

Guide to Judging for Ventura County Camera Club

Divisions - Images for judging in two divisions and six categories as follows:

Division 1: <u>Straight Photography</u> :	Digitally Projected Images	Assigned Topic
	Digitally Projected Images	Open Category
	Color Prints	Open Category
	Black and White Prints	Open Category
Division 2: <u>Digital Art Photography</u> (trial basis):	Digital Art –Projected images	Open Category
	Printed Images B&W or Color	Open Category

Open/Assigned Guidelines: Process such as cropping, minor adjustments such as spotting, dodging and burning, contrast and slight color adjustment or their digital equivalents are acceptable in all divisions and categories. Stitched panoramas and HDR (high dynamic range) photos are likewise acceptable to the extent that the technique is used to adjust tonal range of an image so it more closely resembles the original scene. Removal of minor distracting elements or insertion of objects through the use of cloning or similar electronic tools is also acceptable.

Digital Art Guidelines: Images that have been manipulated for artistic purposes by painting techniques, applying digital or traditional filters, special effects for artistic purposes and/or collages, and composites or images resulting in a distinctive work should be submitted in the “Digital Art” division. Under no circumstances should an image in any Division contain an element not of the maker’s own original photographic creation and/or artwork

Presentation and decorum:

1. Maximum mat or mounted size for a print is 16 x 20. An image can contain a simulated mat frame.
2. Prints are displayed together on easels for general viewing prior to the meeting and during a break. During judging, images are displayed under lights, one at a time, along with the reading of the title.
3. All projected photos are reviewed quickly immediately prior to evaluation, followed by individual presentation of each image, along with a reading of the title.
4. A judge may ask questions or elicit clarification from an entrant regarding an image. Attendees should refrain from commenting as the judge evaluates and/or critiques individual image.

Critique - Images are evaluated to assist the photographer and encourage him/her to improve their skills through constructive criticism. Outstanding work is awarded a “Merit” with the goal to encourage him/her to participate and improve his/her skills. Images should be judged based on individual quality so **there are no limits to the number of “Merits” that can be awarded at a meeting.** The deciding factor is the quality of the image. Those photographs awarded a “Merit” will compete as finalists for places at the club’s “Year End Awards”. Each individual image is judged in two parts:

1. The first is critique with consideration for composition, technical aspects, impact, leading lines, rule of thirds, tells a story, print quality and, as appropriate, fulfillment of the assigned topic. The judge should make an effort to point out both positive attributes and negative elements of the image followed by anything the photographer might have done to improve the image. The critique session is intended to provide a learning experience for both the entrant and audience.
2. Following the critique, the judge makes a determination as to whether the photograph met the above criteria sufficient for an “Award of Merit”. If so, the judge declares a “**Merit**” and the name of the photographer is announced. Otherwise, the judge simply says “next” for presentation of the following image and the photographer remains anonymous.

Judges should reserve the right to move an image to the “Digital Art” division or disqualify it at their discretion based on the above guidelines.