Image: 108 The Photographer and the Photographed

Category: New Member

First of all please remember that the following comments are one person's thoughts. The following are just suggestions. Please don't take them personally or with too much weight. The most important thing is that you feel satisfied with and like your own work!

What I liked:

There is a lot to like about this photo……..

- You have done a fabulous job setting up contrasts!
- There is the contrast of their ages, cultures, technologies, emotions, and clothes.
- The colour scheme has also has contrast through the drab vs the colourful
- The tongue poked out in concentration is a nice touch

Consider:

- Tighter cropping
- Lifting the photographer's face so that the light catches his cheek. (this is assuming you posed them)

Image: 111 Hungry Kids

Category: New Member

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What I liked:

- I really like and appreciate that the focus is sharp and with no blurring due to motion. Hard to do with a group of birds who are all in motion.
- I like that the adult's head is framed compositionally over the white zone.
- I like the use of depth of field to draw the viewer to the centre of interest while still providing a sense of the environment

Consider:

- It would be nice if the bird tail were not so close to the bottom of the frame.
- Alternatively consider a much tighter cropping that focuses on the upper adult bird/baby birds interaction creating more of an activity shot

Image: 120 Water reflections

Category: New Member

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What I liked:

- I like the high location of the horizon line in the composition emphasizing the reflection of the sky
- I also like the intensity of the colours especially the way the orange hued trees contrast with the blue grays of the cloud/water. It speaks of fall…..with attitude!
- I appreciate the sticks/stumps and wood bits in the water as points of interest

Consider:

- Try playing with some tighter cropping to see how it changes the viewer's emotional response. You can have some fun cropping this into a vertical or square format!
- A landscape like this doesn't need an obvious centre of interest but it would be interesting to play with that……I guess it would require canoeing out and placing it there

Image: 308 Lost in the Fog

Category: 'Scapes

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What I liked:

- I really like the "atmosphere" and feeling of bleakness created by the wall of fog along with the strip of battered forest
- I also appreciate the monochromatic colour scheme that exists….it enhances the bleakness
- The wall of fog creates a mystery as to what we are not seeing

Consider:

- The image has no background or distance by design. I think it could use something in the foreground; a tree or two or some rock, etc . This would act as a point of reference to the viewer and establish depth up to the fog
- This can also be accomplished by tighter cropping into a square format so that the two dead trees in the bottom centre become more prominent

Image: 313 Ancient Ruins

Category: 'Scapes

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What I liked:

- I really like the perspective effect created by the parallel walls, etc. It draws us into the distance and also echoes renaissance paintings. (classical ruins in single point perspective)
- The warm foreground vs the cool background enhances the feeling of distance and the ruin's geographic setting
- There can be a number of emotional responses to this including melancholy over the passage of time, intrigue, or even the joy of intellectual pursuit

Consider:

- When photographing buildings with a curved lens there is an obvious distortion that takes place causing walls to look curved. It happens with our eyeballs as well but our brains try to rationalize it. (The Greeks built the Parthenon with walls deliberately curved to compensate for the curve of the eye) By using a highly complex camera you can manually compensate for this…..or maybe you could investigate using Photoshop to adjust for it?

Image: 321 Chicago Blue Hour

Category: 'Scapes

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What I liked:

- Nice, subtle, complimentary colour scheme created by the dusk sky and the lights from the buildings. It is like the palette of a Van Gogh painting
- I also like the composition and how your eye is drawn (forced) by perspective into the city centre
- Cropping is effective
- This image creates an "atmosphere", evoking an emotional response…….."Anticipation of an evening out" for me but obviously different for everybody
- I appreciate the title reference to the Chicago-style Blues

Consider:

- The viewer's eye is led to the tall building in the centre but it is less bright than the other buildings so disappoints as a centre of interest.
- It would be nice if the boat down the river towards the bridge were closer and larger thereby giving the viewer a "stepping stone" into the distance

Image: 328 Bird eye view of downtown

Category: 'Scapes

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What I liked:

- The dark sky and water contrasts with the city lights creating the feeling of an illuminated "island" sitting on the other side of the river
- The clear contrast of bright busy city vs dark quiet night is very effective
- The curved shape of the river in front leads the viewer's eye in an oval motion around the city and back again. This creates essentially a circular composition, which works well with the detailed busy cityscape.

