CRITIQUES / COMPETITIONS RULES 2024
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Version V6. February 1, 2024

Critiques Schedule

Mon.	Jan 22	6:30 PM	Zoom	Critique #1, "Curves"
Sat.	Feb 24	11:00 AM	CH 4	Critique for "Newbies", Non-scored
Mon.	Mar 25	6:30 PM	Zoom	Critique #2, "Yellow" - **phone images only for all categories**
Sat.	May 4	11:00 AM	CH 4	Print Competition #1, Non-scored, Open to public*
Mon.	May 27	6:30 PM	Zoom	Critique #3, "Flora"
Mon.	Jun 10	6:30 PM	CH 7	Slideshow Competition, Audience voting, Open to public*
Mon.	Jul 22	6:30 PM	Zoom	Critique #4, "Portraits"
Sat.	Aug 3	11:00 AM	CH 4	Print Competition #2 , Open to public*
Mon.	Sep 23	6:30 PM	Zoom	Critique #5, "Atmospheric"
Mon.	Oct 28	6:30 PM	Zoom	Critique #6, "Composites"
Mon.	Dec 9	5:00 PM	CH 7	End-of-Year Competition, and Awards Dinner

*Open to the "public" as per GRF guidelines. Non-members $5

Special Subjects 2024

Curves (Jan. 22nd)
Curves within photographic images can add a dynamic and aesthetic aspect to the composition. Either incorporated within the internal structure of an image, or as a captured object, shape, or pattern, curves are often a powerful element in photography. "Curved lines photography" can capture and highlight the beauty of bent shapes and lines in various objects, or curves can deliberately guide the eye to a specific area. Curves can be implied, or partial, or replicate known shapes like the letter "C", or the letter "S", which In painting, is known as the "the line of beauty", an S-curve line that travels back and forth horizontally through an image as the eye proceeds vertically through the scene. Create a photograph that utilizes curves.

Yellow (Mar. 25th) - **Images in ALL Categories must be taken with a phone**
As one of the oldest pigments used by humans, the spectrum of attributes associated with yellow are wide ranging. Yellow is associated with the sun, warmth, energy, and radiance. As a result, yellow has inherited connotations of power, knowledge, imperishability, and status. Frida Kahlo called yellow the color of the sun and joy, but also "of madness, sickness, and fear". It is the color of warning. Your image must include the color yellow. Yellow does not need to be the dominant color in the image, but it must impact the finished photograph, either aesthetically, or symbolically, or both.

Flora (May 27th)
Flora Photography can cover a wide range of visual interpretations of all forms of plant life. Images may include domestic or wild plants, such as flowers, grasses, trees, crops, forests, mushrooms, and cacti, both living or dead. Flora photography often emphasizes color, texture, patterns, and "personality" of the subject. Flora photography can also attempt to capture the mystical side of nature. In Roman mythology, "Flora" was the goddess of spring, of nature and flowering plants, and was the goddess of youth. Create a photograph of Flora.

Portraits   (Jul. 22nd)
Portrait photography, or portraiture, is a type of photography aimed toward capturing the personality of a person or group of people though effective settings, manner of dress, lighting, backdrops, and poses. Portraits can be intimate, planned, candid, or captured moments and events. Avoid clinical, "unconnected" imagery, and instead capture the identity, personality, and essence of a subject, tell their story, or convey an emotion. Subjects must be human beings. Animals, flora, fauna, or inanimate objects, are excluded. Make a compelling portrait photograph.

Atmospheric (Sep. 23rd)
Atmospheric images have specific moods. They are not just "captures", but instead are images that make you feel how the photographer wants you to feel. Atmospheric photography can employ mist, fog, or the incredible range of emotive, ambient light - soft, harsh, warm, cold, indirect, top light, reflected, shadowy, light, and more. Long exposures that portray an illusion of "time passing" in a still image, or photographs of clouds, waves, and objects interacting with light can be "atmospheric", as we'll as images with qualities of softening lines, graduating light transitions, and pronounced sense of depth. Alfred Stieglitz, one of American's iconic early photographers, described atmospheric qualities in an photograph as follows, evoking the effect of tone:

  " *Atmosphere is the medium through which we see all things. In order, therefore, to see them in their true value on a photograph, as we do in Nature, atmosphere must be there. Atmosphere softens all lines; it graduates the transition from light to shade; it is essential to the reproduction of the sense of distance. That dimness of outline which is characteristic for distant objects is due to atmosphere. Now, what atmosphere is to Nature, tone is to a picture.*"
    ~ Alfred Stieglitz, 1864-1946

Composites (Oct. 28)
Composite photography is assembling multiple photographs or photographic elements into one new photographic composition. The resulting image may seem to be a fully natural setting, or it may be an assemblage of unlikely elements that create surreal and/or artistic imagery. Composite photography can combine the removal of elements from an image and the addition of new elements, or it can juxtaposition unique and unlikely images, such as a night sky with an illuminated foreground, to create a cohesive whole. Composite photography can be the joining of images as in panoramic stitching, or the extreme usage of image stacking, as in Astral photography. Make a photograph that utilizes composite methods.

