



2021 SPECIAL SUBJECTS FOR DIGITAL CRITIQUES

January: Photojournalism

Photojournalism entries shall consist of images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The journalistic (storytelling) value of the image shall receive priority over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities specifically arranged for photography or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.

Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable modifications are removal of dust, scratches or digital noise, restoration of the existing appearance of the original scene, sharpening that is not obvious, and conversion to greyscale/monochrome.

Note: Entrants are cautioned that the previous sentence includes any images that appear to the judge(s) to be arranged or posed. Entrants are therefore advised that such images are likely to be disqualified (DQed).

March: Altered Reality

The image must obviously display a change in natural color, form, shape, or any combination of these three. Creative images are often *montages* (a blending or composite of multiple images). High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered altered reality. The original image must be made by the entrant. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Original images must be altered solely by the maker. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. Any subject matter is acceptable so long as the above guidelines are followed. Altered Reality images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit. The image should have strong composition, pleasing quality, and color, texture, pattern, and/or tone impact. The appropriateness of the technique selected to create altered reality is considered in judging. The content is unrestricted.

May: Curves

Curves convey energy and movement in a photograph. For this category, images should contain curved lines as a feature that is notable in the overall photo. We find curves in nature in subjects like rivers, waves, animals, portraits, and landscapes. Man-made curves can occur in buildings (think Disney Hall), staircases, bicycles, machinery, bridges, and so forth. Both “C” and “S” curves are prized in photography as a means of guiding the viewer’s eye through an image.

Also in May: Artistic Expression

This new category beginning May, 2021, will be added to all subsequent Critiques.

This category encompasses images made using a broad range of creative photographic methods. Entries submitted in the Artistic Expression category will include, but are not limited to, images fitting the definition of Altered Reality (above) and/or generated using the following techniques:

- Compositing images
- Multiple exposures
- Light painting
- Light trails
- Refraction through water, prisms, glass
- Motion blur
- Panning
- Intentional Camera Movement
- Ultra-fast or ultra-slow exposure
- Creative effects using shadows, reflections, patterns and/or textures
- Tilt-shift lens effects
- Unique applications of color
- Infrared camera or filter applications

The original image, or components of the image, must be made by the entrant. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. Any subject matter is acceptable so long as the above guidelines are followed. Artistic Expression images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit.

July: Abstract

Abstract photography, sometimes called non-objective, experimental, conceptual or concrete photography, is a means of depicting a visual image that does not have an immediate association with the object world and that has been created through the use of photographic equipment, processes or materials.

Paste this link in your browser to see more details about abstract photography:

<http://www.photokonnexion.com/abstract-photography-definition/>

September: Architecture

This category encompasses habitable buildings or utilitarian architecturally-designed structures such as barns, theaters, airports, factories, office buildings, lighthouses, bridges, monuments, and distinct elements thereof, as well as similar structures that are both aesthetically pleasing and meaningful representations of their subjects. This category includes interior structures such as stairways, windows, and doors, as well as exterior structures such as steeples, towers, and domes. Architectural images should convey the experience of being in and around a building or structure. People may be included in an architectural photo but should not overpower the emphasis on the nature of the structure. An image may be presented in color or monochrome.

October: Nature Fauna/Wildlife

Nature images (Fauna) consist of authentic wild animal life, but such images cannot have any human elements present (hand of man) except scientific bands on wild animals or birds.

The photographer may perform any enhancements and/or modifications that improve the presentation of the image so that it more accurately matches the original scene that was photographed, so long as such enhancements and/or modifications do not change the truth of the original nature story. Insects, insect-like animals, and any other animal kingdom lifeforms are eligible. Photos of mounted specimens, dead species, or obviously set arrangements are ineligible. Microorganisms, domesticated cats, dogs, cattle and other farm species are not eligible.

October - Special conditions due to covid:

In the PSA Definition of Nature Wildlife Photography authentic wildlife is defined as one or more organisms living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Therefore, landscapes, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or any living subject taken under controlled conditions are not eligible for Wildlife competitions.

As travel and other restrictions have made it difficult to pursue wildlife photography during the Covid pandemic, **for this Critique photographs of zoo animals or animals in controlled preservation areas will be eligible.**