

Projected Image Competition
April 7, 2025

#	Title	Category Needs Work Competent Good Exceptional	Comments
01	Saros 139 (Rick needs to go first so you have my image to critique)	Good	Total eclipse of the sun with the diamond. This is technically difficult to shoot correctly, happens infrequently and is a very special moment. Photo has a high wow factor.
02	Foggy Afternoon	Good	This is a moody picture of a well known lighthouse that the maker chose to shoot in perfect foggy conditions and appears to have used some additional blurring to increase the moodiness. A possible way to increase the visual interest would be to wait until there was something else in the image such as a person or a boat.
03	Hunting for Breakfast	Competent	This is a well composed photo of a Great Blue Heron. Technically, the post processing is “crunchy” with the telltale squiggles of over sharpening, and the highlights are overexposed.
04	Church of Our Lady of the Angels	Competent	Beautiful church in gorgeous light, a lucky photographer if a first time visit. This image needs a little attention, however. The perspective needs correction and is easy in LrC, using the vertical Transform button. The building on the right is quite bright and draws the eye away from the central church and the buildings on the left. The image could also be improved with some tonal separation and contrast. As to the sizing this is not a 1920x1080 ratio but larger.
05	Convergence	Good	Well seen image of a ceiling with hanging light that borders on an abstract. The maker positioned the camera perfectly so that all the components are balanced in the frame which can be difficult to do. Well processed b/w. A vignette would help draw the viewer’s eye to the center.

06	Bengal Tiger Up Close, 600mm, No Crop	Good	An unusual portrait of a tiger. The intensity of the shot comes from the closeness of the view, helping the viewer feel as if the tiger is licking his nose in anticipation of lunch. Consider additional contrast, brightening highlights and the eyes and more texture to increase the wow factor. Even though the eyes are not in sharp focus, it doesn't diminish the impact of the image. While the center grass stalk intensifies the feeling of being too close, for competition it should be removed in PS.
07	Monarch B&B	Good	Portrait of milkweed seedpods with the exposed seeds. Highlights are well handled, but there is room to increase the contrast for a bigger impact. The balance of the pods and seeds in the composition is interesting.
08	Kingfisher	Good	Portrait of a kingfisher after diving for dinner. The colors are correct for the bird and the background is not distracting. Overall the image could use more tonal separation and brightness on the feathers. The face and eye are a bit shadowed and could be improved with some masking to brighten and draw the viewer's eye.
09	Flower Time	Competent	The trees in this image are the subject for me. However, the title tells us the image is about the 3 people. However, they are not in focus and it is very difficult to know what is going on. Is it a ceremony? Is it children playing dress up?
10	Owl in the Wild	Good	Nice portrait of an owl obviously watching the photographer which makes it a little humorous. Suggestions for improvement would be to brighten the owl and crop tighter, reducing the amount of branch and losing the tail which is hard to see and doesn't add to the image. On a picky note, there is a black blob in the lower left that is the distracting and should be removed.

11	Ram Island at Dawn	Needs work	My advice for anyone enjoying shooting sunrises is to study what Ben Williamson does. He waits for weather or clouds or some interest beyond the sun coming up. The title tells us this is about the lighthouse, but it is too small; there are too many black rocks; and the sun dominates the scene. These types of shots are hard to do with technical competence. Bracketing the shot would help bring out details in the rocks. Cropping this shot to include less rocks would make the lighthouse more prominent or crop out the sun and lighthouse and process for the rocks and water.
12	The Thrill of Victory	Good	This image was made at a perfect moment! The players are well spaced apart and you can see the coach, too. The background is slightly blurred but you see that it was probably an important game. This image tells a story and is a good sports image.
13	Reflecting on Portland	Exceptional	An unusual image on this Portland corner with a wonderful reflection on the road. The sky adds additional interest. The scene is well balanced and the b/w processing helps add to the mood. A slight crop to remove the PMA banner would reduce that distraction on the right. Of note, this image was not sized correctly.
14	Under the Pier	Needs work	A typical image of what under a pier looks like. It appears to be made late in the day so there are some good shadows and contrast from the sun and might be what was so appealing to the maker. However, there is little else for the viewer to see. Technically, the sky is completely overexposed and the water highlights on the right are a bit hot. Maybe shooting this as a bracket and then blending would have helped. In addition the image is not vertical nor is the horizon line straight. Using the vertical button in Transform (LrC) takes care of the vertical problem. Another approach to this type of image is to include a person(s) under the pier to add visual interest.
15	Riding from Capitol	Good	This is a moody shot of our federal capitol with people riding away from it. The sky is very dark and foreboding. The people are not easy to see and their electric scooters have the lights on. There are a few cars visible in the middle ground. All the elements give me a creepy feeling. I think the processing was done this way on purpose to add to the uneasy feeling. Is this a political statement?

16	Gooseberry Falls in Autumn	Competent	Beautiful fall image of an attractive waterfall. However, the sky is overexposed and adds nothing positive to the overall image. One way to improve the shot and keep the nice foggy look without the distracting sky is to crop into a landscape format (make horizontal), removing the sky completely, thus making the falls and foliage prominent.
17	Rainy Day	Needs work	Rain drops on glass with a blurry background is a very appealing image to make, but in this case there is really nothing in the background but dark, looming things which could be trees when looking closely at the reflections in the drops, but it's not clearly trees. This is more a snapshot in the moment rather than a competition image.
18	Beards of Icicles and Snow	Exceptional	An uncommon image of a common object processed perfectly. It is a beautiful portrait of a rock with snow and ice.
19	Floating Market (Rick)	Good	
20	Listen to the Memories	Competent	An interesting image of an older woman sitting in the sun. We know it's cold because of her clothing. Her knit hat with her glasses anchored there helps the glasses look like goggles which is a little jarring. The title makes me wonder what she is remembering. Technically there is what looks like a bit of a halo around her back. The sky has a slight magenta coloration but this could be intentional. Of note, the image is not sized correctly.
21	Small's Ice Falls	Needs work	The visual interest in this image is the lower part of the falls and the pool of water. However, most of the image is black trees and rocks with the upper part of the falls only snow. I'm sure when the maker was at the falls, on what looks like a beautiful day, he/she was quite taken with the scene. Unfortunately, it doesn't translate well in this image.
22	Huntington Beach Surfers	Needs work	This image is all about the surfers, but the composition leaves a lot of negative space to the right which in turn does not help the viewer enjoy the action. A crop on the waves with the most prominent surfers could help, but really this needs to be reshot with a telephoto lens.

23	A Pensive Moment	Needs Work	The title describes the scene, spot on. However, this image has several technical issues. The framing of trees and foreground are completely black as if it is a construction paper cutout. There is also a grid over the whole picture which could be a screen between the camera and the person that degrades the image. Maybe the maker could try to get another shot like this as it is moody and interesting but not competition quality. Of note, the image is not sized correctly.
24	Mending Nets	Good	Good environmental portrait with appealing colors and interesting surroundings, well processed. A tighter crop to reduce some of the wood on the right would help reduce the distraction of the righthand side.