

*Congratulations to this year's finalists! Via your newsletters, I've been able to enjoy the creative and technical progression of the PTCC members and your strong sense of community. Judging this year's finals was a challenge with so many compelling images. I was drawn to both simple or elaborate images that were technically well managed that showed me something new, not previously seen or experienced, and that the image was driven by the artist decisions and not by software.*

*Digital photography is an accessible medium that allows unlimited altering of one's files. With this in mind, I sensed that many of the images in this year's collection could benefit from simple cropping and judicious exposure, contrast and color correction. Making simple adjustments can heighten the visual impact and can elevate the commonplace while instilling a unique creative signature.*

*Rick Murai*



**Creative Image of the Year - Red Group  
"You'll Get a Kick out of This Place"**

*Brooks Leffler*

Strong composition of a found scene that doesn't rely on any manipulation. Attention to aligning verticals and straight edges offset by the irregular white sheets of the shoes



**Human Hand in Nature Image of the Year - Red Group  
"Sea Lion Hammock, Moss Landing Harbor"**

*Christina Parsons*

This was a strong group (On the Move, Tree Frog in Rose, Tangled Buck) but the sea lion bathed in soft light lounging in rope and a tire is comical yet puzzling and best fulfills the category.



**Nature Image of the Year - Red Group**  
**“Lawrence’s goldfinch with Fiddleneck”**

*Cliff Halverson*

Another strong group of images (Newly Fledged, Bumble Bee, Stormy Day) but the soft light, the natural elements and the neutral cyan/green field makes the color and detail of the bird pop.



**Pictorial Image of the Year - Red Group**  
**“Moonrise, Cape May, NJ”**

*Carole Gan*

This image is a well-controlled and balanced exposure between the moon and the ambient light on the chair and ground. The offset composition strengthens the image. Defying Gravity was also a compelling image but Moonrise best fulfills the category.



**Travel Image of the Year**  
**“A Night in London”**

*Fernando Ibanez*

A very colorful image of the Millennium Wheel and the rainbow lights.