



01 - 1022 Divarty Street - Fort Ord.jpg

Bill Brown

I like the tone and texture. There are a lot of interesting shapes and I think it needs a composition to hold those shapes together.



02 - A Fort Ord Stairway.jpg

Bill Brown

I like the composition. It would be more effective, I think, to darken the wall behind the hand and guardrails for a stronger composition.



03 - Abandoned and Burned High School Auditorium in Detroit.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

I like the framing and the subject. It would work better for me if the exterior of the fireplace was much darker to make the beautiful interior light stand out by contrast.



04 - Abandoned by God and Man.jpg

Julie Chen

I love the subject---everything about the way you framed it and the story it tells. I think it could reach its full potential with a very different quality of light. Right now, the image is about texture. The texture is interesting, but the spotlight should be on the women with the texture as a bit player. This image could have a range from deep blacks to warm whites to bring out the heartfelt story you have in the title. You might check out Roman Loranc's, ---Absolution--- for the tones that could make the most of your story. ***



05 - Abandoned Church Office.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

I like the subject and the composition. I particularly like the intimacy and the white jacket by the window. I think it has a lot more potential to bring out the warmth and intimacy of that the space---as though it's waiting, with a warm welcome, for the owner to come back. Just a touch more contrast and a soft sepia tone would get the image there. Think Rembrandt. ***



06 - Abandoned House Near Lee Vining.jpg

Patricia McKean

I like the framing of the image and the windows framing the distant hills. I love the white window frames and the softer white in some of the barn boards. It would work better for me if the whites were brighter, and the blacks were blacker. I'd also like to see the foreground sharp or eliminated by getting closer.



07 - Abandoned SP RR Line.jpg

Charlie Gibson

Great idea! I like the tunnel of trees---particularly the unique oak branches that are the entrance to the tunnel. It would have worked better for me if there was more contrast. The framing might have worked better if the point of view was about 20 ft to the left to take the house on the left out of the frame.



08 - Behind the Door on Asilomar.jpg

Charlie Gibson

Good subject. As you point out in the title, the door is the subject. I think this image could go to another level if the point of view was from directly in front of the door and the frame included the bush on the left side of the image and the door---and maybe a bit of the tile roof. Simplifying the image would bring more focus on the subject.



09 - Being Eaten by the Environment.jpg

Janet Azevedo

I like the way the sway back roof is contrasted with the arc of the tree. I like the sharp foreground and dark sky. I'm not seeing a composition strong enough to hold the eye on the subject which is the abandoned barn. In spite of the things, I like about this, I would try getting closer to the left side of the barn where there are some dramatic lines and shapes---deep blacks and bright whites.



10 - Cerro Gordo 1.jpg

Meade Fischer

This has some interesting shapes, lines, textures, and compositions within it, so it just needs a strong cohesive composition to pull all the components together or it needs to be simplified by making several smaller images of components of the scene. There are also a lot of distracting half items on the edges that should have been cropped out.

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11 - Cerro Gordo 2.jpg

Meade Fischer

This is a good scene and it's well composed. It would get to a higher level by taking the brightness down a notch and using more contrast.



12 - Daggett Cemetery.jpg

Joni Zabala

It's a wonderful scene---beautifully composed to hint at a story. I like the framing of the plot posts and the receding row of white crosses. The sky is excellent as well. It would work better for me if you cropped out the far left and the far right closer to the posts on each side of the image. I think the whites could be a touch brighter as well.



13 - Fallen on Hard Times, That 395 House.jpg

Patricia McKean

Great composition and the sky is wonderful. It's lonely and beautiful at the same time. It would work better for me if the Whites were a touch whiter in the sky and mountains.



14 - Farmhouse, Donegal, Ireland.jpg

John Drum

I like the subject a lot. Full disclosure, my great grandmother grew up in a home very much like that in Tipperary with her 13 siblings. It would have worked better for me if you focused on the building and not so much on the setting. In this version, the high texture, light tone becomes the subject rather than the building. A panoramic of the building, by itself, would be remarkable in a full range of black and white tones.



15 - From Times Long Ago.jpg

John Drum

It's an interesting, abandoned building. This rendition reminds me of a faded post card of a tourist site. There's a lot of potential to take this subject to another level. By getting closer, you could get some great stone texture composed with the darkness inside the windows---and maybe even seeing through the building by lining up open windows on two sides of the building. By using more contrast, you can create compositions that have a beauty of their own. ***



16 - Looking through and at the Past.jpg

Joni Zabala

Rivets converge and lead the eye through a window only to see through two more windows and into a different world. The composition, line, shape, texture, and tone of this piece is outstanding. It's a visual delight--- framed beautifully, from a pile of abandoned rubble. *****



17 - Old Barra Lighthouse.jpg

Julie Chen

I like the subject, the composition, and the weather. It would have worked better for me if it was less sharpened, and blacks were darker. ***



18 - Quiet Tenants.jpg

Lillie Grossman

I liked the subject and lighting. It would have worked better for me if the composition had included whole panes of glass. I find the partial panes distracting and I don't think they add to the composition. ***



19 - Rhyolite Ruins.jpg

Lillie Grossman

This is an interesting subject. I like the shadows in the street. It would work better for me if you chose one section of the building and composed the amazing textures of deteriorating concrete and stone---or perhaps framed the hillsides with the empty windows or doors. A softer sepia and less graininess would probably also help call attention to the subject.



20 - Rm 823.jpg

Sean Crawford

This is probably an abandoned piece of equipment and I'd need understand more about it know what it is and that it's abandoned. It needs a better quality of light and better composition.

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21 - Still Standing.jpg

Janet Azevedo

This is a great subject. There's a lot to work with. To take this subject to another level, you could get closer. The grass and tree surroundings are distracting from the subject. Once you get close, there are endless options, all of them good, for a wonderful composition with posts and beams and their shadows. The blacks could be richer and whites whiter.



22 - Tilting Outhouse.jpg

Don Eastman

The composition is outstanding. The opposing buildings and swayback roofline have a lot of power. I like the tones and the texture. The scene looks like a caricature of a scene of the old west---maybe a background for a Yosemite Sam cartoon.



23 - Tree in the Attic.jpg

Don Eastman

Great subject and I like the square aspect. I also like seeing through one of the windows and out through another window. I think it would be stronger if the whites on the house siding were a notch brighter.



24 - Try and Take Care.jpg

Brian Spiegel

I like this idea. I like the strong blacks and bright white. It would work better for me if the walls were brought out more to contrast with the black straps which could add to the composition.



25 - You May Seek Answers.jpg

Sean Crawford

Great composition, tone control, and texture. To make something beautiful out of disrepair and abandonment is pure alchemy---particularly in black and white. The dappled light is an extra treat.

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

**Fallen on Hard Times, That 395
House**
Patricia McKean



Daggett Cemetery
Joni Zabala



Abandoned House Near Lee Vining
Patricia McKean

Third Place:

Tilting Outhouse
Don Eastman



2nd Place:

Looking through and at the Past
Joni Zabala



First Place:

You May Seek Answers
Sean Crawford

