

October 2022 N4C Digital Contest Results

PICTORIAL

Maker: **Paul Grillo**

Title:

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 C = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 I = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 TOTAL = 33

Judges Comments: Good exposure. Trees and mountains are over sharpened? Lower part of mountains a bit bright. ~ Pretty rocks and good perspective ~ This is an image of a mountain lake. The foreground of the image is beautifully edited to highlight a range of tones and textures in the water. The trees and mountain feel a little over sharpened. Overall a captivating scene.

Maker: **Diane Lowry**

Title: **Long Gone**

Award (if any): **Merit**

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 4 + 4 + 5 = 13 C = 4 + 3 + 5 = 12 I = 4 + 4 + 5 = 13 TOTAL = 38

Judges Comments: Good exposure for subject. Nice sunburst. Upper 1/4 could be cropped off. The cloudy part of the sky is not adding to the image. The tracks and cars provide leading lines to the sun. ~ Great use of filtered light through the tree. Could benefit from cropping the left side more and focusing the viewer on the right side trains ~ 1st Place - Perfect entry for this competition as this image demonstrates artistry through the use of tone, composition, and captured beauty. Creates a dreamy and memorable image.

Maker: **Patty Foster**

Title: **Smokey Mountain Gristmill**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 C = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 I = 4 + 5 + 4 = 13 TOTAL = 36

Judges Comments: Interesting subject. Try cropping out the sky above the, bright area draws eye away from the building. ~ Pretty picture. Would love to see it in color ~ This is an image of a historical gristmill. The image has two strong leading lines pulling the viewer in, one in the grass area leading to the gristmill and the other in the structure over the creek or river. The maker chose to desaturate most of the color from the image, leaving it almost without color. This is an interesting application and allowing the viewer to spend more time studying the play on lights, darks, reflections and movement in the image.

Maker: **Nancy Heather Brown**

Title: **As it Grows**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 5 + 3 + 4 = 12 C = 5 + 3 + 4 = 12 I = 4 + 3 + 5 = 12 TOTAL = 36

Judges Comments: Nice image. ~ Too blurry ~ This is a beautiful edit on a flower or flowers in shades of yellow and white. I like the dreamy edit. This is a perfect entry for this competition as this image demonstrates artistry through the use of tone, composition, and beauty. Creates a dreamy and memorable image.

Maker: **Jack Howells**

Title: **Law library Stairs**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 C = 4 + 4 + 3 = 11 I = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 TOTAL = 35

Judges Comments: Panorama is the right crop. Good focus and exposure. Would ne need to see the base, provide a starting point. ~ Very pretty stairs. Love the composition ~ This is an image of an ornate spiral stair case spanning several stories in a library. The lighting is well managed, with sharp focus and a panoramic style crop. Nicely done.

Maker: **Mike Remus**

Title: **Silky Flow**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 4 + 4 + 3 = 11 C = 2 + 4 + 3 = 9 I = 2 + 4 + 4 = 10 TOTAL = 30

Judges Comments: Good exposure, longer exposure for water effect. Not sure what the subject is. ~ Nice long exposure ~ This is an image of a stream taken to create a smooth texture in the water. The warm tones in the image and detail in the rocks are attractive. The maker may consider trying an alternate crop that excludes some of the twigs and branches on the river bank. The white water also seems to be overexposed and has lost its detail.

Maker: **Chuck King**

Title: **Busy Bee**

Award (if any): **Merit**

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 5 + 4 + 4 = 13 C = 4 + 3 + 4 = 11 I = 5 + 4 + 4 = 13 TOTAL = 37

Judges Comments: Nice capture of insect on flower. ~ Angle of the photo feels off. Suggest trying different angles to get more perspective ~ This is a nice image of a bee on a vibrant yellow colored flower. The bee detail is sharp highlighting the finest details such as the hair on the bees legs. The maker could experiment with a tighter crop that really highlights the bee and allows the flower to fade into the background. Nice capture.

Maker: **Steve Guns**

Title: **FLW-Still-Life-1**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Minnesota Valley Photography Club

Score: T = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 C = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 I = 3 + 3 + 4 = 10 TOTAL = 31

Judges Comments: Good focus and exposure. Try cropping out the light. Use the horizontal line to bring eye to plant. ~ Nice idea. The foliage in the vase is underwhelming ~ This is a still life image of a dried flower arrangement. The color palette is complimentary and pleasing. I would recommend the photographer experiment with alternative crops for this image. Ideally the crop will draw the viewers attention into the image with a clear focus on the floral arrangement, eliminating the light, competing textures, multiple angles and lines and colors of the ceiling and adjacent wall.

JOURNALISM

Maker: **Paul Grillo**

Title: **Excitement on the Midway (long exposure)**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 C = 4 + 4 + 3 = 11 I = 4 + 3 + 4 = 11 TOTAL = 32

Judges Comments: Nice colorful shot with a story but oversaturated.

