

**March 2026 Digital Critique**  
**Altered Reality**  
**Judge: Kim Chapin - Kim Signoret Paar**

Slide	First Last - Title	Score	Score KC	Score KSP	Judge's Comments
3	Russ Lazar - Vertigo	8	7.5	8	More contrast. Like the idea and composition.
4	Myra Posner - Wildflowers At The Shore	8.5	8.5	7.5	The whites are blown out in places.
5	Mary Madden - Have I got the shot	8	6	8	Maybe it would be stronger if he were on the right side of the image. Look at different crops, right now the right side is dead and not necessary.
6	Mike Bray - Rush Hour	7.5	6	7.5	Needs to pop a bit more. More contrast, open shadows, increase blacks?
7	Ken Furuta - Diving Perfection	9	7.5	9	Excellent! Love it.
8	Esther Spektor - What Is It	8.5	6	8.5	Interesting. I don't understand it. Looks like a monster, maybe an Chinese dragon.
9	Diane Hall - On the Fast Track	9	6	9	Scary. Good lines, composition, color. Is it long exposure or ICM?
10	Brad Friesen - Seeing Double	7.5	6	7.5	I like the effect on the building, but I find the bottom distracting. The lightness draws m eye down. Crop it out or tone it down, get rid of the hot spots.
11	Rodney Cooper - Acid Trip	8	6.5	8	Good composition and movement of color, but I don't find it compelling.
12	Kamran Ghassemi - Portal	8	6	8	Not sure I understand the title. Sci-fi?
13	Jack Salvador - Off To The Land of Nod	8	7	8	Interesting, but to make it better, look at putting in a shadow for the rhino. He is floating right now.
14	Linda Berman - Cowboys in San Miguel	8	7	8	Like to colors and the movement, not sure what to do to make it compelling.
15	Keith Leonin - A Gathering of Crocs	9	9	9	Yes, I find this interesting and well done.

16	Raymond LaBelle - Psychedelic Sailing	7	7	7	I don't find the effect appealing.
17	Tom Conrad - Cat Lady	7	6.5	7	Don't understand the title with the image.
18	Stuart Rubin - Running Girl	7	6	7	Purpose of the effect?
19	Daniel Lee - Dry Pond	7.5	6.5	7.5	I like the effect, but where is the focus? Where should my eyes go?

**March 2026 Digital Critique**  
**Monochrome**  
**Judge: Kim Chapin - Kim Signoret Paar**

Slide	First Last - Title	Score	Score KC	Score KSP	Judge's Comments
21	Tom Getz - Torres del Paine Peaks	7	7	6.5	Soft and confusing focus. The foreground looks in focus, next level back soft, next left a little sharper, and then not.
22	Russ Lazar - My Name is Paul	9	7	9	Lovely.
23	Valarie Van Cleave - Morning Patrol	7.5	7	7.5	With similar light and darks, he is lost in the grass. Might try darkening everything around him so he stands out a bit more.
24	Myra Posner - Child Of The Civil War	8	8	7.5	Ok. I think a closer crop might be more appealing, bringing us closer to the fabrics which go with the title. Darken the bonnet where it is blown out.
25	Rodney Cooper - Sun Worship	7	7	7	Is the title the name of the sculpture? It is an adequate portrait of someone else's art. But I don't quite understand what's inside.
26	Brad Friesen - Down But Not Out in LA	9	7	9	Good capture and storytelling.
27	Raymond LaBelle - Skimming The Water	8.5	7	8.5	Somewhat grainy and soft, but great capture. If possible put more space in front of them.

28	Keith Leonin - Village Child	7.5	7	7.5	Whites of her eyes seem too white, as does her bracelet. Tone done the railing, flip flop and ramp -- their brightness keeps pulling me away from her.
29	Daniel Lee - Surfer at US Open	8	7	8	Good to see his face, but more contrast, whites and blacks. A little haloing top of right thigh/
30	Ken Furuta - Balanced	9	7	9	Excellent!
31	Mike Bray - Shane McNulty	8.5	7	8.5	Good range b&w. Haloing top of left thigh and right arm and hand.
32	Esther Spektor - Crossing the Bridge	8	7	8	Nice angles, composition. Not a compelling story.
33	Kamran Ghassemi - Shared Silence	7	7	7	Nice scenic, but the people are almost not seen, so the title doesn't quite make sense. Try opening up the shadows.
34	Tom Conrad - Reluctant Sitter, Pinhole	8.5	6	8.5	Really like this. But I would crop some of the hand.
35	Jack Salvador - In Search of Lost Tiime	7	7	7	Nice light and good in b&w. The masking for the blur is too sharp, doesn't look natural. Too much denoise, white halo brow, chin, feet - something odd with left foot (on right of photo). Is there more in the eye(s) you can bring out? Could really be improved if reprocessed.
36	Larry Goodman - Eyes Of A Killer	8.5	7	8.5	Love the eyes. It would be better with just a bit more sharpness/focus to more of the face, in particular the ear on the left.
37	Mark Brenner - Young Girl in Vienna	7	7	7	Nice light and good in b&w. Overall too smooth, too much denoise. The hair is soft and then crunchy. The masking of the hair is too obvious on the right side.

