

## May Judge's Comments "Cactus"

### Judge 1

- 1- While technically not a cactus, the colors, lighting and background are beautiful.
- 2- Peculiar macro shot. Is this a photo of the cactus spines or the fruit?
- 3- Beautiful flower, well-focused. Background is nicely soft
- 4- Lots to look at and no specific subject. Foreground is overly sharpened and background is oddly soft.
- 5- Massive cactus. Lighting is harsh. Background is distracting; consider a vignette
- 6- Vibrant color in the flower. Lighting is harsh. Background is not attractive. Consider shooting from a different angle.
- 7- Fuchsia color is attractive. Image is slightly out of focus and is too tightly cropped. Background is not nice-looking.
- 8- Interesting B&W treatment. Texture of the plant is captured well.
- 9- Elegant in its simplicity. Is there anymore detail in the leaf to see?
- 10- Creative composition. Colors are rendered well. Spines are not completely in focus.
- 11- Harsh lighting. Image is not in focus. Distracting foreground.
- 12- Creative capture and B&W rendering. Harsh lighting was tamed by B&W processing. Highlights are a bit bright.
- 13- So much to see. Lighting is difficult. Tighter crop would help here.
- 14- Fortuitous timing of capture. Vignetting the image would lend more emphasis to subject. Highlights are too bright.
- 15- This is why we live here! Lovely lighting and composition.
- 16- Colors seem accurate. Dying flower is not terribly attractive. Good composition but try to find a prettier flower.
- 17- Beautiful pair of flowers. Background is appropriately soft. Vignette could help.
- 18- Colors are pretty. Cropping square could improve this. Image is rather cluttered.
- 19- Nice tight cropping and dark background emphasize the subject. Flower is slightly underexposed.
- 20- Intriguing night shot. Sky could be darker
- 21- Lighting is very harsh. Background is very bright. Crop in only on the flowers. Image is soft.
- 22- Lower flower is nicely focused; upper flower is a touch soft. Background is appropriately soft. Nice colors and composition.
- 23- Stunning image. Highlights a touch bright and midtones could be brighter. Beautiful composition.
- 24- Artistic treatment doesn't work for this image, especially on the ground. Lighting is harsh.
- 25- Image seems overly dark, especially the subject flower. Lightening that would help.
- 26- Another difficult lighting shot. Tighter crop could really help. (Lower right not needed nor is the blown out left side.)
- 27- Centers of the cactus spines are too bright. Flowers are not quite in focus.
- 28- Another well-timed capture. Subject and cactus are in focus. Background could be darker.
- 29- Which group(s) of saguaros is(are) the subject?
- 30- Tighter cropping doesn't help much here. If the flower buds are the subject, they are not in focus.
- 31- Beautiful cactus with lots going on. Lighting is good. Reds could be more saturated.

- 32- Dried skeleton is interesting. I'd prefer to see more of that and less of the other cactus.
- 33- Wonderful textures of the buds. Magenta is rendered well. Tighter cropping of top and right could help.
- 34- Good idea with the colors. There is nothing in focus.
- 35- White flowers are pretty. Angle of capture does not enhance the beauty of these cactus flowers.
- 36- Simple Ocotillo flower captured well. Diagonal line works well with soft background. Light areas of the spine are too bright.
- 37- Lots of action and interest here. Too tightly cropped on the right.

## **Judge 2**

- 4- Beautiful, wish I lived there
- 10-This says it all
- 17-Color and out of focus BG, awesome