

JUDGES WORKSHOP – 15 OCTOBER 2017

WHAT MAKES A GOOD JUDGE?

- **TIMELINESS** – Prompt arrival in time to finalise requirements with the competition secretary and to preview prints if a print evening.
- A good **INTRODUCTION** sets the scene for the evening.
- **ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE** and project your voice – speak clearly with no mumbling or talking to the print.
- **DISCUSS THE PICTURE NOT** describe it – the audience can see too!
- Be critical, be fair, but above all encourage **KISS – SLAP – KISS**
- Have a **BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF TECHNIQUE** and genre to talk intelligently.
- **JUDGE THE FINAL IMAGE**, not the technique – don't talk about what you don't know about and don't dig holes for yourself.
- Be able to **ASSESS AN IMAGE QUICKLY**.
- Be able to **RANK PICTURES IN ORDER OF MERIT** and to be decisive over marks and placings.
- Use a **GOOD RANGE OF VOCABULARY** and avoid the 'nice' word. Say interesting things, entertain the audience, don't state the obvious and avoid being repetitive.
- **PACE THE EVENING** to give equal time to all work and finish on time.
- **SHOW ENTHUSIASM**.

JUDGING A PICTURE

The most important aspect is to judge what you see, not how it was achieved!

Judging Prints:

Talk to the audience, not to the print. Need to be able to assess a picture quickly in order to judge it and talk to the audience. Viewing of the prints is always advisable before commencement of the judging.

- 1) Positive opening statement – what the picture is trying to portray
- 2) Remarks about one or two good features – the content of the picture, composition, lighting, background, tonal range
- 3) Remarks about one or two weaker features – possibly how to improve. Underexposed, over-exposed, needs cropping, printing technique.
- 4) Conclude with positive comments. Overall the picture is an interesting one but perhaps the decisive moment has been missed.

KISS – SLAP - KISS

MARKS

Always a contentious subject. Make sure your comments tie up with your mark. Over the moon about a picture and then give it a low mark is not good judging. If the positive comments outweigh the negative then it should get a high mark.

Eddie Sethna identified three key elements that good judges take into account:

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|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. THE "MESSAGE" | - What the picture communicates | 50/60% |
| 2. THE "MEDIUM" | - The content of the picture | 30/35% |
| 3. THE "TECHNIQUE" | - Technical aspects of the picture | 10/15% |

Marks out of 20:

- 9-13 The message of the picture, the content and the technique is below average.
- 14-17 Quite good technically with good content but the message of the picture falls short compared with other pictures on the night.
- 18-20 Pictures that outshine the other photographs on the night, the pictures portray a message, have good picture content and are technically good.