

# Photography Competition

## Introduction

# Introduction

- **Club Mission Statement**

- To promote an interest in photography; to further educate its members in the various photographic arts and techniques; to encourage them to participate in contests, exhibitions and displays; and to further promote co-operation and good fellowship among club membership. It is also our hope and good fortune to share our experience and photographic images with our community.

# Introduction

- **Club Competition**

- The Club Competitions consist of 2 elements
  - First is the Competition Itself - One definition of a competition is an event or contest in which people compete (synonyms: contest, tournament, match, game, heat, fixture, event)
  - A core part of the competition has to do with the accumulation of points based on the opinions of a panel consisting of three (3) judges.

# Introduction

- Secondly and Most Important is Constructive Criticism - This is the process of offering valid and well-reasoned opinions about the work of others, usually involving both positive and negative comments, in a friendly manner rather than a confrontational one. The purpose of constructive criticism is to improve future outcomes.
- Constructive Criticism - Is provided by a person critiquing the photograph being presented. Judges and critiquer are exclusive of each other.

# Judging

- **Judging**

- Judging is one of the most important duties in a photography club
  - Without a panel of judges it is impossible to have a competition
  - Everyone in the club should recognize that it is considered an honor to be a competition judge and readily accept an invitation to do so

# Judging

- **Judging Panel**
  - Consists of a panel of 3 judges. The panel can consist of:
    - Club members
    - Guest judges
    - A combination of club judges and guest judges

# Critiquing

- **Critiquing**
  - Critiquing like judging, is an equally important function of the club.
  - Critiquing is defined as the act of criticizing; especially : a critical estimate or discussion (a critique of the photographers' work)
  - Always giving Constructive Criticism (Slide 3)
    - Identifying
      - The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

# Critiquing

- **Club Members** judge and critique their images even before they release the shutter.
- They judge and critique when they edit their work after it is processed.
- They judge competitions privately as they observe others who are willing to take the task to a public level by volunteering to be an official CCC judge or critiquer.
- CCC would hope that, as each of its member photographers becomes skilled in the craft of photography, he or she would consider volunteering to be put on a CCC Judges List.
- CCC is an organization whose vitality is dependent on the willingness and generosity of its members



# Judging/Critiquing Criteria

- **Judging/Critiquing Criteria** - The Photographic Exhibitions Committee (PEC) of Professional Photographers Association uses the 12 elements below as the “gold standard” to define a merit image.
- **The Twelve elements** - Listed below are in accordance to their importance
  - 1.) **Impact** - is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of these twelve elements.

# Judging/Critiquing Criteria

**2.) Technical Excellence** - is the print quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, printing, mounting, and correct color are some items that speak to the qualities of the physical print.

**3.) Creativity** - is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.

# Judging/Critiquing Criteria

**4.) Style** - is defined in a number of ways as it applies to a creative image. It might be defined by a specific genre or simply be recognizable as the characteristics of how a specific artist applies light to a subject. It can impact an image in a positive manner when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other, or it can have a negative effect when they are at odds.

**5.) Composition** - is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.

# Judging/Critiquing Criteria

**6.) Presentation** - affects an image by giving it a finished look. The mats and borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.

**7.) Color Balance** - supplies harmony to an image. An image in which the tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect.

# Judging/Critiquing Criteria

**8.) Center of Interest** - is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest, when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest

**9.) Lighting** - the use and control of light—refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Whether the light applied to an image is manmade or natural, proper use of it should enhance an image.

# Judging/Critiquing Criteria

**10.) Subject Matter** - should always be appropriate to the story being told in an image

**11.) Technique** - is the approach used to create the image. Printing, lighting, posing, capture, presentation media, and more are part of the technique applied to an image.

