

When You Are the Judge

I found the following in my files on information when I was asked to judge photo shows. Just thought I'd pass it on.

1. Examine the overall execution or craft of the photograph. Look for the sharpness of the image, the quality of the details, the contrast and tone, and colors. An inferior camera will make this a challenge for a photographer.
2. Critique the production value. This involves how the photograph was taken, such as the use of lighting, how the photographer set up the shot and what was involved in capturing the image. Scoring high in production value separates quality photographs from snapshots. For example, appropriately placed lighting or the use of a lens filter might transform an ordinary scenic view of the ocean into a shimmering, magical scene where the water appears to sparkle and glow.
3. Evaluate the content and subject matter of the photograph. This will be a subjective call by the judge. For example, an **animal** lover might rate a photograph of lion cubs higher than another judge might rate a photograph of a beautiful woman.
4. Assess the composition of the photograph. The composition of a picture helps to convey the story the photographer is trying to tell. It involves how the subject matter is arranged in the picture.
5. Experience the photograph emotionally. In a photography contest, a score in this area might comprise more than 50 percent of the total score. If a photograph is beautifully executed and is a crisp photograph with good tone yet does not move a person emotionally or "speaks" to the judge, then the overall score will be significantly reduced.
6. Tally up the scores. Depending on the photography contest, each of the above points will be assigned its own weight in the overall score of judging. For example, the first four points may each contribute 10 percent of the total score in judging, while the fifth may make up half of the score.

Judging Criteria for Club Competitions.

1. How Technically Correct is the Photo? (20)

Are the following the best they can be? Focus, Sharpness, detail, depth of field, colour, brightness, contrast, saturation, usage of light.

2. Subject Matter / Content (20)

How well does it fall within the brief/assignment?

Creativity.

3. Composition (20)

Does the photograph tell a story?

Where is our eye lead to in the photograph?

Is the photograph balanced, if not, is it creating the visual impact it should?

4. Do I like this photograph? (All Else Aside) (40)

Like all art this is dependent on our own tastes, likes, dislikes and the way we see the world and experience it. It has nothing to do with how experienced photographer is. (Unfortunately)

TOTAL = (100)