

# 2014 Travel Pictorial Group A

## Comments

### 1. All Purpose Pier

A very interesting cropping, which I like. It adds an air of mystery. The entire scene is alive with visuals, and all kinds of transportation. Nice color, and an intriguing image. Nice exposure.

### 2. Battery Lighthouse At Dusk

A moody image capturing the rapid fading of day into night. The blues enhance the feeling and possibly could be a little darker...but not much. The placement of the lighthouse is very good, as is the cropping for the rock. The pinkish hue on the background clouds is interesting. You have retained very good tonal values in the darker tree/rock areas, and grasses. I like it.

### 3. Big Ben and Passing Bus

Strong composition with very good color. Although the bus is a blur, the imagery behind the blur begs the question...is it a reflection or am I seeing it through the blur?! The detail in the darker tones is captured well. The moon, although a little darker than one might expect, is portrayed well in my opinion, as any brighter and it would fight for attention. Very nice.

### 4. Buckingham Palace Guard

A nicely exposed image. Well cropped, and very good color. It could be a decent black and white, but I feel you chose well to keep it in color. I would like to see a body of work based around this image and Buckingham Palace, or Saint James Place.

### 5. Caricature Artist at Pompidou Center

This is a sweet image (I love the little boy). However, while you have placed the subjects in the foreground, the background commands too much attention. Consider tightening it up by cropping the top down to above the center of the round openings & the left side to just outside the woman walking (1/3rd down). Then crop to just eliminate the man sitting cross legged on the ground (upper right). I believe this will center more on your intention.

### 6. Country Store

The exposure is very good. It could be a very nice black and white too. The early morning fog (?) in the background is nicely captured. I would like to see a different angle, perhaps looking towards the country store, or moving the camera left and shooting down the wooden porch. Something is missing for me at this angle of composition. Nice tonal value throughout.

### **7. Early Morning on the Ijssel River**

A beautiful, soft, and evocative portrayal of a new morning in the Netherlands. I like that it is soft and artsy. Your exposure is good, as the grass on the far shore shows up well, and the trees have not become silhouettes. I question whether the wave, or water falling off a ledge in the foreground is needed for this composition. Perhaps, perhaps not. Welcoming and soothing.

### **8. Eureka Harbor**

You have captured a soft, mellow, 'pastel-ish' harbor setting. A nice balance in your composition offsets a slightly heavy foreground. The tonal balance values between the lighter upper portion, and the darker foreground is very well done.

### **9. Fall Colors at Le Lapin Saute Restaurant**

Color in abundance! Everything holds me in the image. Extremely busy, but it all works well. I would have moved the camera a little left to include all of the '52' shield on the wall, thereby eliminating a touch of the right side not needed. A very good exposure encompassing inside and out...and color temperature balances. A delightful image.

### **10. Fireworks Over San Diego Bay**

Nice capture of simultaneous fireworks exploding, while retaining detail, and exposure values in various parts of the image.

### **11. Fun In the Sun**

You have certainly captured the immense difference between the ocean liner and the small craft below. The exposure is good and the composition does not allow my attention to stray. The 'para sailer' adds a nice balance.

### **12. Leeds Castle, England**

I like the horizontal cropping, but wonder if the castle could have been centered. Some images deserve to be centered. It is a good exposure, with some detail in the darker background trees, and through the small openings in the castle at the water's edge. Very nice sharpness throughout. The overcast mood is portrayed well.

### **13. London Eye, London**

The capture of the blue light, the ferris wheel movement, and the natural overall color temperature of the scene is well done. My eye enters at the small golden building at bottom left, and naturally peruses towards the ferris wheel. Although the weight is heavy on the right two-thirds of the image, it nevertheless balances nicely. The golden building balances the gold color on the water. It could be cropped left and extended right, but why. Nice.

#### **14. Men Playing Petanque**

A pleasant 'vertical' image lending itself well to the Eiffel Tower, trees, and physical length of the game itself. It is composed very well and the exposure is good. Perhaps a touch more brightness. It feels French, or at least foreign. I like the atmosphere.

