

01-A Bold Step Forward.jpg

Denice Loria Woyski

Well done in terms of dramatic lighting, interesting angles of light and shadow, movement, and rich B&W tones. I particularly like that he's walking into a tiny corner of light, almost as if he's entering a different time/space dimension.

With all due respect to the personality of the subject, I wish he was a little more interesting. He is just a normal sort of fella. (I do, however, get the artist's intent that the subject walks with confidence ... boldness.)



02-Back Door in the Adobe.jpg

Carol Fuessenich

A beautiful example of mystery and minimalism. OK. Maybe I love this because it is like my own work, but the graphic strength and subtle lines and tones make this a great example of fine art. I would be pleased to hang this on my wall.

I particularly like that the depth of the lines and forms inspires further study. Viewers have to look hard to see the corner/edges/architecture on the left hand side of the image and the detail of the ceiling. And the dark rounded door (repeating the shape of the left hand archway) ... is it trompe d'oeil or is it a black hole leading to ... who knows? Excellent work.



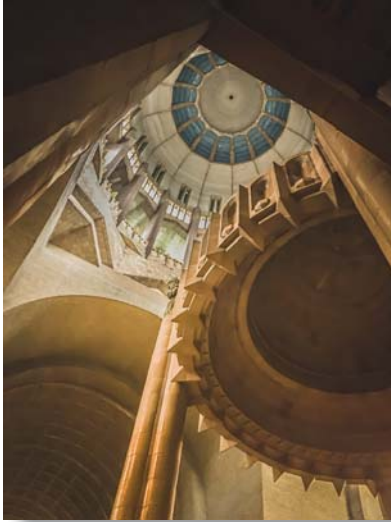
03-Back Seat Driver - Warm in the Winter - Shade in the Summer.jpg

Joel Gambord

Good work in capturing such an interesting couple. So much personality to the subjects and their clothes, their expressions, their body language--all really begin to tell a great story. Much is revealed in a brief moment. I smile at what appears to be a too-small helmet on the guy. Makes him look like a cartoon character rather than a macho Son of Anarchy.

I'm not really sure what's going on in this creation. I feel like it's a composite of some sort. There's something

about the front wheel and the shadows under the car that makes me think this is set up/staged/photoshopped. So, if this is actually a composite, it needs work (as it has made me mistrust the photograph). Also, the resolution is lacking. Not sure if this is due to file size or something else. ***

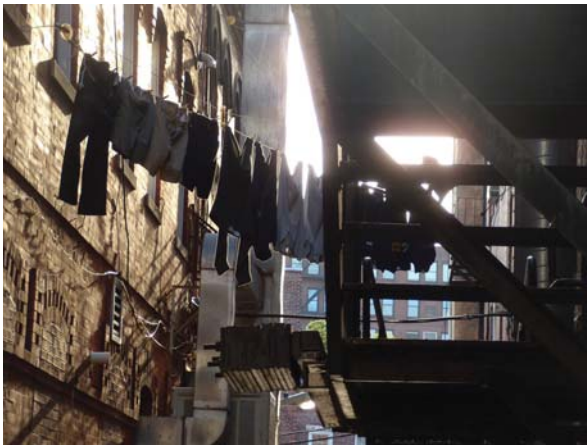


04-Basilique Dome.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

We are always rewarded when a photographer treats us to fresh perspective. Looking up was a good choice here, as the shapes and lines (particularly the repetitive circles and arches) are quite interesting. The exposure was difficult here, but the photographer has done a good job of exposing both highlights and shadows appropriately.

I really like that the lower right hand structure's carvings go from lovely little doorways in one perspective to jagged and dangerous medieval looking torture devices in another perspective. I also appreciate that the dark angled ceiling at the top of the frame keeps us in the image and perhaps sends us around the photo for a second time so we can really appreciate all the glorious details. ****



05-Boston Laundry.jpg

Sandie McCafferty

Ah yes. We can tell a lot about a person from their laundry. This is a nice study of personality without the person. The lighting on the left side of the image is lovely. I get a bit lost/distracted in the right side of the photo. Too much going on without a graphic reason, and the blown out highlights draw the eye unnecessarily. Perhaps consider cropping the right half out? ***



06-Budding Artist.jpg

Frank Penner

A poignant natural moment. The best possible kind of informal portrait ... one in which the subject is totally unaware of being photographed, but one where viewers are definitely connected, as the photographer has waited for the perfect "decisive moment." A moment that really reveals the personality of the subject. Creative. Thoughtful. Artistic. Confident.

