

Class B Digital							
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
B	1107	An Afternoon On An Italian Coast	11			Grace mercado-Marx	Beautiful setting and colors with the beach, the rocks and the water. The image is sharp from foreground to background. The people add interst and help to tell a story. The composition is a challenge. The tops of the rocks almost touch the top of the image. They need more room to breath. A crop giving space to the rocks in the foregrounds and showing more of the mountain and sky in the background could significantly improve the image.
B	1856	Rose	8				I like the pastels colors of the rose. The inner petals have a more vibrant color and the combination of the two is interesting. The black background is effective in bringing the viewer's full attention to the rose. Soft focus can be very effective, but in this case it may be a little too soft, bordering on being out of focus. There is a brown spot on at least one of the petals and the petal on the far right appears to be bent. Brown spots on leaf, blown out area. Petal on right appears bent. Keep experimenting with lighting, focus and exposure.
B	1866	Held in Halo	8				The image is taken from an interesting perspective, but that results in the bottom third of the image being well out of focus. Cropping up from bottom to just above her hand would help to resolve this, although even the faces are not in sharp focus. At mininum, the faces of mother and child should be in focus. Play with your camera's f-stop settings to adjust the depth of field to best fit the situation.
B	1876	Steel and Sunburst	11			Shelly Borders	The star burst throught the center of the sculpture is key to the effectiveness of this image. The image is well handled technically. The little tip of the tree above bar on the right should be cloned out. If possible, bringing out more of the texture on the metal sculpture could add interest. The wrapping on the base of the tree is a small distraction that might be edited out or at least darkend so as not to be as noticable.
B	1882	Midnight Blues	11			David Wharton	Another well-named image with an imaginative composition. The color and lighting on the door are well handled and dominate the picture. The touch of light on the wallto the left is a nice touch. The right side of the image is dark and slightly out of focus, as it should be. But it does not provide much of interest. A scene with a person (or people) or with a more intersting background (use your imagination) could turn this into a more intersting scene that could play with the viewer's imagination and keep them engaged with the image longer.
B	1825	Dog & Cowboy	12	HM		Kara Powell	Man and dog. Always a good story. The focus on the subjects is sharp. The sepia treatment is fitting for the image. There be more interest if the cowboy was looking at the dog instead of at the camera. And even better if the dog was looking at and interacting with the man. The crop is too tight at the top and on the right of the image. It is technically a very well done image. It does not create a lot of interest to the viewer.
B	1835	Bad Hair Day	12	3		Bill Coston	Very sharp focus on the bird. The claws clinging to the perch are interesting. The expression on the bird's face reinforces the thought that he might be having a bad day. The background coloring is good. The out of focus bird to the right is a distraction that takes away from the focus on the main subject. It would be be difficult to edit out. The main subject appears to be looking at and interacting with his partner. If possible, cropping the image to include all of the bird on the right might make this a more interesting image even if the second bird is ut of focus.
B	1842	Emerald Drift	13	2		Leslie Chandler	Wonderful image. The Mallard is in sharp focus and I like the highlight in the left eye. The motion of the water is beautiful and provides an exellent backdrop for he main subject. The colors are excellent. Cropping up from the bottom to eliminate the leaf would remove a distracting element. The space doesn't add anything to the picture. If possible, you might leave a little more room on the left for the Mallard to move in to. verall, very well done.
B	1830	A Dance of Fire	14	1		Rebecca Pittman	The fire does, indeed look like it is dancing. Focus is good and the colors are true. The small flame in lower right is a distract on the edge of the image and should be cloned out. Good composition. This is a simple subject which, I think, holds the attention of the viewer. I can see a rider on a horse, head on the left, tail on the right, with maybe the rider's hat flying off at the top of the image. Its is a strong abstract.

