



01-Anchor.jpg

Rick Verbanec

This image has a nice texture thanks to the filter used, and it's a balanced composition overall. However, one attractive feature would be the contrast between the softness of nature and the roughness of the anchor material. The filter diluted that and I remained curious to see the image as it was shot.

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02-Berries and tea.jpg

Brian Spiegel

The colors and the overall ambience of this still life makes the viewer want to immerse him/herself more into the story around it. That's a very good achievement. The selective focus works very well to enhance the atmosphere, but being a pre-set composition, I would have moved the large strawberry on the foreground within the area of focus because it takes too much attention from the viewer. The pitch black all around works great, and because of that, I would clean the three dots of light reflected on the lower left. ****



03-Butterfly.jpg

David Eisen

Great shot, composition, use of light and transparency, and the selective focus is spot-on. The change of texture in the background coming right off the head of the butterfly at the top helps to bring the eye to it, and the limb at the bottom right frames the focused image.



04-Carson River.jpg

David Eisen

This image is very low resolution, and the pixels don't allow to appreciate it. The composition is close to correct, but the trees in the foreground are cropped, and that decreases the effect it should have. By including those trees completely in the image, the photographer would have got a golden section distribution of the different parts. It looks like there was some digital manipulation that went too far. With such a sunny day, probably the best would have been to leave the original image untouched.



05-Fruit and flowers.jpg

Brian Spiegel

Very good composition and overall care on how to arrange the different elements. The soft lighting creates a very homey atmosphere and the black background brings the eye to what the photographer wants. I would like to see more experimentation for this image, by creating a series of shots with different lengths of field and see how the selective focus would work for each. The selection of the objects we photograph on a still life should be carefully picked---the wrinkled texture of the apple in the foreground and the hole in the one in the back are distracting. That would work only if that sense of decay were the intention, but it doesn't look like that's the case here. ***



06-Library Moon.jpg

Clarissa Conn

I don't see what this image is trying to communicate with the superimposition, and there are no elements in focus.



07-Little Stick Lending Library.jpg

Brooks Leffler

This box is very funny and I can see the attraction to photograph it. It would be interesting to approach it from a number of different angles and try to get some element of tension or paradox to communicate the intention of the photographer beyond the serendipitous encounter.

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08-Mountain View in Fall.jpg

Brooks Leffler

This is a balanced composition with an interesting bucolic feeling to it. I like the tension created by a perfectionist flat shot and what is happening outside between nature and the building. It reminds me the works of many of the impressionist painters in the 1800s, who were trying to capture the light of the moment. And that's what I would recommend this photographer: to do the same shot at different times of the day and the year.



09-No Parking.jpg

Jerry Heisel

Excellent use of color and good composition. However, the low resolution makes the image impossible to reproduce, and the pixilation makes it very distracting. I also think it should be less manipulated digitally. The colors speak for themselves and they don't benefit from so much post-production intervention.



10-Poison Ivy in the Fall.jpg

Andrea Madsen

Attractive bucolic composition, with a good balance of colors. The selective focus works well and could be emphasize even more, leaving the greens on the right completely out of focus, and therefore bring the attention fully to the pictorial arrangements of the ivy.



11-Quien Sabe Road.jpg

Jerry Heisel

The composition is balanced and the placing of the road within the frame creates a good point of interest surrounded by an overall blurry landscape. For that reason, the image would benefit if the point of sharp focus (the road) felt a bit more intentional.



12-Tour Traffic on the 17 MD.jpg

Rick Verbanec

The composition needs work. The image is tilted unnecessarily, more than the superelevation of the road, as the trees in the background show. The wide depth of field makes the image indecisive, in the sense that the viewer doesn't know where to look, as there are dissonant elements going on all at once. The point of view should be either a little higher or lower, so that the faces of the people in the closer car are not cut by the windshield feature---we cannot see the expressions (a caveat to that would be if the windshield bar would be adding something important to the image, in which case, that would be the main focused area).

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13-U of Maryland Medical Center.jpg

Andrea Madsen

Low-angle images of buildings, taken from the bottom up, need to have the photographer moving around and from side to side in order to find the right composition that will exclude distracting elements, and place the building lines and shadows of the moment in relation with the photograph frame. Sometimes just a slight step will get us a much more effective shot; other times we need to play with different focal lengths as well, or wait for a natural shadow to move to a more convenient spot for our image.

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

U of Maryland Medical Center

Andrea Madsen



Third Place

Mountain View in Fall
Brooks Leffler



2nd Place:



Berries and Tea
Brian Spiegel

First Place:

Butterfly
David Eisen

