

Hamilton Camera Club – Clinic Definitions

Manipulated images of Nature subjects are to be entered into Pictorial category

Nature

“Nature” photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation.

- The story telling value of a photograph must be weighted more than the pictorial quality while maintaining a high technical quality.
- Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. Integral part of the nature story – eg: barn owls or pelicans, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, eg: tidal waves or hurricanes.
- The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wilds animals is permissible.
- Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted.
- Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photography without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted.
- Computer manipulation such as adjustments to exposure, saturation, burning and dodging, spot removal and sharpness are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural.
- A photographer may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image to make it more closely represent the original scene photographed. This may not change the truth of the original nature story.
- Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide) are acceptable modifications. However flipping well known scenes can be risky.
- Removing spots due to dust on film or the camera sensor is allowed. Adding elements to the image and removing pictorial elements, other than by cropping, is not allowed.
- Combining pictorial elements from separate images or rearranging and/or cloning and/or copying elements in your image are not allowed.
- Black and white images are acceptable.
- HDR techniques and focus stacking techniques (such as Helicon Focus) are techniques that enhance the image without changing the pictorial content. These are considered to be allowable techniques.
- Images entered into Nature clinics meeting the other Nature definition criteria, may include images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as Zoos, Game Farms, Aquariums and any enclosure where subjects are totally dependent on man for food. **This means restraints in images are allowed eg: jessie’s on birds.**

Cautions in Nature Submissions

- Human elements (hand of man) are permitted in a nature image where they are considered to enhance the nature story, *and does not exceed 10% of image*. However the image may be heavily penalized if the judge does not consider that this has been accomplished.
- All adjustments to an image must look natural.
- Pictorial quality is not the same as technical quality. Technical quality is still an important criterion for evaluation and judging of images.

Creative

The original image must have started in camera and it must be created by the maker.

- For the image to be considered to be creative, it must obviously depart from reality and it is usually produced through the use of imagination, originality, experimentation and artistic thought process.
- Creative image may be created completely in camera. The example may be: abstract, multi exposure, Intentional Camera Movement (ICM), deliberate in camera colour shift, selective colour or selective focus.
- An image that is creative may have been completely or partially altered in editing software by applying any of the artistic techniques. Eg: a composite image made of more than one original element or image with artistic filters or processing derivations applied.
- Artwork or computer graphics element, created by the maker may be incorporated into a creative image, as long as the original photographic content dominates, the majority of the image and the subject of the image should originate in camera.
- Image may not be completely constructed entirely within software and by the computer. If Abstract or subject matter is not identifiable in the image it must have been generated from the makers photograph. In order to prove that it started as an original photograph, the original photographic image and the PSD file showing layers must be made available upon request for verification.
- Note that High Dynamic Range (HDR) image or one created by simply applying a single built-in Photoshop filter are not considered creative, unless they are processed additionally by post-production.

Pictorial

Pictorial images may be of any subject, but must go beyond being a simple record of what was there and demonstrate the photographer's unique interpretation of that reality by the use of composition, design, light, angle, etc.

- Any subject matter that does not fall into any other category is acceptable. Eg: Still Life, Tabletop Photography, Food, Man-made Objects, Cultivated Flowers, Transportation, Urban or Rural life are a few examples
- Any form of manipulation is allowed, although images highly creative or artistic images, should be entered in "Creative Category"
- Nature like images are allowed were the "Hand of Man" substantially exceeds 10% of the image area, or where post processing techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements are used
- Manipulated images of Nature subjects are to be entered in Pictorial category