



01-A squirrel hunting for food.jpg

Florian Brennenstuhl

A great capture. We get to see an up-close-and-personal hunt. I especially like seeing his little paws on the move. And putting him as a small part of a larger vegetative setting shows that he is, in fact, a wild animal, even though we see squirrels so often we probably don't think of them that way. (I'd like to see just a little more contrast. Blacks more black. Whites more white.)



02-Adriana.jpg

Patricia McKean

A lovely portrait. I particularly like the soft background in contrast with the very crisp focus on the subject, so crisp that we feel the softness of her sweater hairs and see the delicate detail of her earrings. Her off camera gaze is interesting and implies movement in the image toward whatever she is seeing. Needs brightening, but nicely done.



03-Alex.jpg

Chyrl Light

What makes a portrait photo stand out? A subject engaged in his or her own world. A hand gesture. An interesting environment. Some sort of mystery. This image has all of those things, but it is the hand gesture and the look that make this image so powerful. What is happening to make him pause and look? We'll never know, but we will keep wondering. In addition, the lighting and technical quality of the tonal range make this an outstanding image. Well done. *****



04-Ashley.jpg

David Thon

It is said that a good photo makes us feel something, positive or negative. In this case, I would have to say I don't really warm to this person. She looks spoiled and arrogant, and prone to getting her own way? Thus, the photo has made me feel something, which is a good thing. If this wasn't the personality the photographer wanted to convey, better try again. A technically good photo from a lighting, tonal range, and focus standpoint. I particularly like the detail in the hair. ***



05-Baja Pioner.jpg

Jerry Loomis

The high contrast in this image works well to imply what is perhaps a harsh life for this subject. And the lovely detailed lines in the face add to that story of struggle. The centered subject works well here to show strength and defiance, and the expression, while hard to read, I think continues that story of being ready to meet challenges. I also like the hanging leaves as a frame to the top of the image (a delicate contrast) and the strong horizontal lines in the background as a supporting design element. I would like to see a bit more light in the subject's eyes. They get lost in the shadow. ****



06-Black & White Portrait-100.jpg

Rick Thau

This image seems to capture a natural moment with the subject (although not particularly flattering); and, while there is energy in the moment, I'm not sure what the expression conveys. I'm sorry that her hat covers part of one eye. I'd like to see both eyes clearly. And I would question the vignetting. Why was it needed? It just makes me wonder why I can't see detail in the lower left corner.



07-Black & White Portrait-101.jpg

Rick Thau

A great moment of happiness. This image makes me happy just to look at it. Laughing smile. Laughing eyes. A very natural scene. It makes me wonder what the photographer did to elicit such a joyful response. Again, I question the vignetting. Why? It's unnecessary and distracting in the lower corners.



08-Briana_Christmas_2002.jpg

Carolyn Comings

This image really captures a moment of wonder. Wide-eyed innocence. A natural gesture of the hand. Ethereal lighting that gives the hair a luminous golden quality (even in B&W). I love it. An angel. Perfect.



09-Gabby B&W 2020.jpg

David Eisen

A very clever set-up that works well as a portrait and as a design. Very Man Ray. I particularly like the black stripe on the right side of the background (that continues in the reflection of course) and the white fingertips that also become design elements as well as hands. And wow, what beautiful big dark eyes. I'm a bit distracted by the little block in the wall at the top (which, in the reflection, pops out of the girl's head like a chimney). And, I'd like to see either more or less of the black line on the left (probably more, for balance).



10-Jennifer_Christmas_2008.jpg

Carolyn Comings

A joyful moment captured well. Nice contrasting tones. Good use of flash to make the face come alive. I see she has a camera, but it takes a moment to figure that out. It, at first glance, just looks like a pile of complicated metal stuff, which competes with that charming smile.



11-Olive.jpg

Cheryl Light

Who doesn't love a dog that looks you right in the eye ... and sticks his/her tongue out ... and has eyes of two different colors? A great subject, but the lack of focus keeps this image from reaching its potential.

