



01 - Black Phoebe at Merced National Wildlife Refuge.

Bill Brown

I think it would work better if the bird took up much more of the image. A good rule of thumb is to keep the bird width from about 35%-85% occupancy range. I know the tree branch has a lot to offer, as well, but I think the bird needs more presence.



02 - Butterfly at rest.JPG

Margret Maria Cordts

It's an excellent subject, composition, and tone. The issue for me is the underwing of the insect is soft and look like plastic at this distance. I don't know how to get around that except if its sharp enough to see the fuzz or you could catch the wing when it's open.



03 - Cheetah in the grass.jpg

Julie Chen

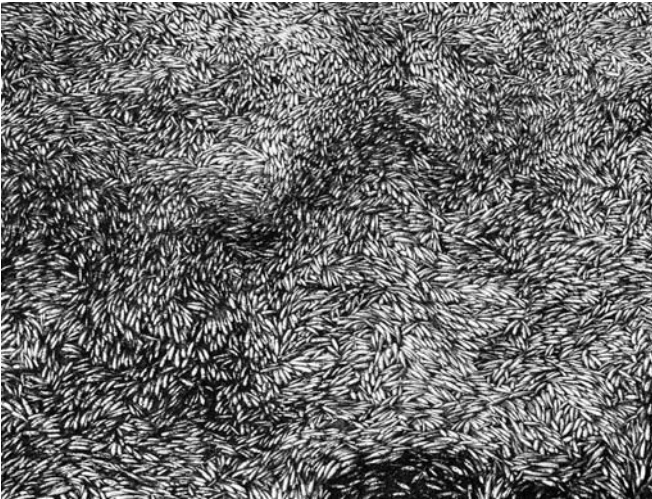
The cheetah is magnificent. I think it would be even stronger if the grass texture was more subtle. There are some dark spots in the grass seed that compete with the dark spots in the animal.



04 - Common Loon (Gavia immer).jpg

Christene Johnson

I like the contrast and water on the face and the eye. Beautiful markings that really stand out in black and white. If the loon was at an angle to the viewer, the image would have more life.



05 - Dead fish patterns.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

I like the pattern and you have some composition in the pattern with the negative S shape. The second dark space on the bottom I think detracts from the image and I think it would work better if it were sharper.



06 - Haystack Rock in Oregon Mist.jpg

Rick Verbanec

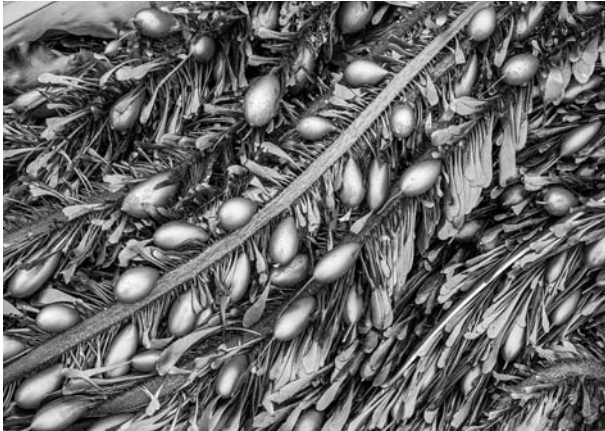
I like the framing and the mood. I think it needs more contrast and a better mirror in the water mirror to really make the image stand out.



07 - Kelp - Lost Coast.jpg

Sean Crawford

It's an interesting subject and I think it's a bit lost in the frame. Maybe it would work better with a square aspect and most of the rock above gone. I like the contrast.



08 - Kelp on the Beach.jpg

Christene Johnson

I love the silver tone on this, and the composition is good. You might crop out the black at the upper left.



09 - Lingering Sierra Winter Patterns.jpg

Rick Verbanec

Good idea but I think it needs a more interesting composition and more contrast between the light in back and the dark in foreground. Maybe it might work better to keep just the left third and make it a vertical aspect. It should make me want to take a walk down the aisle to the sunlight.



10 - Looking into the trees.jpg

Brian Spiegel

I love the lush wet atmosphere and soft light and the composition. It brings out the spiritual feeling we often get when we are quiet and alone and surrounded by trees and sun or moonlight. I get the sense that the trees are living in community and protecting each other. The lens distortion creates a vague circle that make this composition work.



11 - Looking up at the trees canopy.jpg

Brian Spiegel

I like the subject and the composition. I'm distracted by all the little spheres. It almost seems I'm looking at a reflection in the water with some growth on the surface the water. Not sure what that is.



12 - Oceano Dunes.jpg

Carol Silveira

I like the composition and pattern. It would work better for me with a little more contrast but not in the black shape.



