Padre Trails Camera Club
Creative #1 competition - 01/17/2024
Group Blue Comments
Judged by: Eduardo Fujii

PADRE TRAILS
Camera
CLUB

01 - Aged in Dust.jpg
Carol Silveira
Impactful black and white. The photographer demonstrated good use of light to make the main subject stand out. I like the triangular composition and the gritty look which conveys a notion of abandonment.
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02 - Colorful Tile Wall ICM.jpg
Denice Loria Woysk
I relate this image with the chaos we find in our world today. The colors are pleasant but compositionally, I would prefer to see the tiles centered. Also, this image calls for vibrant colors. The muted ones makes it a little underwhelming. .
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03 - Deja Blue Club - Seaside.jpg
Bill Brown
Here you have a great subject matter but I failed to understand what message you want to convey with what looks like extensions of the instrument's pipe. I would rather see the trumpet player against the bright background which provides a good level of contrast. You have a great image, ruined by distracting horizontal lines. If you must extend the pipes, you could perhaps distort it and make it look like a snake?   *

04 -Final Approach.jpg

John Drum

You get points for creativity and the image has a good aesthetic design and colors. In terms of composition, I would prefer to see isolated birds and not that pair where one covers part of the other. Also, there is something coming out of the top of the chute that is distracting. At first I thought it was a bird behind the parachute but it doesn't look like a wing. Whatever it is, you don't need it there. I get the feeling that the guy does that for a living because his expression is so calm, just like a stroll in the park. He is just enjoying the company of birds while doing something life-threatening. Is this the message you wanted to send? ***

05 - Hakuna Matata.jpg

Julie Chen

This is kind of funny. You should submit this to one of those contests such as the Comedy Wildlife. (https://www.comedywildlifephoto.com/gallery/finalists/2021_finalists.php) for example. It is a great image and I like the b&w conversion where the bright background provides a good contrast to the subject matter. The texture on the body of both animals is fantastic.
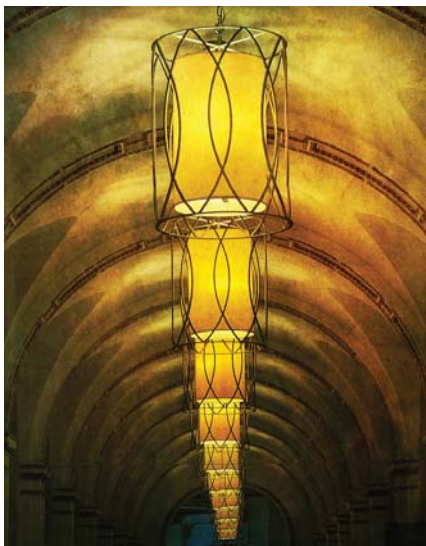****

06 - Half Dome.jpg

Jerry Loomis

Well, this is a completely different view of the dome. You did a good job converting the photo into a painting and stylizing the clouds in the sky. The choice of colors makes me feel a little down and depressed. For me, a warmer tone would make it more appealing. The composition is very good though.
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07 - Leopard in Tree.jpg
Julie Chen

The capture of the leopard is fantastic. It is a pleasant image. I like the colors and the background treatment. You caught him in a very unusual position. So why not surprise me and your viewers by placing the animal in unexpected environments? Such as your couch? Or on top of your car? That would make me say WOW, I wasn't expecting that. It would be more engaging. I see that you were able to isolate the animal from the background, so it would not be too much of a hassle. Let your imagination fly.
****

08 - Lighting the Way.jpg
Carol Silveira

Very impactful abstract. I love the vibrant colors. I like the vanishing point making my eye travel within. You could work on the alignment of the ones far away. You get points for impact and visual presence, creativity, aesthetic design, and setting yourself apart from others. You have a special artistic eye for graphical and architectural elements.
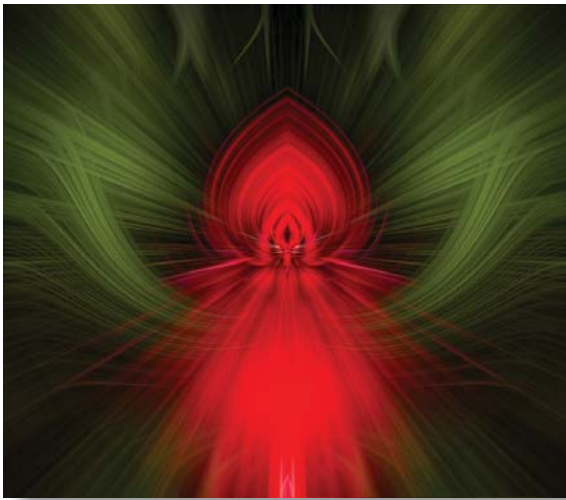****