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12-Snow Monkey with No Snow Japan Winter 2020.jpg

Chris Parsons

Never look a monkey in the eye ... or that's what they say. So, this off-camera gaze is perfect, as is the close-up detail of this creature's face and the crisp focus. I particularly like that there is no environment, only monkey. He/She dominates the scene. Good job.



13-T1 Westfalia on the road.jpg

Florian Brennenstuhl

I'm not sure why I like this as much as I do. Maybe because I was a VW van person in my 20s. What I do like about this image is that it tells a story and shares a personality without a person being actually present. The composition is a perfect combination of avant garde minimalism and Robert Frank's America. Movement is inherent in the highway lines and the distant landscape. We are on the road again. The image has a unique approach that makes it stand out from ordinary portraiture. ****



14-vendor b and w.jpg

Jerry Loomis

Great composition with excellent use of negative space. I love the close-up approach and the design created by the hat brim, profile, and hand. I wish we could see a little more of his eyes and a slight brightening of the image (it seems flat, especially the background). But ... very original.



15-Wizard.jpg

David Thon

And ... speaking of contrast. This image shouts contrast. An amazing range of tones, as well as a rich trove of textures and details. A wonderful selection of subject presented well technically.

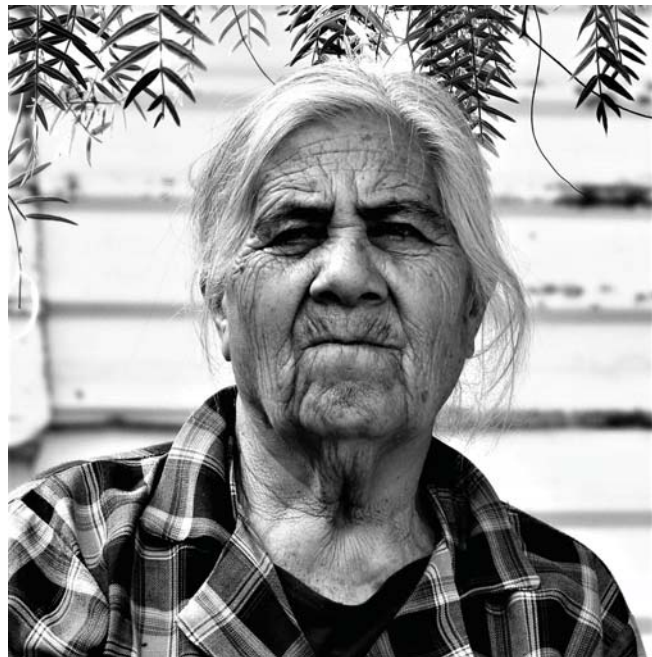
Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Wizard
David Thon



Baja Pioneer
Jerry Loomis

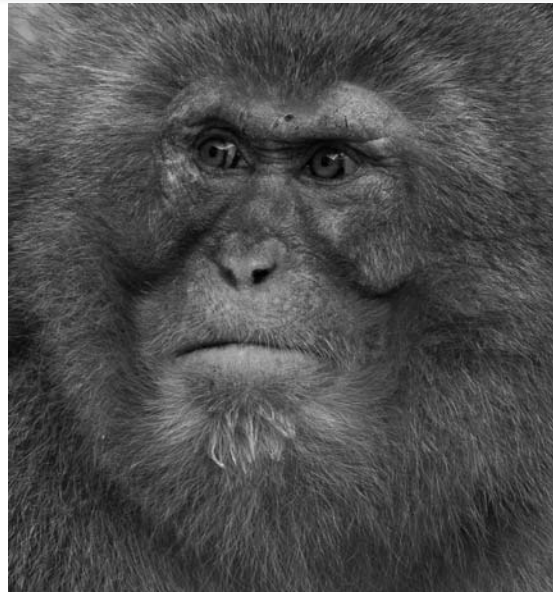


T1 Westfalia on the road
Florian Brennenstuhl



Third Place:

Snow Monkey
Chris Parsons



2nd Place:

Brianna Christmas 2002
Carolyn Comings



First Place:

Alex
Chryl Light

