.

List of “Valley View” images submitted: 7

32- ft18_Valley_JB.jpg

33- ft18-valley-cjc.jpg

34- ft18-valley-dp.jpg *tc:*

35- ft18-valley-dt.jpg
36- ft18-valley-IPL.jpg
37- ft18-valley-JFS.jpg
38 – ft18-valley-bgl.jpg

Winning “Valley View” Images:

2nd Duane Peterson 34

There are two strong elements in this image—the colorful sunset and the clouds in the sky. Since this scene is mostly about the sky, you could crop off most of the dark area along the bottom, leaving only a small portion of the horizon area. This would make the sky and clouds even more important in the image. You can either do this in the field while shooting, or by cropping in post-processing. When the sun is setting like this, remember that the light will be better after the sun has set, sometimes as much a 10-15 minutes afterward. So hang around, be patient and wait for the optimal light. The bright area of the sun is causing the camera’s meter to underexpose the image just a little. I would lighten most of the blue area of the sky in post-processing, either with an adjustment brush tool or a split ND filter. Both of these tools are available in Lightroom or Bridge.

1st Ian Lipton 36

This image has some strong elements—the foreground rocks, the path coming in from the left, and the tree in the background. It looks like you were trying to get a sunburst, but it didn’t quite happen. To get a sunburst, the sun has to be partly hidden behind something and in this case, the tree is too small to be effective. I think if you had waited another few minutes for the sun to set, that this would have been an excellent photograph. Maybe the sun was rising, I can’t tell, in which case you were a little late. Even now you could darken the top area of the image in post-processing and remove some of the harsh light. This would even out the tonality with the foreground and make this a much stronger scene. I would also change the aspect ratio to a 5:7 or 3:4 to remove some of the right and left sides, so the more important cairns become a larger part of the scene.

List of “Wine” Images: 6

39- ft18_Wine_JB.jpg
40 - ft18- wine-dt.jpg
41 - ft18-wine-cjc.jpg
42- ft18-wine-lmg.jpg
43 - ft18-wine-dp.jpg
44 – ft18-wine-bgl.jpg

Winning “Wine” Images:

2nd: Dale Thies

This is a pleasing composition with good lighting and a non-distracting background. I am not sure if you could have opened the aperture setting more than f/5.6, but a softer background focus would have made this even stronger.

The green chair with the blue stripe is a little distracting and perhaps you could have moved it to one side.
See the stopper in the champagne bottle?
That bothers me a little because it is so large.
I think had it been removed the image would be better.
I know this is a small detail, but you have a bottle of champagne next to a glass of white wine in a wine glass...

1st : Lillie Grossman

This is a simple but effective image of the three bottles of wine carefully placed.
I appreciate the even spacing and the peeling label on the center bottle of wine makes me smile.
You have good lighting, good exposure and a non-distracting background.
Let me be picky and point out that the horizontal line across the bottom is not perfectly level.
This is an easy fix in post-processing and if you are going to shoot commercially, these little details are noticed and important.
This photograph has a nice feeling to it due to the even tonality throughout the scene.
Well done.

The Overall Group AAA Winning Image are:

Honorable Mention

Jim Summers—Gas Pumps at Rosie's -- Choice

Honorable Mention

Carolyn Comings—Vegetables at Farmer's Market -- Eats

3rd place

Lillie Grossman—Three Wine Bottles -- Wine

2nd place

Dale Thies—Old Barn-- Architecture

1st place

Joey Bruno—Old Truck Close Up - Path