

The Bellows

The Newsletter of the Hamilton Camera Club

In Defense of Judges ...

From Eric Bosch, Bellows Editor

Allow me a few words from my “soap box”. Some of this might strike you the wrong way – this is a generalization, where I say “you” I mean all of us, the “generic you”, not specifically you.

Not a clinic or two goes by where I don't (over-)hear someone commenting on how difficult the judging was, and hence how low the scores were. This reminds me that there are a few things we should all keep in mind about judging:

1. The 30 point scoring system is built upon the idea that 18 is an average score. So if we were to add up all of the scores awarded on an average clinic night, and divide by the number of submissions, the average score should be somewhere around 18. Well, I can't recall the last time that happened - the average is always 20 or higher. In fact, there are typically less than a handful of scores (out of 100-ish) that are 18 or lower and in my few years at the HCC, I've never heard a score of 15 or lower. The average score seems to indicate the opposite of popular belief – the judging is actually too easy!
2. Judging is subjective. Just as we don't all drive the same cars, eat the same food, or enjoy the same movies or books, it's reasonable to think that we won't all like the same photographs. Just as cars are expected to have wheels, an engine,

a frame, and doors, so too are photographs expected to have sound technical merits at their core. We expect certain basic features of a worthy car (and worthy photograph), but a car is so much more than just those basics – it has color, it has a distinctive shape, it has 2- or 4- or all-wheel drive, a navigation system, etc – things that are of differing value or importance to each of us.

Photographs also have color, they have tonality, light and dark, emotion, feel, a story – attributes that strike each of us differently. I say thank goodness we have subjective judging – scoring pictures by objective measures only would be very boring. And I'm glad that we all drive different cars – weaving back to our cars in the parking lot after a movie would be a mess otherwise!

3. We're all in this to learn, I hope. There is no silver bullet. Improving takes lots of hard work and criticism, mixed with the occasional bit of positive reinforcement. How many of us have rolled our eyes when the judge's comment included “if only the boat was further to the left”? “C'mon judge, that's where the boat was – I couldn't move it”, or something like that, is the usual response. Well then maybe that picture shouldn't have been taken – perhaps a different perspective, a different lens, or a different day, would have led to a better picture. Just because we made the perfect exposure of

In Defense of Judges ... (continued)



*Elk Resting,
Pesi Tamboli*

something that we saw in front of us, does not make it the perfect picture.

4. Here's an easy comment to fix. "The judge didn't understand the point of my photo, otherwise it would have scored better". Easy solution – the photo didn't lead the judge to the point that you were trying to make – full stop. A photograph in a book or gallery has to make its point, tell its story, without the photographer being there to present or defend it. Judging should be the same.
5. Judging is hard work. I've never been a judge so I don't have first-hand experience here, but the open clinics that I've witnessed confirm this statement. It's a task where with great certainty you will upset several people, and you didn't mean to. I'm thankful that we have people who

regularly are willing to make this contribution to each of us and our club.

6. I've saved the best for last (OK, you be the judge of that). You are the only judge that matters. Does your photo please you? Does it remind you of a terrific location, confirm for you that you "nailed it", or hold still a special memory for you to reflect upon for eternity? Then that is all that matters, really!

As I climb down from my soap box, I encourage everyone to remember that the point of judging is to give us feedback that, when combined with our training and unique, daily life experiences, will help us to become better photographers.

Clinic 3 Results

Clinic 3 was submitted on November 5 and was shown on January 21. The assignment title was "Industrial Landscapes".

