

Projected Image Competition
Mar 16, 2026
Judged by Ella and Knapp Hudson

			There are 3 issues we noticed. Highlights/whites that are too bright with no detail which could come from the initial exposure or changes made during processing. The second issue is a blue color cast when shot with a blue sky. Third issue is that 20% of the people who submitted for tonight did not size correctly. If your image is too small, the judges can't make a fair judgment. It's important! If your photo has issues, please seek help from club members.
#	Title		Category Needs Work Competent Good Exceptional
1	Untitled	NW	Good setting, good composition, interesting subject. Too much contrast causing halos. High contrast clouds detract from focusing on the building. The midtones in the main tower would benefit from being brighter (it is the subject). The bit of a building on the right doesn't add anything, there's not enough there so a slight crop would clean up the edge. In lower left there are repeating patterns, similar to cloning aberrations.
2	Old Port	C	Standard image of the Portland skyline. Time of day and subject matter is pleasing. Good use of a slow shutter. Metadata shows f4. Most lenses have a better resolution at f8 or 11. The brighter parts of the skyline are on the far left and far right which splits the scene into 3 pieces. Using a linear gradient on the left to darken buildings and sky, a radial gradient in the middle to lighten the buildings and a radial gradient on the right to darken the buildings brings better balance to the image and shifts the viewer's attention to the middle. Worth reshooting

3	Fishing Shack	C	Lots of photos of this scene. Good colors and exposure with the exception of the snow being a little too bright (white with no detail). It would help the image to separate both the fish house and the boat from the background. One method is to darken the background and reduce the saturation of the background; then warm the house and boat slightly. Take your chainsaw out and remove those branches on the right! This is a hard place to shoot from and requires more processing when the light is this bright. An overcast day that allows to create some light works wonders for scenes like this.
4	Air Meal Delivery	C	For a bird in flight above you, this is a good composition. Love seeing the edge of the messy nest. But beware of blue sky...digital cameras oversaturate the blue, detracting from the subject. Reduce the saturation of the sky. Using an object mask on the nest, bring down the saturation, brighten the shadows and darken the highlights. Mask the osprey then bring shadows up and slightly warm the bird with the temp slider. This brings more attention to the osprey and makes the bird appear closer. Knapp thinks it would benefit with a slight crop from the left.
5	White Wash.	E	Pleasing image of waves. There is an interesting triangle created with 3 waves and diagonals emphasizing the motion. The waves were processed to be more toward high key, maybe bringing in an element of abstraction. Highlights are well controlled. Consider a slight reduction of the highlights in the upper right corner. Colors are nicely muted. Bravo!
6	Eye Spy	E	Now that's a great whale portrait! Unique view. Colors are natural without over saturation. The whale is separated from the background. The blue grey water doesn't compete with the animal, the orange barnacles are complementary colors to the blue. Bravo!
7	Oyster Catch	NW	Oyster Catcher finds an oyster. Panning is good but the photographer missed focus as there is an overall lack of detail on the bird. Sharpening would help. White feathers are overexposed, no detail. A 4x3 crop would bring more attention to the bird.

8	Nautilus 2026	G	Well imagined, well framed. We wanted to give this Excellent but the extreme bright area on the right shell has no detail. It's possible it could be recovered on the raw file, but it did not hold up in the JPG.
9	Floral Collage	C	SIZE vertical is 1460. If this was shown as a horizontal image, the sizing would be OK. This to be a multiple exposure. Pastel flowers as a subject are always good in the depth of winter and we found the color combo pleasing. However, we found the grayish background detracted from the flowers. A heavy crop top and right side, eliminates the background and creates a pleasing, unified colorful swirl of flowers. Or reshooting this against a complementary colored paper for a background with the flowers well in front of it to keep out of focus would help. We tested this out by adding a mask to the background and colorized with some light purple and it helped in our opinion.
10	Moraine Lake Majesty	C	Majestic mountain/lake scene in Banff. The jagged mountain rig lines with the softer curve of the lake is a nice contrast. We had several issues with the colors and the high dynamic range. The snow is blown out (99.9 in some spots), white, no detail. The lake is a pleasing teal color but is slightly too saturated which makes it dominate the color palette. The sky has a strong red component instead of being a neutral blue. There is an overall blue color cast to the scene as is common in landscapes under a blue sky. This leads to a decrease in color contrast throughout the entire image. Need to work on balancing the brights and shadows creating contrast in the different sections of the picture.
11	Untitled	NW	We looked at this as a macro image. Our issues with this image are it's poorly lit (the subject is too dark), out of focus and too much negative space. Could be beyond the capability of the camera/ lens used. A new cell phone can do macro shots well. Looking forward to finding out what this is.

