

Judges Comments

February 2, 2025 Projected Image Competition

Judges: Rick Thompson, Gregory Roscoe

- 1. Shadow Dancing-** Well seen and composed. The monochrome had a nice tonality and overall was well processed- except that it was out of spec. The play of shapes and shadows created an interesting image. The image didn't quite have the impact for EXCELLENT. (G)
- 2. Sunrise on the Dunes-** The image was impactful and well processed. The complementary colors worked well with the composition's curves to create a visually appealing image. Although there are no truly original compositions any more, this is one that is not uncommon. One judge felt the dark shadows contributed to a busy visual rather than making the composition more interesting. (G)
- 3. What Dreams Are These-** This image has a pleasing delicate feel due to its pastel tones and light, airy processing. This style of image is commonly seen and feels slightly repetitive. The right side of the image appears overly soft and bright. (G)
- 4. The Algonquin Hotel-** This was a clearly a very carefully composed image that was impactful and very well processed with regards to the tonality of the image. It is an excellent monochrome with interesting symmetry and content. Improvements might come from a composition that didn't clip the top of the mirror. One judge found the lamps reflected in the mirror to be slightly distracting. (G)
- 5. Winter Blooms-** The color palette in this image is lovely and pleasing. The perspective (not macro view) was also enjoyed. The composition needs work in that there is too much included that takes away from the impact and overall impression of the image. (G)
- 6. Back Cove Shimmer-** The idea and scene have lots of potential. The framing with the soft branches doesn't really work however. The tonality in the foreground and shadows detracts from the impactfulness of the image. Also it is out of spec. (NW)
- 7. The Weight of a Heartbeat in my Arms-** In many ways this is a lovely image and a creative street portrait. Given that this was clearly posed, the judges could not understand why the maker would pose the subject with eyes down and closed. Also it was not in spec. A different treatment of the head pose could have moved this up at least a category and maybe more. (C)
- 8. Color Trail-** A nice capture of the aurora that had impact. However it felt oversaturated and might have benefited from more of a sense of place. This is a commonly seen composition thus not particularly unique. Not in spec. (C)
- 9. Arctic Symmetry-** The judges appreciated that this was surely a spectacular location. In many ways the image was well handled, exposure, etc. However several aspects of the composition did not resonate: the blue sea band at the bottom, the shadow detail in the cave felt overworked and the overall impression of what the maker wanted us to see or feel wasn't entirely clear. (C)
- 10. Rue Couillard-** Though a quaint location captured at night, the composition didn't feel particularly unique or impactful. The black and white tonality was somewhat flat. Perhaps opening up the shadows and increasing mid tone contrast would improve the impact.(C)

- 11. Beach Dunes at Sunrise-** The color palette was very pleasing and one judge appreciated the one dominant grass standing out in the foreground. However, the image seemed to suffer from abundant noise and mushy shadows in the foreground. (C)
- 12. Yellow Legs-** The reflection is nicely captured. The bird seems acceptably sharp and overall the composition and color impact of the bird's legs works well. The water mark defaces, distracts and detracts from the image. (G)
- 13. Harbortown Light House under the Milky Way-** This image has more potential. It's thoughtfully conceived and generally the Milky Way was well captured though one judge thought the sky might benefit from a little warming. The foreground is blocked up and though the judges appreciated that the glow to the left was what was seen, it did add a luminous distraction to the composition. (C)
- 14. Sindy Crawford-** An impactful capture. The rock in the foreground works well. The bird is not in perfect focus with perhaps some motion blur. The image feels too inclusive compositionally. In addition it is out of spec. (C)
- 15. Snake Eye-** Creative, unique and impactful. The white canvas felt stark and one judge felt that the width of the "snake" to the right created a feeling of visual imbalance. (G)
- 16. Emerald and Azure Dreams-** The softness of the image, the color palette all combined to create an impact grounded in subtlety. This processing and it's resulting impression is what also gave it a unique feel although these kinds of images are not uncommon. (E)
- 17. Enigmatic Woman-** The color cast in this image works well. It's a classic "diner" composition and the capture of the waitress creates interest (though the guy customer not so much). The tonal range felt compressed and it also seemed like the maker was running out of pixels (perhaps impacting the dynamic range). Colored stroke. (G)
- 18. On Point-** Very well captured and processed. The red garment works well to create impact and plays well with the skin tones in the legs of the dancer. Overall a very nice image. Both judges felt the "pose" could be improved to create more facial connection in the image. In addition, the pose felt awkward. The highlights in the face and chest would benefit from being toned down. (G)
- 19. Hummingbird-** Hummingbirds are notoriously hard to get just right and this was generally a good capture and the composition with the hanging flower and background worked well. Bird pictures generally demand (not always) very sharp captures, this was a little soft. In addition watermarks deface, distract and detract. Also, the image was out of spec. (NW)
- 20. Hustle-** Nice capture of the action happening in this game. However, the composition has everyone's attention going out of the image to the right. An interesting moment but the composition didn't really work. ©
- 21. Reflections-** The frost in this image was handled really well and the maker should be applauded for the concept. However, the white streaked highlights are overpowering in the composition. ©
- 22. Night Ferry to San Francisco-** The judges appreciated the allure of the atmospheric conditions and effects of the lights in this image. However, the green beacon in center was a huge distraction.

Also those very interesting atmospheric conditions created a highly segmented composition that didn't entirely come together. (NW)

23. Miami Christmas Dawn- The tire tracks into the image were a nice touch compositionally. The amount and type of light here were clearly challenging. But overall the image felt too flat, was noisy and it was out of spec. (NW)

24. Red Sky Winter Sunrise- An impactful capture of a coastal winter sunrise which we are sure was special for the maker. The sky feels oversaturated and the composition is commonly seen and not particularly special though the moment clearly was. (C)

25. I have Talons- This was a pleasing and interesting composition of the owl nestled in the tree amongst some greenery. The Talon is clearly visible but does not jump out at the viewer if it's intended to be an important focal point in the image. Out of Spec. (C)

26. Colorful Cape Cod- A pleasing composition. Generally good depth of field for this capture. Nice complementary colors though the color tone of the sky seemed a little off. (G)

27. Framed Flower- One judge felt that the double framing and the complementary colors which that brought to the image were pleasing and impactful. The other judge felt the flower image itself was average and that the double framing was gimmicky bringing as much attention to the framing as to the subject which was not outstanding. (C/G)

28., Ready for Take Off- An interesting take off moment captured. There is something about the colors that seems a little off and the focus of the bird is soft. Though it is commonly done, one judge was not taken with the stroke being inside the image. (NW)

29. True Blue- This was a good idea and has potential. However, the exposure is way too dark and the blue of the sky in upper left is odd. (NW)

30. Hydrangea- The golden color palette was interesting and unique. Generally well processed though the highlights in some of the blossoms are hot. Nice depth of field shot. (C)

31. Old Mission Window Arizona- Nice idea and the judges appreciated why the maker wanted to make an image here. However, the composition didn't really work in communicating what the maker wanted us to see in this image. If the maker was drawn to make a composition taking advantage of the window, they should think about how to best communicate the attributes that drew the maker to it. (NW)

32. Peonies- This was an interesting composition and treatment using contrasting colors and softness though we discussed whether the foreground flower was too soft. One judge found the top half of the image busy though the other judge like it. One judge felt the image could have been improved if the top flower wasn't clipped at the top. (C)