Award all 4 ribbons

Class A Digital							
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
A	929	Honduras Iguana	9				The iguana is in good focus but appears to be slightly overexposed. It would be good to see more of the subject. The leaves and particularly the diagonal branch in front of him are distracting. The image is oversharpened as evidenced by the appearance of the sky and the white line appearing under his jaw and down his throat. The blurring of the leaves both in the foreground and background look overdone. Back off on the post processing a little and you will have a better image. A "nature" image should look more natural.
A	1113	Twice The View	11			Mike Gill	This includes everything you could want in a landscape image. Trees, water, rocks, mountains with a nice reflection on top of it. It is a beautiful, well-composed scene. The lighting is excellent. I would back off on the sharpening to give it a more natural appearance. The natural colors are strong, but it appears to me to be a little oversaturated. There is a lot to admire in this image.
A	1394	Gas Pump Guts	10				The tight crop works well and this was a good choice for a black & white treatment. There appears to be more light and detail in the upper half of the image than in the bottom half, perhaps as a result of the placement of the camera and a very narrow field of focus. It's an interesting subject that keeps the viewer engaged.
A	1479	On the Edge	10				The strength of this image is the combination of colors. A white sea urchin on a purple rock with a dark background. The parts of the sea urchin that need to be sharp are sharp. The soft focus on the rock is effective and the composition is good. I'm assuming that the spots in the water are small bubbles and not sensor spots. They are slightly distracting but are a part of the natural scene.
A	1534	Secret Plans Being Made	12			Jerry Turner	This is an interesting old building and makes for a good architectural study. The lighting on both the exterior and interior of the building is handled well. The dark clouds give a sense of foreboding. There may well be secret plans being made. The image would better fit that theme if there were lights coming from only one or two of the windows. The tower appears to tilt very slightly to the left and could be easily straightened to good effect.
A	1637	On His Dresser	9				Good still life capture of a small child's world. I like the choice of simple black and white. It would be good to see more recognizable toys or objects on surface. It is always good to keep the background in mind. The left side appears to be a canvas and serves well as a backdrop. The right side is confusing and does not serve well as an offset to the main subjects. The focus is good. The image slants to the right and could be easily leveled off. I like the concept and, with a little more thought put into it, could result in a nicer image.
A	1731	Corner of the Alley	11			Vicki Lai	I read this street photography as the story of two bikers who have stopped for lunch at a Taiwanese restaurant. The people on the left walking away add interest as does the blurred vehicle passing by on the right. The lighting is good with the exception of the small blown out section on the right. This is a good choice for black and white treatment. While nothing of great interest is happening here, it does give the viewer a good sense of the immediate neighborhood.

