

Critiques/Competitions Rules 2025

Schedule

Mon.	Jan 27	6:30 PM	Zoom Critique #1, "Reflections".
Sat.	Feb 22	11:00 AM	CH 4 Critique for "Pets", Non-scored.
Mon.	Mar 24	6:30 PM	Zoom Critique #2, "Minimalism".
Mon.	May 26	6:30 PM	Zoom Critique #3, "Silhouettes".
Mon.	Jul 28	6:30 PM	Zoom Critique #4, "Macro".
Sat.	Aug 2	11:00 AM	CH 4 Print Critique.
Mon.	Sep 29	6:30 PM	Zoom Critique #5, "Street Photography".
Tue.	Nov 11	10:00 AM	Zoom End-of-Year Competition Submission cutoff.
Mon.	Dec 8	5:00 PM	CH 7 End-of-Year Competition Awards Dinner.

Rules and Guidelines

Submission:

1. Only Camera Club members in good standing may submit images to Critiques or Competitions.
2. Each photographer may submit up to four (4) images in total to a single Critique.
3. Each photographer may submit only one (1) image per category.
4. No image may be submitted to more than one (1) category.
5. Preferred color space (color profile) is sRGB.
6. Image files must be in JPEG format (file extension .jpg or .JPG).
7. Image files should not exceed 2MB.
8. Image files must follow these naming conventions:

<Letter for Category><Space>< (Photographers Name)><Space><Title of the Image>

O pen Color	O (John Doe) Perfect Form
M onochrome	M (Jane Maker) Taj Mahal
S mart Phone	P (Alan Macallan) Roadside Rescue
A rtistic Expression	A (Mary Von Stadt) Painterly
S pecial Subject	S (Robyn Red) Blue

Please note that our automated processes use the spaces and parentheses in the

file name as delimiters, **they are important.**

9. Submit images as email attachments.
10. Ensure that image attachments are at “Actual Size” (some email systems will reduce the size unless otherwise directed).
11. Please submit all images with one (1) email whenever possible.
12. Submissions are due **Tuesday 5 PM** the week prior to the Critique.
13. Send submissions to this email: critique-entries@cameraclubwv.org

General Rules for Image Content:

1. Images must be the product of a photographic process produced by the entrant.
2. For images produced using multiple components, each component must be the product of a photographic process produced by the entrant (this is applicable in cases of sky or background replacement).
3. Images may include other works of art (drawings, paintings, sculpture, etc.) only if they are **not** the main focus of the image, or are part of a larger composition.
4. Nothing identifying the entrant should appear in or on the image.
5. Borders/frames are discouraged, the exception being the use of keylines/strokes when there is a black or very dark background as the images are displayed to delineate the edge of the image from the black display background.
6. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly integrated into the tools used for postprocessing and editing images. Below are guidelines on the use of these tools and capabilities:
 - a. Always bear in mind the rules above pertaining to allowable content.
 - b. Do not use generative fill with text prompts, in general, this will limit the AI to using pixels from within the image akin to “content aware fill”.
 - c. In other words, AI should not be used to introduce new elements to the image. It should be used only to enhance or simplify pre-existing editing processes.

Critique Scoring and Resubmission:

1. Images will be awarded points by the Judge on a scale of 6 to 9 points in half-point increments (6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9).
2. Images that receive a score of less than eight (8) in a scored critique may be resubmitted at any time in subsequent periodic critiques. These images may be corrected or altered prior to resubmission.

3. Images that have received a score of eight (8) or more in a critique may never be submitted to any future critique.
4. Images that have been previously submitted in a Year-End Digital or a Print competition may not be resubmitted in any subsequent critique or competition.

Categories

Unless otherwise noted, all categories are limited by the Rules enumerated above.

Open Color:

Images must be color photographs. There are no other limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post-processing if the result is an image that could have existed realistically.

Monochrome:

The image must be black and white or toned so long as a single tone exists throughout the entire photo. There are no limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post-processing if the result is an image that could have existed realistically.

Smartphone:

All elements of the image must have been captured by using a camera application on a smartphone or tablet. There are no limitations on subject matter, techniques used for image capture, or post-processing software or platform. Images must conform to the definitions for the Open Color, Monochrome, or Artistic Expression categories.

Artistic Expression:

This category encompasses images made using a broad range of creative photographic methods. Entries submitted in the Artistic Expression category will include, but are not limited to, images generated using the following techniques:

- Compositing images
- Multiple exposures
- Light painting
- Light trails
- Refraction through water, prisms, glass
- Motion blur
- 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

The original image, or components of the image, must be made by the entrant. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated if the original photographic content predominates. Images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. Any subject matter is acceptable so long as the above guidelines are followed. Artistic Expression images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit.

Special Subject:

The image must conform to the judging criteria for the specified category.

2025 Special Subject Definitions for Digital Critiques

January - Reflections:

This category includes images that are projected or bounced off of other surfaces. Such surfaces include mirrors, water, glass, metal, etc. Note: **Shadows are not considered reflections.**

February - Pets (non-scored):

Eligible subjects include household animals such as dogs, cats, fish, and birds kept as pets. They may include other animals such as reptiles found in pet stores.

March - Minimalism:

Images in this category eliminate all non-essential parts of a photograph to emphasize one component of the image. Most often the main subject takes up a small place in the image, or may even be lacking altogether.

May – Silhouettes:

This category shows a solid, dark image of a person, animal, object, or scene that appears against a lighter background. The subject is usually shown in profile, and the silhouette has a featureless interior.

July - Macro:

Macro photography shows extreme close-ups of small subjects **to make them appear larger than they are in real life.**

September - Street Photography:

Street photography captures scenes of everyday life in public places. As an artistic form, street photography is usually candid and relates a story of life in a scene.

Year-End Competition:

Submission

1. Each entrant may submit up to two (2) images per category up to ten (10) total.
2. All images must have been previously submitted to one of the five (5) scored critiques held in 2025.
3. All images must be submitted in the same category in which they were originally submitted.
4. Images may be altered from their original version or submitted as is.
5. File naming conventions are the same with one exception – for the Special Subject submissions please add <space><-><space><special subject category for which it was originally entered> following the image title.

Judging

1. A three-judge panel will review and score the images.
2. scoring will follow the same 6-9 point system, in 1/2 point increments (6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9).
3. Final scores for each image will be the total of the three scores from the Judges
4. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place awards will be given out in each category.
5. Ties will be allowed.
6. Each Judge will bestow a “Judge’s Award” to a single image, for a total of three such awards.

7. The three Judges will confer to bestow a “Best In Show” award to a single image from the competition.

For submissions, suggestions, questions use mailbox critique-entries@cameraclublvw.org