



01-Autumn Harvest.jpg

Charlie Gibson

Considering this top shot an image that can be rotated in any direction, it would be more effective if rotated 90-- CCW. That way the viewer---s eye would get more naturally attracted to the bee, as it doesn---t have as much light as the flower petals. The more yellow parts around the flower grab too much attention from the insect, as well as the spot where no petals are left. Overall is a good composition, but some adjustments as mentioned would help it a lot. The selective focus could be even more selective to further blur the flower in the background. ***



02-Autumn in Appalachian Mountains.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

When we use a wide-angle lens, and we cannot place ourselves at a spot where we can correct the perspective, it's better to break away from symmetry and seek a different point of view to take advantage of the lens, instead of dealing with it. This photo has too low resolution and its sharpness is over enhanced. That's why the leaves look more like pointillist dots. A softer image would communicate the atmosphere better.

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03-Carmel Mission Kitchen Tools.jpg

Sandie McCafferty

This is a very well-balanced composition, where the shadows inform more about the objects themselves, adding also ambiguity to the scene at first sight. It works much better with the hanging objects than with the intricate iron work, but it is very good result overall.



04-Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

Long exposures like this one look more interesting when the static objects around the moving water are more vivid and better defined. Then the contrast between both creates an interesting tension. It would be worth it to try it again with different ISOs and see the results with each.

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05-Golden Gate-8175.jpg

Dick Light

The Golden Gate has been photographed so much that it makes it necessary to be overly creative to think how to photograph it in unseen ways.

This image is correct, and it has a very good play between the shadow and the actual bridge angles.



06-Graffiti Alley.jpg

Carol Fuessenich

What I find most interesting in this image is the ambiguity. I'm not sure if this is the bottom of a bridge, an alley, the interior of an abandoned building. Also, the light does not reveal the time of day (or night?) The perfectly orthogonal lines create a rhythm that take the eye of the viewer from the foreground to the depths, and the vertical distribution of the composition feels like golden section.



07-Have a Drink at Fandango.jpg

Dick Light

I imagine this shot wants to show the overload of the place, but to be more effective, it would need to sharpen the focus everywhere through a narrower F-stop. By increasing the definition, the viewer would feel more invited to try to decipher each object in the composition. The vanishing lines at the sides are neither decisively at an angle nor straight. It would be helpful to experiment with different focal distances from closer or farther, and see how those angles would play in the composition.

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08-Jellyfish on the Beach.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

The value of abstraction in photography resides in the ability to bring shapes to the attention of the viewer that are reminiscent both of the object from where they emerge, as well as a new referent that arises from the photographer's observation. This image brings these beautiful texture and colors with new shapes. It could improve by searching more cropping or camera rotation possibilities to see what new forms can be found. For instance, the left side shape most definitely an ---S---, but it's cropped at the bottom, which diminishes the power of the abstraction. ***



09-Moraine Lake Reflections-Banff Canada.jpg

Ken Jones

Beautiful image. It's remarkable how the logs and rocks near the shore play with the reflection without interfering with it, but rather enhancing it with the way they are placed within darker sections of the reflected image. The red object on the right creates a tension with the log inside the moraine mirroring shape. The low point between the triangle formed by the trees on the right and the moraine breaks the image in a golden section, with a very well-balanced result.



10-One Large Pizza Please.jpg

Carol Fuessenich

The lighting in this shot enhances a sense of mystery in an effective way, and helps transmitting a feeling of the unknown. The composition could be improved, perhaps by changing the shooting angle and/or by placing the lit corner of the chair closer to the center, about a third of the photogram, so the darkness to the left reinforces the light by contrast. The composition would be much more balanced.

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11-Pale Wing Starling.jpg

Janet Azevedo

Nice placing of the beams in the photogram, as well as the distribution of the round windows. Everything seems in the right place, including the bird that is not immediately noticeable---it takes a couple of seconds to realize its presence. It's a very well-balanced image, with visible textures that tell more about the place than what we can see. Even the bird's eye plays well with the rest of the circles, like bubbles.



12-Romain in Sunshine.jpg

Lillie Grossman

The rhythm of this photograph is remarkable, as well as the way each row of greens corresponds with a window or a section of the house. It---s a perfectionist photo that reflects and very well portrays the perfectionism of the people who tend the place. It also communicates a feeling of extreme loneliness, as there are no humans in this human made landscape. The house in the background to the right---the only foreign element---may tell a different story.



13-Serenity.jpg

Sandie McCafferty

Everything in this image is organized according to the rules of golden section, which makes it communicate an immense sense of peace, despite the eeriness of the scene. The contrast between the high definition of the boat and the buoys with the otherwise total blurriness where even the horizon is erased enhances the feeling. The virtual lines of buoys that tend to intersect in the viewer's perception create a very well-balanced composition.



14-Space Shuttle Columbia on 747 over Monterey.jpg

Don Eastman

A well organized image. This would be no more than a correct composition if it weren't for the cloud that frames the aircrafts at the tail of the upper and wings of the lower. That's the element that makes this shot stand out, and it could have work just as well with any aircraft other than the Columbia.