A	1787	Celestial Cathedral Group	11			Randy Whiddon	This is a well executed image of the Milky Way. By slightly darkening the mountains and possibly the sky, the image would take on a more dramatic effect. While this is well done, it is difficult to create an image that stands out from the many other similar images that viewers have seen in the past.
A	1829	Taking a Break	11			Ginny Young	Good find. The woman with the phone and headset serves as a good focal point and provides scale. The focus is sharp front to back. The background colors are pleasing. A slight vignette might help to better focus the viewer's attention on the woman. The image is well executed technically.
A	1833	Jonquil Trumpets	10				Flowers are a popular subject for photographers. With their intricate, pleasing designs and colors. They can be very soothing and this image is no exception. I assume the soft focus is by design. The lighting appears to be uneven with the outer petals being brighter than those in the center. I would like to see the highlights or possibly the overall exposure increased to provide greater impact. Given the popularity of the subject, it can be difficult to capture an image that really stands out from others.
A	1841	Twilight Glide	9				Technically well executed with narrow field of focus on the subject. The reflection of the colorful clouds in the background adds interest. Unfortunately, the colors of the duck don't add a lot to the image. You might crop it to provide either more room on the top, if possible, or less room on the bottom, to better balance the image. There is not enough of interest in the bottom third of the picture to take up nearly half the space.
A	1847	Sentinels of the Desert	11			Scott Bjornlie	This is an interesting stand of cactuses. Straight, strong and nicely placed against an interesting background. Although the bush at the front right may help to balance the image, it does not fit well in the overall composition and could be cloned out. Would like to see more space on the left side to allow the tallest cactus more room to breathe. These strong contrast enhances the lines in the cacti which is a strength in this image.
A	1865	Desert Zen With Cabo Vibe	9				I'm not at all sure what I am looking at in this composite. Sometimes that can be a good thing. The slant to the right is significant and appears to be intentional. The blue and green streaks on the top half and the streaks at the bottom and on the right are interesting. While there are interesting elements, there is no single point of interest that draws the viewer's eye and nothing I can decipher that ties the elements together. The photographer's message eludes me. Cudos for creativity.
A	1874	Keep Out	11			Jay Rektorik	It looks pretty secure. The black background obscures any clue as to the reason for all the security. Maybe that's the point. The detail in the keys and gate and the strong contrasts give the image a sense of drama. The gaps in the fence on both sides of the locks suggest that there might be a story here.
A	1699	Windmill on the Prairie	12	HM		Susan Taylor	The simplicity of this image is its strength. The lone windmill at the bottom left, climbing up to the edge of the blue portion of the sky. The darkened ground with the winding dirt road leading back to the base of the windmill. The gradations of red in the sky. Good coloring, good crop, good use of negative space. Very well done.
A	1776	Fly Away	13	3		Manny Lois	I have more questions about this picture than I do answers or critiques. My first impression is that this is the ghost of an insect emerging from a knothole or a tunnel. Or perhaps an insect embedded in amber. The somewhat blurred subject is centered on what I will refer to as the knothole. The ovular rings, bright at the center and darkening toward the edges, come together well to frame the insect. This is an image that the viewer will stay with. However this was achieved, it is a fascinating.

A	1817	Miller Cabin	13	2		Saskia Vaughan	Snow on the mountains and hills in the background present a different take from many other images I have seen of the Miller cabin. It has an almost pastel look to it which fits well with this winter scene. I would like to see a little more grass in the foreground and a little less sky. Otherwise the composition is strong. The wide crop invokes the feeling of wide open spaces. The exposed rocks on the left edge offset the stand of trees on the right edge. Well done
A	1845	Morning Defiance	14	1		Bredt Westley	This image captures an interesting moment and tells a story. The reflections of the farmer and the water buffalo are classic. The reflection of the bright edge of the cloud being mirrored in the water gives this image an artistic touch. The field behind the bridge serves as a nice middleground between the water and the mountains. While I like the crop as is, you might also play with a landscape crop to put more emphasis on the farmer and water buffalo. Both versions would give valid interpretations of the scene.

