

IACC Competitions 2019-20

Part 1: General Information

The IACC has two types of internal (club) competitions, monthly and annual. Monthly competitions will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 pm on the fourth Thursday of September, October, November, January, February and March. The annual competition is held on the fourth Thursday of April, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. The awards night is held on the fourth Thursday of May, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

All competitions, competitors and entries are subject to the Competition Rules and Submission Procedures contained in the official [IACC Competition Manual](#) for the current year.

Members who submit a digital image to a Club competition agree to limited usage of that image by the Club. See the [Competition Manual](#), under Use of Images, for details.

The Competition Committee uses an electronic submission process for all categories, including print categories. ***This is the only way images may be entered.*** Details and image files for all categories, including print categories, must be submitted before that competition's "deadline for entries". Physical (hardcopy) prints for all competitions must be delivered to the competitions desk at the hall on the night of the competition *prior to* the start of the meeting (before **7:30 pm** for monthly competitions, and before **7:00 pm** for the annual competition).

Part 2: Monthly Competitions

September

Date of Competition: Thursday, September 26, 2019.

Deadline for Entries: 10:00 pm, Sunday September 15, 2019.

Theme: **Sidewalk**

Critique by:

October

Date of Competition: Thursday, October 24, 2019.

Deadline for Entries: 10:00 pm, Sunday October 13, 2019.

Theme: *Person and Door*

Critique by:

November

Date of Competition: Thursday, November 28, 2019.

Deadline for Entries: 10:00 pm, Sunday November 17, 2019.

Theme: *Square (image must be square -- e.g. 1050 by 1050 pixels)*

This is the yearly “composition” challenge. Create a great image in a square format. Think about how composing in a square is different from using other rectangles.

Critique by:

January

Date of Competition: Thursday, January 23, 2020.

Deadline for Entries: 10:00 pm, Sunday January 12, 2020.

Theme: *By Candlelight*

Critique by:

February

Date of Competition: Thursday, February 27, 2020.

Deadline for Entries: 10:00 pm, Sunday February 16, 2020.

Theme: *Glass and/or shiny metal*

This is this year's "technical" challenge. Shiny objects, such as glass and shiny metals (e.g. stainless steel, chrome), are hard to photograph well. There are numerous YouTube videos and web sites that offer suggestions.

Critique by:

March

Date of Competition: Thursday, March 26, 2020.

Deadline for Entries: 10:00 pm, Sunday March 15, 2020.

Theme: *Hidden Edmonton*

Edmonton is full of gems and details, tucked in corners and down alleys, but there are other ways of interpreting this theme.

Critique by:

Part 3: Annual Competition

Date of Competition: Thursday, April 23, 2020, **7:00 pm**.

Deadline for Entries: 10:00 pm, Sunday April 12, 2020.

Rules Specific to the Annual Competition

Prints (hardcopy) must be received at the competitions desk at the hall before **7:00 pm** on the night of the annual competition.

Prints must be made on some form of photographic or art **paper**. Canvas, metal, etc, are not allowed in IACC competitions. Please check the competition manual for details.

Competition Categories

Please read the details of each category you wish to enter. Some categories have quite specific requirements, and some may have changed from previous years. Note especially that all categories are now print **or** digital. No categories allow entries in both formats.

New Member

This category is restricted to members who have joined the IACC for the first time in this club year (September to May). Returning members (i.e. former members who have lapsed for a period of time) do not qualify. New members may enter any and all categories of the Annual Competition.

Format: One entry is a set of three ***digital*** images.

Content: Open. The three images will be viewed and scored separately by the judges, and the scores for the three images will be aggregated to determine an overall score. Therefore, the images do not have to relate to each other in any way.

‘Scapes

Format: One entry is a single ***print*** image.

Content: The image may be a landscape, a seascape, a skyscape or a cityscape. There are no hard restrictions, other than that the image is to be made outdoors. However, entrants should consider that judges will generally think of landscape photography “in reference to photography of naturally occurring scenery in open spaces—typically ranging from a dozen feet, to a dozen meters, to a dozen miles, in breadth” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landscape_photography). Cityscapes, seascapes, and skyscapes have similar meanings for their own specialties. Images which do not clearly reflect these concepts are likely to receive lower scores, even if they are otherwise good images.

The Wild World

Format: One entry is a set of TWO (2) ***digital*** images.

Content: One image must be of a **wild plant(s)**, *photographed in its natural setting*. The other image must be of a **wild animal(s)** *photographed in its natural setting*.