38	Diane Hall - Stroll Through the Olive Grove	9	6	9	Lovely. It is a range of grays, with no real blacks, and I like the softness of the light. But maybe try a bit more contrast or add a bit of black. Just a touch.
39	Mary Madden - Snowy Morning	8.5	6	8.5	The b&w is well done. Good composition but crop out the top -- it draws the eye up there which is distracting from the focus of the buffalo. Crop down to keep a few tree tops, but no tree stumps. And remove the bushes in the bottom, they are distracting. You could also try a more close crop to the buffalo.
40	Stuart Rubin - College Girl	8.5	7	8.5	Interesting. Tone down the lower left corner. It's the brightest area and draws attention from her face. Once you tone it down, her face will appear brighter.

Open Color

Judge: Kim Chapin - Kim Signoret Paar

Slide	First Last - Title	Score	Score KC	Score KSP	Judge's Comments
42	Tom Getz - Romania's Athenaeum	7	7	7	I like the color, but it looks more like a drawing. It has lost it's photographic quality. I'm not sure what the focal point is.
43	Esther Spektor - Sunset Contrasts	7	7	7	Good color and contrast. But I don't find it compelling.
44	Larry Goodman - Take Off For Prey	8	8	8	The caputre and composition are good, but the denoise and masking are visible.
45	Kamran Ghassemi - Mist in Mountains	9	6	9	Lovely. Try opening up the shadows a bit more in the bottom.

46	Raymond LaBelle - Road Runner Snack	9	9	8.5	Great caputre. Try cropping off some on the right and give more room to the left.
47	Valarie Van Cleave - Remarkable Rocks-Tasmania	8	7	8	I like this, but it would be so much better more dynamic if you crop in.
48	Mark Brenner - Egrets Displaying Love	7	7	6.5	I want to like this, but there are a number of problems. The whites are blown out in the necks. The blur has issues - look at the bottom in the feathers. There is haloing.
49	Stuart Rubin - Lee	7	6	7	Good eyes and the color on his face on the left is good, but the rest is just too red/orange. Why is his chin cropped out?
50	Mary Madden - Yellowstone Sunrise	8.5	8.5	6.5	This is a wonderful photo, but you need to clean the spots. I see at least 8 spots.
51	Marilyn Crichton - We Are All Lichen	6.5	6	6.5	Interesting color and shape/texture patterns, but it is shot. Can you sharpen it?
52	Russ Lazar - That Look	9	7.5	9	Lovely bokeh and color. This photo grew on me.
53	Rodney Cooper - What did she find	8	6	8	Interesting. I like the figures, the angle, the sun and shade, but I think it would be more dynamic if you crop down to the bottom of the first set of windows and from the left. Put them more strictly on the rule of thirds. Center horizontally five of the double white stripes.
54	Daniel Lee - Great Roadrunner Portrait	8.5	7	8.5	Great caputre. Unfortunatley no catchlight or reflection in his eye.
55	Ken Furuta - Furious Takeoff	7.5	7	7.5	Great capture. But it seems to be a sky replacement. The wings edges near the head are too smooth. The head is too crunchy.
56	Mike Bray - Nectar Lover	7	7	7	Great capture. Flower out of focus is distracting, his tongue is in focus but not the flower. The background has been replaced, there is haloing.

57	Keith Leonin - New York City Superheroes	7.5	6	7.5	Fun but a bit too busy for me to figure out what to focus on.
58	Myra Posner - I'm In Charge Here	7.5	7.5	7	Fun capture and title. Hard light to work with. The heads are not sharp enough and a bit blown out. There is a "ghost" image just above the back of the right bird and above his beak.
59	Linda Berman - A Quiet Place	8.5	7	8.5	Lovely. I would get rid of the hot spot (break in the trees) on the right.
60	Brad Friesen - 9 Miles Offshore	8.5	6	8.5	Lovely. Can you try a bit more contrast for the wells, more black?
61	Jack Salvador - Pretty Birdy	8.5	7	8.5	Good portrait. Halo around the yellow top and bottom of beak. Unfortunatley no catchlight or reflection in his eye.
62	Diane Hall - Sierras Serenity	8.5	6.5	8.5	Lovely. But I think the blue in the sky is just not right, a bit too much. All the other colors are good.
63	Tom Conrad - Old Man in a Dark Place	9	6	9	Interesting. I like it.

**March 2026 Digital Critique**  
**Smart Phone**  
**Judge: Kim Chapin - Kim Signoret Paar**

Slide	First Last - Title	Score	Score KC	Score KSP	Judge's Comments
65	Daniel Lee - Queen Mary	9	6	9	Great night shot.
66	Tom Getz - Stairway to Art	7	6	7	Soft focus
67	Raymond LaBelle - Water and Wind Sculpture	7.5	7.5	7.5	Too bright on the outer rocks lower left and right.
68	Valarie Van Cleave - After Hours in San Juan	7.5	6	7.5	Crop bottom, not needed.

