

Judge 1

- 1- Nice composition. Good to have three blooms or buds in image. Lighting is harsh. Background is nicely out of focus. Could take about an inch or so off bottom to stronger image.
- 2- Beautiful flower. Would have been stronger with different angle. Background is too much in focus.
- 3- Tighter cropping would help here. Driveway and block wall should be minimized to focus on exquisite flower. Shooting from many different angles might find a stronger image of this flower.
- 4- nice group of torch cactus. Severe lighting ruins this shot. Shoot it at dawn and not 9:00 AM. A vignette would help here.
- 5- Interesting angle of capture. Colors of the flowers play well with the colors of the lichen on the rocks. Darken the edges.
- 6- Subject is beautiful. Much closer cropping and blurring of background would put this image over the top.
- 7- Exceptionally strong. Leading line is wonderfully handled. Dark background forces eye to subject with is sharply in focus
- 8- Flowers are pretty. Cropping bottom flowers away leaving only one flower and the buds would improve image dramatically. A tight crop here is key to transforming a nice image into a great one.
- 9- classic shot of lily pad. Perfectly exposed. Nicely positioned in frame. Tighter cropping here would help. Also consider cropping square to another option. Nice reflection.
- 10-Subject, berries, are not all in focus. Lighting on left top much too bright. RHS brings nothing to image.
- 11-nice attempt to capture beauty of Trichocereus. Not enough of the yellow is in focus. Crop tighter so there's nothing but flower. Remove dirt spots on petals.
- 12-nice composition. White of flower is blown out. Vignetting and/or blurring background would improve dramatically.
- 13-Wonderful capture with bee on center of flower. Highlights are a bit blown out. Subject is in focus with balance gradually fading away.
- 14-Nice leading lines of flowers. Lighting (time of day) is all wrong. Tighter crop would help here. Dark background is not needed; focus on the flowers only.
- 15-Good composition capturing wine colored flower. Subject is not completely in focus. Tighter cropping and/or darkening of highlights would center focus on subject. Dead bloom detracts.
- 16-Beautiful elements of this image are hurt by lack of sharp focus on subject(s). Crop at least half of the top of image away. Spots don't help here.
- 17-no idea what the subject is. Quite cluttered. Find one element of the image, crop in on that and allow the rest to fade away.
- 18-Beautiful mix of different cacti and colors. Mountains in background give sense of scale. What would happen if photographer moved left or right a few feet for a slightly different capture?

- 19-While the flowers are pretty, the fallen petals needed to be removed, or at least repositioned. The background is too much in focus. Tighter cropping and vignetting would help this image.
- 20-while the blooms are pretty, there's nothing in focus. Gravel and pot are distracting.
- 21-Main flower is beautifully in focus and supporting one is just "soft enough." Background blurriness is appropriate. Consider a vignette to deal with bright background elements.
- 22-intriguing flower bloom. Background is too bright and subject not bright enough. Depth of field is handled well.
- 23-a Beautiful bird who was trying, successfully, to hide from the camera. Lighting is harsh on surrounding elements. Tighter cropping and general cleanup might help here.
- 24-interesting wide angle capture of main tree. Nicely exposed. General cleanup around the edges and spot removal in the clouds would help here.
- 25-creative use of back lighting. Too much is in the image, especially top LHS. Re-crop this, changing angle of capture to keep only elements in sharp focus, getting rid of as many pots as possible.
- 26-This high key image is too soft. LHS is too bright. Leading line and swirls are nice.
- 27-Subject is well lit and properly focused. Supporting background elements are enough out of focus to concentrate eye on subject. Nice sky background. Play with cropping, perhaps square.
- 28-interesting angle of capture. Lighting is a bit severe. Sun spots don't help this image.
- 29-Thorns are totally blown out. Texture is nice with sharpness of thorns versus softness of plant element.
- 30-Nice repetition. Soft background gives a good sense of place
- 31-Nice composition. Sky is exceptionally noisy and pixelated. Lighting is a bit harsh. Lower RHS elements are not necessary.
- 32-image is very small to view. Doesn't appear to have anything in focus. Element in lower RHS doesn't add. Vignetting this might help, if the subject were in focus.
- 33-this image is also much too small but it appears that subject is in better focus. Composition is strong with nice soft background.
- 34-Positioning person gives excellent sense of scale. Shadow on face is distracting.
- 35-Spectacular Palo Verde in bloom. Proper exposure. Element in center of RHS is distracting and can easily be removed. Supporting elements on the ground are good. Vignetting would help.
- 36-Creative presentation of orchids in bloom. Difficult to tell if completely focused although that's not necessary. Darken grass another stop to make flowers pop.
- 37-nice leading lines and selective focus. Image is about a full stop over exposed.
- 38-beautiful cluster of Sahuaro flowers in bloom. The other cactus is nice compositional element. Flowers could be brighter and sky darker. Golden hour colors are well done.
- 39-while the subject appears to be the blossoms, too much of background is in focus. Shoot from a different angle concentrating on a few blossoms.
- 40-crop in might tighter to define subject. As presented, there's not enough in focus to clearly determine subject.
- 41-Spectacular. Line of flowers well positioned. Only quibble is spot on middle flower.

42-Nice Trichocereus shot from wrong angle. Background is nicely dark. White are a touch blown out.

Judge 2

1- its a nice picture, but you need to concentrate on getting it sharp, the pollen should be tack sharp so it draws your eyes right to it.

2- interesting flower. next time try cropping most of the background to your eyes are instantly drawn to the inside of the flower.

3- Nice flower but its too centered and has too much going on around it. The lighting is off too with no real sun shining on it.

4- Nice colors

5- great shot, nice use of the rock and old wood.

6- try bumping up the contrast a little to make the colors pop.

7- crop off the stem so we see the flower with the black background. Had you done that and with the sharpness you have, your score would have been a lot higher.

9-very nice, bump up your contrast a little to make the colors a bit brighter

13-nice shot wit the bee

15-focus on the inside of the flower next time

17- too busy

21-nice use of space but I wish it was a little more in focus

26- had this been sharper, your score would be almost perfect. Very creative, love the lighting, I really enjoyed this picture

31-your subject is too centered

40-next time either crop the picture or take the picture so the stems lead from the corners of your picture to your main subject, the flowers.

41-very nice, I would have cropped it so you only have about an inch or less of black on either side of the flower.

42-try using some contrast in post processing to pop you colors