

April Judge's Comments

"Trees and Shrubs"

Judge 1

- 1- Lovely colors, nice composition.
- 2- Extremely wide subject. Perhaps shooting as a pano might capture more of its interesting features.
- 3- So much of image is in focus it's difficult to determine actual subject. Very cluttered composition.
- 4- Good front to back depth of field.
- 5- Midground of the image is most interesting. Sky seems overly saturated.
- 6- While the depth of field is appropriate, there's too much to look at. Tighter crop on lower flowers could improve composition.
- 7- Subject is nicely in focus with beautifully soft background.
- 8- While flowers might be pretty, there's too much to look at and not a defined subject.
- 9- Lovely textures of the bark. Main portion is a touch too bright.
- 10-Stream is well framed with vertical trees. Image seems slight crooked.
- 11-Lots of leading lines to take viewer thru the image. Lighting well balanced.
- 12-would have liked to have seen more of the stream. Image is pleasantly moody and mysterious.
- 13-Lovely colors throughout. Too much of foreground is in focus and detracts from the Japanese Maple tree.
- 14-Interesting perspective looking up. Small areas of trees on either vertical side should be removed.
- 15-Lighting was difficult and result doesn't emphasize either the tree or the person.
- 16-Lighting here was also very harsh. Nice use of the walls to frame the tree, which is difficult to see.
- 17-Light meter in the camera rendered background overly bright and subject too dark. Chaotic composition.
- 18-What is the subject? Trees? Building? Or person? Focus in on what's important and ignore the rest.
- 19-Path leads viewer nicely into the image. Canopy of trees is in sharp focus. Toning is well handled.
- 20-Lots of layers to view: Foreground, midground and background. Foreground is a bit bright and detracts from the rest of the image.
- 21-Nothing in the image is in focus. What's the subject? Tree? Livestock? Or something else?
- 22-Nice perspective looking up. Fronds of center palm branch are cut off.
- 23-Good depth of field. Background is overly bright and parts of foreground could be a bit darker.
- 24-Lots to look at and study. Everything is in focus. Image appears a bit dark.
- 25-Lovely shaped tree. Background is uninteresting. Could image be improved by stepping a few feet to the right?
- 26-Lots of layers to study and examine. Image could use some more contrast.
- 27-Image is soft. Tighter focus on main evergreen and the stream behind would improve. Bulk of the RHS is unnecessary.

Judge 2

1. I think I would have cropped out the ground, and the highlights are a bit hot, which draws the eye more to the top of the image.
2. Good color but there are too many competing elements in the frame.

3. Subject well isolated, color and exposure are good, but composition is lacking.
4. The path tends to lead the eye to the background and away from the subject. The saturation of the sky seems very unnatural.
5. For me there are too many competing areas. The flowers in the foreground give too much visual weight to the bottom of the frame and the sky seems a bit unnatural.
6. Good use of depth of field to try and isolate the image. For me the image is a bit busy.
7. Good use of depth of field to try and isolate the image. For me the image is a bit busy.
8. The building in background should have been cropped out. For me the image is too visually busy.
9. Tight crops/compositions can be interesting and visually engaging. In this case there seem to be three distinct patterns that are competing.
10. River is the more visually dominate element. The two trees in the foreground split the image.
11. The theme is not the more visually dominant element.
12. For me this image way too visually busy.
13. With the exception of the pink flowers in the foreground, the visual elements are fairly well balanced. I think if the colors in the rest of the frame were more vibrant, the image would be more successful.
14. Not to be too harsh, but this composition is a bit gimmicky. That being said, to make this more successful, I recommend using it in an area with a bit more canopy density to add more symmetry and balance.
15. Too many competing elements.
16. The brightness of the rocks/foreground is the dominant visual element. Good idea, want to like this more.
17. Visually busy and background is overexposed.
18. Too many competing elements.
19. Black and white not well executed and visually busy. Good idea, but it misses the mark.
20. Very awkward composition. This might be an instance where the rule of thirds doesn't work well. This seems more like a landscape shot with an attempt to have foreground interest, but the tree is too prominent and becomes a distraction.
21. The theme is not well represented; the Steer is the main element.
22. Good attempt at leading lines, but the fronds in the middle break up the image. Otherwise, good color and exposure.
23. Too much foreground. I find myself looking through the subject to what's beyond.
24. Seems more of a landscape. Doesn't really evoke the theme. Sky is a bit saturated with dust spots.

25. Beautiful Japanese Maple, but the image is flat and desaturated.
26. Very environmental, bordering on high-key. Doesn't necessarily evoke the theme, but a solid image.
27. Too many competing elements. Steam, golfers, trees? The steam seems to win out here.