

The Toledo Camera Club

Division Definitions

Nature Image - The purpose of the Nature Division is to show nature in its pure form. Human elements are not allowed. Images depicting cultivated plants, domestic animals or pets, still-life studies, table-tops, mounted specimens, museum pieces or groupings, or similar subjects are NOT eligible. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Zoo shots and Game Farm shots are eligible provided the artificial habitat is not apparent in the image. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set-up arrangements, are ineligible, as are some forms of manipulation, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic nature statement.

Allowable manipulations of a nature photograph include:

- The photographer may perform enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image that could have been done at the time the image was taken but that does not change the truth of the original nature story.
- Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide), straightening, keystone correction, noise removal, dodging and burning, exposure adjustment, color balance, color correction, white balance, minimal saturation, sharpening, "HDR" (High Dynamic Range), and cloning spots, are examples of acceptable modifications if they are not obvious and the image remains natural.
- Adding elements to your images, or combining separate images into one are not acceptable and will lead to disqualification of your image.

Any techniques that make the image look altered from a natural appearance is not acceptable. It is the responsibility of the Nature Chairperson to determine if an image entered into the nature division does not meet these requirements and should be consequently disqualified. The chairperson should give the member the chance to enter an alternative image, time permitting. The photographer should be ethical about meeting these requirements.

General Image - A "General" image must obviously show evidence of the "hand of man". Although a part of a general image may contain a nature subject, it must also show the human element. For example, a pelican perched on a fishing dock would be a general image. Images of domestic animals, such as dogs and cows, and cultivated plants, such as roses and tulips, would be considered general images. Nature subjects that look altered from a natural appearance can be entered in General. It is the responsibility of the General Chairperson to determine if an image entered into the general division does not meet these requirements and should be consequently disqualified. The chairperson should give the member the chance to enter an alternative image, time permitting.

Digital Monochrome Image - A monochrome image must be primarily a black & white image. Only one overall color tint is permissible, but the image must overall have a monochrome appearance. There are no regulations on the subject matter of the photo. It is the responsibility of the Digital Monochrome Chairperson to determine if an image entered into the digital monochrome division does not meet these requirements and should be consequently disqualified. The chairperson should give the member the chance to enter an alternative image, time permitting.

Creative Image - The purpose of the Creative Division is to provide an outlet for photographers who like to work "out of the box", using electronic techniques to go a step beyond pure photography into the "artistic" realm. A "Creative" image is defined as an image which is manipulated in the computer, using computer software and shows obvious adjustments to the casual viewer. Examples of manipulation include, but are not

limited to, posterization, extreme over saturation, combining 2 or more different photos, distortion, special effects, collage, texturing, etc. Nature subjects that have been enhanced by any of these techniques so they no longer appear natural, will be accepted in the Digital Creative Division. There are no regulations on the subject of the photo. ALL work in Digital Creative Division and ALL components in the image must be that of the photographer. It is the responsibility of the Creative Chairperson to determine if an image entered into the creative image division does not meet these requirements and should be consequently disqualified. The chairperson should give the member the chance to enter an alternative image, time permitting.

Print Division

There is no restriction on print images as to subject matter or creative techniques. Members may submit a maximum of 4 printed images per competition with a maximum of 3 entered in color prints; distributed as they wish between the color print category and the monochrome print category, and respectively, the color assignment group, color non-assignment group, monochrome non-assignment group.

Prints may be a minimum of 8" x 10" and a maximum of 16" x 20", with no signatures or identifying info on the front of the image itself. All prints must be mounted on mat board, not foam core, measuring 16" X 20", with *NO over-mats, glass or frames*. All prints must have a TCC label on the back on the upper left corner, printed legibly. If you photographed the image especially for the assignment, check the "F" on your label for your extra point. Prints may be made from film (negatives or slides) using wet-darkroom techniques or electronic files using computerized digital darkroom. All prints must be "processed" by the maker. Processing includes composites and all other types of manipulation with the stipulation that all parts of the image must be the maker's work. All prints must be printed either by the maker or by a commercial printer that performs no further adjustments or manipulation to the file when printed.

The print division is divided into two categories: Monochrome Prints and Color Prints. Monochrome prints will only compete against other monochrome prints and color prints will only compete against other color prints. Monochrome entries must **ONLY** be black & white images. Any monochrome images that have a tint or color areas will be entered as color.