

2023 SCC Monthly Photo Assigned Subjects

January – General – Anything Goes – You may enter 3 color images: A1, A2, A3 and 2 monochrome images: C1 and C2

February – Nature – (PSA Nature Definition) Nature photography records all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.

Objects created by humans and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.

Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic or any other method or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

Attention is drawn to the PSA Statement on Subject Matter which applies to all sections and to the editing Guidelines for Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel.

Editing Guidelines – Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques – Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.

Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chrome aberration and lens distortion.

Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.

Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.

Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in the camera or with software (exposure

blending or focus stacking).

Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.

Adding a vignette during processing.

Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.

All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.

Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color.

March - Creative – Creative photography is the deliberate alteration of reality. A creative photograph is usually derived from an original image using one or more of the many special processes such as posterization, solarization, etc. Some original images such as abstracts, infrared photographs and multiple exposures also qualify. Composites using electronic imaging are also a good way to make creative images.

April – Landscape – Landscape comprises the visible features of an area of land including the physical elements of landforms such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea, living elements of land cover

including indigenous vegetation, human elements including different forms of land use, buildings and structures, and transitory elements such as lighting and weather conditions.

May – Windows and/or Doors – Any single door or single window.

June – Flowers (single)- A flower, sometimes known as a bloom or blossom. Your entry should only contain one flower. All flowers, wild or domestic will be accepted.

July – Birds in Flight – Camera and lens capabilities, birds flight styles and speeds, quality of light and variable backgrounds all make photographing birds in flight challenging. The important factor in this assignment is that the birds must be visibly in the air above any land mass, no feet on the ground or in the water. Your subject can be a single or multiple birds.

August – Yellow – The color yellow is between orange and green on the visible spectrum of light. Yellow is seen as a bright color because it reflects a lot of light. In your assigned photo the viewer should be attracted to the color yellow.

September – Architecture – An image of structure or structures that convey the feeling of the time they were built. They could range from Egyptian time to modern cities to archaeological buildings.

October – Urban/Street Photography -

Urban/Street photographs depicts everyday life in a public place. The photographer will take candid photos of strangers, often without their knowledge. Your photo should include a person or people in their natural, not posed environment.

November – Cell Phone – A picture taken with a cell phone. Processing may be done on the cell phone or on a computer. Can be of any subject matter.

December – Emotions – Evoking emotion simply means that your photos say something. They might capture a mood or put your viewer in a state of contemplation. Simply, emotional photographs are pictures that make you feel something including, but not limited to grief, happiness, excitement, anger or hopelessness. A human must be included in the photo.