#### **15. Mesquite Dunes, Death Valley**

The sharpness level, especially in the foreground is great. The sky works very well, also. I find that the focusing you have chosen allows for a 'competition' between the distant, but fairly prominent mountains, and the true focus of your image, the dunes. There is not enough contrast to separate them much. Consider 'out of focus' for the mountains next time, or, better yet, eliminate them. Composing with only this sky, and only these dunes could be beautiful. Black and white is a very good option too.

#### **16. Models at Roman Baths, Bath, England**

It is a very nice 'model' photograph, Naturally posed, and in an obvious old and intriguing location, but I hardly see any of the baths. I would back off a ways and allow for more of the Roman pillars, and baths to exert their influence on the scene. Let them fall out focus, thus keeping the attention on the models. The exposure is soft and complimentary .

#### **17. Morris Dancers Taking a Break in Portsmouth, England**

An interesting, and colorful group. Good contrast, exposure, and tonal values throughout. Generally, I think these type images should be equally cropped on the sides. You could have moved slightly to your left, centering the image, and allow for equal spacing on each side without losing any lettering on the top. A small matter, as it is a nice photograph.

#### **18. Mush, You Huskies**

The composition is good. The exposure could be a 'tad' brighter even though it looks to be an overcast day. Perhaps consider standing a little to the side and moving the camera in time with the sled while shooting, thus making the background 'blur' while keeping the subjects in focus. It would add more interest along with a sense of movement.

#### **19. Musicians At Tiji Festival**

You have captured the culture and color beautifully. This, also, would be a wonderful image in a show on Tjikistan (if I am correct on the country?). I realize this is a portraiture of two men, but I would like to see more of what is happening around them also.

**20. Musicians on Boulevard Saint Germaine**

Nice grouping, and I like that the young girl is looking up thereby leading me in to the action. I think some creative cropping on the left will help tighten the scene up, perhaps between ‘#4, and saint’ on the sign. It could be a little brighter, or a slightly lighter exposure. Black and white would be a good option also. It looks inviting.

**21. Old Quebec City mural**

Great mural ! I would like to see a lighter exposure. I also feel it needs a little more room to breathe. By backing off I could see just where it ends at the top, and also a little of the surrounding buildings would help give it scale. The dark gate at bottom right does not enhance the scene, so maybe moving left and shooting at an angle would help.

**22. Old Woman Smoking Cheroot**

A wonderful portrait. I can not imagine her age. Perhaps she is in a trance of remembrance?! Good exposure with comfortable cropping. The background contributes to the ethnicity and is ‘nicely’ out of focus. Focus point is right on.

**23. Peace Memorial, Paris France**

This appears to be as much about the Eiffel Tower as the Memorial. Overall, I like, and understand your cropping of the image. The path of bare ground leads the eye to the Tower, and back again to the Memorial. However, to be somewhat creative, consider cropping off the right row front 2 columns, and the whole left side except for the back left 2 columns. Granted, it does not show the whole story, but it is an artistic view. Very nice capture. Nice whites, blacks and shadows.

**24. Peggy’s Cove, Nova Scotia**

Good exposure. I feel cropping in on the left to just past the doorway of the white house would be good, and a little on the right. The focus seems to wander?! I think everything behind the boat could soften up. The boat is the object of attention to me. This could be a strong black and white.

**25. Peggy’s Point Lighthouse, Nova Scotia**

Nicely cropped, good sharpness, and color. Although an overcast day I would add a just a bit of brightness, or exposure. The people lead you in and over to the lighthouse, and the rocks bring you back down again. The bicycles are a nice addition too.

**26. Rural Nova Scotia**

This image may be included in a group show on Nova Scotia, but standing alone it does not say much. It could be a black and white, but the most I see is, like your title, it appears rural. Perhaps selecting just the most interesting structure would help.