Award all 4 ribbons

Masters Digital							
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
M	554	Standing Watch	11			Jack Young	The heron is well rendered with good detail in the feathers and the eye. The darkened background puts the focus almost solely on the bird. As a nature scene, this does not appear natural. As an artistic rendering, it makes for an interesting image.
M	605	Run!	13			Robert Chura	You were in the right space at the right time to capture the details on a fast moving Hooded Merganser. The splashes tell of the speed at which the bird was running. The ripples and reflections create an ideal background. The object in the water just in front of the Hooded Merganser is a slight distraction and could have been cloned out, unless you wanted to preserve the image as pure "nature" photography.
M	669	Fruit Fly	9			Tom Savage	The fruit fly is colorful, creative and is interesting enough to spend some time with. As a work of "art" this is a good effort. The green background serves as a good backdrop. The object the fly is sitting on has some wonky issues with focus toward the bottom of the image. I would be interested in knowing how the fly was rendered.
M	720	Terlingua Cemetery	9			Ken Spencer	The panorama does a good job of capturing the totality of the scene. I would like to see a little more of the sky so that the hills don't feel so crunched. You could crop off about a third of the left side of the image without losing anything of importance and still tell the story I think you are trying to tell. As it is, there is no point of focus for the viewer to land on.
M	1227	Winter Berry Brunch	12			Roy Richardson	The simplicity of this picture is its strength. Given the part of the berry in his mouth and the half berry still on the limb leaves no doubt as to the story. Focus is excellent. The pure white background, including the negative space on the right re-enforce the theme of winter and are integral to the sense of simplicity in this image. Well done.
M	1352	Cuyahoga Valley N P Train Station	11			John Nixon	This image built around lighting. The building is well-lit both inside and out against the gray background. The dark clouds set a mood. The station and the rails leading in from the left take the viewer's eye to the point of light and the bridge on the right. My first thought was that the light was that of an incoming train, but the light source doesn't appear to be on the track, so it can be left to the viewer's imagination. Just one person sitting on a bench in the station would bring the image up a level. Well executed technically.
M	1353	Birds in Space - Seagull Nebulae	12			David Morgan	Aptly named! Deep space photography is not easy. It requires a good deal of knowledge and the right, often expensive, equipment to produce a quality image. This one one appears to be well executed. I have no suggestions for improvement. These images can be awe-inspiring. We can see these things and gain knowledge from them thanks to photography.
M	1449	Sweet Music	9			Roy O'Rear	The image of the two musicians is well rendered technically and is a good candidate for B&W treatment. Prefer toThe image would tell a better story if they were focused on playing their instruments rather than simply looking at each other. The image is sharp, lighting is good. His hat and her hair blend in with the black background. Showing a little of the background could give the image some context.
M	1499	Lightspeed on Earth	13			Ron Shue	This is either an excellent of panning or an excellent job of composite photography. I will assume the former. The car appears to be in very sharp focus and shows no sign of motion. The lines and colors of the background are intriguing and nicely offset the speeding car. The crop is perfect for the scene. Excellent job.

M	1507	Royal Profile	11			Shawn Gibson	The lion looks peaceful and content. The catchlight in his eye and the backlit hair on his mane are nice touches. The small tree stump follows the line of the back of his mane. In a way, I find that distracting. But, on balance, it provides an element of interest that probably adds to the image. We see a lot of images of lions. The "Royal Profile" helps to set this one apart. Well done.
M	1671	A Day at the Museum	10			Stephen Stookey	The angle from which the photograph was taken does a good job of putting into perspective how large this whale skeleton is. The people walking the floor below provide scale. The image is well handled technically with everything symmetrical and in focus from front to back. I would consider pulling back a little on the sharpening and contrast.
M	1711	Mayan Dance	9			KP Wilska	The detail on the dancer's face, headgear and costume are fascinating and well-captured. And , among all this, his eyes stand out as a focal point. It would be nice to be able to see his left foot and possibly the top of the feathers on his headgear. Both are cropped out. The man in the audience on the left who is looking away is a distraction. You might crop in from the left to eliminate his head as well as that of the woman in front of him. While the light background helps to focus attention on the dancer, it seems a little unnatural in the context of the overall scene.
M	1531	Going to the Show	14	HM		Chad Fenner	This is a difficult scene to capture and the photographer has done it effectively. The red backlighting creates a halo effect that nicely defines the performer's entire body as well as those of his audience. The hair of the girl on the right appears to be on fire. The rays of the red lights are well-defined. The performer appears to be in sharp focus. One option to consider would be to crop in from the left side to eliminate the light on the far left. This would put more focus on the three people and would better balance the image. Three lights, three people. Threes are usually good in photography.
M	1387	Feeder Wars	14	3		Marilyn Graham	The battle of the finches! The blur of the wings tells the story, with the bird on the right appearing to be dominant. The focus on his head is sharp. He is the one closest to the feeder, implying that he is protecting what he thinks is his. The image is well composed, though it might have been nice to have a little more room to the left to show where the other bird was coming from. The background blur and colors provide a good background.. The lighting coming in from the left side nicely exposes the defending finch and the left side of the feeder. There is a light area at the top of the feeder that could be cloned out.
M	1539	Are You Ready to Rope	15	2		Jeff Heyer	The lighting is the most important aspect of this image. The composition is a close second. The cowboy has the mandatory bushy moustache, hat, rope and chaps required for this kind of scene. It is well done technically. Subtle lighting highlights his face, jacket and the chaps on his right leg. The light coming in through the barn door on the left has the same subtle effect by providing some definition to the dark background. The horse in the background gives context to the scene and helps to balance the picture. The low camera angle was a great choice. I have no suggestions for improvement.
M	1621	Ruh Roh, I Think They Found Us	15	1		Brian Fesko	This is a great nature shot. The image is sharp and the bears' eyes tell a story. The composition is a strength with the the bears, side by side, creating a triangle, nicely complemented by the wildflowers just in front of them. The mouths full of grass are evidence of their surprise in being found doing what bears do. The title tells the story.