**12.) Story Telling** - refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.

# Scoring

- **Scoring**

- Even though CCC makes the scores of 3 through 9 available to judges, it is hoped that all CCC photographers would be astute enough in their own editing prior to submission into competitions to avoid scores less than 6. The scores of 4 and 3 do exist and may need to be used in only rare cases when warranted. They are made available primarily for club level competitions and should generally not be useful at the CCC Interclub level. For example, if CCC were to hold special competitions where the makers do not have an opportunity to edit their work before it is judged (e.g. scavenger hunts) and such low scores may become necessary there.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF SIX:**

is often considered a "baseline" score, the one that separates the acceptable from the unacceptable. So it will begin this discussion



# Scoring

- **SCORE OF SIX:**

- A 6 would be awarded to an image that has no significant technical flaws, but which likewise has no significant strengths. Such an image is sometimes referred to as a record shot. It is acceptable, but does not generate any special interest or stir emotions. It is the quality of image that we would expect that most hobbyists should be able to take as a minimum standard. It has the technical proficiency that modern auto-exposure, auto-focus cameras allow. The maker has made a correct exposure in a non-difficult lighting situation and the subject of the image is sharp. However, it lacks those elements towards which image-makers who are working at polishing their craft should be striving; for example, achieving technical excellence, showing a knowledge of the importance of choice of subject, of good lighting, of dramatic composition, of handling depth of field effectively, of eliciting emotional impact, or of exhibiting freshness and creativity.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF SIX CONT:**
  - A 6 would also be awarded to an image that did have one of the strengths just mentioned (which might have earned it a seven) but that strength has been neutralized by a flaw.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF FIVE:**

- This is an image that would have been a 6 if it were not for a significant flaw. The flaw might be, for example, over or under exposure by one half to one stop, a subject that might be out of focus when it needed to be in focus, an unintentionally blurred image because of subject or camera movement, that the composition is cluttered to the point of distraction, or distracting elements which are overwhelming. Additionally a dirty digital image or spotty print should be considered to be a flaw if it appears that the maker was at fault. However, a judge should not penalize a maker for a presentation flaw which appears to be a result of mishandling while the image was not under the maker's control.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF FOUR**

- This image may have several significant flaws any one of which might be responsible for a score of 5. On the other hand, it may have one flaw but it is an extremely serious one, as for example, the exposure is very bad (more than a stop over or under exposed), or perhaps the whole image is not sharp (not only is the subject of the image not in focus but nothing is quite in focus), or perhaps the subject is not recognizable due to motion.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF THREE**

- This is a an obvious non-image, as for example, when a flash does not go off, or the shutter was released by mistake and only a blurry shot, without any real subject, results.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF SEVEN**

- This is a good solid image, an image towards which every CCC member should be striving as a minimum. Such an image is technically correct and more. It exhibits AT LEAST ONE element towards which photographers who are working at polishing their craft should be striving (for example, showing a knowledge of the importance of choice of subject, of good lighting, of dramatic composition, of handling depth of field effectively, of eliciting emotional impact, or of exhibiting freshness and creativity). The elements of the image work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and compensated for by other elements in the image. For the most part, images that score a 7 do not break the "rules". If a rule is broken, it is broken with intention and works to enhance the image. A score of 7 is the first step above a technically correct but otherwise uninspiring image that would warrant a 6. It is the start on the path towards the high impact image.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF EIGHT**

- An image that scores an 8 is a very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much more. The elements of the image must work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and hard to find. Obvious flaws must be compensated by other elements in the image. Images that score an 8 may break the "rules". When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected to a high degree in an image scoring 8. Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques are commonly found in such an image. The image exhibits SEVERAL elements towards which those who are working at polishing their craft should be striving (see "7" above). The difference between an image that scores an 8 **VERSUS** one that scores a 7 is the strength of the image. An 8 is a really strong 7.

# Scoring

- **SCORE OF NINE**

- An image that scores a 9 is an exceptionally strong image; (i.e. true photographic excellence). It need not be a perfect image, just a very, very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much, much more. The elements of the image must work together to form a whole that is far greater than the sum of the parts. There should not be any obvious flaws. Images that score a 9 may break the "rules". When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected in an image scoring 9. Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques, are very common in such an image. The image exhibits MANY elements towards which those who are working at polishing their craft should be striving (see "7" above).