13 - Olympic National Park.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

Nicely seen and beautiful captured. Once I see this ancient creature waving at me with its urgent arms, I can't unsee it! You captured its history and its mystery. A lot of artists would have walked right by it without stopping. You found a great point of view.



14 - On the seashore in cold weather, with rain and wind.JPG

Margret Maria Cordts

Good mood and tone. I think the elements compete and aren't pulled together by a strong enough composition.



15 - Perkins Park Rocks.jpg

Bill Brown

Nice, serene mood. I like the slow speed effect. Composition is good. I'd like to see more contrast.



16 - Sea Foam and water reflections, Pt. Lobos.

Kent Van Vuren

It's a good abstract. I think you could eliminate the top 15% that includes quite a bit of white that takes my eye to the edge.



17 - Tree - Capitol Reef.jpg

Sean Crawford

It's a good subject and I'd like to see a tighter cropping and a vertical aspect...so you really see the little tree and its concentric circle of rock footing and the sense of height that white vertical rock above it would bring.



18 - Tyaskin Sunset.jpg

Carol Silveira

This is a great example of anticipation and carefully composing the image. Excellent composition, contrast, and tone. I think it would be even better to crop the lower third of the image to give it more elegance.



19 - Winter in the Park.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

I love branching as a subject, but I need to see a stronger composition. There is a potential good composition in the opposing branches that move unexpectedly toward each other in the middle with a very tight crop, but I don't know if you could get enough out of that.

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20 - Zebra Duo.jpeg

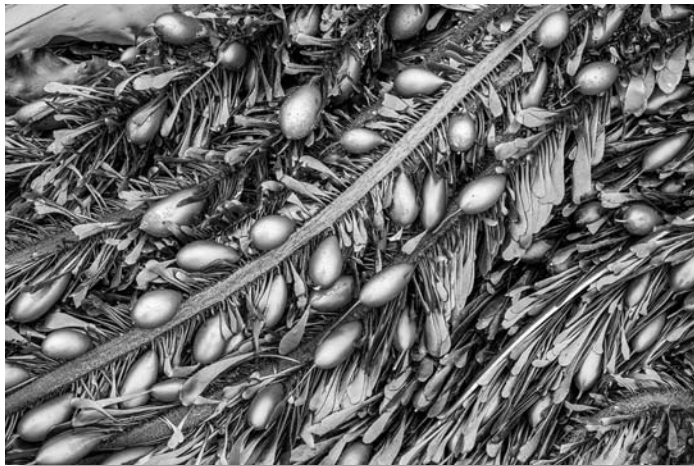
Julie Chen

It made me laugh out loud. I feel like one of them just shared a great joke and we're all laughing. The intimacy makes me want to protect them in the wild. The stripes work together in a wonderful pattern and the clarity is excellent as well as the depth.

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Oceano Dunes
Carol Silviera



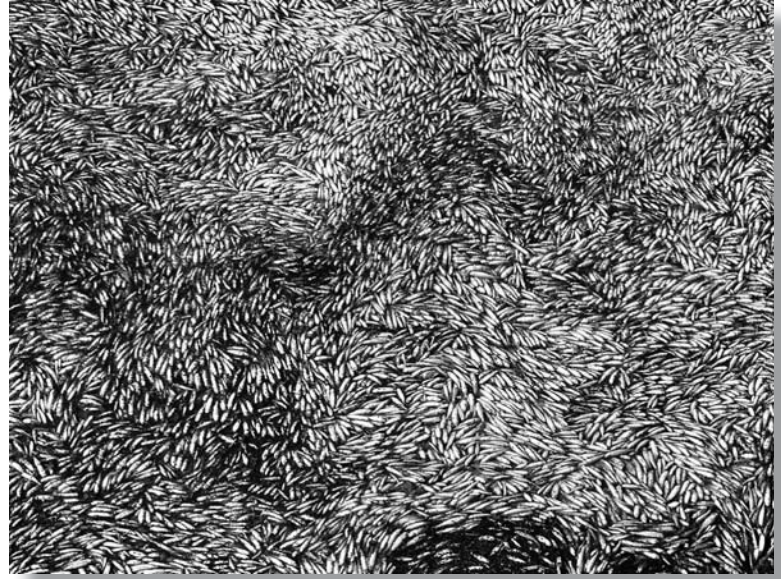
Kelp on the Beach
Christene Johnson

Looking into the trees
Brian Spiegel



Third Place

Dead Fish Patterns
Kent Van Vuren



2nd Place:



Olympic National Park
Bill Shewchuk

First Place:

Zebra Duo
Julie Chen