The two images will be viewed and scored separately by the judges, and the scores for the two images will be aggregated to determine an overall score. Therefore, the images do not have to relate to each other in any way. One could be a desert plant, the other a marine animal; one could be monochrome, the other colour; one landscape orientation, the other portrait, etc. However, each image **must** conform to the following definitions of *wild plant* and *wild animal*. **If in doubt about the eligibility of your image, please contact the competition committee well before the competition deadline.**

Definitions: Due to previous misunderstandings, we have included detailed definitions. If in doubt about what comprises a wild plant or animal, read these definitions. They will guide both entrants and the committee in determining eligibility of entries.

A **plant** is a living organism that generally does not change location by itself and absorbs nutrients from its surroundings. This “includes the flowering plants, conifers and other gymnosperms, ferns, clubmosses, hornworts, liverworts, mosses and the green algae” (Wikipedia entry ‘Plant’ n.d. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant>). For the purposes of this competition, we will also accept lichens and fungi as well as red and brown algae (e.g. seaweed).

An **animal** is a living organism that generally does change location by itself during at least some stages of its life, and gains nutrients from consuming other creatures. Animals include vertebrates (birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish); molluscs (clams, oysters, octopuses, squid, snails); arthropods (millipedes, centipedes, insects, spiders, scorpions, crabs, lobsters, shrimp); annelids (earthworms, leeches); cnidarians (jellyfish, anemones, corals); and sponges. (Wikipedia entry ‘Animal’ n.d. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal>).

A **wild plant** or a **wild animal** is a member of a species that grows without human aid or intervention in any part of its life cycle (Webster’s Dictionary). A **non-wild plant or animal** is a member of a species that requires such intervention, and/or has been bred by humans over time to fit specific requirements, and/or has been tamed. Non-wild plant species include decorative plants such as ornamental bushes and cultivated flowers (e.g. tulips, carnations), and farm plants which have been bred by humans for food or other economic purposes (e.g. wheat, oilseed, beans, etc). Non-wild animal species include all pets and farm animals.

Images where the **subject** is non-wild plants or animals will be disqualified, including images of feral (escaped from human control) plants or animals. If wild plants or animals are photographed in a controlled context (e.g. a conservatory or wilderness garden for plants, or a zoo or safari park for animals), this should not be evident in the submitted image. Images of wild plants or animals removed from their natural environment and photographed in an artificial setting (e.g. in a studio, on a lightbox) will be disqualified.

The appearance of humans, human artefacts, human structures, or non-wild animals or plants as ***minor elements*** in these images will not result in disqualification. For example, a mangrove tree with humans or sailing boats in the distance, a wildflower growing in a fence or hedge, a zebra photographed during a safari with a native village in the distance, or a bird perched on a fence would all be accepted. However, unless these form part of the context or natural environment of the subject, they will usually distract from the impact of the image. Judges are likely to give lower scores for images with distractions.

Feature

Format: One entry is a single ***print*** image in a category which is set annually by the competition committee.

Content: The feature category this year is “***Portrait***”.

Outings

Format: One entry is a single ***digital*** image.

Content: The image must be from a sanctioned IACC Outing, in the current club year. The original image must have been acquired at the Outing. Note that entrants will be required to select the outing the image was from on the entry form. This information will be verified by the Outings Chair.

President’s Challenge

Format: One entry is a single ***digital*** image.

Content: The theme is chosen by the President of IACC. This year’s theme is “***Urban Life***”.

Clive Mathewson Presentation

Format: One entry is a digital slideshow with either verbal or musical accompaniment.

- The presentation should be in a file format that does not require special software for playback. Acceptable file formats include mp4, and exe files (created by Proshow, etc). We *highly* recommend that Powerpoint shows be converted to

mp4 files for submission. This prevents problems with timing, sound sync, etc. Please check with the competition chair regarding other formats.

Content: A humorous, lighthearted, slideshow with either verbal or musical accompaniment.

Length: The show may be up to THREE (3) minutes long. Longer shows will be accepted but will be truncated during projection.

Judging: The Clive Mathewson presentations are judged by the membership. A voting ballot is provided for each member present at the annual competition night.

Submission Instructions: Due to the potential size of the slideshow files, special arrangements will be made for submission of entries. These will be announced, and posted on the IACC website, closer to the competition date.

