



01 - A Heavenly Pasture.jpg

Joel Gambord

Well, this image is certainly emblematic of the spirit of this contest! Although this kind of manipulation is not my usual cup of tea, the longer I looked at this image the more I enjoyed it. The van Gogh brushstrokes unify the naturalness of this image and tie it all together. The light and gentle horses stand in support and contrast to the tree. Well realized.



02 - Amphitheater of Sol - Capitol Reef, Ut.jpg

Sean Crawford

The vertical orientation of this cliff turns the water streaks into a burst of rays. The contrast between the smooth sky and the texture of the clear face is enhanced by the smooth curve and the images vertical orientation. This is very nicely seen and well presented.



03 - Black Trumpets.jpg

Sean Crawford

This mushroom image is interesting, with strong lines and almost a whimsical sense, but suffers from isolation, as it floats in an entirely featureless background. I might have considered putting in a natural background or leaving what was there in the image and fading it out so that the mushroom itself was enhanced. I would also find the shape of this more interesting if the artist had removed the "banana end" from the top and allowed just the bell of the mushroom to stay. I think what is disconcerting about the whole white background is that there is a shadow on it although there is no "it" upon which the shadow could rest.

**



04 - Canadians Helen and Herman Visiting the California Delta.jpg

Joel Gambord

Very nice image of ducks, particularly because Herman is so obviously interested in something. It could use some recomposition - moving the pair of them out of the center and giving them some place to go. They are a little too far to the left and they split the picture in half. Certainly an attractive photo but I don't see the fine art in it.

**



05 - Concours Classic.jpg

John Drum

This image suffers from technical (Photoshop) issues. The cut-out for the black background has unnaturally sharp edges, and when doing this type of editing, I recommend going around the edges with a blur tool to make the cut less obvious. Also using Photoshop, I'd suggest trying to make the glass in the hood ornament more luminous and transparent. The whole subject matter could be moved a bit to the right as there is too much black there.

*



06 - Dreamscape.jpg

Janet Azevedo

Very nicely seen. I can understand why the artist chose to place the strong horizontals in the exact middle of this image, but I might have experimented with cropping off just a bit of the sky to raise them up somewhat and emphasize the foreground. The wonderful soft wave at the bottom tends to get lost otherwise.

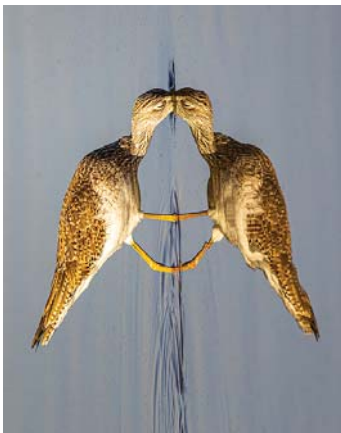


07 - Drifting.jpg

Steve Perkins

The only artistic effort I see in this image is the double exposure and I am not sure that it contributes anything. The underlying photos as near as I can tell are just photographs of the seashore. I'm sorry if I missed the artist's intent behind the double exposure, but this image just does not work for me.

*



08 - Drink It Up!.jpg

Gerry R Gifford

This is a nicely composed image with a reflection that suffers technically from what appears to be dust, and over sharpening. It is a lovely photograph otherwise, but not fine art.

*



09 - First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

Very good composition, and technically quite strong. Notice that what “makes” this image is the bush and leaves in the bottom left. The texture and flow of the foreground branch is indeed lovely, and shows a lot of potential.

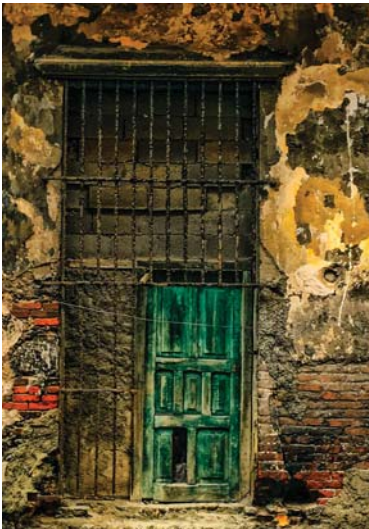


10 - Going Nowhere.jpg

Gerry R Gifford

Honestly, I am confused by this image. It was only after the longest time I realized (I hope correctly) that it’s a duck with its bill under the water. I am confused by the black splotches on the body of the duck and in the water as well. It is an interesting abstract form, but nothing ties it together for me.

*



11 - Green Door in Havana, Cuba.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

A wonderful conglomeration of shapes textures and colors. While much of the image is organic other parts are patterned and constructed. There is a wonderful tension between the door itself being centered and the edifice in which it resides being shifted left. While this image is “very busy”, and that usually implies a distraction, in this case it’s complexity is its salvation. This is a very nice image.



12 - Honeybee Collecting Pollen.jpg

Don Eastman

I appreciate the simplicity of this image; there is nothing non-essential in it, so the image is quite strong. It is also a wonderful example of the beauty of nature. I am distracted however by the fact that the only thing sharp in it is a tiny portion of the beeswing. I would’ve greatly prefer to see the entire bee as sharp. That said, it indicates a good eye.

**



13 - Intersections.jpg

John Drum

A very nicely seen abstract. While at first it may appear to complex and “busy” I see that as the artist’s intent. The viewer’s eye is directed towards the center of the image and the large gill-like structure because of the lines around the edges. Often, when shooting this type of image the artist aims at simplifying and reducing the structure lines but in this case the various shapes lines and curves all work within the image to its benefit. Nice shot.