Maker: **Patty Foster**

Title: **Bridge Lights at Night** Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 5 + 4 + 4 = 13 C = 5 + 4 + 5 = 14 I = 4 + 3 + 4 = 11 TOTAL = 38

Judges Comments: Not a journalistic story.

Maker: **Jack Howells**

Title: **Great River Tug**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 5 + 4 + 5 = 14 C = 4 + 3 + 4 = 11 I = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 TOTAL = 34

Judges Comments: Would have been better as a journalism story showing the Tug tugging a boat.

Maker: **Bob Young**

Title: **Making Fudge**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 C = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 I = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 TOTAL = 31

Judges Comments: Nice capture.

Maker: **Steve Guns**

Title: **Urban-Exploration,Banister**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 4 + 3 + 4 = 11 C = 5 + 3 + 4 = 12 I = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 TOTAL = 32

Judges Comments: Interesting but not sure it has much journalistic value. Too dark on entrance to stairway.

BLACK AND WHITE

Maker: **Paul Grillo**

Title: **The Lonely Diner**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 C = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 I = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 TOTAL = 34

Judges Comments: good lines and patterns. Black and white a good choice.

Maker: **Patty Foster**

Title: **High Trestle**

Award (if any):

Contest: DB Date: 10/17/2022

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 3 + 5 + 3 = 11 C = 3 + 4 + 4 = 11 I = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 TOTAL = 34

Judges Comments: sun star and clouds are nice.

Maker: **Nancy Heather Brown**

Title: **Impression of Fall**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 C = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 I = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 TOTAL = 30

Judges Comments: shows good textures.

Maker: **Janie Lawson**

Title: **Looking back on Summer b&W**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 5 + 4 + 5 = 14 C = 4 + 3 + 3 = 10 I = 4 + 3 + 3 = 10 TOTAL = 34

Judges Comments: Great subject isolation and tonality.

Maker: **Stephanie Nelson**

Title: **Mushroom Cascade**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 5 + 3 + 5 = 13 C = 4 + 3 + 3 = 10 I = 4 + 4 + 3 = 11 TOTAL = 34

Judges Comments: Detailed. Good exposure. Holds your interest.

Maker: **Bob Young**

Title: **Abstract Ceiling**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Sioux City Camera Club

Score: T = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 C = 4 + 3 + 3 = 10 I = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 TOTAL = 29

Judges Comments: Nice interesting patterns. May be less midtones & more blacks and white

TRAVEL

Maker: **Dwight Tomes**

Title: **wall grafetti palestine 2022**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 5 + 3 + 4 = 12 **C** = 3 + 3 + 2 = 8 **I** = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 **TOTAL** = 32

Judges Comments: Fascinating way to establish a sense of place. Sharp, good color rendition, but feels as if the Palestino badge is too close to the right side of the image. A shift in that direction would better show off that piece of the story. Love the angle that the image was shot- purposefully not perpendicular. Would like to see more context of the wall. Interesting angle Nice color and textures that were captured. Good focus for the angled shot. Not sure what element on the wall painting is your focal point...I want to see more of the peace sign, but not sure what else that would have included.

Maker: **Paul Grillo**

Title: **Water Style Fireworks (Old Faithful. Yellowstone NP,WY)**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 4 + 3 + 2 = 9 **C** = 4 + 4 + 2 = 10 **I** = 4 + 5 + 3 = 12 **TOTAL** = 31

Judges Comments: Very dramatic! A little light in the foreground could have added to the detail (and brought out the recognizable Inn) without giving up the nighttime feel- a bit more true to a full moon night. Good sun star. Clouds appear to be over-post-processed -- don't look real. The foreground is underexposed.

Maker: **Diane Lowry**

Title: **Lake Superior North Shore, MN**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 5 + 3 + 4 = 12 **C** = 4 + 3 + 3 = 10 **I** = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 **TOTAL** = 34

Judges Comments: Beautifully done long exposure. Love the soft clouds and the silky water. Really could use just a touch of warmth. The long exposure is very effective here in smoothing out the water (and the clouds to a degree). Nice colors on the little island, and I love the see-through spot. The diagonal form of the foreground rocks along the water changes the balance of the shot for me.

Maker: **Deb Shoning**

Title: **The Point Reyes, California**

Award (if any): **Merit**

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 5 + 3 + 3 = 11 **C** = 5 + 4 + 3 = 12 **I** = 4 + 5 + 4 = 13 **TOTAL** = 36

Judges Comments: Love that you can read the name of the boat- just pulled out of the shadows. It is a shame that you were not blessed with some clouds that day. Great capture of the boat with its name before it collapses. Good color on the boat.