Projected Images

Honorable mentions in the Projected Images division were awarded as follows:

James Alton	Burmese Monk	24
Tim Harpur	Hamilton	26
Tim Harpur	Foggy Night	
Tim Harpur	Sentinel	26
Dennis Martin	Sax	24
John Schram	Bird of Paradise 2	22
Kerriann Conroy	Jack	21
John Schram	Mums 01	21
Bob Melnyk	Office Building	21
Bruce Fisher	Full Moon	20
Jackie Fulton	Pretty in Pink	20
John Schram	R. Squirrel	26
Kerry-Ann Lecky	Misty Valley	25
Hepburn		

Sadie Dallas	Landing Gear	24
Kerriann Conroy	Snow Walk	21
Kerry-Ann Lecky	Surreal	25
Hepburn	Reflections	
Ron Chalecki	Mystic Daisies	26
John Mullenger	Desert Flower	24
Bob Melnyk	Reflections	20
Bruce Fisher	Black Yellow	26
	Orange	
TJ Robertson	Tower	25
Ron Chalecki	Trackside	24
	Industry	
Kerry-Ann Lecky	Puddles	24
Hepburn		
David Lewington	DOMGLASS	24
Alida van Halderan	Scrap tires	23
David Lewington	Stelco No1	23
Jackie Fulton	Steel Harvest	23
Cindy van Halderan	Truck Grill	23
Alida van Halderan	Scrap Pipe	22
	Waste	
Brandon Taylor	Hilton Works	22
Steve Hill	Fall Run	22

*In the Shadow of
Industry,
Arthur Nichols*



Comments, items for sale, and (ideas for) future articles should be forwarded to the editor, Eric Bosch, doteric@mac.com.

Clinic 3 Results ... (continued)

Bruce Fisher	Vertical	22	Juraj Dolanjski	Order and Chaos	25
	Horizontal		Juraj Dolanjski	Column	27
	Diagonal		Gool Tamboli	Fox Cub	22
Jackie Fulton	Shunting	22	Arthur Nichols	In the Shadow of Industry	21
David Lewington	Pipes	22	Peter Fowlie	Young Woman	24
Cindy van Halderan	Mack Trucks	22	John Mullenger	Reflection	28
Steve Hill	Letting off Steam	22	Shirley Dennis	Dark Horse	23
Steve Hill	View of the Bay	21	Shirley Dennis	Crushing Gravel	24

The Assignment Winner was Bruce Fisher for "Black Yellow Orange". The Contemporary Winner was Ron Chalecki for "Mystic Daisies". "Hamilton Foggy Night" and "Sentinel", both by Tim Harpur, tied for Pictorial Winner. John Schram was the Nature Winner for "R. Squirrel". Image of the Night honours were shared by these same 4 members (and their 5 images) – all tied with a score of 26.

Print Images

Honorable mentions in the Print Images division were awarded as follows:

Larry Thomas	Sentinel	21
Larry Thomas	Synchronicity	24
Gool Tamboli	Anasazi	23
	Dwellings	
Rick McKenzie	Off to the Pyramid	24

"Crushing Gravel" and "Loading Gravel", both by Shirley Dennis, tied for the Assignment Winner. The Contemporary Winner was Juraj Dolanjski for "Column". The Nature Winner was Pesi Tamboli for "Elk Resting". The Pictorial Winner and Print of the Night was "Reflection" by John Mullenger.

Advancements

Bruce Fisher, Steve Hill, and David Lewington advance to Intermediate. Rick McKenzie advances to Master 1 Star. Jull Mullenger advances to Master 5 Star.

Congratulations to everyone!

Upcoming Events

Spring Tide at Gage Park



Spring Bulb Show
Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse

March 28 to April 6, 2008

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Free Admission

For more information contact
905-546-City (2489)



AN EVENING OF
PHOTOGRAPHIC ART





3 CLUB EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS
AND AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS



PRESENTED BY :
THE HAMILTON CAMERA CLUB
TRILLIUM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB
AND LATOW PHOTOGRAPHIC GUILD

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2008

7:00 p.m. BURLINGTON ART CENTRE

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

TICKETS \$20.00 AT THE DOOR
OR \$15.00 IN ADVANCE

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION CALL PAUL DUNNETT 905-639-2120

See us on the web at:

www.hamiltoncameraclub.com