The composition is exceptional. Implied movement from the child's eyes to the canvas, made stronger by the position of the arms. A peek at the artist's palette and a hint of the detail of the "studio" in the soft-

focused background. The lighting is nice, especially for a B&W photo, but it gets just a tad hot on the top arm and nose.

The icing on the cake: the beautiful eyelash.



07-Chasing Sanderlings on Asilomar Beach.jpg

Frank Penner

A beautiful soft (almost pastel) palette and a moment of pure joy. Everything about his image works. The soft colors, the movement (and sheer quantity) of the birds ... and their reflections in the wet sand. The curve of the ocean and the foamy texture adds a great natural frame to the right side. And, most of all, the movement and emotion of the subject inspires an emotional response.

The composition is excellent, as viewers join the subject in her run and move (with the birds) toward the ocean. Lots of great movement here. And every part of the photo is interesting.

Although I like the softness, perhaps just a bit more contrast would make this even more perfect. Really, just a tiny bit, because it should remain a fairytale not a study in realism. *****



08-Christmas Prayer.jpg

Lillie Grossman

Well composed and well exposed, with a symmetrical approach that works well, especially with just one subject to break the symmetry. The Christmas red flowers makes this interior even more interesting (and holiday like). I am not drawn to the human as much as I would like to be. Perhaps it's the color of the clothes (too similar to the pews) or the ordinariness of the scarf. I can visualize a much more dramatic subject that would make this story even more intriguing.



09-Corrizo Plane.jpg

Jerry Loomis

What an interesting desolate area, which makes this bench and the couple looking out worth a bit of study. What is it that they see/feel as they look out across this land? And why is there a bench seemingly in the middle of nowhere?

I especially like the foreground tiny sage colored grass ... so different from the dry plain ... and yet it has some similar subtle colors in it.

I also like the body language of the couple. A hooded figure (almost sinister as a black silhouette) and the bandana-d women with the nicely crossed feet (a good design element). Sometimes we can't have it all, but I wish the dog was in profile, so we could see the silhouetted shape. ***



10-Crowtree.jpg

Ken Jones

For this kind of landscape, I would ask the photographer to think about what drew him/her to this scene ... and then to decide if that connection/emotion was communicated. The lighting, exposure, and B&W conversion are all good (except for a bit of detail lost in the shadow areas).

For me, the tree is the magical part of this image (and the fact that it seems to attract lots of crows). The surrounding ground ... not so interesting and a bit busy with unidentifiable detail.

Perhaps make the tree much more the center of attention, because it's form and the upper branches are quite elegant and graphic. A radical suggestion: remove the somewhat distracting ground and crop so that the mountains, the tree, and the crows become the focus of attention. In this scenario, the crows become more obvious also. (To clarify, keep the tree where it is positioned. It works well off to the right.)



11-Fancy Boots.jpg

John Drum

A unique approach to the life of a (fancy) cowboy. Rarely do we get a chance to study the detail and textures of the fairly common boot in stirrup. Here, we get to spend time with every detail ... and are rewarded. With a lovely palette of earth tones, varying textures of horse hair, woven blanket, linear fringe, denim, leather, and metal.

The artistic choice to move in close was brilliant ... and the composition with varying lines and balanced color blocks is perfect. Could use just a touch more saturation of color.

It's a tiny bit overexposed.



12-Fireworks over the Bay.jpg

Jared Ikeda

It's often difficult to capture fireworks in the same dramatic way that we see them live. They move.

They cascade. They explode. They are light AND sound. So, as this photographer knew, they should be photographed with a long shutter speed. The additional camera movement during the exposure makes this image more interesting, as it turns the the light into a more graphic design.

I like the contrast between the sharp-edged lights and the smoother light on the water. And I applaud the high contrast approach, which features the beauty of light against the black of the night. *****



13-Flowers for Claire.jpg

Andrea Madsen

The up-close-and-personal approach and the luminous light present this flower in all it's beauty. The texture of the petals and the center ("eye") of the flower in such sharp focus give us a view that perhaps we have not seen before. The exposure is good, as it is often the case that whites are underexposed by the camera meter.

I am, however, distracted by the background, which is chaotic (well, after all, it's nature). The central flower is so lovely that all the other stems and leaves and "lesser" flowers (no insult intended) take us away from that central focus, and particularly lessen the beauty of the edges of the petals of the central flower, which are quite beautiful.

