

Competition Rules for May 2009 – April 2010

Phoenix Camera Club offers competition in the following Categories:

Prints

Black and White; Color ("B" or "A" class*); Theme of the month

Panoramic (every other month in odd month)

Creative Print (color or monochrome, every other month in even month)

Virgin Slides

Medium Format (every other month in even month)

Digital Projection

Open ("B" or "A" class*); Theme of the month; Creative (every other month in odd month)

* "B" class is for beginning to intermediate photographers, "A" class is for advanced photographers

The Creative Category - includes images that abstract reality using the materials at hand to interpret the subject in a unique way. It should convey more than the ordinary photograph, and the creativity should be readily apparent to the viewer. All significant elements in the image must originate as a photograph (captured on film or digitally) by the person making the entry. In the creative category, graphic elements may be a part of the composition as long as the image started life as a photograph and the photograph remains a dominant feature of the image.

Theme Categories - are designed to test your ability to shoot within the confines of the announced subject. Prints (color or monochrome) will compete in one class.

Panoramic Category – Digital technology has made it possible to produce high quality panoramic images with a standard format camera by stitching together multiple frames taken in quick succession. The constraints of our print display box mean this category is limited to horizontal format only (vertical panoramic not allowed as they will not fit in the box). To be considered panoramic the width must

be at least 2.5 times the height (i.e. if you divide width by height the result is 2.5 or bigger). There is no requirement on the number of frames used to create the result.

1. Members in good standing (Associate Members are not eligible to compete) may submit up to two entries per category (see the list, above), with a limit of eight total entries per month. You choose to enter in either the A or B Classes at the beginning of the competition year and once selected, there you remain for the rest of the year. You do not have to choose the same level for both prints and digital.

2. Entries in all categories must originate as photographic images (either film or digitally captured) taken by the person making the entry. Print and Digital entries may be digitally enhanced and prints may be digitally printed. See also the rules about Image Integrity below. Virgin Slide entries must be as produced by the camera, and not transferred to slide from another media. The only modification allowed in virgin slide entries is cropping, although filters may be used on the camera.

3. Any entry that has received an award (First Place, Second Place, Third Place, or Honorable Mention) in a Phoenix Camera Club competition is ineligible for any future entry in the same category, except for the Year End Competition. No entry may be submitted more than 2 times in any one competition Category.

4. Any entry that has received an award, including Honorable Mention, outside of the Phoenix Camera Club is ineligible for entry. Acceptances are not considered an award here, so, images that have received acceptances are permissible.

5. Entry forms (supplied by the club) must be properly completed with the name, title, and competition category for all Print and Virgin Slide entries.

6. Entries are to be the original artwork of the photographer. As such, images which are solely a literal depiction of another person's art, either 2 or 3 Dimensional, are not eligible. 3 board members must agree before an image is disqualified. Additionally, images which have been lit, set up, arranged, or posed entirely by someone else are not eligible.

7. Black and White prints that are hand tinted with only one color may be entered in the Black and White Category (PSA rules). Black and White Prints that are tinted with more than one color are to be entered in the Color Print Category. Tinting must be transparent rather than replace the image.

8. Color Prints and black and white prints in the Theme Category will be judged together. Portrayal of the theme must be readily evident and represent a significant part of the image in the opinion of the judges or the Competition Committee.

9. Prints must be securely mounted on a stiff mount board, for non-panoramic categories it may be of any size between 11" X 14" and 16" X 20". Image size is at the discretion of the maker but may not be larger than 16" X 20". The board for Panoramic prints must be between 14" X 19" and 20" X 36". For panoramic, a print 36" wide can be no more than 14.4" high and a print 19" wide can be no more than 7.6" high (width divided by height must be at least 2.5) Prints may be matted but may not be submitted in a frame or with glass. Print entries must be properly labeled (labels supplied by the club) on the back of the entry. The label should be in the top left corner to ensure the print is displayed correctly. Any previous labels on the print should be crossed out or removed.

10. Slide entries must be spotted in the **lower left-hand corner** of the slide as the maker wishes it to be projected. Slides must be titled and show the makers name. ("Untitled" must appear if it is not titled.) Slides may be mounted in either paper, plastic, or glass mounts.

11. Entries may be submitted in either an Open Category or a Creative Category at the discretion of the maker. The creativity of entries (either prints or digital) in the Creative Category must be readily evident to the judges.

12. For all categories except Creative: Digital images will be allowed to put a single toned, black, white or gray, straight-edged border of any width (not another color) around the entries. For Prints the rule applies to the printed border but does not apply to mats or board backs. Creative categories may have borders of any color (Digital and Print).

Digital Do's and Don'ts for non-creative categories: The basic rule of thumb is using technology to optimize an image is acceptable but manipulating is not.

Optimizing is making the best of an image that was captured. **Manipulation** involves adding images or elements into an image that were not in the original image capture, or substantially changing the content of the capture, and is considered photo illustration. The following example of what is and is not allowed is meant to give a framework but not to be an exhaustive list of all possible post-processing choices. Note that this applies to prints as well as digital projection.

