

Images Photo Club

Thank you for having me as a judge for your club. As you are well aware, each of us have certain biases and I hope I am as impartial as possible. Photographers spend lots of time, money, and effort working on producing these images. I enjoy seeing what other people are working on and hope to encourage further accomplishments in the future.

Some of my comments include manipulating the photograph. I have done this for many years in the darkroom before working with Photoshop. I apologize to the photographers that do not have access to these tools.

I give these suggestions because this is how I would try to improve some of the photographs and it is just my opinion. You may not agree with me and that is fine. Keep on photographing and have fun with what you do.

112 Serenity

If someone asked me to describe this picture it would be a horse with a lens flare. I think the flare would be put in the picture as a filter but it may be a lot of flare from the light in the lens.

I would have liked to see the horse taken at more of an angle rather than straight on. Animals are difficult to get because they often do not cooperate with the camera so you have to work with them by changing the angle or make a noise that will capture their attention. The horse appears almost in the center of the image and vertical so I think it might have helped with a bit more of an angle or to one side. You look at the horse and then the multicoloured circles of light. I feel they have a tendency to conflict with each other. If the flare and reflections went diagonally in the image without covering the horse, it might have worked better. The back lighting with the low angle light works well.

119 Reading Door

This shot works well. The subject is in a little space crouched down reading the newspaper. He is at the right hand side of the image giving the impression that he is kind of placed at the edge, out of the way. It looks like the outside area of the image is darkened a bit so the brightest area is the center of attention and your eyes are not distracted by a bright edge. The sidewalk and tiles are broken down falling apart emphasizing the conditions. The subject is reading the newspaper, carrying on with his life in this tiny space. This is an intriguing photo and is well handled by the photographer.

122 Running Free

This appears to be a coyote jumping over a log running towards the photographer in the bush. It is difficult enough to get a shot with the subject running towards you in focus, but you have it in a setting that works well with the subject. The trunk on the left edge might be a little distracting. It is a solid light coloured vertical that has a tendency to attract the viewer towards the edge of the frame. If it were cropped, I think the branches around the coyote draw you back towards the subject. The trunk could be darkened which may also help. The foreground is also a little on the bright side. Your eyes have a tendency to go to that area so you might consider darkening the foreground a bit.

You do a much better job than myself with wildlife in motion. I like a subject that does not move too much, such as a rock.

234 Lily pad

This image has a lily that is in the center of the image. Placing the highlight right in the center has a tendency to make the image look static. The lily pads do work diagonally in the image but they go out of focus and your eyes keep on going back to that bright yellow center. I find there is not quite enough interest in the rest of the image to capture my attention.

I would have liked to have seen a group of waterlilies in some kind of distinctive pattern so you could

visually explore the image not just go to the center.

241 Making Myself Pretty

This image works with the horizontal reflections, the colour and texture of the log, and the background fitting in very well with the main subject, the duck.

I find that the image appears to be a little over sharpened. The right hand side is very close to the tail on the duck. The outside area on the image is darkened but it is noticeable, especially on the left side of the image. I wonder if it is a little too dark. I would like to see the image a little lighter. Overall it is a winning image.

311 Blue Blue Mountains

This fits in well with the subject of scapes. It is a moody, hazy look into distant vistas. The curved ridge near the bottom holds you in the image nicely. You see the lines and subtle textures fading into the distance.

I know that this is a little cliché, but the image needs something a little different to attract your attention such as a hawk soaring in the distance. I think just a little bit of detail other than the repeating lines and textures would make the image more appealing.

320 Blue Hour

This image has a nice diagonal line on the bottom right to hold you in. It has the bright sun with an appealing flare around the sun. I find it overall is a little on the dark side and a little on the blue side. The sun's reflection in the water is washed out with little or no detail. The people watching the view are dark enough that they are hard to see.

