

PADRE TRAILS CAMERA CLUB

Pictorial Competition #1

September 28, 2015

Group AAA

01. A Hidden Treasure - Wonderful composition. The angle of the truck is dynamic and fits the subject matter. The incredible feeling of detail from the HDR in this photo really works and also adds to the overcast day feeling. I might try making your shadows darker and see what that does.

02. A Long Way Home – The road and telephone poles are great strong lines pulling me down the middle of the print. The side lighting and diverse cloud cover is delightful. I'd love to see this without HDR or in lower contrast to have the full effect of it being a real place. What a funny sign.

03. Abandoned Long Ago - Love the composition, reflection and unusual clouds. The HDR here pulls some delightful detail out of the house. It feels a bit like an illustration.

04. Blue Chair - A very striking graphic image with primary colors. I'm already seeing this as an image with that is not representing reality, but at the same time I'd love to see more detail of the wood and texture of the metal. Try darkening the top left corner so your eye isn't pulled up there as strongly as see how it looks.

05. Carmelite Monastery – A beautiful panoramic. If you stitched a couple of images together you did a bang up job. I would back off on the contrast a little to open up shadow detail and make the colors just a tad less vibrant so that it reads as a real place.

06. Checked Pavement – I love the repeating patterns. This feels like a place to really spend time with and look at from every conceivable angle so that you can find that spot where the blue and orange tiles draw your eye through the image. I wouldn't make it quite as contrasty so the patterns emerge more naturally.

07. Florida sunset silhouette – What a beautiful image. The colors are amazing and the cloud magnificent. I'd see if I can pull more quality of light out of the photograph by bringing up the contrast and maybe selectively lightening and darkening areas of the sky.

08. Grapes ready for harvest – This is a beautiful image, well composed and a fantastic out of focus background. That darn pipe gets in the way as my eye travels around the print and takes me right off the image. Maybe there are some grapes in the arbor that don't have that strong diagonal line.

09. Harbor Poppies – This is a very enjoyable composition. It feels like two different images to me. The poppies are so bright and colorful and the harbor and sky feel like they're lacking saturation. For this image I'd also bring the contrast down a little to allow

for a bit more realism.

10. Interior - Carmel Mission – Your photograph captures the vaulted ceiling very well and is very beautiful. It feels like the ISO was high and the image is starting to show a bit of noise. I might use a higher ISO and then take the photo on a tripod as a longer exposure.

11. Madonna-Carmelite Monastery – The framing of the bushes is perfect. My eye is traveling from the plants to the statue and skipping over the wall. Try bringing the contrast down and see if that doesn't help this image read better.

12. Monastery window - The quality of light and the curving archway along with a warm glowing window make for a charming image. I think the right side of the window might be a little bit higher than the left side and I'd straighten it if that were the case.

13. Multi-Purpose Vehicle – Very good use of selective color and a strong composition. I'd love to see a little bit more of a sense of place if you ever photograph this Chevy again. It feels like the trees are cut off at the knees and the composition would benefit from letting your eye travel through the background and back to the truck.

14. Nawiliwili Harbor Lighthouse – What a beautifully whimsical image. It feels like the lighthouse might be run by mice. I'd like to see this photograph in a more realistic vein with less contrast and vibrancy. It feels like an image you want someone to see as being a real place and the natural colors would probably blend better together.

15. Old farm equipment - What a beautiful image. The green paint in the background really makes the rust color pop. I like that you placed the center of the wheel off center. I might try a bit more contrast and see what happens if you give the viewer all of the round circle of the axle.

16. Old Fisherman's Wharf – A wonderfully composed image of the wharf. I love the colors of the buildings and the reflections of those colors in the water. The tree branches frame everything nicely. I'd try this photo on a day with a more interesting partially cloudy sky and lower contrast.

17. Pathway to the Past – I love what's happening in the foreground and the background but they aren't coming together in the right place. That diagonal log feels like it blocks your eye from traveling down the trail. I might try crouching down lower so that the trail is unobstructed and you still have that wonderful foreground.

18. Star shape of Lupine - Beautiful photograph. It starts to vibrate as I look at it on my computer screen with a black background. The colors are lovely and the shallow depth of field is magical. I don't have any suggestions for improvements for this image, I like it just the way it is.

19. Sunflower and grasshopper – This photo is very enjoyable and has great colors. I

think I would crop it tighter so it's mostly the main flower. Then I'd selectively bring the contrast up on the pedals and grasshopper without making the center of the flower too dark.

20. Sunset in Taos – What an incredible image. The covered well is so interesting and the sun rays in the distance copy the shape of the well. This is a very difficult lighting situation to photograph. The foreground doesn't have sufficient exposure. I find it's a lot easier to work with difficult lighting if I use Camera Raw to capture the image and then use Layers in Photoshop to make masks and give the foreground a different exposure than the sky. That's a lot of different skills but I hope that helps.

21. Swing time – I love these giant swings and they make for beautiful and nostalgic imagery. When you find a place like that take lots and lots of photographs and look at it from lots of different angles. If I really like what's happening I might even come back on a few other days and look for some interesting light and stunning clouds. It will look very different if every seat has a person in it or if there's only one person and all the rest are empty.

22. The Power of Persuasion – The title is perfect. If I could give someone the same look I could ask for anything. I'm not sure if there's a filter that's making the image look like an older faded image or if the contrast is low and there's a bit of a color cast. I don't think this image needs that effect and I'd get the contrast up and the color corrected. The cow in the foreground is wonderful but there's not enough separation with the cow in the background and I'm getting distracted. Try different angles or maybe a more shallow depth of field. It looks like she uses eyeliner.

23. The view north from Point Lobos - This is a striking image. I really like the long exposure that lengthens the white water, the soft warm light in the sky and the compositional elements that direct your eye around the photograph. My only suggestion is to brighten the bottom and left side of the image just a tad so you can see into the shadows more easily.

24. Time Takes Its Toll – I find the photograph visually interesting with the juxtaposition of old and new houses. The dark brown house is at such a severe angle. Such a lot of different angles and objects make for a challenging composition as you take the photograph. Spend some time seeing the image from lots of different angles and see if there's someplace where everything falls into place and the image becomes a coherent unity. Study Walker Evans and see how he handled similar situations.

25. Traffic Jam on the Loneliest Road - This photograph makes me smile. It's a fun moment that's also a great composition and full of perfect clouds. My only suggestion is that you're losing detail in all the darker cows. I might go in and selectively lighten each one. If you don't know how to do that yet then I'd just make all of the foreground a bit lighter.

26. Windpower - Then and Now – I fell in love with this image the moment I saw it.

It's a wonderful photograph on all levels and my only problem with it is something that can't be helped. That jetty wall is such a huge distraction. I'm not sure what's to be done if that's the only chance you had to get both windpower objects together. Some people have no problem Photoshopping the jetty wall out. (I wouldn't do it to my photograph, but that's just me.)

27. Yellow Wheels – This is a lovely photograph with fabulous colors and you did a great job of getting in close. I'd like to see better contrast and sharpness to the image. Also, it might be a stronger image if you gave us a bit more of the yellow in the lower wheel so it was a half circle. Is that red line at the top of the photograph lens flare, or is there something else happening there?

Honorable Mention:

- A Hidden Treasure
- Blue Chair
- Old farm equipment
- The view north from Point Lobos

Third Place:

- Monastery window

Second Place:

- Star shape of Lupine < >

First Place:

- Abandoned Long Ago