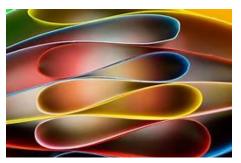
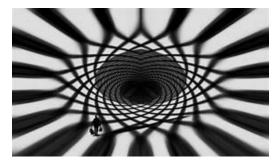
January – Abstract

This is the category to really let go and flex your artistic muscles and get your creative juices flowing. "Abstract images are conceived or imagined outside of 'reality'. They can encompass a huge variety of subject matter, take us out of our comfort zone, make us question what we see, or invite us to enter another realm." The subject is often suggested instead of easily seen. Click on the link below for ideas on how to get started:

https://petapixel.com/2017/03/20/introduction-abstract-photography/







February - Food

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.







March - Low Key

Low-key photography is a genre of photography consisting of shooting dark-colored scenes and emphasizing natural or artificial light only on specific areas in the frame. This photographic style is usually used to create a mysterious atmosphere that only suggests various shapes, often graphic, letting the viewer experience the photograph through subjective interpretation.







April – Abandoned Buildings

This is a subject challenge. Show us pictures of old or abandoned things or places. Show us good composition and lighting and exposure appropriate to the mood you are expressing. Remember this year we allow post processing of any type and amount as long as it originated as a photo.







May – Still Life

Still Life images can be just about anything that doesn't move. The definition of a still life subject is an inanimate object but other subjects are loosely termed as still life as well. These include flowers, food, etc. They are life forms but they don't move. Because the subjects are smaller, lighting coverage is less and alternatively less power is needed. Rather than the need of a massive amount of studio equipment, still life setups can be lit with just daylight from a large window and/or the use of one or two flash guns with the aid of a few large white cards to utilize as reflectors.







June - Long Exposure

Have you seen the difference between a waterfall with silky soft water and one that has sharp frozen drops? Long exposure is the use of a relatively slow shutter speed against a certain subject to capture an image so that you can capture the movement. To have your shutter open for a longer period of time. This can capture and soften movement of clouds or water or give you deeper saturation at night. If you are trying to do a long exposure in daylight you need to think about using a neutral density filter or a polarizer.







July - Reflections

Reflections are all around us. They can be found in mirrors, windows and water. Lighting and angle will be important with this subject. You might need to get low if you are trying to get a reflection on a puddle. A reflection in a mirror might tell a marvelous story and sometimes the reflections that we least expect to see are the most powerful images.







August - Water

Water comes in many forms: the ocean, a lake, a stream, moving water, standing water, rain, fog, condensation, water vapor, steam. Water can create atmosphere, reflections, or blur. Water may be your primary subject, or an important element in your image, but should be more than an afterthought.







September – Flowers

Flowers are willing subjects and lend themselves quite well to being photographed. However, not all flower photographs are created equal.

As with any type of photography, there are general rules and guidelines, and tips and tricks to make the best images possible. The basic idea is to make our photos stand out from the rest; to create something unique and inspiring; something with that "wow" factor.







October - Blurred Motion

Motion Blur happens with the shutter speed is slow enough to capture the movement of an object, making that object blurry. Motion blur may be achieved through panning techniques, long exposures, or super-fast subjects.







November - Night Photography

Night Photography means photographs taken outdoors between dusk and dawn. Night photographers generally have a choice between using artificial light and using a long exposure, exposing the scene for seconds, minutes, and even hours to give the digital sensor

enough time to capture a usable image. So, let's get creative! Do you want some detail set off by the surrounding dark of night or do you want to use the darkness to help with another technique like long exposure? Are you looking at stars or do you like surprising wildlife at night or maybe this is a good time for car taillight trails? Don't forget – use your tripod!!!





December - Best of the Best

This is the end of year competition where ribbon winners from the year will be compiled and presented to a panel of three judges. There is no theme and entry requirements.