

Month	Workshop/Class	Competition Topic
January	How to Achieve Perfect Focus (Lindsay & Renzo)	What's in a Frame?
February	Exposure (Julie)	Triage: the Power of Three
March	Depth of Field - what's an F-stop?(Renzo)	The Moment
April	Lens Choice (Renzo)	Catch the Light
May	HDR/bracketing (AI)	Macro
June	Stock Photography: Techniques & Rules (Lindsay)	Abstract
July	Portraiture - Lighting & Posing (TBD)	Sense of Place
August	Food Photography (AI)	Simplicity/minimalist
September	Floral Creativity & Water Drops - Colors & Focus (Julie)	Powerful Portraits
October	Getting the Shot part 1 (TBD)	Foodscapes
November	Getting the Shot part 2 (TBD)	Crazy Colors
December	Party Time!	Best of the Best

Competition Descriptions

January

What's in a Frame?

Framing is a composition technique of drawing attention to the subject of your image by blocking other parts of the image with something in the scene. The goal of this competition is to use framing creatively, in a such a way to: give the photo context, a sense of depth and layers, leading the eye towards your main focal point, and intriguing the viewer. Frames come in all shapes and sizes and include shooting through overhanging branches, through windows, using tunnels, arches, doorways, but can really include anything. Your frame does not need to go completely around the edges of your image. Also note that whatever object or objects that are doing the framing do not necessarily need to be in focus. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

February

Triage: the Power of Three

Triangles are everywhere, and one of the oldest compositional techniques around. Triangles can be a great way to combine different compositional techniques, such as lines and paths, and often add stability and balance to an image. Within photography, these triangles can be made by having three distinct elements within a photo, by the shape of a single element (think of an arm bent at the elbow), or a combination of the two. So long as you have three vague points of interest that don't exist on the same line, you can easily create a triangle. This competition is about looking for threes, in whatever way it is that you see them. Keep it simple, and don't overthink it. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

March**The Moment**

From the National Geographic "Your Shot" photo assignment: "Photography is all about "moment." It's the big, loud moment of the wide receiver going up for the football, eyes popping out, sweat flinging out from the helmet, fingers stretching out to grasp the ball. Or it's the quiet moment of two friends meeting on the street, one throwing their head back in laughter or gesturing in response to something the other has said. Each of these situations, and everything in between, has a moment that is the job of the photographer to capture.

Moments bring power and impact into the photograph, resonating with the viewer and engaging them with the photo. In photographing a story, the moment image is what the narrative can hang on, a very powerful building block. Or it can stand alone as powerful testament to an event, bringing everything to a visual fruition." Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

April**Catch the Light**

Photography is all about catching the light. From the National Geographic "Your Shot" photo assignment: "Light...transforms a scene from mundane to magical, from flat to multidimensional. Whether it's the glow of the golden hour, the harsh contrast of the midday sun, or the distant light of stars coaxed out through long exposure, light is key... We invite you to speak the language of light... Observe the way light might fall on someone's face, cast a shadow across a surface, or play with color in a scene. Experiment with light sources in interior spaces, or get creative with light painting." Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

May**Macro/Close-up**

Macro & Close-up photography introduces the viewer to look at the world in a way that is not typical, usually turning small objects into large visuals. Pay attention to focus and composition, these will either add to or detract from what you are trying to convey. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

June**Abstract**

Abstract Photography is another way in which the photographer can take an everyday object and show the viewer a new way of seeing it. This competition is all about details and seeing things in a new way. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

July**Sense of Place**

Travel snapshots often miss the emotional impact a place can have on a person. Every place has its own visual uniqueness - sometimes very obvious like the Golden Gate Bridge, sometimes more subtle, like the way pigeons might roost on an old building every morning. Find this uniqueness, and then find the best way to portray its emotional impact. Pay attention to the time of day, the light, and the compositional elements within the scene. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

August**Simplicity / Minimalist**

De-clutter your photographs and bring more impact to your subject. This competition is all about keeping anything and everything that does not add to the image out of it. Contrasting colors, textures, and lines will often work in your favor for these types of photographs. Think about blurring your background, placing your subject on a solid color, or seeing simple lines in buildings. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

September**Powerful Portraits**

Powerful portraiture is an art unto itself. For this competition focus on telling a story of who the person is: stoic, funny, lost, excited about life, an old soul, etc. Everything in the photograph should emphasize the individual - the lighting, the background, the facial expression, the composition. These can be moody, cheesy, funny or serious, and everything in between. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

October**Food Photography**

Food photography can make even the fullest stomach hungry, but can also emphasize the art of a piece of fruit. Decide what you want the viewer to feel - the clearer your message, the better your photograph. Pay attention to composition, color, and lighting as these will enhance or take away from what you are trying to convey with your food. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

November**Crazy Colors (color category) & Shapes (mono category)**

Crazy Colors: This can be a portrait, a landscape, a macro shot - but it must most faithfully display crazy colors. This doesn't mean they need to be unreal colors, but remember that all photo manipulation is allowed as long as the image started as a photograph.

Crazy Shapes: For the mono category we are looking for shapes that are unusual, or unusual to see within the perspective given in the photograph. These can be curves, hard angles, repetitive patterns, spheres, etc. The shape itself should be the subject. Photo manipulation is allowed, as long as the original image started as a photograph.

December**Best of the Best**

All ribbon winners for the year will be entered and judged by additional judges to find our best work for the year - no new entries for this month.