15-Steinbeck Home.jpg

Lillie Grossman

A perfectionist's shot. This was the right time of the day to photograph this house, as the shadows gives us more information without breaking the symmetry of each volume. The shadow of the short tree to the right parts the stairwell in two. It's a shot that serves as a document of an era.



16-Sun Chaser.jpg

Charlie Gibson

The selective focus works well and the transparency of the petals informs accurately about the type of flower it is (sun chaser). However, in order for a photo to stand out when the topic has been extensively explored by other photographers, it needs to bring something new---an unusual perspective, a disruptive element, etc. the leaf in the foreground that looks just like a green line that hides a section of the lowest petal is a distraction, so a slightly different angle would serve this image better. **



17-Termite Droppings on Cypress Tree.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

This is a balanced composition that works well both as an abstraction as to inform about the termites. Probably it would help to step back just a bit to complete the curve at the bottom. The selective focus communicates what would otherwise be hard to see, which is the depth of the wood that surrounds the bugs.



18-Toronto's CN Tower Reflected.jpg

Ken Jones

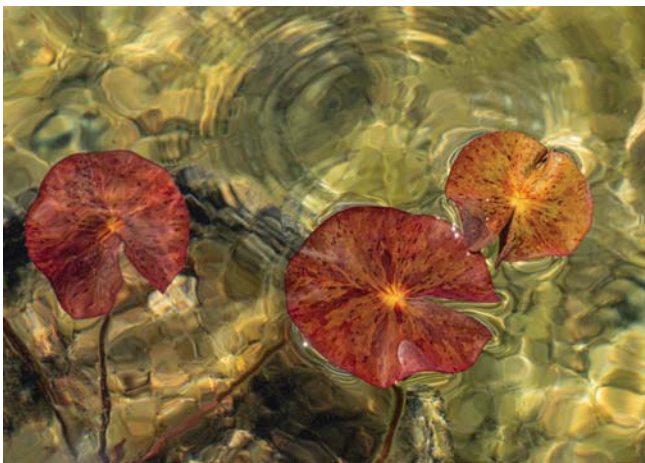
Very good abstraction, built within the proportions of the golden section. Each line plays in harmony with the rest of the composition, and the volumes are flattened and enhanced at the same time. The reflection adds an element of sense of place, and enhances the image by disrupting the rhythm.



**19-Upsidedown Jellies at Monterey Aquarium.
jpg**

Don Eastman

Very good abstraction, built within the proportions of the golden section. Each line plays in harmony with the rest of the composition, and the volumes are flattened and enhanced at the same time. The reflection adds an element of sense of place, and enhances the image by disrupting the rhythm.



20-Leaves in Water.jpg

Janet Azevedo

A very pictorial image with interesting textures and reflections. Shots like this one depict well both what they show as well as an abstraction that reminisces of other things projected from the viewer's mind and/or experiences. One thing I would explore more is the positioning of the camera in order to find more compositional results.

Winning Images:

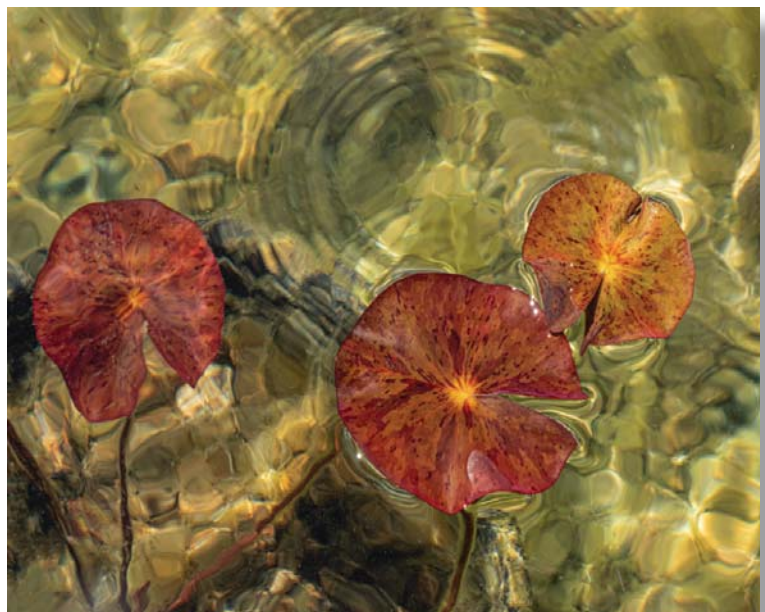
Honorable Mentions:

Moraine Lake Reflections-
Banff, Canada
Ken Jones



Pale Wing Starling
Janet Azevedo

Leaves in Water
Janet Azevedo



Third Place

Romaine in Sunshine
Lillie Grossman



2nd Place:



Toronto's CN Tower Reflected
Ken Jones

First Place:

Serenity
Sandie McCafferty