12	Gift of Beauty	NW	SIZE We like the tight composition of this rose and the lovely color. However, Some of the brighter spots have lost all detail and are close to losing all color. The overly bright spots detract from the appearance of the picture. It appears to be hard lighting and a defuser could help soften the light. There are strong halos in the lower right and left. It's possible the detail could be recovered from the raw file.
13	Breach	C	This is a common photo of a whale. The shutter speed was appropriate to capture the whale and the water veil. Good detail. However, the blue sky is too saturated. Reducing the saturation in the sky helps the whale stand out from the background.
14	Fancy Kit House	C	An interesting subject not in Maine probably. Overall, good exposure, nicely framed, good treatment of the clouds. Lacking contrast overall which leads to a lack of tonal separation of the subject from the background and foreground. Suggest slightly warming up the house and cooling off the sky. The house could benefit from lightening the shadows to bring some interior detail which adds some visual interest. A slight darkening of the foreground helps the house move forward in the view.
15	January Blue	C	This is a simple composition with well seen diagonals in the snow. The dark tree on horizon adds a definitive separation of the land and sky. Not sure what the photographer intended as the subject as there are visible stars in the sky and interest on the snowy, watery land. We think a square crop from the left to emphasize the right side of the photo would give a more minimal study in blue and improve the overall composition and removes the problematic silhouetted trees.

16	Firenze	NW	SIZE should be 1920x1080 and this is undersized about a third; iconic scene in Florence, Italy, good composition, pleasing warm colors, a high dynamic range photograph where the bright lights detract from the beauty of the scene. One way to tame the bright lights on the water is to do a series of gradients to lower the highlights (be careful not to make them grey) and add some color from the building. When the mask is active you can select a color from the image to apply in the mask. A little bit of sharpening helps as well. We question if the starbursts add to the image.
17	Provider	E	SIZE undersized (978x978), Beautiful bird portrait, complementary colors, dramatic lighting, the lines of the foreground and background (double V shape) adds drama. The bird would stand out more with a slight darkening of the highlights and lightening the deep shadows in the background. The bird's pose is perfect...very cooperative bluebird.
18	Ring Man	G	Good action shot. His pose is amazing. Good exposure. There is blur on the hoops showing movement. A suitably tight crop. The heads add depth and a sense of place. Apparent sharpness on the performer could be improved with texture and clarity. The unfortunate placement of the center head hiding his foot kept this from being Excellent.
19	Pemaquid by Night	NW	Great milky way, well processed. Good composition. Unfortunately, the lighthouse buildings are too bright for the sky and distract from the sky. The tones in the whites and the overall brightness distracts from the milky way. Should you be shooting this again, set up, make an exposure for the buildings and then make another exposure for the sky and blend in photoshop or Starry Landscape Stacker.
20	Lunch	C	SIZE too tall; Good nature scene. It needs a better processing; need to separate the osprey from the background and then bring out the details in the osprey. Good pose for wildlife action but bad pose for a competition photo. Remove the overly bright hot spots from above the osprey. Major elements need some sharpening. Backlit photos are hard to handle well.

21	Floral Burst	C Looks like a possible Pep Ventosa style floral bouquet, nice colors, verging on high key, our feeling is there are too many images? There is not enough structure in the subject to support this style of ICM. Treat this like a tree, and use the vase as the focal point. Camera would be in a lower position relative to the bouquet. Suggestion: put camera on a tripod and rotate the bouquet.
22	Takakkaw Falls	C SIZE beautiful outdoor photo, good composition, lighting on the waterfall is well handled. Slight blue color cast overall. The blue saturation in the sky could be reduced to put more emphasis in the falls and cliff. Additional warmth in the rocks helps with sky/cliff separation and brings the cliff forward. Add some contrast to the cliff to add shape.
23	Feather Clouds	C This photo is all about the sky. Gorgeous clouds. However, there are some blown out whites in the clouds. To see this yourself, take the exposure all the way down and the overexposed areas in the clouds pop out. Slight cropping from the right and bottom places more interest in the clouds and emphasizes the diagonals (the clouds form a V) adding a dynamic element. On the raw file mask for the clouds and sky, adjust the exposure to hold detail in the clouds and darken the blue to add drama. Also add a small amount of dehaze.
24	Harbor Seal Sunset	C Interesting image with a lot of potential. Looks like the aftermath from a strong storm. Sky and water color and exposure handled well. The problems come in the land, what to do. Looks like there was some localized lightening done that looks blotchy. On the raw file, using a radial gradient on the land bring up the shadows to bring out the details in the land, maybe 2 one to control the land and then one to bring out the seals on the right. The image will benefit from cropping to see the seals more. Crop in from the left and up from the bottom. You retain the intense color and it brings out the seals more.