How To Submit to a Critique
1.   Prepare your images **as per ALL the guidelines** in this Critique Rules document
2.   Submit your images via email, as attachments
3.   Make sure your image attachments are at "Actual Size" (not reduced)
4.   All your images may be submitted in one email
5.   submission are due the **TUESDAY 5PM, the week prior to the Critique**
6.   Send submissions to this email: **critique-entries@cameraclublwv.org**

Submission Guidelines

1. only Camera Club members in good standing may submit to Club Critiques
2. images may be submitted to be "scored" or as "non-scored" (see next section)
3. each photographer may submit four (4) images in total to a single Critique
4. each photographer may submit one (1) image to any category, not to exceed total limit of four (4)
5. no image may be submitted to more than one category per Critique
6. images must be submitted in JPEG (JPG) format
7. file size per image is limited to 2MB
8. images color profile should be sRGB, but no images will be turned away with other profiles Why sRGB? Read about this colorspace here: **Wikipedia sRGB**
9. Follow these '**File Naming Guidelines"** for all submitted images

Scored
Use this file naming convention: Letter for Category (Photographers Name) Title of the Image

Open Color:	O (Jeff Doe) Duesenberg Extraordinaire
Monochrome:	M (Jane Dill) Dazzling Arches
Nature:	N (Lilly Mill) Grizzly Up Close
Sports:	S (Billy Shorter) Trouble at the Wedge
Altered Reality:	A (Zack Baker) Electric Blue Iguana
Special Subject:	SS (Millicent Maker) Mists of Fuji

Non-Scored
Use this file naming convention: NS Title of the Image

        Example: NS Dolphins of Baja

Scored or Non-Scored Submissions

- images may be submitted to be "Scored"
  - Scored images must be submitted to one of the categories
  - Scored images will be awarded points by the Judge on a 6-9 point scale, in 1/2 point increments (6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9)
  - Scored images will be displayed in a web gallery, the Zoom recording, and critique PDF, on the Club website
- Images may be submitted as "Non-Scored"
  - Non-scored images have no limits on subject matter, techniques, or processes
  - Non-scored image must be solely created and produced by the photographer
  - Non-scored images will NOT be displayed in a web gallery
  - A limit of four (4) non-scored images is allowed per photographer per Critique
- A total of four (4) scored & non-scored images combined is allowed per photographer per Critique

General Rules

1. All elements need to be the photographer's own work, captured or made by the maker either with a digital camera or on film
2. All elements of an images must have been part of the original image with the exception of background skies/clouds, which may be added or substituted
3. Photographs of artwork as the primary subject of your photograph, presented cohesively to the original artwork, are not allowed.
4. Photographs of artwork, that present "new" unique imagery, not representative of the original artwork, are allowed
5. Do not include anything in the image that will identify the photographer
6. Fractals are not allowed
7. No borders or frames are allowed, except a "key lines" along image borders to separate a dark image from the presentation background (1 to 3 pixels wide)
8. **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** is allowed in very limited instances, as per these rules:
    1. images and elements must originate as photographs, and may not be constructed entirely within a computer
    2. third party "Art Generators", that create objects, scenes or components, are **not** allowed, including
        1. online/website AI apps or generators
        2. software applications on your computer - laptop, tablets, cubes, towers, smart phones - any device with image editing software
        3. software "extensions" used online/websites, or used in software on a computer, that provide AI generative capabilities
    3. generation mode for filling in is allowed in automatic mode - text or prompt guided generated results are **not** allowed
    4. all "generative" actions must be automatic, not guided (i,.e. - manually select an area, let AI manage the fill)
    5. subtractive actions are allowed - i.e. removing rocks, or "cleaning up" an image
    6. generative elements are not allowed (i.e. AI creates parts of a subject that are missing, such as elbows, or feet cut off in the original image)
    7. creating such missing elements is allowed IF the work is done with manual processes (copy/paste/distort/blend/ etc.) by the maker
    8. no artifacts or elements may be added to an image with the following exceptions:
        1. skies
        2. clouds
    8. ALL elements must be derived from images taken by the Maker
    9. expanding the image canvas and filling the new areas with background content generated from the existing image background is allowed

