

5th Competition: Movement & Open

A Grade Set: Movement

Judge: Paul Robinson

- 1. Crossing the Wetlands** – Score – 12 points (HC)
You have delightfully captured the spread and wing 'design' of the White Ibis. It is a study in natural flight and having water droplets dripping from its legs contributes to its visual appeal. The background clearly displays its habitat which features no distractions. The range of motion is seen by the blurred wingtip feathers and the sharpness of the body of the bird contributing to the sense of movement. See the work of the Finnish, Marcus Varesvuo.
- 2. Gotcha' Champ!** – Score – 14 points (2nd Place)
The panning technique with such sharpness upon the bicycle rider displays your considerable skills. The sense of excitement in the airborne stunt has great emotional value. The background supports the clarity of the action and the red jacket claims our eyes and rivets attention **upon** the rider. The composition concerning the placement of the rider and bicycle works and their diagonal angle contributes to the sense of movement. See the work of the Australian, Mark Gunter.
- 3. Ballerina Down** – Score – 11 points
The abstract of resetting the flower as a falling ballerina in a gown/tutu is an inventive application of the image. Using out of focus pure colour is being re-imagined in a useful and relevant manner complying with this set subject. The pastel pinks are delicate tending towards being a high key image giving a sense of motion. See the work of the Englishman, Andrew S. Gray.
- 4. Kilan Beach Storm** – Score – 11 points
This is a quality landscape which should do well in a National or International Salon. The sense of movement is subordinate and contributes to the liveliness of the image as a landscape. The wave movement is subtle, is not the key point of interest to meet the task but is integral to the image as a landscape. For inspiration see the Dutchman, Max Rive.
- 5. Spinning Steel Wool** – Score – 12 points (HC)
This is an image with a difference, the inventive title and the subject. The sparkling light trails occasionally is submitted into photography club competitions and this is one of the better-quality images. It could do with some more contrast and the blue window on the right is a distracting fringe element which could do with being cropped out. The key round shape 'steel wool' is an opposing geometric shape to the other square and rectangular (this opposition is called contraposition) which gives the visual appeal to the image. It is a keen illustration of abstract movement.

6. **Wet Landing** – Score – 10 points

It appears to be a junior Gannet carrying out a 'test landing' where all the basic ingredients are present for a quality image. The progress of motion is evident by the wake of the bird landing which was a clever inclusion. More breathing space would have shown the ends of the wings and more of the wake. A tad more sharpening would help (last thing to do after re-sizing) once this is done then you potentially have a high-quality image. See the work of the Hungarian, Bence Mate.

7. **Freestyle** – Score – 15 points (1st Place)

This is equal to the quality of professional sports photography of swimming. The vigour is captured with perfect timing and the droplets of water blend with the bokeh background enhancing the sense of action. The white pool edge at the foot of the image could be marginally burnt in as it is a slight visual distraction. The low camera angle and the viewfinder selection is sensibly carried out. See the work of the Australian, Phil Hillyard.

8. **Moto GP** – Score – 13 points (3rd Place)

Being a motorcycle rider myself and having made thousands of images of Moto GP I clearly recognize a quality motorcycle racing image when presented. The vignetting is appropriate but the image would be just as successful without it. The concentration of the cornering rider, possibly Johann Zarco, while trying to hold his head parallel to the tarmac as the bike leans over is well timed. The knee pad is ready to lift the bike back up if it leans too far as the wheels kick up surface moisture. See the work of the Czech photographer, Milan Kubin.

9. **A Windy Day** – Score – 11 points

An inventive approach to a simple subject which has the look of pinhole photography (three pinholes) but is more likely three layers or in camera multiple exposure. So many options these days!! The out of focus rooftops and powerlines are not immediately obvious but are visual distractions. The title supports the idea of movement and the image also has the feel of abstract. See the work of the American, Frances Seward.

10. **Show of lights** – Score – 11 points

The image looks straight forwardly simple but is a complex composition of overlays between a radial and serpentine line giving it strength of structure. The car lights are the key to the movement and dominate the image. The frame is a visual distraction, see my comments about this in an earlier image. There is a hard edge near the 50kph sign (part of a layer!!) which can easily be overcome in post-production. Including the milky way (I suspect as a composite component) provided subtle interest to the vacant sky and is an arm of the radial composition.

11. **Reaching for the stars** – Score – 11 points

Great cold/warm contrast in the colour and the diagonal angle of the lights give a sense of motion. There is no actual movement being shown but rather a momentary pause in the dance action. The light, lower right, is a distraction – clone it out rather than cropping. It has a similarity to Michelangelo's statue, "David", which is about the anticipation of motion/movement. The image should do well in an open competition. See the work of the American, Lois Greenfield.