Westchester Photographic Society

Guidelines for Judging Competitions for WPS

Thank you for agreeing to judge for the Westchester Photographic Society. We look forward to your encouraging and constructive commentary.
Each competition format consists of a pair of competition categories.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

*   **COLOR**:   This category alone has three skill levels (B-Beginner, A-Advanced & S-Salon). Each skill level will be judged separately.   Traditional appearance.

Images in this category are expected to adhere to traditional photographic principles. These color images should have the general appearance of not having been processed to such a degree that would significantly alter the image from its original appearance. Standard practices of dodging, burning, vignetting, etc are acceptable. Some artistic interpretative treatments may be acceptable.

*   **OPEN MIND**: Single group – no levels.   Non-traditional appearance.
Images in this category may be process in Photoshop or other software. Alternative captures/processing such as infrared are admissible. Subjects, whole or in part, may be presented in an abstract manner. Images may also be produced through the use of in-camera techniques: ICM, multiple exposures, zooming, panning, etc. Artistic/unique PoV, unusual juxtaposition, use of fish-eye or other specialty lenses are acceptable.
* Any kind/style of human generated image can be entered in this category.

$ **BLACK & WHITE**: Single group- no levels. Traditional appearance.
         Images in this category are expected to adhere to traditional photographic principles. These color images should have the general appearance of not having been processed to such a degree that would significantly alter the image from its original appearance. Standard practices of dodging, burning, vignetting, etc are acceptable. Some artistic interpretative treatments (High/Low key, infrared) may be acceptable. A single tone (monotone) may be applied to the entire image, e.g., sepia tone. No accent color.

$ **THEME ASSIGNMENT**: Single group – no levels.   Varied appearance.
Images in this category are expected to be reflective of the specified theme, as determined for that competition. Images may be captured and processed in any manner chosen by the maker. Any human constructed images are acceptable.
* Judges are asked to assess images in relation to the assigned theme and render a ratio weight score: 60% for perceived reflection of the theme and 40% for aspects of general appearance and technical qualities.
Judges will be provided with descriptive write-up of their assigned theme.

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Scoring Protocol

* WPS does conduct a pre-scoring "run through" ~ 4 seconds per image

* Judges will be informed of the number of images, in each category, in order to help each judge pace him/herself and gage their comments.

* Members are appreciative of constructive comments as well as general reactions, even with more subjective Open Minds images.

* *You are not responsible for disqualifying any image.* If an image does not meet the criteria, for that competition category, there is a membership-mediated mechanism to "challenge" entries after the fact.
We simply ask that you provide a considered score and constructive commentary.

* Our **SCORING Range is 70 – 100**, in increments of single digits.

* *Suggestions for scoring are as follows:*

  Below < 75 – generally reserved for images that need a lot of work
  Upper 70s - images have some desirable qualities but need work
  Low to Mid 80s – average quality images
  Mid 80 represent credible images with positive qualities
  Upper 80s – solid images that just lack that extra something
  Lower to Mid 90s – very strong images with only minor or intangible detracting elements
  Upper 90s to 100 – reserved for truly exceptional images.

* We do not insist on breaking ties. . You may give multiple images the same score. That being said, we would appreciate your efforts to have a range in your scoring distribution.

* Assuming there are a sufficient number of entries, each category will have the following awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention.

* General Note:
We do not allow the use of AI self-generating programs, like Mid Journey, etc.
We also discourage straightforward "record shots" of other people's artwork.
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The standard of image acceptability is determined by the membership, not the judge.
However, if comfortable, it would be instructive if you would offer a comment on any such observations in order to help raise collective awareness of these issues in photography.