Photo Essay Competition

A photo essay is a series of images, presented together, designed to tell a story of some sort. Photo essays are usually considered to fall into two broad categories: narrative or thematic. Narrative photo essays tell a story, while thematic photo essays explore a theme. Both will be allowed in our competition in April 2020.

Format

For our April 2020 competition, we have decided to use the following format, and supplemental rules. The format and rules may change in subsequent competitions.

- Each club member may submit one photo essay.
- Each photo essay will be printed (no digital entries).
- Each entry (all images plus the title) must be securely mounted on a single 20 inch by 24-inch piece of matte board or Foamcore board (or similar lightweight but rigid material).
- Each entry must be fully contained within the board (images and text may not project beyond the sides).
- Images must not include a physical frame (glass, metal, wood, etc.), but may have a printed frame around each image, the title, and/or the whole thing.
- An entry should comprise 5 (minimum) to 9 (maximum) discrete images, plus a title.

- Entrants may either:
 - print a series of small prints (e.g. 4 by 6 inch to 8 by 10 inch) and a title and mount them individually on the board.
 - create a composite in software (e.g. Photoshop), and print that as a single print.
 - Note: The images do not all have to be the same size, but if they are too disparate it may not “read” well. Consider the impact of both the individual images and the overall effect.
- There should be no text on the entry other than the title (i.e. no titles of individual prints, no numbers).
- As usual for IACC competitions, there should be no identification of the photographer (no watermarks, nothing in title, etc.)

How to Enter

There will be an electronic entry form, put up on the web site at same time as rest of annual competition. The same deadlines for submission of the forms will apply.

Remember, for all print categories, you must have the physical entry to the hall by 7pm!

- Unlike other competition print entries, the form will not include submission of digital images, as no preview is planned.

Judging

The photo essay category will be judged by a single external judge, who will provide both a score and a written critique for each entry. Either the judge or the competition chair will retain the entries until the May awards night. They will then be displayed with the printed critique.

How to Do a Photo Essay.

There are many websites, books, and articles that talk about doing photo essays, but not all are created equal. A persistent problem is that many of these only discuss one type of photo essay -- the narrative. Remember that we will accept both narrative and thematic photo essays.

Thematic Photo Essays

These essays explore a theme. The theme can be a thing, a place, a person, an emotion, an idea, etc. Generally, they tend to have three main types of images:

- An establishing shot to begin.

- Several detail or instance shots.
- A closer or ‘clincher’ photo at the end.

Two helpful comments:

- Thematic essays work best if there is some form of visual or subject-based “arc”.
- One image is usually a “feature” or “anchor” -- it stands out as the one people will remember

Narrative Photo Essays

Narrative photo essays tend to be more chronologically structured than thematic essays, but not all narrative photo essays follow a purely chronological format. I have included one writer’s fairly rigid sequence for a narrative photo essay but remember that there are many other potential approaches.

1. Introduction
2. Contextualization
3. Opening
4. Development
5. Conflict
6. Continuation
7. Climax
8. Resolution
9. Closing

(Lightstalking <https://www.lightstalking.com/create-meaningful-photography-essay-5-steps/>)

Resources

There are many resources on the web or in books. I am only going to mention one here. I encourage you to share resources you find with other members on the club Facebook page, or at meetings.

What Makes a Photo Essay Unforgettable?

<https://www.format.com/magazine/resources/photography/how-to-make-photo-essay-examples>

Scoring and Results

Winners will be announced at the Awards Night, on the fourth Thursday in May (May 28, 2020).

Aside from the Clive Mathewson Presentation, all categories are judged by experienced photographic judges chosen by the competition committee. These are professional and/or highly experienced photographers, who have had experience judging in competitions. Normally, the judges are not current club members.

Digital entries are uploaded to an online gallery prior to the competition. The judges are provided score sheets and a password to access the gallery, allowing them time to view and score the digital entries prior to the competition night.

The judges will view and score the print entries on display at the meeting place, while the membership views the digital entries. The judges score the images based on a scale of 1-10, as per CAPA Voting Guidelines.

Once the judges have finished scoring all the print entries, they submit their score sheets, which will be tallied by the Competitions Chair at a later time. The judges will then share some of their thoughts and, or offer critiques on a selection of entries.

Winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Meeting in May. Winners of “Best Overall in a Monthly Category” will also be announced at the awards meeting. These winners are determined by their scores in the monthly competitions for their entries in the digital and print categories. Shortly after the awards evening, a summary of image numbers, scores and rankings will be available online. This information may be accessed via a link on the Members Only Competitions page on the IACC Website.