

December Judge's Comments

"Open"

Judge 1

2-some image irregularities above beak and on lower wing of flying bird – shutter speed could be issue

11– dog is great but object in lower left draws the eye – cropping would improve

12– like the peacefulness of the image but flower/branch on upper right is very distracting.

13 – Nice capture

14 – great detail – light space and bright grass leaf on left edge of image draws my eye

16 – subject not in focus and dwarfed by in-focus leaves

19 – very nice sharp and well, composed image. Lacks the impact of other images in the competition

20 – Amazing shot, wish I'd taken it!

22 – Nice capture, over-sharpened for my taste

25 – plant in upper right corner is distracting

Judge 2

1- Nice composition. Excellent foreground detail. Background mountains are a bit pale.

2- Spectacular capture. Both birds are in excellent focus. Everything that should be in focus is.

3- Perhaps a tighter crop to emphasize the two animal heads. Background is uninteresting.

4- Lighting is quite harsh. Auto-focus missed and flowers are not sharply in focus.

5- Interesting composition. Moon is blown out; fence and barbed wire are soft.

6- Bird is well captured. Background appears to be artificially softened.

7- A vertical tighter crop would have emphasized the action. Shadows and background elements are distracting.

8- Nice capture. Bird is not completely in focus. A larger depth of field would have helped here

9- Rather cluttered and chaotic. Increased contrast could have helped here.

10- Lots of interesting texture. Quite a bit of wasted, uninteresting space.

11- Great action shot. Having a hint of the lure in focus helps to reinforce action.

12- Peaceful environmental portrait. A lot of green to deal with. A vignette would help here.

13- Well framed capture. Enough of the water is present to give a sense of place.

14- Interesting insect image. A tighter vertical crop would improve it.

15- Almost too tightly cropped to give a sense of where it is.

16- Nothing is in focus. Background is rather cluttered.

17- Beautiful sunset colors. Top of image is uninteresting. Crop this as panoramic could help. Nothing in focus.

18- What is the subject – the tree branch or the mountain.

19- Lovely capture and composition. Good positioning of the subject in the frame.

20- Fortuitous capture. Background is a bit bright and conflicts with the action of the bird and its prey.

21- Nice composition. Background mountains could be a bit brighter. Clouds are a bit dark.

- 22- Nice animal portrait. Sky is uninteresting. Bird lacks contrast.
- 23- Attractive reflection. Overall, image is a touch dark.
- 24- Cute portrait. Eyes and nose make for a nice dark triangle. Tight crop works exceptionally well.
- 25- Interesting colors on the butterfly. Background is uninteresting and could be cropped away.
- 26- Pose of the bird is cute. White bark on the background tree is overwhelming. Bird is underexposed.
- 27- Beautiful mountain lake scene; reflection is nice. Crop this as a pano and straighten it.
- 28- Tighter crop on the flower, eliminating the background sahuaro would help.
- 29- Lovely textures on the front creature. A bit more depth of field would help "see" the second creature.
- 30- Canyon is out of focus. Clouds have a distinct and distracting blue/cyan cast to them.
- 31- Luminaria are well captured. Lighting is good. Image seems crooked and should be straightened.
- 32- If the white texture is to be the subject, crop it vertically to eliminate pale rendition on either side. Don't know what I'm looking at.

Judge 3

- 1- Really good image, but has more potential. I think a little more drama in the sky, more color saturation and warmer temperature would make this image that much better.
- 2-Good sharp, well timed image, well exposed image. I know that we are not always in control of the conditions we shoot in, and we take the shots we can, but bald blue skies are not always that visually interesting.
- 3-Shot in open shade and back lit, good job with exposure, but is a bit flat and cool.
- 4-A bit of a snapshot, very point and shoot.
- 5-Good attempt at trying to create interesting composition. Might have been a bit more successful if the fence post wasn't dead center and that the depth of field rendered the moon a bit more in focus. The tree in background is also visually distracting.
- 6-Really solid image. Really good composition, color and subject isolation.
- 7-I think a different shooting angle would have been more effective. The man and the horse on the right side of the image is a slight distraction for me.
- 8- Really great image, Good color and subject/background separation. I would have cropped the image to remove the vertical plant stalk on the left and darkened the lower right corner.
- 9-Point and shoot image. No real subject isolation. Color balance is cool and colors are not saturated. There also seems to be a considerable amount of color fringing (chromatic aberration?) in the sky that is visible through the leaves.
- 10- Really nice image. Really good sense of atmosphere. Good use of leading lines to move the viewers eye into the image. Maybe a bit more color saturation and contrast.
- 11-Really good action shot. Great timing to catch all four paws off the ground. The dog is a bit too far towards the edge of the frame and the background is a little distracting.
- 12-A bit static, not much visual interest. Very strong green color cast. This image would possibly more interesting in black and white
- 13-A bit of a snapshot. The image is properly exposed, in focus and colors/color balance is good.

14-Image is a bit soft. I think this would be more successful with a tighter crop to eliminate the grass in the foreground and on focus plane. Background is distracting, lowering the brightness could help reduce this.

15-Potentially interesting subject, but shot in a very point and shoot way. I think a lower shooting angle and more interesting composition would have rendered better results. Image is a bit flat and color balance is cool.

16-Subject too small in frame and the background in focus, not the subject. A landscape orientation would have worked better for this image.

17-Very underexposed and nothing really seems to be in focus. The sky is very is the strongest part of this image.

18-The tree is blocking the shot. The use of foreground interest in landscape photos can be a very effective compositional tool, but it can't overpower the image.

19-very well done. A Good sharp, well exposed, well composed image with good color balance and saturation. The depth of field gives good subject/background separation and the background is not too distracting.

20-A Good sharp, well exposed image with good color balance and saturation. The crop is a bit tight and the background is too bright and a bit distracting.

21-Great potential here, amazing sky! The use of foreground interest in landscape photos can be a very effective compositional tool, but it can't overpower the image. I think if the Mountains occupied more visual space than the cactus, it would be more effective. Also, the image lacks sufficient depth of field, try a smaller aperture or look into hyperfocal distance.

22-Good sharp image. Good job avoiding dead center composition. The vertical elements (branches?) are distracting. The sky appears to have some clouds. A little editing can bring those out and make the sky more interesting.

23-Really good color and sharpness. Composition is dead center, not very interesting. Background is a bit distracting. Bringing down the brightness of the background may give better separation between the duck and the background.

24-

25-Good potential. A bit of color saturation on butterfly would help, the purple flowers have a bit more prominence. The background is busy and a bit distracting as are the objects in the upper right.

26-Good color. Needs better crop/composition, bird is dead center, try rule of thirds. Background is also distracting.

27-Good use of reflection, but contrast and color are flat. The sky has potential for great drama. Overall, needs more punch.

28-A bit of a snapshot, very point and shoot.

29- Maybe a tighter crop to isolate the subject and darken the background, the bright area is a bit distracting.

30-Really good potential. Color balance is too cool. Too much blue hue in the sky. The landscape need more warmth and brightness. Also, seem soft, perhaps too much noise reduction.

31-Visually interesting, good color and warmth.

32-I really want to like this more, It's very abstract. It looks to be shot through frosted glass and the light reflection on the glass is a distraction for me.