(Particularly distracting is the wood ... the sign of humankind ...in the upper left hand corner.



14-Garden Rain.jpg

Andrea Madsen

Another up-close-and-personal approach to flowers (like Flowers for Claire) that allows us to pause and study nature when we might not have taken the time on our own. In this image, we have the added interest of the rain drops, which are quite lovely, especially on the upper right hand corner leaf. Like bubbles or diamonds. The image also benefits from the strength of a magenta/green complementary color combination which makes the magenta flower pop. With that said, the magenta flower doesn't quite hold up its end in the "beauty" bargain. For me, it's strange and crumpled rather than artistic. I'm not quite understanding what the magenta shape is and why it's there. ***



15-Long Forgotten.jpg

John Drum

This image clearly shows the artist's intent and does well at integrating the "forgotten" machine into the landscape, both in color and composition. I like that the machine is taking on the colors of the land as it rusts away. I also like that there is life beyond rust ... in the sunflower field.

I would like to see slightly more exposure/saturation/brightness. The colors are a bit faded. It also might be worth exploring different camera angles, as the top of the tractor aligns too closely with the horizon lines. It would be nice to see more sunflowers. ***



16-Marti Gras - Sydney.jpg

Joel Gambord

What a wild collection of personalities and surrounding details. A really great capture that is unique in subject and approach ... and raises so many questions about the story that is unfolding. I applaud the photographer in allowing each of the many subjects to have their own moment, even the guy in the background where we see only eyes and the guy on the right end who is just peeking over. Everyone is "seen." The composition also works well. Ordinarily I would say that the background and foreground were distracting, but, in this case, they

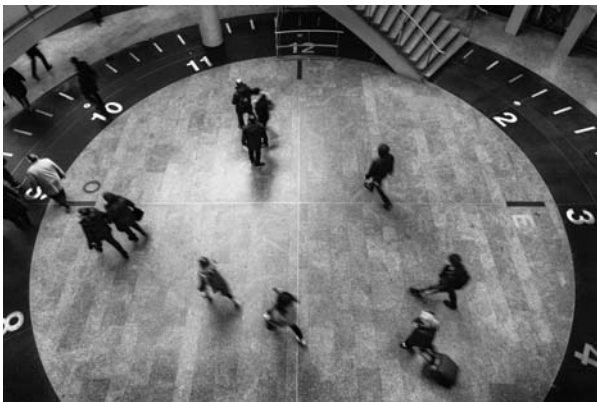
add to the celebration with color and lights.
I only wish the resolution was a little better. Not sure why there is so much pixelization/noise. Was it the camera, the file size, or too much post production? I love these guys ... and I'm sure there was quite a party that night. ****



17-Monument Hole in the Wall.jpg

Jerry Loomis

This scene is amazing in its rock textures and formation, and we get the sense that the photographer hiked here and waited for this quiet, isolated moment (although the footprints give a hint that other visitors were here also). Well composed into color blocks of thirds (sky, rock, sand) with the addition of foreground posts and the view through the hole giving us a lot of room to move in the image. The sky is lovely also in its combination of color and clouds although the texture looks too manipulated (hard to tell why that's happening). *****



18-Race Against Time.jpg

Denice Loria Woyski

What a great potential set for a series of photographs that speaks to the human race (and I do mean race, as in humans racing). Everyone scurrying through time, without pausing to enjoy life. I would suggest spending time at this set to ensure that the final composition (and combination of humans) works. For me, this composition doesn't quite get there. Too chaotic. The viewer doesn't know where to look. And the trio that's stopped in motion takes away from the concept of the "race." ****



19-Reflection.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

This image is interesting in that you can't quite figure out what's real and what's reflection, what's transparent and what's solid ... adding even more the the fairyland mood. Nice arc-ed movement in the featured flower and its stems and bud. And an interesting balance between the main subject and the tangled jungle to the right. A balance that one wouldn't think would work ... but it does. ****



20-Romaine in Sunlight.jpg

Lillie Grossman

This seems a great documentary photo of life in the Salinas Valley, where rows of agricultural products dominate. The bright, even lighting adds high contrast to the shadowed diagonal rows between the lettuce, making those graphic lines stand out. Everything in the background adds clues and seems in the right place ... from the windmill to the palm tree to the fence and the white house. The image seems a tribute by someone who loves this valley life. ****



21-Salinas Valley near Dusk.jpg

Jared Ikeda

The time of day and the lighting are the stars of this image ... not necessarily the subject. The foreground vegetation -- color and textures and especially the light on the yellow flowers-- is lovely, and its layers adds good depth and movement to the photo. The mid-ground is not as interesting-- a road that is difficult to decipher and other unidentifiable details. Then ... back to a beautiful area ... the sky in its soft palette of blues and pinks.

