

2nd C GRADE PRINT COMMENTS

NOT AWARDED.

All Chained Up

While I have made no in/out decisions based on matting and presentation, a number of the entries would have been far better presented without any matting at all, and in C Grade competitions that is allowed.

This is an interesting collection of shapes, but as your title draws me to seek out the chains, I feel you have not explored the shapes well enough. There is undoubtedly a picture in the chains, but as they are presented here they are not at all obvious. Accenting them in blue is an attempt to differentiate them, but the choice of colour is not pleasant at all. The colour quality makes me suspect that one of your ink cartridges was empty. There is fairly severe burnout on the wall of the building and the left side wheel. Investigate shooting in raw and using the recovery tool to ensure that there is some highlight detail in the bright areas of the image.

Autumn in Cromwell

A good attempt to record a pleasant scene. To improve it, you needed a lower viewpoint to bring the jetty closer to the reflections. As it is there is a big expanse of nothing through the middle part of the picture. I commend you for your decision to apply a watercolour filter, and it works well in the top half of the image, but as the lower half is so plain, there is nothing really for the filter to change so it looks like only the top has been affected. Do approach some senior printers for advice on matting and presentation.

Blue Lake or Blue Tekapo.

This is a case of just because you can doesn't mean you should. I am a photographer who attempts to pre-visualize how I want a print to look, at the time of making the exposure. I doubt you had this in mind, and I suspect one of the Winter school tutors encouraged you into trying various in camera filters. I don't think this has worked at all as the foreground rocks are far too intense and prevents your eye from travelling through the image. Generally good presentation but off white may have been a better mat selection

Crown Jewel

You are on the right track with this sort of work but you need to look at the image and work out just how big your centre of interest should be in the overall image. The one sharp water drop is really too small given the overall size of the image. Move in closer, and crop off the right side lighter drops as they are distracting. Very good presentation.

La Fontaine

This image has had a lot going for it until you made the decision to cut the base of the left and central posts out of the image. Perhaps it was your desire to present a panorama type format that caused you to make that decision, but but those posts need a base. Excellent exposure. There is a little indication of over sharpening on the right side tree.

Muddy Fun

Regarding your presentation, in CPS prints are not to carry the name of the maker on them, front or back. This picture has obviously been pinned to the wall and has two unsightly holes drilled through it. Now to the image. There is a very highly contrasty image here, and to control that you needed to 1. use a reflector to direct light into the face of the child and the photographer, or 2. use fill flash or bounce some flash into both subjects, and 3. shoot in raw and use the recovery tool to put some more detail into the bright background. You could also use, carefully, the darken highlights tool which should only affect the highlight area.

New Brighton Pier

The image is just not sharp. It is a long exposure and I suspect the camera was not on a sufficiently heavy tripod. The image is somewhat cut across the middle and forms two halves. That is not generally regarded as a strong composition. We see a lot of New Brighton Pier shots here and they have to either be different utilizing a different angle of view, or have a new approach. There isn't much going on in the sky and a 50% crop of the sky would help it hold together better.

Perseverance vs Strength

I am not convinced that the use of cyan has added anything to the image. I don't like what it has done to the rock. I think the concept is good, and the shutter speed appropriate, and feel either a black and white rendition, or its original colour rendition would have got the message across better. Excellent presentation.

Remarkable Morning

A good attempt, but as there is so little colour in it, you could have done more with it by using greyscale. The cloud across the mountains has been burned out. Are you shooting on raw? The major problem is over sharpening and an over use of shadows and highlights adjustment. Check the halos on the mountain ridges and sides.

Through the Little Red Door

A comfortable architectural study that has little to do with the red door. To use a title such as this you need the door ajar to create the sense of something beyond. Move in closer and use the door as a more dominating accent against the masonry. Be sure that the jpg submitted has the same cropping as the print.

Winter Bloom

The actual composition of the image is quite good but it needs to be taken using a tripod that would allow you to use a small aperture and a lowish shutter speed. That way you can control what is in focus, and what is not. Make sure the whole flower head is sharp in this instance, but leave the background out of focus. Corrugated cardboard is not a suitable matting material .

COMMENDED

Bealy Bridge

I think Ron got to comment on this print in the first open print competition, and you have followed his advice and made corrections. My feeling is that it would be much stronger if the car was coloured, in other words, desaturate everything but the car so that there is a flash of colour on that right third, and the strong monochrome elsewhere.

Busker on the Quay

A good attempt at a solarisation. The guitar does, however, occupy a large space, and being white tend to take you attention from the face and the hands. Infuse a little more tone into the guitar, and it is a nice strong image. The diagonal placement of the subject is quite dynamic.

Heritage Staircase.

Sharp and crisp. The textures and the lines are strong. A pity you let the bottom right corner bleed out white, and it would have been better had you not clipped the top centre part of the staircase.

Left Behind

The sepia rendition suits the subject and the various textures show up well. I think it is a pity you did not capture all of the headlight. Either flash off the camera or a reflector would have been useful to lighten the bottom left corner which is a bit of a dark pit.

Non-identical Twins.

Good choice of selective focus but the back ground girl needs to be much further back as a counterfoil to the front girl. They are still pretty similar in size, and you need to follow the dominance mood by separating them more effectively. Beautiful exposure, just try to tone the t-shirts down a tad.

One Guy Fungi

This is quite a striking image with the form and colour of the fungi contrasting with the softer forms around it. Unfortunately the print has lost detail in the gills and top edge. But a good effort. This title would not be suitable in a NH competition.

Stargazer lily

A nice effort, but the bald white top and bottom fight with each other and you miss out on enjoying the lily detail, which is very nice.

Steaming Out

This has been well captured and well printed, but I think the most interesting part of the engine is the bit on the left leaving the picture. It needed the engineer leaning out of the cab door to balance it.

Trying to find the Light

This would have been in the HC bunch if only the closer ring of light had been completed. The two bright highlights, top and bottom left are causing me a degree of dissention.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Light hearted.

Well conceived and well realised

Lily Heart

Excellent choices made in aperture to secure the desired depth of field. Strong lines and contrasting colours.

No Room (2)

I think this is the third pear image we have seen recently, and it is another excellently controlled shot. Do make sure the archive jpg is identical to the print, this one shows a highlight on the right that is not present on the print.

The Shivering Forest

The slow shutter speed and multiple exposure has produced an intriguing image. Choice of sepia is appropriate.