Award all 4 ribbons

Class B Prints							
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
BP	1825	Ready to Launch	10				Boats are usually a good subject. The image is sharp and the print is handled well. The detail of the boats is brought out well with the light of the sun. The foreground and the background are both in shadows which helps to direct the viewer's eye to the brighter boats. One rule of photography is to "watch your edges" because they can easily become distractions from the main subject. The blurred leaves on the top and right side and the blurred growth at the bottom right could easily be removed in post processing. I don't know what you had to work with, but if it were possible to compose the scene with water in background, it would tell a more interesting story.
BP	1866	Where Light Learns to Whisper	14	1		Arturo Rodriguez	This is a well composed and well printed image. I see no architectural distortions. The lines of the columns and windows are true which is often a problem at the architectural images. Focus is sharp from foreground to background. The lighting is very well handled within the room, as is the light coming in through the windows. The colors are warm and inviting. The man standing in the middle reading a book is a wonderful addition to the whole of the image. My only suggestion would be to either fully include or to crop out the two green lampshades at the bottom. My preference would be to crop

Award 1st place only

Class A Prints							
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
A	1776	The Leaf	10				Simplicity in photography can often direct the viewer's eye to the heart of the subject or the story that is being told. The simple white background and the negative space in this image are effective in evoking a mood. In this case, while the image is well presented, the subject is not compelling enough to carry the picture to a higher level. I hope the photographer continues to pursue this concept of simplicity. It has great potential.
A	1833	Chrysanthemum	12			Duane Sager	The closeup of the chrysanthemum against the black background is effective. I assume that the soft focus on the leaves was intentional. The temptation to bring out as much detail as possible might be too much for many photographers to resist. The soft focus differentiates this image and it is, in my opinion, the right choice. The colors are handled nicely. Minor point...there is a small white spot on one of the petals on the bottom left that could be cloned out. Good choice of paper. Well done.
AP	1874	Dogwood	13	2		Jay Rektorik	Just looking at the dogwood itself provides a lot of material of interest...the details, the curves, the textures, the light and shadows. The blurred background provides the context. The dark clouds and falling rain balance out the composition nicely. The subject is in sharp focus against the blurred background and has something of a three dimensional feel to it.
AP	1817	Shoreline Sanderling	14	1		Saskia Vaughan	The shoreline sanderling is a simple bird and he is shown in a simple setting. The blue of the water and the sky and the reflections of the clouds in the water are soothing. The lighting on the sanderling is strong and brings out the detail on the bird's feathers nicely. The catchlight in the eye is a nice touch. The sanderling is not just standing there, but is going about his business. I have no suggestions for improvement. Very well printed. Very well done.