As is often said, the image is a good as its weakest area. In this case, the mid-ground does not compare to the two more interesting areas.

Even though there are three areas of this image, the fact that it is cut exactly in half by dark ground and light sky violates traditional composition guidelines and does make the image more static than it should be. ***



22-Tidal "Tom and Huck".jpg

Sandie McCafferty

Even if this image were not titled "Tom and Huck"

I would have been thinking it. The story of two adventurous boys having fun in the water. The composition is beautiful, with the semi-silhouettes lending great graphic strength and the diagonal sticks doing their job as only diagonals can do. The tilt of the heads is also perfect, so that we can see a bit of one boy's face, with its smile of delight and a nice profile of the other boy, which allows us to see that he is older. Two brothers. Two friends. Whoever they are, they have created a world of their own.

The only suggestion is to add contrast. A richer tonal range (especially richer shadow areas) would do nothing but enhance. ****



23-Walk to the Light.jpg

Ken Jones

Helping a viewer to enter an image is one of the goals of a 2D photograph, representing a 3D scene. This example is the ultimate in “leading lines” and pulling a viewer into the scene. There is no alternative. The viewer must walk the planks (pirate joke) and head to the lighthouse. The choice of centering the subject is a good one. Some sense of symmetry, but enough difference on the two sides of the fencing to keep the image from being too static.

The exposure and tonal range are excellent, with highlights that really catch the eye and varying blacks and dark grays of the rocks on the beach serving as rich contrast. Well done.



21-Water Bead Delight.jpg

Carol Fuessenich

This image has good potential as an abstract with enough interest in color and form to hold the viewer’s attention. I especially like the repetition of circle shapes with different shapes within each circle due to the water action.

There is a decided blue cast to the image, which, if removed, would liven all color. Adding contrast would also enhance the colors. The background should be white, not dull blue/gray, so that the colors have the potential to really pop. ***

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Fancy Boots

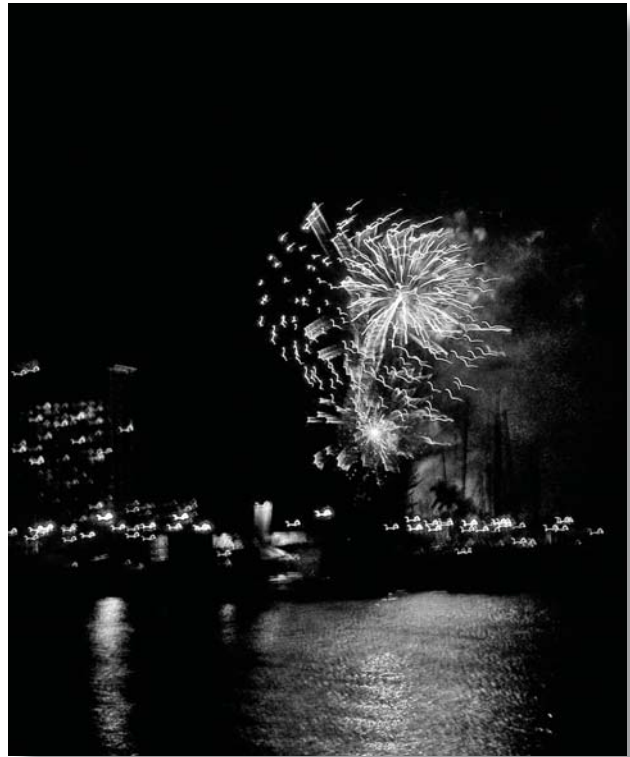
John Drum





Monument Hole in the Wall
Jerry Loomis

Fireworks over the Bay
Jared Ikeda



Third Place: - tie

Walk to the Light
Ken Jones



Budding Artist
Frank Penner

2nd Place:

**Chasing Sanderlings on
Asilomar Beach**
Frank Penner



First Place:

Back Door in the Adobe
Carol Fuessenich