Allowed:

- ❑ Multiple exposures of the same subject may be used for purposes of increased exposure latitude (HDR) or increased depth-of-field.
- ❑ Multiple frames may be stitched together to form a panoramic image of a scene.
- ❑ Deleting a small objectionable element such as a piece of debris.
- ❑ Optimizing the capture using tools such as dodging, burning, levels, curves, saturation, sharpening, cropping, white balance adjustment, etc.

Not Allowed:

- ❑ Composite images of different subjects.
- ❑ Adding an element or elements from a different image such as a sky or a moon.
- ❑ Deleting major elements of the capture such as removing the background or setting.

Note: Some clubs and competitions actually require RAW files to be submitted with entries to ensure compliance with the above rule. The board believes that PCC members will be honest in following the new image integrity rule and does not feel it's necessary to go that far to prove images are not composites.

Year End Competition: At the end of the competition year, we hold a Year End competition. The entries are the monthly winners in each category. All images which won (HM and above) in monthly competition are to be brought to the April general meeting and a separate Year End judging will take place (offsite at a later date) to award top honors in each category. (Note Digital entries will be handled automatically and do not need to be resubmitted.) Images submitted for Year End must be the same entry that won, i.e. they cannot be duplicates of the winning image. We also award Top 5 points and Top points in each category at Year End. If you missed one or more competition nights, you may still make up entries in the last month of the Competition year, April, to count toward the Top points honors. You can enter up to 2 make-up entries for each category, however there is no make up for themes. You cannot exceed the maximum entries for the year in any category. Make-up entries are not eligible for honors or for the year-end competition. The entries must be clearly marked on the entry form or digital title as

make-ups. Year End awards are announced at the annual banquet in late May or early June.

Digital Entry Submission Rules:

Beginning in May of 2007, the method for submitting images for Digital Projection competition will be as follows.

The images must be in jpg format. The maximum width is 1024 pixels, and the maximum height is 768 pixels. Your images must fit inside this rectangle. These numbers are set by the digital projector capabilities. If you know how, make sure that the image's color space is set to sRGB. Since most digital equipment uses this color space by default, it should be safe to use the images as they come out of the camera or scanner, and/or output by your image editing software. If a different color space is used, some of the image's colors will probably be affected. The image files can be supplied on a flash memory card, floppy disk or CD. The permissible flash card types are:

- Compact Flash, 2)
- Smart Media, 3)
- Secure Digital, 4)
- Memory Stick, 5)
- Flash Drives.

Compact Flash is the preferred media. Since we will be using a Windows PC to run the competition, the media must be readable on a PC. The file name should have the following format (lower case preferred):

category,class,lastname,firstname,title.jpg The "category" is the first letter of the image's category i.e. **c, o, t** representing the creative, open and theme categories. The "class" is a or b. The class field must be included in the file name for ALL entries in ALL categories, even though PCC distinguishes experience levels in the **open** category only. Therefore all creative entries will be judged together and all theme entries will be judged together, ignoring the "a" or "b" class. Last Name is the last name of the images submitter. The name should not include commas. First Name is the first name of the images submitter. The name should not include commas. Title is the title of the image. The title can include letters, numbers, and spaces, but should not include commas. For example: o,a,cobeen,charles,this is my open shot.jpg t,b,brun,stephanie,this is my theme shot.jpg

Simply put your properly named images (as shown above) on one of the media types listed above and bring them to the club on meeting night, or you can email them to: charlie@cobeen.com If you email them, please do so by noon on the Saturday of the meeting.

Judging Criteria

Each monthly competition has three judges. Images entered in competition are judged using a set criteria of

- (1) Technical Merit
- (2) Composition
- (3) Impact.

Each judge has up to 3 points to award (whole integers only) in each of those areas per image. This allows a judge to award a high total of 9 points. If scoring is done correctly, there will never be an entry with fewer than 9 nor more than 27 points. Technical Merit is defined as the quality image. Is the exposure correct? Does the image have the proper color balance (are the whites white and the blacks black)? Are those cactus needles well defined or the models eyes in focus? How well did the photographer handle the equipment to create the image. Composition is how the image was constructed. Does the viewer's eye flow naturally to the center of interest? Was the rule of thirds followed (or is this one of the exceptions that works)? Are there distractions in the foreground or background? This part concerns the photographer's thought on how the image was created. Impact is probably the most controversial area for judgement. Each judge has emotional triggers that come into play when certain images are seen, and can be a bias that a given judge will rate higher or lower. That is why PCC tries to have 3 judges of different photographic backgrounds for the competition, and the judges have always do their best to be impartial. In the theme categories, impact is replaced by the portrayal of the theme subject. In the creative category, impact is replaced by creativity of the photographer. In reality, it is always impact that is judged. Instead of just the visual impact, it is the impact in connection with the theme or creative imagination that is used in the non-open competitions.

Good Luck To All