P adre Trails Camera Club
Pictorial Competition - Feb 20, 2019
Group AA Comments

Judged by: Craig Mohr

01 - Asparagus.jpg
Interesting use of the reflection as a design element to balance the visual weight of the asparagus bunch. The string adds to the naturalness of the asparagus. The contrast is a bit high which is shifting the colors away from their natural hues. The placement in the frame creates a stability and moves the viewer directly to the subject. Strong visual focus.

02 - Death Valley Wagon.jpg
The color and the texture brought out by the lighting is a good choice. Exposure is very good and the colors are rich. I would like to see the photographer explore cropping out some of the foreground. The viewers' eye struggles a bit to get past the ground because it is the same 'visual value' as the wagon train. Darkening the foreground or cropping some of it out will drive the viewer directly to the wagon.

03 - Driftwood on Sandstone.jpg
Very good use of asymmetrical balance. Moving the subject out of the center gives us room to enjoy the entire frame. Framing is very efficient, just enough to tell the story. The color palette is very muted which shows off the delicacy of the driftwood and the sandstone. Slightly adjusting the 'clarity' in LR will reveal a bit more separation within the hues of the image. Overall, very painterly.

04 - Light Patterns on Moss Landing SB.jpg
Very strong visual balance. This image combines, light, texture and depth to create what appears to be a painting. This image fools our eye and brain. Is it smooth? Is it rough? Am I looking at oil. This is a concept in the vein of the Bauhaus artists. We cannot tell the scale of what we are seeing. Vey conceptual.

05 - nice day in Monterey.jpg

Very good use of 'visual contrast' of the red boat to the rest of the sailboats. The reflections work well to add depth and keep the viewers eye at the red boat. The color palette and contrast do communicate 'nice day in Monterrey'. Cropping in from the top to eliminate the dock will tell a more concise story. There are a lot of lines and texture from masts and the dock that creates clutter. Framing in tighter will help calm the frame. The tree on the right works the same way, visual confusion.

06 - Pier Sunset.jpg

The colors are very dramatic and the reflections is a great balance for the sunset. The image is rich with subjects, but none of them are commanding us to look and linger. If we darken the image overall (exposure) the couple on the beach and the pier become supporting elements for the color study of the sunset. The image is caught between times, day and night. Moving toward the night will give more visual focus and actually enrich the colors.
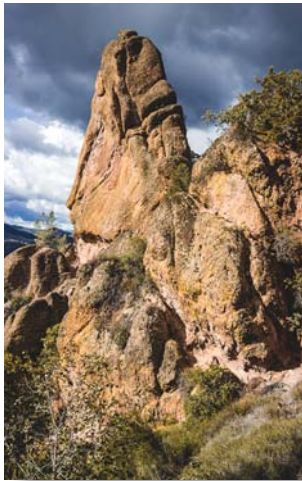
07 - Pinnacles.jpg

Very strong graphic/geometry of a subject. The framing is nice and tight, just enough room to tell the story of the storm brewing and that is where we can create a bit more drama. Lowering the over all exposure brings out the coming storm and adds some danger to the image. The darker image also brings out more richness and subtlety in the rock out cropping. It will add a sense of danger

08 - Rice Fields_.jpg

Very interesting patterns. First read on the images does not tell the viewer what the subject is, which is good. We can create our own story. Is it a painting, a tile floor, etc. A bit more contrast would help overall. Just enough to define the edges of the shapes. Either use 'dehaze' OR ' add some 'clarity and 'vibrance' in LR.


09 - The back barn.jpg

Bringing down the exposure by 1 stop is when this image comes alive. The sky is still very dynamic AND the barn still holds the UFO/'Painting with Light' feeling. Better balance at the darker exposure. The barn draws us in and then our eye goes to the constellations. A Bluer sky makes us feel the night is cold, more magenta and it is an X-files feeling. Great possibilties.
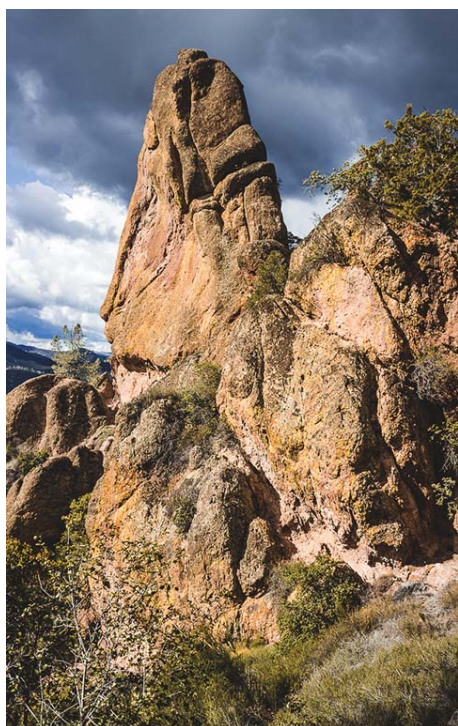
Winning Images:
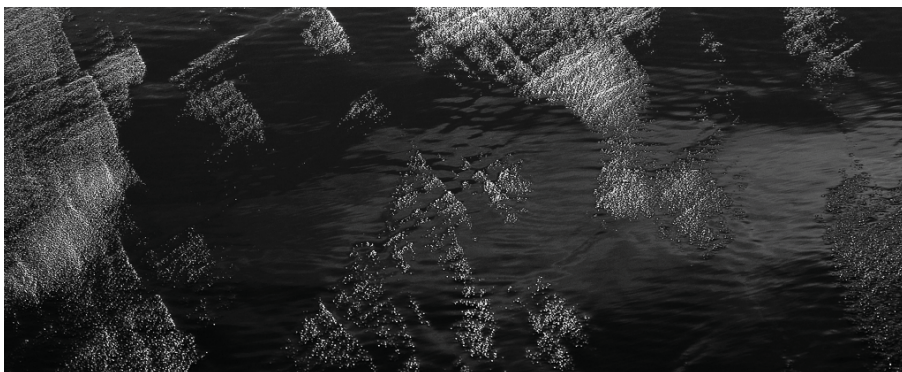
First Place:

Light Patterns on Moss Landing,
Kent Van Vuren

2nd Place:
Pinnacles
Nichole Asselborn