Consider:

- Try experimenting with cropping. In particular play with how much of the left side could be cut, or the bottom, etc

Image: 504 Elder

Category: Portrait

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What I liked:

- I like the city "vibe" created
- I like the story telling component to this image. It creates questions that could easily prompt a conversation about what the various participants have going on
- The poses are interesting and tell us about the individuals
- The architecture changes from the stone fronted lower floor (storefront?) to the less fancy and rundown brick story where the young people hang out, possibly reflecting their socio-economic status at this point in their lives…..students?

Consider:

- I see this as a group of people interacting in an urban environment rather than a "portrait". Another category, "Urban Life" would be a perfect place to showcase this picture.
- Compositionally the green pole is problematic as it slices up the image. How about a tighter cropping that eliminates it?

Image: 512 Priestess

Category: Portrait

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What I liked:

- Not only does the green in the background enhance the skin tones in the subject but her hair echoes the textures of the leaves (her eye colour too)
- I like the repetition of the circular shapes throughout, including the goggles, her eyes and the round metal shapes on the skull-like object she is holding.
- The fantasy/steam punk theme comes across in a natural way (not cluttered)
- The composition works very well with the subject's face as the centre of interest but also with easy movement back and forth to the held up object

Consider:

- I would consider cropping a bit off the left side creating a square image.

Image: 519 Newborn Somnolence

Category: Portrait

First of all please remember that the following comments are one person's thoughts. The following are just suggestions. Please don't take them personally or with too much weight. The most important thing is that you feel satisfied with and like your own work!

What I liked:

- Lighting is perfect for this subject
- I like the contrast of textures between the baby and the blanket
- The angle of the pose is far more interesting than lying on a level surface
- The nudity of the subject emphasizes the extreme vulnerability of human infants

Consider:

- You could play with various croppings to create a slightly different emphasis
- We do not get any insight into personality, mood, etc….but that is the nature of this type of "life's first portrait"

Image: 523 Artisan at Work

Category: Portrait

First of all please remember that the following comments are one person's thoughts. The following are just suggestions. Please don't take them personally or with too much weight. The most important thing is that you feel satisfied with and like your own work!

What I liked:

- This image gives us a lot of information and insight into the subject, with costumes and props revealing a narrative
- I think the cropping is very effective
- The composition and use of light leads us to the subject's face

Consider:

- The vertical shapes in the background are a bit distracting
- I found myself looking for a little more brightness in the face

Image: 525 Alanna & Lauren

Category: Portrait

First of all please remember that the following comments are one person's thoughts. The following are just suggestions. Please don't take them personally or with too much weight. The most important thing is that you feel satisfied with and like your own work!

What I liked:

- I like this image compositionally; the way it transitions from dark on the left to light on the right while nesting the counterbalanced heads in the middle
- The tender mood comes across very effectively

Consider:

- Contrast and lack of highlights are an issue that needs to be worked on in this image. The lack of highlights makes facial details obscure
- You might want to feature one face over the other, emphasizing a main subject. Possibly turning the baby's face a bit towards the camera combined with more lighting could resolve this

Image: 526 Busted

Category: Portrait

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What I liked:

- The split second capture of emotion in this shot is delightful. We have a clear insight into the subject's emotional state
- There is a lot of story telling going on. What created this "mood"?
- This is a very active and complex composition with many diagonals and areas of contrasting values. This emphasizes the mood of the subject
- I like that the subject's face is the only one visible
- Cropping is tight and very effective

Consider:

- The only suggestion I can offer for you regarding this photo is…..keep up the good work!

Image: 528 Goggle My Steampunk

Category: Portrait

First of all please remember that the following comments are one person's thoughts. The following are just suggestions. Please don't take them personally or with too much weight. The most important thing is that you feel satisfied with and like your own work!

What I liked:

- I like the full range of values….it looks like a "real" black and white photo
- The off-centre radial composition works very well….especially with the repeated circle shapes in the goggles and eyes. I also like the flower arrangement in the upper right and how it helps balance the composition
- Movement leads the viewer's eyes to the subject eyes very effectively

Consider:

- The lower left of the image washes out somewhat. What are some things you could try to bump up the definition of the back of the hand in particular?

Image: 622 Shibuya Sunset

Category: Urban Life

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What I liked:

- I like the frenetic energy created by the tunnel of coloured lights
- There is a claustrophobic feeling created by the buildings leaning in and crowding the people (a function of the lens)
- I appreciate that the street view is slightly to the right creating a more interesting compositon
- The colour in the sky enhances the overall effect

Consider:

- The people in the picture are almost invisible because of the lighting (which works well in all other aspects of the shot)
- Using a flash to illuminate/highlight a person or two in the foreground to give the viewer someone to relate to and create a clear centre of interest