

Padre Trails Camera Club

Pictorial Competition - Feb 20, 2019
Group AAA Comments

Judged by: Craig Mohr



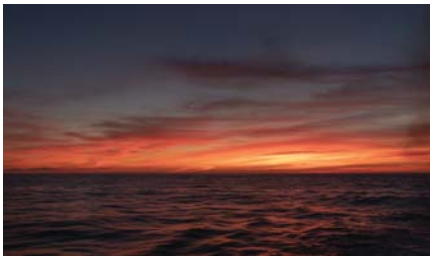
01- Abandoned_rails.jpg

The contrast between nature and the man made is very compelling. Strong leading line draws the eye into the frame. Framing out some of the sky would accentuate the leading lines and draw more attention to the patterns in the rails and the cross-ties. A slightly higher POV would accomplish the same thing.



02- Antarctica.jpg

Very strong story of the enormity of nature as related to man. The low contrast light creates a painterly feeling so no one element overpowers the others. This image has the potential to be framed many different ways to change the visual focus. A panoramic framing would accentuate the penguins and contrast them with the ship and balance them both with the glacier. Many possibilities exist.



03- Atlantic Sunset.jpg

Wonderful movement within the frame. I can not only see the motion, but feel the wind and movement on the water. The colors have a sense of richness and depth. The positioning of the horizon in the frame creates an asymmetrical balance which is a very strong visual element in photography. The exposure is well done.



04- Backyard Mushrooms.jpg

This has a very strong visual focus. I know where the photographer wants me to look and is not coy or ambiguous. The softness of the light contributes to the actual softness of the mushrooms. The visual balance is very good with the uneven 'weight' of the subject to the left of the frame. The image does lack a feeling of 'sharpness'. Not much is needed but it would 'tighten up' the technical side of the image.



05- Balanced Rocks.jpg

Excellent use of asymmetrical framing and controlled DOF. The DOF choice creates strong visual separation of the subject from the background. The use of shadows is very effective in creating form and depth in the subject. The 'greenish' color tint seems unnatural and robs the viewer of the natural warmth of the light that looks to have existed that day. If the photographer's intention was the colorized look, then take a look at dialing it back a bit.



06- Beer Matters.jpg

The use of lens compression and post processing have created an very nice 'painterly' effect. The off-center POV is a good choice, because symmetry is very difficult to achieve. I would love to see the photographer's exploration on how he arrived at that camera position. Experimentation is good. Adding a slight vignetting will move the viewers eye deeper into the frame.



07- Boats at Anchor Monterey Harbor-1.jpg..

The use of perspective is very dynamic. The viewer gets sucked into the image. The reflection on the water is beautiful and acts to define and separate the boats. The colors in the sky are very powerful, but look a bit over processed creating a mismatch with the colors in the reflection on the water. Dialing back the saturation/vibrance/clarity would create a better balance between the colors. Possibly only 10 pts. in LR.



08- Brown Pelican at Sunset-1.jpg

Classic looking B&W. Excellent off-center framing leaving space for the pelican to 'visually move'. Tonal range is wide and has great subtly of tones. The moment of capture shows the elegance of the bird and creates a beautiful curve within the frame. This initiates movement from one part of the frame to the other. The one area for improvement would be the 'white point' of the pelican's head. The numbers are topping out at 99, which is too bright for printing with detail. This could be a product of the jpg and most likely the RAW file has more and can be easily processed to retain the detail.



09- Half Dome from Glacier point.jpg

This has a very well balanced frame. Excellent use of the tree branches in the corner to balance the scale and visual weight of Half Dome. Lighting is flat, which adds a more impressionistic look to the image. The 'weather' in the sky draws the viewers eye deep into the frame. As a next step the photographer could experiment with the placement of the horizon line. Ansel Adams lowered the horizon in many of his photographs to make the sky soar within the frame. He also subtly darkened the corners his images to drive the viewers eye away from the edges of the frame. This is easily done in LR with 'Post Crop Vignetting'.



10- I've seen quite a few similar shots recently.jpg

The slow shutter speed technique is done really well as there are long continuous streams of headlights and taillights which makes the cars vanish. Color is rich and saturated which draws the viewers eye to the movement of the lights. The image could have a strong visual focus. There are few elements that begin to command our attention. The 'white-ish building at the upper left could be darkened to move our eye away from the frames edge. A bit of 'Post Crop Vignetting will help. The light pole in the foreground detracts from the cool movement of lights.



11- In search of the missing booby.jpg..

Excellent use of the weather to create an impressionistic feeling. This image takes on the qualities of a painting. The extreme narrow DOF is a creative choice as 'landscape/seascape' images are usually shot with maximum DOF. Very good use of asymmetrical balance in the frame. The main visual focus is to the right, but the large dark left foreground balances it quite well.