Maker: **Patty Foster**

Title: **Dubuque, Iowa**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 **C** = 3 + 4 + 2 = 9 **I** = 3 + 3 + 2 = 8 **TOTAL** = 26

Judges Comments: Interesting concept, the reflections had promise. The center pole is distracting dead center and the trees lack detail. The focal point of the shot is not clear; I do like the tug-barge form and colors -- need to bring them out more.

Maker: **Nancy Heather Brown**

Title: **Fall Harvest Pigeon Forge, TN**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 **C** = 5 + 3 + 3 = 11 **I** = 4 + 4 + 3 = 11 **TOTAL** = 31

Judges Comments: Wonderful colors, love the repetition of the barn shape in the mts behind. Wish the image was brighter throughout. Image feels like celebration of harvest but dark color conflicts with that feeling. Love the layering of colors and textures but ease up on the vignetting. All detail in the sky and mountain background is missing.

Maker: **Janie Lawson**

Title: **Ilgen Falls, MN**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 5 + 4 + 4 = 13 **C** = 3 + 3 + 3 = 9 **I** = 4 + 3 + 3 = 10 **TOTAL** = 32

Judges Comments: Love the color of the flowing water. Would like to see more of the surrounding area, the crop feels a bit too tight. Very nice long exposure of the falls. Softly done with good focus on the rest of the shot elements. Nice framing with the trees and rocks. Shot appears to lean to the right just a bit.

Maker: **Jack Howells**

Title: **Colors of Antigua**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 4 + 3 + 3 = 10 **C** = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 **I** = 3 + 3 + 4 = 10 **TOTAL** = 30

Judges Comments: The horizon of the image is mostly straight- hard to do on a boat. I like the motorboat coming at you. But the title tells us that this image is about the colors. On overcast days (as in the image) the colors become even more saturated- which I do not see in this image. Lots of great colors -- could make them pop even more with some post-processing. Just the right amount of sky and foreground water for balance (too bad you were not blessed with great clouds on this day). I like timing of the little boat coming at you. Focus could be a bit better.

Maker: **Stephanie Nelson**

Title: **Canal Reflection, Bath, England**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 **C** = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 **I** = 3 + 3 + 2 = 8 **TOTAL** = 28

Judges Comments: Very quiet feel to this image. Sharp focus, nice curve to the canal and the boats on the right side of the canal help to balance the image. The perfect reflections convey the quiet so the colors do not need to be muted. Nice reflection in water; cloudy day limits the red/yellow colors on the buildings. Hard to tell what the central focus of the shot is.

Maker: **Mike Remus**

Title: **Floating Peat Bog Gunflint Trail, MN**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 4 + 3 + 4 = 11 **C** = 2 + 3 + 3 = 8 **I** = 3 + 2 + 3 = 8 **TOTAL** = 27

Judges Comments: Nice saturated colors, The horizon is tilted so that the pine trees on the right are topped off and the bog on the bottom right shows. It feels unbalanced on the whole. Horizon line is a little crooked. Great greens and blues in the shot. Well-focused throughout. Level out the horizon to the shoreline.

Maker: **Randy Edwards**

Title: **Into the Mountains**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 4 + 4 + 4 = 12 **C** = 2 + 3 + 3 = 8 **I** = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 **TOTAL** = 30

Judges Comments: Lovely colors, nice placement of "layers", nice repetition of triangles in trees and mts., to focus the viewers' attention back to the mountains crop some of the sky down to leave more of a panoramic feel to image. The road feels a little unbalanced off on the side, great contrast in the mountains. Love the blues in the sky and shadows on the snow-covered mountains -- it's a shame you didn't have a more interesting sky to work with that day

Maker: **Bob Young**

Title: **Beale Street Memphis, TN**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 3 + 4 + 2 = 9 **C** = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 **I** = 3 + 4 + 3 = 10 **TOTAL** = 29

Judges Comments: Interesting idea. Need those signs to be tack sharp. I like how everything but the lights is darkened out. Looks like they are floating Cool subject matter and capture of the sign placement. Signs not sharply focused. Dark areas need more detail to give depth to the shot.

Maker: **Steve Guns**

Title: **Dumbo, New York**

Award (if any):

Judges Scores & Comments from: Black Hills Photography Club

Score: **T** = 4 + 3 + 4 = 11 **C** = 2 + 3 + 4 = 9 **I** = 3 + 3 + 4 = 10 **TOTAL** = 30

Judges Comments: Image is sharp but very contrasty and most of the interest is on the left hand side of the image. Cropping off some of the bottom and right side might put more emphasis on the story of the image. There is a lot going on here and I'm not really sure what the main focus point is. My eye is drawn to all the lights at first, but then I see the boat and the two people walking on the side and i'm not sure what to look at. Great skyline shot with the water element at night.