The image is three different parts, skyline, the sun with the reflection, and the people looking at the skyline. I would like to see the photograph concentrate more on one area. The people all holding their hands to shade from the sun are quite interesting. You might consider cropping off up to 1/3 of the left side and lighten up the dark areas such as the people. It might not fit in quite as much as a scape but I think it would make the image stronger.

423 Ice on Whyte

Three dimensional clear ice is tough to capture as a 2 dimensional photograph but the photographer was able to successfully do it here. The figures in the background give a good sense of scale. There is a cord in the lower left of the image that I wish were not there. Also the right hand side is not adding to the picture and I think it could be cropped off, making almost a square shaped image.

The Hulk is ready to punch out the next photographer that gets too close or steps over the barrier.

506 Becca

This image works well in black and white with soft lighting. The image treatment has a pleasing appearance.

This is my bias but I want to see both eyes. The image offset seems to help but I still would like to see both eyes. The hair on the left of the photograph plus part of the hat disappear into the black so I would like to see those areas lightened a little just to bring in some detail. The area under the neck down to the dress is the brightest area of the photograph so I wonder if this should be darkened down somewhat. Overall there is a pleasing look to the image with a nice style.

507 Enjoying the Day

The background is darkened so you concentrate on the face. There is a good visual connection between the subject and the photographer. Overall it looks like there is some motion in the image because it doesn't appear quite sharp. This likely is a non posed grab style shot which is difficult to do. I think it

worked well other than being a little blurry.

516 My Babushka

I find the background a little distracting behind the subject. The eyes and face appear dark compared to the white scarf. This face has a lot of character but I wish she did not look so strained or annoyed. This may be what the photographer wants but I would like to have a warmer connection with the subject. You often have to spend time with your subject before you get a good shot but it may be that she did not want to get her photograph taken.

524 Meet Jasper

This is a great picture of Jasper the cat. I am not sure if this fits in with the subject of a portrait. There is good detail in the eyes and the whiskers with just enough light on the ears before going to black. I like the fade to black for the background because in this image it keeps you eye to eye. There is one lighter hair below the chin that could be darkened.

611 Its a Dogs Life

This has people interacting in the background with their phones, laptop, and each other while ignoring the poor dog. The shot is straight on so it gives a formal or static impression. The photographer did well by getting down to the level of the dog but the image might have been stronger with something other than horizontal and vertical lines. The photographer might use a fairly wide lens and get closer to the dog on the right side. You would put the dog on the lower left corner of the image and all the people would be towards the upper right. It would make the dog appear closer and the people isolated in the background. It would also cause all the lines in the building to be at angles which may give the shot more interest.

618 Inner City Students

This reminds me of going down to Havana a little over 10 years ago except then, many of the electronic devices were not allowed.

This has excellent interaction between the three main subjects. The figures are well placed with the old buildings and graffiti in the background. The one thing that is disappointing about this shot is the figure that is sticking out of the center girls hair and between the main subjects. I find it distracting. I would like to see the background figure eliminated in Photoshop. The angled line of the road gives the image a little motion plus there is lots of space in front for the subjects to walk into. This is a charming street image well executed.

624 With Attitude

This photograph has two parts, the subject and the background. I find they conflict with each other the way they are presented. I would have liked to see the subject much closer to the camera. This would still have the graffiti in the background but it would be a little out of focus. It would also make the subject much larger in the image. You are drawn to the figure. The graffiti is more of a background atmosphere so I would like to see it smaller and less distinct. The attitude of the subject and the graffiti in the background do work well together but I would like to see the subject with more prominence. This photograph has two parts, the subject and the background. I find they conflict with each other the way they are presented. I would have liked to see the subject much closer to the camera. This would still have the graffiti in the background but it would be a little out of focus. It would also make the subject much larger in the image. You are drawn to the figure. The graffiti is more of a background atmosphere so I would like to see it smaller and less distinct. The attitude of the subject and the graffiti in the background do work well together but I would like to see the subject with more prominence. fa