Award 1st and 2nd places only

Masters Prints							
Class	Number	Title	Score	Place	Best in Show	Name	Comments
M	605	The Chute	11			Robert Chura	The lighting in the chute shows good detail in the stonework, bricks and vegetation. The chute directs the viewer's attention to the interesting windows, walls and columns of the building in the background. It might be good to see less of the chute and more of the building. I don't know what is to the left and right of the portion of the wall we can see from here, and that might have driven the choice of the original composition. At a minimum, I would crop in from the bottom left to eliminate the back edge of the wall on the. left and to show less of the area in front of the bricks.
M	669	Two Cranes	11			Tom Savage	Good capture of cranes flying in formation. Their proximity to each other and the position of their wings makes this image stand out. The colors of the sky and clouds provide a pleasing backdrop. The image would be strengthened if the focus was sharp enough to see the details of the feathers. Overall, an interesting, well done image.
M	1352	Anderson County Courthouse	11			John Nixon	This is a good view of the Anderson County Courthouse spiral staircase. It kind of makes the viewer dizzy following it down from top to bottom. That is a good thing. The focus is good from the tile on the upper landing all the way down to the floor. The uneven lighting on the staircase is very noticeable and is beyond the photographer's ability to control. It might be a matter of taste as to whether this is a good thing or a bad thing. I believe it adds some interest. The reflection of the light on the lower floor could be mitigated, if not eliminated in post processing. The State of Texas is leaning to the left. That somehow does not feel natural.
M	1449	Chiaro Scuro	10			Roy O'Rear	Taking pictures of glass objects can be challenging and this appears to be handled well in this image.. I'm not sure what the photographer was trying to achieve here. The two objects do not appear to complement each other in any noticeable way. The lamp on the left is the more interesting of the two. I would suggest eliminating the smaller lamp and focusing on the tall one. You might dramatically bring down the exposure on the left side of the lamp, particularly the base, to strengthen the contrast between light and dark. The crop could be narrowed to align with the height of the lamp.
M	1499	The Next Second	11			Ron Shue	Great action shot. It looks like the rider might want to rethink wearing the number 13. The bull is nicely framed by the lines of the black board on the right edge of the image and the white diagonal board on the chute behind him. The focus appears sharp throughout the image with the exception of the bull's face. It would add to the drama if we could see the bull's eye more clearly. This looks foreboding. Good luck to the rider and the wrangler.
M	1711	Homebuilder	12			KP Wilska	An egret in flight with a purpose. The straw in his mouth helps tell the story. The blurred and darkened background nicely offsets the egret. I am wondering if the photographer were to back off on the darkening, the image might display a little more context without destroying the dramatic effect of the lighting. It would be nice to see more detail in the wing feathers. Possibly the field of focus was so narrow that this was not possible. There is what appears to be a very thin line of vegetation on right edge of the image. This is somewhat distracting and could be cloned out.
MP	1539	Angels On His Shoulders	13	HM		Jeff Heyer	Wonderful colors, lighting, detail and symmetry in this image. It is technically very well done. It might have told a more interesting story if the priest had appeared in a more relaxed or natural in the setting rather than looking as if he were posing for the picture.

MP	1621	Keys to My Insides	13	3		Brian Fesko	The more I looked at this image, the more I liked it. The warm colors are very fitting for this early 20th century piano. The image is in good focus from front to back. The tight crop and vignette work well to focus attention on the subject. The open Bible is a nice touch, but I'm wondering if sheet music might have worked to better effect. Good choice of paper. Well done.
MP	1531	Grand Jete	14	2		Chad Fenner	"Grand Jete" is a masterly example of stop action photography.. The studio lighting captures every feature of the dancer well. The details are as sharp as if the ballerina had been sitting for a portrait. The background sets off the dancer and her costume well and without distractions. No recommendations for improvement.
MP	720	Anderson County Courthouse Stairs - Palestine	15	1	Y	Ken Spencer	The Anderson County Courthouse seems to have been built for the benefit of photographers. Among the many images I have taken there and seen from others, this one ranks very highly on several counts. It is tack sharp across the long distance from front to back. The lighting on the stairs, handrails and wall at all levels is very well handled. The overall composition makes the most of the lines and curves. The large white ceiling of the top left is well-balanced by the the tiles on the second floor landing. This is an impressive image.

Award all 4 ribbons