09 - Loreto Bay.jpg
Jerry Loomis

This has a similar effect as the Half Dome but the composition is not so pleasant. That bright reflection on the water is too big and overwhelming. Also the horizon is somewhat tilted which bothers my engineer's eye. If you use a warm tone such as a deep sepia, you might be able to lessen the impact of the reflection. The effect is not bad, it is just not working for this image.
*

10 - Path to Nirvana.jpg
Christene Johnson
WOW, this image gets points for visual impact, creativity, ability to get viewer's attention. I feel like jumping in to another dimension. The colors are fantastic. Bravo!
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11 - Phantoms in Camera Triple Exposure.jpg
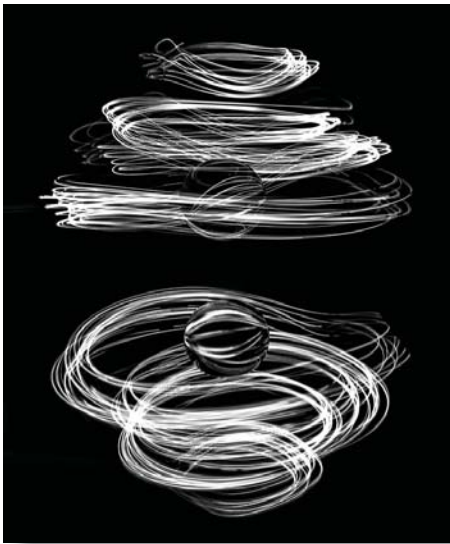*Denice Loria Woyski*
This is a great idea and you get points for creativity. The bright light is a little distracting. We can see that the figures are not completely transparent, so you could lessen the brightness a bit and make it look more like a silhouette. You still get the idea of ghosts with the bright outlines. Also, that light reflection on the right of the main subjects is definitely distracting and diverting my eyes from the ghosts. The asphalt could also be darker. It has a complementary role in the image and should not compete with the subjects for attention.
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12 - Really Bad Hair Day.jpg
John Drum
Haha. Is this a self portrait? Which one is you? Haha. Very funny image. You get high points for creativity and execution. Good use of background color and luminance to provide contrast for your subjects.
An interesting idea would be for you to face in the same direction as the bird's to improve parallelism. Anyway, I'm just nitpicking. Excellent image.
****

13 - Swirly Reflections.jpg
Christene Johnson
Stunning abstract and use of light! Bravo. This gets high points for impact, creativity, aesthetic design, composition, and ability to hold viewer attention. Love it.
*****

14 - The Scalps Perform.jpg
Bill Brown
In terms of composition, this image shows everything I need to know. It has nice colors and a nice painterly look which is unfortunately broken by the sharp face of the guitar player. I think it would look more interesting with a slight motion blur to match the drummer's and the overall look & feel of the image.
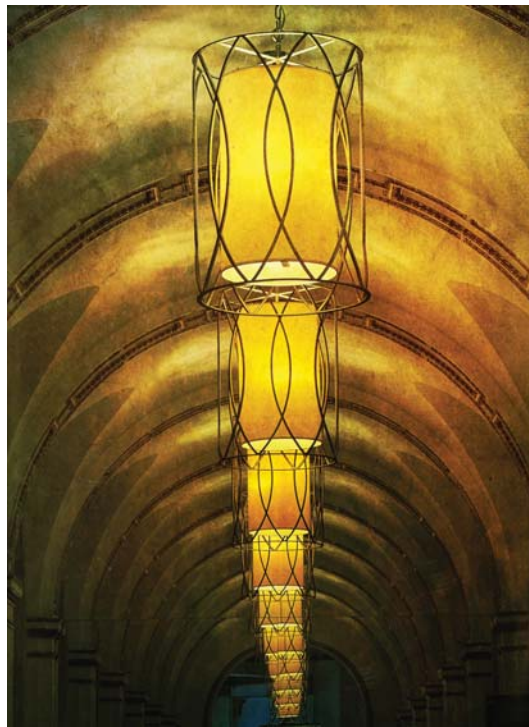****

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Really Bad Hair Day
John Drum

Lighting the Way
Carol Silveira

Hakuna Matata
Julie Chen

Third Place

Aged in Dust
Carol Silveira

2nd Place:

Path to Nirvana
Christene Johnson

First Place:

Swirly Reflections
Christene Johnson