**27. Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury, England**

Very nice exposure, with good color and focus. mostly good shadow values, however I might open up the trees just a little, but not much. I would also suggest cropping in on the right to balance both sides.

**28. Sea Turtle at The Monterey Bay Aquarium**

I feel the sharpness good be better, especially on the turtle, and I generally like silhouettes to be sharp also. It is heavy on the blue water, but I rather like that. I do not know if you did or not, but I definitely suggest always using a tripod, especially in these low light situations.

**29. Shwedagon Paya**

A nicely composed, and exposed image. You might have added just a little more foreground, about 1/2 inch, which would lower the top crop to a little above the temple point. The image captures you immediately, and holds you in as you explore it's various aspects. Nicely done.

**30. Andrew's Church, Chale, Isle of Wight**

Even in England, at ten to eight you should occasionally get a soft yellow glow, and you captured it. Don't ask me why, but I may have backed off just a little. That said, the cropping is nice, and the shadows and sharpness are nice. I may have lightened the church and gravestones just a little to further enhance the yellow glow, or, darkened the sky a little, basically achieving a similar effect.

**31. St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal**

The color temperature is a little blue on the building. In this image I would adjust it. To me the object of interest is the church, so I would crop up to the yellow flowers at the bottom eliminating most of those dead flowers and foliage. The exposure is good as are the shadows.

**32. Storm Over Golden Gate Bridge**

The mood in the image is good. I have two suggestions. I would darken the storm clouds some, and I would extend the brightness of the yellow flower foreground foliage down to the last pole towards the water. This will create more contrast. Nice cropping, balance and shadow values.

**33. Sturbridge, Massachusetts**

This is a well composed, and exposed image. If anything, I may have opened up the darkened area at the entrance/end of the covered bridge, but only a little.

**34. Surfing At Fullers Beach in Big Sur**

Shows the power and vastness of the Pacific Ocean, and, an unfolding drama. Composed well, with a good exposure. I am not sure of the time of day, but I would lighten the whites of the spray section, and also the light surface area around the surfers. To a lesser degree I would lighten on the bottom side of the wave generating more contrast. A similar effect could be achieved by darkening the waters around the lighter areas.

**35. The Slow Scenic Route To Berlin**

Nicely composed and cropped. I would consider slightly lightening the large stone at the right foreground, but only the natural part...not the painted part. This would ease my eye from the lighter sign at the middle left named 'Radweg', and it's accompanying sign with the yellow center. This could be a good black and white. Simple, and well captured.

**36. This Is So Boring**

Nicely framed, and good color temperature and exposure. The falloff of focus is good..

**37. Two Lassies Trekking With Their Ass**

Well, a unique title! It's interesting, and conjures up questions like 'where are they going'. It is a good exposure! But, I believe the image would have been better if they were all closer together. If the cropping allowed for only one person, would the title read 'Lass with an Ass' Trekking'? Alas !

There is little going on besides a walk down a path. If needed, create your own image.

**38. Watching The Boats At Rhine Marker 515**

I understand the rule of thirds, but in this case I would definitely crop one third off the top. I wonder what lies below the rocks at the bottom, and is it more interesting than all the foliage at the top? I would experiment with darkening and brightening areas to bring more attention to the people near the center. The cropping will help. Perhaps black & white?

**39. World Series Fans Cheer**

Crop down to a little above the lights at the top, as the black is too heavy. The field and fans look great except for the bottom foreground. Holding the camera out over the flag waving fans right beneath you could have helped. The field itself looks a little light, but perhaps that is the look of a baseball field. Exposure is good, sharpness too.

Winning Images:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner: Musicians on Boulevard Saint Germain

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner: Big Ben and Passing Bus, London

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner: London Eye, London, England

Honorable Mention: Men Playing Petanque

Honorable Mention: Battery Lighthouse at Dusk

Honorable Mention: Peace Memorial, Paris France

Honorable Mention: Caricature Artist, Pompidou Center

Honorable Mention: Fun in the Sun