Re-Submission Guidelines

1. Scored images that score an "8" or higher may never be re-submitted to a Critique or competition - except for the "Year-End-Competition" for that calendar year
2. Scored images that score below an "8" may be resubmitted to a future Critique or competition
    1. these images may be re-edited or submitted "as-is"
    2. these images may be re-submitted to multiple Critiques if they remain scored below "8"
3. Non-Scored images may be re-submitted one time (1X) to another Critique or competition
    1. these images may be re-edited or submitted "as-is"
4. Images previously submitted to a Year-End or Print competition may NOT be re-submitted

Categories

There are six (6) Competition Categories available in each Critique, as follows:

(1) Open Color
- images must be color photographs
- there are no limitations on techniques used for image capture or post processing, **if the resulting image could have existed realistically**
- there are no limitation on subject matter, with the following exceptions:
- **"Nature" and "Sports" images may not be submitted to this category**
- landscapes/animals that include items considered "the hand of man" (roads, buildings) are accepted in this category

(2) Monochrome
- the image must be black and white or toned, so long as a single tone exists throughout the entirety of the photograph
- there are no limitations on techniques used for image capture or post processing, if the result is an image that **could have existed realistically**
- there are no limitations on subject matter

(3) Nature
- images must be color photographs
- **images must not show any presence of the '"hand-of-man".** This means no buildings, no posts, no fences, no roads. Only flora or fauna, or landscapes of nature. Landscape, animals, birds, that show the "the hand of man" may be submitted to the Open Color category.
- there are no limitations on techniques used for image capture or post processing, **if the resulting image could have existed realistically**
- images of natural environments, plants, materials, and textures are allowed
- animals captured in their natural elements, such as landscapes and natural scenes, are allowed
- animals that are pets, captured, in zoos, or similarly "housed" environments, are allowed - as long as the image does not show "the hand of man".
- images of animals in open air nature preserves are allowed
- images of animals engaged in "Sports", are not allowed in this category

(4) Sports
- images must be color photographs
- there are no limitations on techniques used for image capture or post processing, **if the resulting image could have existed realistically**
- this category includes all types of sports - professional, league, organized amateur, amateur, pick-up, spontaneous, 'disorganized', random, team, individual, etc.
- slow shutter sports photos including panning should be included in this category
- any images submitted to this category must be a "Sports" image

(5) Altered Reality
- images must be color photographs
- **images must be altered to become a new image, separate from an image that could have existed realistically. AR images must be images not possible in everyday 'reality'**
- there are no limitations on subject matter
- there are no limitations on techniques used for image capture or post processing, including but not limited to the following techniques:
    - Compositing images
    - Multiple exposures
    - Light painting

- Light trails
- Motion blur
- Panning - **explore beyond conventional sports/action photography panning**
- Intentional camera movement
- Ultra-fast or ultra-slow exposure
- Creative effects using shadows, reflections, patterns and/or textures
- Tilt-shift lens effects
- Unique applications of color
- Infrared camera or filter applications
- AI (artificial intelligence) techniques are only allowed as per the general AI guidelines for all submissions to Club Critiques

(6) Special Subject
- a unique "Special Subject" category is assigned to each of the six (6) Critiques in 2024
- the 2024 special subject descriptions are listed above

Year-End-Competition & High-Point Awards

Submission
- each photographer may submit two images (2) per category, up to a total of twelve (12) images
- all images must have been previously submitted to one of the six (6) Critiques held in 2024
- all images must be submitted to the category in which they were originally submitted
- images may be altered from the previous version, or they may be submitted "as-is"
- images submitted to previous Critiques only as "non-scored", may not be submitted

Year-End Competition
- a three Judge panel will review and score the images
- scoring will follow the same 6-9 point system, in 1/2 point increments (6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9)
- final scores for each image will be the total of the three scores from the Judges
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and Honorable Mention awards will be given out in each category
- ties will be allowed

"High Point" Awards
- High Point awards are based on the sum of all the scores awarded to a photographer's images in the six (6) 2024 Critiques
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place "Total High Point" awards will be given out to the four (4) photographers who received the highest total scores overall for 2024
- no high-point awards will be given out for the six (6) individual categories

Judges Awards
- each Judge will bestow a "Judge's Award" to a single image, for a total of three such awards
- the three Judges will bestow a "Best In Show" award to a single image from the competition

Send Submissions to this email: **critique-entries@cameraclublwv.org**

Contact the Critiques Team at this email: **showcasescritiques@cameraclublwv.org**