

I was asked to give a brief bio and background so participants would have a basis for understanding or interpreting my choices and comments.

First, let me paraphrase a photography mentor, Al Weber. When judging submissions to the Center for Photographic Art, Al said something like -

Regardless of who says what about your work, remember it is only ONE person's opinion.

With that as an introduction, I have been a Docent at Pt. Lobos for 16 years and have been seriously doing photography for just about as long.

Experience with more than a decade of Independent Photographers has shown me a great deal of work of all levels.

I am an avid user of Photoshop. I've participated in shows, attended classes and lectures, and attended others' shows and galleries in our rich photographic community. I've sold my classic car photos for the last 9 years well enough to cover the cost of attending most of the events of Car Week each August.

My personal preference is for the world as I would like it to be, rather than as it literally is, therefore I prefer artistic to documentary, though I respect the spectrum of approaches.

In "judging" the submissions, I found reviewing them all initially, then again the next day, and yet again the third day, some were more memorable than others and that "memorability" became my first filter.

I have made comments on most of the photos. These are intended to be helpful. If you find them so, great. If not, then feel free to disregard them as "one opinion".

Les Ellis