

DCTC Nov - BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

12/6/2022

Judge: Kevin Johnson – photo grad in 2019

9.5/10 - Safe (Mandee Ashby)

Clear subject, tells story that fits with title. Nice lighting, picture not overly sharpened, given warm soft appearance

Might try to take the background out of focus slightly, with Black & white you are working with light and shadows to emphasize the subject.

9/10 – Soldiers Parade (Ali Plevell)

Although a bit on the “grunge” side, I think it works here. The background just out of focus enough not to interfere with the subject.

A little too busy, try to simplify by removing some parts of the picture that add nothing to the story, ie: heads in the background, viewers may be distracted from the main subject, they add nothing to the story

8.5/10 – flowers Core (Ali Plevell)

Technically well done as far as depth of field and contrast. Lighting even.

Not a clear subject. A lot going on in the picture with all the leaves in focus as well as the blossoms. Picture may be improved by blurring the background, and try to follow rule of thirds, placement of blossoms as well as three flowers if possible. Might mean pulling back on picture or less of crop.

8/10 – Home Décor – NO113 (Kennah Kennedy)

Technically good photo. Soft lines with low contrast, however features such as eyes and face sharp

Image may be improved by adjusting the composition of the picture, ie: a little more foreground. Also if possible, remove distractors such as the specular highlights in the picture, and remove items not associated with the subject. (lower left corner)

7.8/10 – Portrait (Kurt Fagnant)

Good composition of face, focuses on facial features with interesting shadows

Image may be improved by adjusting the lighting for more shadows, somewhat of a Rembrandt style of lighting. Also, a major distractor was the veil covering the right side of the face, indistinct shadowing with no purpose in the image. Concentrate on lighting the facial features. Might consider showing more eyes, they are the soul of an image.

7.2/10 – B&W Photo – tiny dancer (Kennah Kennedy)

Interesting composition, subject in focus, reflection is not. This emphasizes the subject.

Be careful to remove distractions from the image such as spots and reflections not adding to the subject. Watch composition of picture, subject should have been moved left, or shoot further to the right. By cropping the image up, you might get rid of distractors on the bottom as well as letting the lines of the mirror frame lead you to the subject. You might try to shoot with lighting from the right side to allow facial features to produce shadows and become more noticeable.

7/10 – The chase (Ali Plevell)

Technically well done with exposure and focus, almost too focused.

With black and white, you only have light, shadows and focus to tell your story. This separates a work of art from a photograph of an event. What is your story, the dog or the sheep? Is the sheep afraid or is the dog driven with a purpose. You decide as photographer. If it's the dog, focus on it's face and especially eyes. The fence at the top adds nothing to the image, get rid of it. Composition could be improved a little by opening up some space the sheep to run to.

6.8/10– home décor 0089 (Kennah Kennedy)

Clear subject, soft focus without losing detail

A bit on the dark side, and subject is too far to the left, where part of image is lost. Adjust your lighting maybe a little higher to highlight the roof lines and maybe create some shadowing from the flowers. There are distractors in the picture, ie the light in the lower left, get rid of it.

6.5/10 -home decor 0102 (Kennah Kennedy)

Nicely lit subject with emphasis on detail

What struck me on this photo, is the composition. The subject and reflection should have been closer together, or move the camera angle to the right if possible. Try to blur the reflection a little more for separation. Also in the composition, subject should be placed more in the right third, with more space at the bottom. Light in the upper left corner is OK, but the object in the lower left shouldn't be there.

6.3/10 – cobwebs (Kurt Fagnant)

Spiders create some of the most intriguing patterns in nature. They also lend themselves nicely to black and white photography.

The problem I see with this image is its' too busy. I would suggest cropping it down to the main bedframe and web. The other webs are just messy, and the chain brings nothing to the subject. Just a little spritz of water will add a lot of interest to the web, (but might irritate the spider some)

6/10 – Move (Afton Reed)

Intriguing image, composition is good, but on the dark side.

It is hard to really get a handle on what is all over the subject, I assume hair. I suggest using a back light to frame her face and make the hair stand out in the image. You may also get a bonus of some blur suggesting motion. The subject's face could also be highlighted a little more.