The John Widdall Challenge Trophy

Overview

The award is made for a set of four Projected Digital Images (PDIs) chosen from four categories (see below).

Artistic and Technical Considerations

While this is primarily a technical challenge, the pictorial and technical aspects must support each other in the final image. This will be taken into account in the judging.

Rules

1. One set consists of four images. The set must include at least two different categories from those listed here.
   a) Stitched Panorama
   b) Close up and Tabletop
   c) Architectural Record
   d) Montage
2. Images are judged individually, not as a panel.
3. Images are marked out of 20.
4. Individual marks will be totalled and the set with the highest total score will be the winner.
5. Each entrant may enter a maximum of three sets. The sets are marked A, B and C.
6. Images except panoramas must be converted to sRGB and uploaded to the portal as a jpg to fit within 1920x1200 pixels.
7. Any panoramas must be uploaded with a minimum short edge of 1200 pixels and a maximum long edge of 8300 pixels and a maximum file size of 10 Mb, for the judge to view (they will be viewed at 1920 x 1200 on the night).
8. Sets must be uploaded to the OPS portal by the closing date.
9. When uploading, each image must be given a suitable title. Additionally, the reference field must be given a letter A, B or C to denote which of the sets the image belongs to.
10. If a special viewer is required for a panorama, the entrant must ensure that one is available for the judge.

Description of Sections

Stitched Panoramas

Each panorama must be stitched from two or more individually exposed images and must have an angle of view of more than 120 degrees on the longest edge. It is not a crop from a single image.

The author should pay attention to:
Ensuring that there are no mis-matches between frames, that lighting and colours are consistent across the finished image and that parallax error is eliminated.

Close Up and Tabletop

Close up and tabletop entries can include manufactured or geological objects, flora and fauna, either singly or in groups. Close up includes macro subjects and tabletop includes still life photography.

Architectural Record

This section requires photography of the whole or part of an architectural subject, e.g., building, carving, statue etc.

The purpose of architectural record photography is the faithful recording of detail of the subject, in such a way that it is accurate enough to use as a reference in re-building the structure, in the event that it is destroyed or damaged. Loss of detail in highlights and shadows is not acceptable. The inclusion of people and animals is also not allowed.

Perspective must be corrected in the taking or post processing of the image. Re-touching must not change the truth of the photographic statement i.e. cloning must be limited to removal of artefacts and minor flaws in the image, such as dust spots. However, the blending of several images is acceptable to remove moving people, maintain highlights and shadows etc. Any post-processing must look natural.

Montage

Montage is a combination of two or more images to construct a different final image. We would expect that the author will succeed in the following areas:

- Extraction or separation of parts of images should be seamless
- Matching of colour, light direction and quality
- Correct or believable perspective
- Colour harmony or discord
- Composition

Guidelines for Entrants and Judge

Each set must contain images from two, three or four categories.

The following techniques may be used throughout the sections:

- HDR
- Stacking
- Perspective correction

The judge will be asked to consider the following:

- Quality, direction and colour of light
- Depth of field, plane of focus and degree of sharpness
- Perspective
- Content and Composition
- Processing skills including sharpening and the handling of artefacts, noise and tonal range
- The overall quality and feel of the finished image