14 - Los Soberanos.jpg

Bill Brown

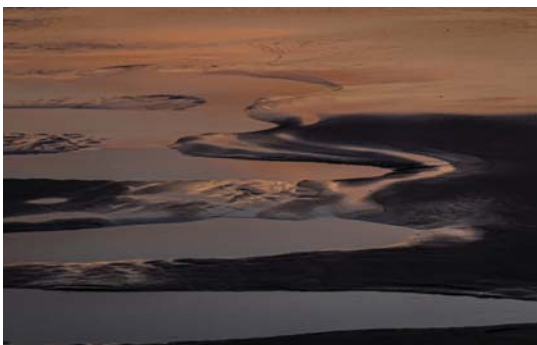
A very nice black and white with a strong sense of depth created by using the plains of the rocks in the upper right, much like early cinematographers did. The foreground rocks are beautifully lit, and perfectly exposed. The whole image flows from the bottom left to the upper right, and the long exposure successfully blurs the water, adding a very ethereal quality to the image. I think the image would be a bit stronger if the foreground water at the bottom of the image was cut approximately in half lowering the rocks. Nicely done.



15 - Out Past Curfew.jpg

Patricia McKean

This image is technically superb, well seen and beautifully cropped. The motion of the viewers eye from the front to the back is graceful and smooth and while there are divisions, the demarcations are soft and elegant. This is a beautiful photograph.



16 - Planet B Landscape.jpg

Janet Azevedo

This is a wonderful abstract has very interesting tones. The light and dark shapes move well together, and I can imagine it living on a wall for a long time. I wonder if it might not be a little stronger if a bit of the top were cropped off, emphasizing the undulating shapes below, I gave it a look in Lightroom, but I honestly couldn’t decide. Very mysterious image.



17 - Secret Cove.jpg

Patricia McKean

Well exposed and nicely composed image of the shoreline. For me it suffers from the unnatural blue in the cove which seems overly vibrant given the lighting. Technically, it suffers a bit from some over sharpening as seen by the white line on the hill in the upper left. I think I would get rid of the flying saucers in the center of the sky, and probably the telephone poles that interrupt the skyline.

**



18 - Snowy Dawn.jpg

Bill Brown

A lovely image well balanced and well-composed and appropriately sharp for the subject matter. The balance seems correct to me and the bird has room on the left for it to move into. Overall it is a very nice photo, although I wish there were a bit more of the reflection at the bottom. This too I can easily imagine on a wall.



19 - Solo Calla Lily.jpg

Charlie Gibson

Another nicely done image. Very well balanced between the white in the upper 2/3 and the darker tones in the bottom third. The line of the edge of the cup of the flower is exquisite and the focus is just right. Easily a fine art photograph.



20 - Take Cover.jpg

Steve Perkins

An interesting time lapse photograph. The cactus in the foreground adds some interest, but mainly points out that the image was taken somewhere in the southwest. I find myself looking at this image more as reportage than as fine art.

**



21 - Three Calla Lilies.jpg

Lillie Grossman

A very classically styled still life, mostly symmetrical but enhanced by the slight asymmetry of the stems at the very bottom of the image. The image tones are exquisite, with plenty of soft detail available in the petals as well as a sense of rougher texture in the stems. A lovely photograph.



22 - Upsidedown Jellyfish.jpg

Don Eastman

A technically interesting image, it doesn't have a coherent shape or form. (I'm not talking about the jellyfish of course, but the arrangement of them in the image.) The white highlights that illuminate some of the edges are interesting and provide their own sense of texture, but the whole image is so jumbled, that there is no real flow of the eye or line.

*



23 - Winter Maple.jpg

Lillie Grossman

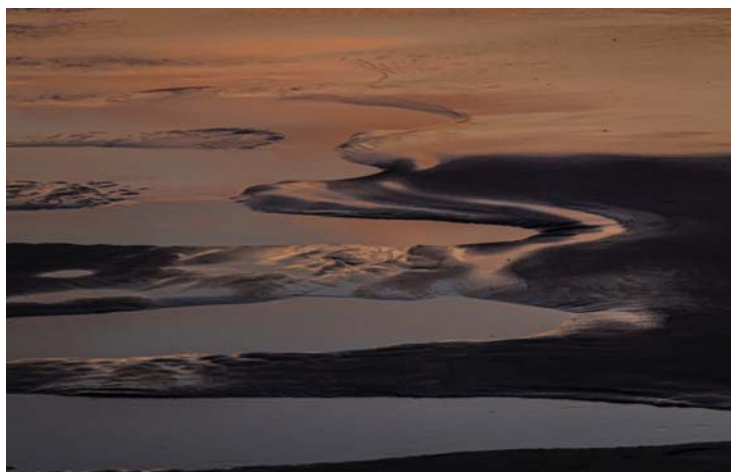
Very interesting as the leaf flows off all four sides of the image. The colors are beautifully realized. The structure and detail is strong, but I am distracted by the overly sharp black edge outlining much of the shape. That said, it would make a nice addition to a wall in someone's home.

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Planet B Landscape

Janet Azevedo



Solo Calla Lily

Charlie Gibson



Out Past Curfew

Patricia McKean



Snowy Dawn
Bill Brown



Three Calla Lilies
Lillie Grossman



Third Place:

Dreamscape
Janet Azevedo



2nd Place:

Intersections
John Drum



First Place:

Green Door in Havana, Cuba
Bill Shewchuk

