

5th Competition: Movement & Open

A Grade Open

Judge: Paul Robinson

1. **White faced Heron** – Score 11 points

One of the greater skills in bird photography is capturing a bird in flight which you have done well here. It is part of the four 'Fs' of bird photography, feeding, fighting, flying and ... yes, flirting. The out of focus background is exactly what is seen in award winning images in international salons. The bird could be a tad more in focus but otherwise is a quality image. The quality is carried through other technical aspects and the visual appeal of the shape of the wings. For inspiration see the work of the American photographer, Melissa Groo.

2. **Resting Couple** – Score 10 points

The immediate visual for the image is the lighting as it penetrates the pelican bills. Then after a moment one sees the colours appear somewhat saturated with a lot of burning in of the background. This burning in is obviously dark and dark colours (neutral charcoal grey here) also enhances the brilliance of colours. It is recommended to pull the intensity of the colour back a little to more genuinely approach nature. Alternatively, a full blooded over the top colour saturated image would catch the eye. Here you could really overload the colour senses, for example, making the burnt in areas purple, hope this gives you some ideas. See the work of the great colourist photographer, Pete Turner from the USA.

3. **What** – Score 9 points

The close up of the cat's face in compositional terms is called an opaque image. That is the subject is at the surface of the image with no third dimension apparent. The eyes of the cat are striking and had the image had at least auto-contrast applied they would be spellbinding. A key challenge here is sharpness, as distinct to depth of field, which would have improved its appearance. It is recommended to continue photographing cats as they are a common animal but uncommon in competition photography. Although not house cats see the work of the American photographer, Steve Winter.

4. **Sakrisoy** – Score 14 points (2nd place)

The unfamiliar nearly always surprises the eye and this cold encrusted village scene does just this. The lighting is flat from a third-dimension approach; however, this is overcome by colour where the warm colours of dull red, orange and yellow which advance and the cold colours recede. There is size contrast, contraposition (dealing with opposites, here being manmade houses against the wonder of nature) and a huge range of visual texture. The image is a good quality photo travel image which may do well in National or International Competitions. The mood of the subtle mists raises its quality.

5. **Up and Over** – Score 12 points (HC)
Peak action in sports photography is always sought because of its emotional import. Your timing is exquisite in capturing the moment. The background is distracting over which you have very little control although it could be converted to B&W but leaving all else in colour. Further, cropping to a square format just to the right of the right white flag would create more emphasis upon the action. The red and yellow flag/sign near the head of the rider draws attention to the plight of the rider. Sometimes sports photographers specialize in a particular sport and for inspiration see the work of the Australian, Delly Carr.

6. **Rooftop View** – Score 11 points
As an example of architectural photography it meets some of the basics, i.e. elevations are photographed from 45 degs each side and direct on as well as having vertical lines exactly that. The job of an architectural photographer is to represent the vision of the architect or builder which you have achieved here. Nearly a quarter of the image could be cropped off the right as the washing line is a visual distraction. The patterns of the green roof tiles are akin to the wall patterns on the tower thus tying the image together. The middle of the day lighting works in this case as it enhances façade textures. See the work of the Australian, John Gollings.

7. **Dune** - Score 15 points (1st place)
Your delicate high key B&W image is a high-quality figure study featuring a subtle tonal range. In addition to the background dune shape a further option could be another image where it mimics the shape of the body. You have a gallery quality image that should do well at a National or International Salon. See the work of the American, Joyce Tenneson.

8. **Chris Sperou** – Score 12 points (HC)
The Australian world-famous aerobatics pilot in his Super Pitts Special Bi-plane, the photo has historical importance and you should treasure this image. The image is sharp and while the sunlight is directly overhead (usually not the best) it works well here. A key feature is having chosen the correct shutter speed to show the rotating propeller at its best. See the work of the Indian, Angad Singh.

9. **Hanging On** – Score 11 points
The title suits the image which looks as if it is going to fall in the next strong wind. It's not only hanging on at its 'feet' but also in its canopy. The tree is a good example of suffering from climate crisis and erosion and reference to this could be built into its title. The 'faux' sepia look to the image supports the aged appearance of the tree. The composition in relation to the viewpoint gives a sense of height and vulnerability of the tree.

10. **Autumn Falls** – Score 13 points (3rd place)

You have captured a special mood with the waterfall and the chosen shutter speed is just right by showing movement without looking too milky. There is a keen avoidance of distracting fringing where this closed landscape displays a rugged flowing composition called a serpentine line across the face of the fall. The drop shadow of the 'frame' of the image works well but the size of the white border needs to be considerably reduced as it is a visual distraction. For inspiration see the work of the Japanese, Tzido Sun.