25	After the Storm	C Speaking of storms...interesting image of working boats. The composition shows 2 sections of boats. The whites are well handled. The sky is not overly contrasty and serves as a good backdrop. Problems come with the blacks and the darker midtones. The boats are too dark and not well separated from the rest of the photo. The image would benefit with better tonal processing in the darks, including shadows and blacks. Working again on the raw image could get you more detail in the darks. Patrol the edges for elements that could be cropped out.
26	Smoke Gets in Your Eyes	G Beautiful foggy forest or is it smoke? The trees aren't too dark. There's nice light showing thru the trees. Suggest you lower the saturation on the lefthand turquoise bench as there's too much color for an insignificant object on the edge. The right is too bright for the rest of the image. You could crop the right and play with the radial masks to darken the edges and lighten the center beams. Try some selective painting on the forest floor to bring the moss and colors. This is a delicate image that requires subtle changes.
27	The Nightmare	G Ella loves it! The crazy eyes! The character on the right that looks like a monkey or a skull. So many possibilities in this piece of wood. Bring up the midtones slightly with exposure slider, that would put more contrast in the dark areas and jump the faces out a bit. Texture and clarity will help with giving more dimension.
28	Dawn	C Beautiful quiet scene. Exposure in the bright sky was well handled. This image has good bones. Suggest you play with masking to get some interest in the building. It's lacking visual depth. Lighten the building, and add clarity. A linear gradient on the lower half you can lighten and add color contrast to bring out the grasses. Suggest a 4x3 crop that removes some right and left and keep the building slightly off center.

29	Street Photography	C	Pleasant evening scene that captures a moment. For the viewer it's a little peek inside. Suggest you correct the perspective for the doorway. General note: When shooting give room around the building or architectural element to allow for post perspective correction. Even with the iPhone you can lower the exposure before shooting that helps when shooting in high contrast situations. Thought for the future: in a situation like this when there are 2 people, take this first shot and wait until the people separate for a better shot, maybe when the woman is leaving the shop would be better.
30	Melting	C	I know how excited the photographer was seeing this chunk of ice! Too bad you had a sunny day! You did the best you could in this situation. The exposure was well handled. The whites are not blown out. You got the ice blue color. You could play with cropping in on the left and up from the bottom which would put more emphasis on the glacial melt. Then play with all the tone sliders to get some tonal contrast (highlights, shadows, whites and blacks).
31	1 First Street SE	G	Impressive building! Good choice to shoot this at night with the lights and the black sky. The building is somewhat tonally flat and needs some careful contrast and brightening of the mid-tones. There is some lens distortion as well.
32	Untitled	G	Love the pipes! A pipe portrait with repeating lines and shapes. It is a static picture of an object. Good tonal range, good detail. We differed on the crop; take out the white foundation or not. Well, we think this needs a small dog peeing on the wall certainly would raise the humor and make this a competition winner. A peeing dog is a time honored tradition in painting from the way back.
33	Pine Point Beach	G	Interesting high key beach scene. We see the primary subjects as the triangle of children with the prominent one in the foreground. As the primary subject, suggest you make her stand out with additional contrast (clarity) and shadow lightening; this separates her from the background. Additional warmth brings her forward in the scene. Cropping it square with her slightly off center to the right would make a perfect triangle with the people. Excellent!

34	Untitled	C SIZE Good capture of a moment. With a square crop to exclude the sign on the right and some on left, this brings the viewer's eyes more to the man waving which is the subject. In general the exposure was well handled except on the left hand person's jacket. Lighten the shadows on the man to bring out the contours of his jacket. Patrol the background to remove dust spots (looks like dust on a print scan). The brights in the background need to be darkened slightly to better frame the subject.
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