

# Judging Guidelines

for

## The Ventura County Camera Club

The objective of our monthly competition is: "To create a learning experience for our members." This is accomplished by critiquing images as they are presented. If an image is of exceptional quality, the judge will after critiquing the individual image say "**This is a Merit Image**". If the image does not meet "The Merit" standard then the judge simply says "Next" after his critique. The following image will then be displayed.

We encourage the judge to be constructive and educational in his critique, pointing out the positive aspects of the image as well as those elements that detract from the image. This should be followed by a brief explanation as to what the photographer should have done to improve the image. Time is important so while being thorough in your critique, please be brief.

Images are presented in 6 categories:

<p><b><u>Digitally Projected Images:</u></b></p> <p><u>Assigned category</u> The topic varies each month The month's topic will be announced</p> <p><u>Open subject category</u></p> <p><u>Digital Art</u></p>	<p><b><u>Prints</u></b></p> <p><u>Black and White</u></p> <p><u>Color prints</u></p> <p><u>Digital Art</u></p> <p>Note: There is no assigned category in the prints</p>
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After the judge awards a merit (and only on merit images), the judge may at his/her own discretion engage the photographer in a brief discussion (if time permits) as to technique, method of capture, etc., These questions should be directed to the specific photographer and be of an educational nature so others may learn and benefit.

## What defines a "Merit" image

A "Merit" image should be of exceptional quality suitable for presentation at a county fair or in an open amateur photo competition. While we have no specific rules for the critique, we encourage the judge to evaluate each image using the PPA's "12 Elements of a Merit Print".

Those 12 qualities are:

**Impact, Creativity, Technical Excellence, Composition, Lighting, Style, Presentation, Center of Interest, Subject Matter, Color Balance, Technique, and Story Telling**

Please refer to:

<http://www.ppa.com/competitions/international/12elements.php>

The only qualification for a merit image is

"Exceptional Image Quality"

We have no specific number as to how many merits are allowed, just the quality of the image

Thank You for Judging at VCCC

Education is our objective