69	Ken Furuta - Angles & Curves	9	8	9	Beautiful, good color and well composed.
70	Mary Madden - Fellow Photographers	9	7	9	Love this.
71	Diane Hall - Winter Storm at Barbara Lake	7.5	6	7.5	Wood and grass are both too bright. Cloudy sky is nice.
72	Myra Posner - Looking Through The Leaves	7.5	6.5	7.5	I like this but most of the leaves and branches have white halos.
73	Esther Spektor - Solitude	8	6	8	Good storm clouds. Figure is too far to the left.
74	Tom Conrad - Lunch with an Android	8.5	6	8.5	Good capture and storytelling. Well composed.
75	Mark Brenner - Squirrel Eating Tree Nut	6	6	6	Cute capture but pixelated. Maybe too cropped for the resolution.
76	Brad Friesen - Caught Sleeping	8	6	8	Nice capture, good storytelling. Try a bit more contrast.
77	Rodney Cooper - Sunset Reflection	6.5	6	6.5	Confusing. I don't understand what I'm looking at.
78	Kamran Ghassemi - Joshua & I	9	6.5	9	Like this. Good composition and good in b&w.
79	Dave Southworth - Elderly tree	7.5	6	7.5	Light is too harsh. I want to see his eyes. Tree would be better in a diffent light.
80	Keith Leonin - Dirty Negative	9	6.5	9	Interesting.
81	Mitchell Gelber - Of The Sea	6.5	6	6.5	I like the idea of the photo, but it is soft, not focused. Maybe it could work with an art filter in AR.
82	Jack Salvador - Resplendent	9	6.5	9	Sharp, great color and reflections.
83	Mike Bray - Pride Day	7	6	7	The background appears to be generative fill. The concrete ground is sharp and then not. Try again. The child is good.

**March 2026 Digital Critique**  
**Special Subject - Environmental Portraits**  
**Judge: Kim Chapin - Kim Signoret Paar**

Slide	First Last - Title	Score	Score KC	Score KSP	Judge's Comments
85	Keith Leonin - Wet Market Fish Monger	8	7	8	Crop in, out of focus fish in front are distracting.
86	Faro Mojahedi - swimmer	8.5	7	8.5	Not sure if this is really an environmental photograph, but the light gives an aura that is appealing. And I do have a sense of where he is and what he is doing.
87	Mary Madden - Kyoto Geisha	7	7	7	She is good, nice color, but the environment is not strong enough to show Kyoto.
88	Larry Goodman - Tough Day at the Wedge	7	7	6.5	Background blur is too much. Tops of the rocks are mushy -- not natural. There is a semi-circle line on the right.
89	Russ Lazar - Patrolling	8	6	8	Halo on right shoulder and arm.
90	Ken Furuta - Aspiring Equestrian	7.5	7	7.5	A bit too much denoise. She is too smoth. Light is beautiful.
91	Harry Chen - Looking Rodent	6.5	6	6.5	The image doesn't communicate without the title. I can barely see the animal and I can't really what kind of animal.
92	Jack Salvador - First Bright Lights	9	9	8	Definitely fits the brief, but a bit soft on focus. Her hair that is held up is running into something on the wall.
93	Myra Posner - Proud Of His Patents	8	6	8	Definitely fits the brief, but the white background is distracting. Crop down to just above his head and crop up a little from the bottom. You can then see his MIT shirt. A bit more sharpening and contrast.
94	Tom Conrad - George Washington the Morning After Democracy, Pinhole	7	6	7	Soft, out of focus, I realize it is a pinhole, but lack of focus is distracting. Better if we could see more of his face in focus.

95	Mark Brenner - Gypsies Celebrating in San Francisco	6.5	6.5	6.5	Background blur distracting, too much. See top of umbrella and fencing. Not real.
96	Rodney Cooper - Hacker	9	9	7	Face is not in focus, but idea and environment are interesting.
97	Mike Bray - Honor Guard	8	6.5	8	Would be much better if you had a version without the flag in his face.
98	Linda Berman - Veteran Street Photographer Louis Mendez	9	7.5	9	Excellent!
99	Valarie Van Cleave - Antarctic Couple	9	9	9	Excellent!
100	Carol Stanley - Intention	9	9	9	Excellent!
101	Brad Friesen - Reading His Blessing	8.5	7.5	8.5	Closer crop might make it more dynamic.
102	Kamran Ghassemi - Taming Glass	7.5	6.5	7.5	Good concept, but his face being in shadow detracts, maybe lighten, also crop down from top, crop into the action.
103	Daniel Lee - Bartender	7	6.5	7	Good idea, environment. He is not in focus and he should be. The pull for draft beer is the point of focus. Would be a 9 if the focus was on him.
104	Tom Getz - Muscat Fishmonger	7	6	7	Soft, not good focus. Good idea and good environment.
105	Raymond LaBelle - Seoul Street Vendor	7	7	7	Like the idea, but the person should be in focus not the environment.
106	Esther Spektor - Are You Ready for the Drink	9	7	9	I like the selective color.
107	Diane Hall - Una Pizza Coming Up	8	7	8	Good idea and composition, but the photo is grainy and pixelated.