

Dec 2021 Contest: Food

Judge: Amanda Kellen (graduate, summer internship in food photography)

Peanuts: 6/10 - This image is cute and creative. I like the randomness of the shelled and unshelled peanuts around the bread. I would've also put some peanut shell crackings on the table, adds to the detail. Another good idea would to make the shadows on the peanuts deeper. Adding a more depth shadow to the peanuts could replicate sun coming in a window for your breakfast meal which would make the image a little more "real life." Another way to improve the image would to edit out the larger light glares in the peanut butter, it takes away from the image being real.

Sweetest Apple Pie: 4/10 - Cute idea and I love the dark background to really show the whip cream off. I think that this image could've been improved by making the whip cream cleaner, I am sure it melted under the lights, maybe spoon it around to make it look more like cool whip? Another good idea to improve the image would to add a small viewing of the inside of the pie! That would also show off the "Sweetness".

Chicken Lunch: 8/10 - Whoa! Right out of a menu or food ad! I would improve this image by freshening up the sauce, is that gravy? And taking the tomato off of that bottom cucumber. I am also confused on what the green piece is under the food, I do LOVE the drops of water on it though. So creative and realistic! The chicken, fries, and garnish look great. And I love the slight note of chair and floor in the corner. Really makes it feel real.

Chocolate Heart: 5.5/10 - This little heart looks delicious and I love the black line of chocolate drizzle, it would be super cute if that made a complete heart too! I think because of the title, the heart needs to be more in focus, this could be done using the rule of thirds. I see a lot of plate here instead of cake. And too much of the side pieces, they are distracting from the main dish. I also would edit out the light marks on the plate, the wrinkles on the table cloth, these small details take you away from the main product. I would also put the fork with the eye of the viewer so that it looks like you could reach into the picture to eat the food.

Salad: 6.5/10 - Looks tasty! I love the black and white contrasts from the placemat, accent plate, food plate, to ranch ranch. Super creative and keeps you focused and not distracted. The overall cropping is good the food is center but also in rule of thirds. I would've put the silverware more in a normal spot, to make it feel like you could reach in and take a bite. Also, the focus is mainly on the top piece of food, which is in rule of thirds, but for this plate I would've done the first two pieces, because that is where the eye naturally goes. Or you can open up your F stop and get all of the lettuce and pieces in focus so that the whole meal is the main thing to look at.

Macarons: 9/10 - This is eye catching, cute, colorful, and looks tasty. To improve this image, I would fix the cropping. The top has more blue than the bottom. Another thing would to fill the whole cropping with the food, so that it looks like that line never ends. Putting one under the yellow and on top of the chocolate chip one but only allowing the viewer to see 20-30% of those two. Another good idea, make the line go from

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corner to corner instead of straight up and down, kind of like a snake. This would make it a little more unique! Overall great, the cropping is the only reason its not 10/10 :)

Guilty Pleasure: 6.5/10 - Guilty pleasure for sure!! Love the waterfall effect of this image. To improve this, I would crop out more of the bowl and maybe do the m&m's all the way to the end of the image. Love that it's not all in focus though!

Sweet DCTC: 4/10 - Cute idea! The DCTC is in the horizon line and the bowl is in the rule of third, this helps make the image! Some ways to improve this could be by adding M&M's all over the table, make the DCTC in the middle, and remove the bowl. This may make the image look more creative. Or I would put an angle on the DCTC, I love a creative angle! Also every letter has multiple layers of M&M's besides the D and that distracts me a little.