12- Kelp and Seagrass.jpg

Wonderful use of the light to define and accentuate the texture and details of the subject and background. The shadow is skillfully used as an 'design' element to create a strong balance, yet its delicacy does not detract from the main subject. Placement of the kelp is reminiscent of the Fibonacci spiral, an old school compositional aid. Nicely done.



13- Oakland_tiger.jpg

Excellent timing to capture the 'pose' of the tiger. The tight framing draws the viewer to the tigers' face which is the most important part of the image. The light is very flat and does not help in creating a feeling of sharpness. More DOF, or faster shutter speed along with a higher contrast light (sun) would improve the feeling of sharpness.



14- Patagonia.jpg

Beautiful choice of location. Strong concept to contrast the flowing water and the static mountain. The low camera angle accentuates the 'monolithic' feeling of the mountain. The large rock-like element in the right foreground prevents the viewers eye from driving into the shot. The viewer begins to enter the frame from the bottom, is stopped momentarily, and then moves onto the mountain. If the viewer can see more of the water flow leading to the mountain, there will be a more energetic visual flow. Additionally the sky would benefit from a bit of 'dehazing' in post processing.



15- Quicksilver_mine_cart.jpg

Very good exploration using the wide-angle lens. Framing in tighter would eliminate some of the unnecessary elements from the frame. The diagonal 'fence-like' element does not add to the mine cart. A day with more contrast in the light would bring out the 'patina' in the rust and add another element of interest to the image.



16- Sea Gull Feathers.jpg

This is a beautiful image showing the the subtlety of light and contrast. The framing is elegant. Excellent movement within the frame conveying the feeling of flight. The viewer can experience this image for the pure beauty of the subject. I can 'feel' the softness, nicely done.



17- Some stones on the ground.jpg

Excellent example of abstract/texture. Reminds me of my trips to Weston Beach. There are many framings within this image. Framing in tighter would give a stronger visual focus and bring out some of the finer details while still maintaining the abstract nature. A slight increase in contrast of light would add more vibrance to the under saturated colors.



18- Sunset off the coast of Spain.jpg...

The colors are very dynamic. They look natural and not over-processed. A tighter framing (not much) would bring the ship in as an element of counterpoint to the great expanse of the water. The visual contrast of a larger ship would pull the viewer deep into the frame.



19- The first Ice plants .jpg

The color contrast is very good. Green background and Magenta-ish flowers are opposites on the color wheel and add visual energy. A tighter framing will eliminate some of the less important elements on the left side (the darker dead parts). The narrow DOF starts visual focus, but the softer light doesn't quite finish the result.



20- The Golf Swing.jpg

Beautiful lighting. Excellent use of the shadow as a design element. The viewer can follow the lazy curve of the edge of the grass to guide our eye to the strongest elements in the frame we can rush into the strong shadow of the golfer. Either way we are drawn into the frame. The tonal range is rich and full, but the sky could come down in value just a bit to aid in printing. Powerful composition.



21- The open fence.jpg

The contrast between the rough wood and the water/sky is a fine example of visual contrast. The title of the image could be embraced a bit more. Framing in tighter will eliminate unnecessary elements on the left side and really tell the story of the 'open fence' inviting the viewer into the frame through the fence is more intimate. Reducing the haze will help add for saturation and vibrance to the colors.



22- The Wonder of Santa Claus.jpg

Magical. This truly captures the 'wonder' of Christmas. Elegant use of lighting. Wonderful storytelling. Don't let anyone bring up the 'noise' in the file, it doesn't matter. Very nicely done.



23- Tiny Flying Insects 3.jpg

Beautiful color palette. Very subtle. Excellent recognition of how the light behaves coming from behind the subject. The addition of motion creates a painterly feel. The subtlety masks the technique so we concentrate on the image not on the use of the slower shutter speed.



24- View in late afternoon light.jpg

Excellent recognition of light. The warmth and direction nicely tells the story of all the subjects. The sand 'feels' granular. The water looks wet and the rocks are rough. There is just enough shadow detail in the rocks to add dimension without competing with the 'smoothness' of the rest of the elements. Beautiful light.



25- White Tailed Kite-1.jpg

Very good use of the branches for visual contrast and storytelling. The overall contrast can be lowered which would bring out the finer details in the breast feathers which will also expand the tonal range. The vignette will work better if it was a bit more subtle. Framing in tighter would give a similar effect of driving the viewers eye to the subject. It would also create the opportunity to position the subject a bit more off center

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:



Kelp and Sea-grass,
Janet Azevedo



The Golf Swing,
Dale Thies



Tiny Flying Insects,
Amy Sibiga



View in Late Afternoon Light,
Janet Azevedo



3rd Place:
Sea Gull Feathers, Janet Azevedo



Second Place:
Wonder of Santa Claus, Amy Sibiga



First Place: Brown Pelican at Sunset,
Dennis Giuffre