

Tidewater Camera Club Competition Score Sheet

Month/Year: March 2018

Theme: "Texture"

Title		Comp	Impact	Tech	Total	Placement
1	a_moment_inbetween	2	2	4	8	<p>Within the confines of the definition you were given - this is in! Yet as an appealing image not sure it works! The plane is well taken, just the angle is so flat and dosen't give the viewer anything they haven't seen multiple time before. Feels very much a grab/postcard shot with added texture... There is evidence of good photographic competency and skill here, yet the image as presented, the added texture undermines that, producing a very average image.</p>
1	across_the_field	3	2	4	9	<p>Initially this one might have been better suited to your "frames" comp than this comp. As it is presented, the trees either side are a major distraction to the subtleness of the rest of the image! The negative space in the upper part seems also redundant... using a longer lens and concentrating of the fogged tress and coupled with the colours and now you are talking something beautiful and intriguing and maybe fitting the theme more on so many levels.</p>

2	beach_bun	2	2	3	7	<p>The potential for a textured image is huge... yet what is presented is a not well conceived image. The depth of field is too narrow and so the hair is in and out of focus. The highlights are somewhat blown out, combining to create an image that after a second or two the viewer will move on to the next image hoping for more! This as is needs room for the top of the head to breathe. The claustrophobic feel again makes the viewer want to move on. Think about texture and tone. A B&W would make this so much.</p>	
3	beak_and_feathers	2	3	3	8	<p>Areas that are overexposed in images can mean it is cursed from the outset. This image has so much going for it, yet its processing creates a harshness without enhancing the image. The composition is not very well executed, creating an angle for the beak that it nearly cuts the image in half... feels almost like an image of two halves... this is not helping the image. Try adding a camera tilt either left or right to avoid this! Watch for that processing too!</p>	

4	beveled_bark	3	2	3	8	<p>Brilliant find, best natural texture so far. Yet it appears over exposed in places. The light for this scene is so flat, that is makes it uninteresting. This seems an example of found some texture, click, on to the next one... I would suggest you come back with a tripod at another time of the day or at night with a flashlight, And get more dynamic shadows to bring out gorgeous texture to the viewer</p>	
5	birch_grove	2	2	2	6	<p>Photography 101 is all ABOUT THE LIGHT. As a staring point – great, this obviously has some great texture in the glass/ceramic elements. Yet none of this is presented to the viewer. Try getting much closer to just part of the collage, or introduced another light source, both of which might have yielded something more interesting!</p>	

6	brainfruit	2	3	3	8	<p>Brainfruit it maybe titled but the image is unfortunately not very stimulating. The dominant green shade is the only part that resonates, but it is not enough. The texture is presented without any real compositional feel. The hard work of finding something interesting has been done, but stopping there and pressing the shutter is just the beginning. Review your image, ask is it really working? If not - why not, go back and retake if you can with more favourable lighting conditions to bring out that wonderful texture. Maybe even a tighter crop to a small section of this object. Great potential, also watch the narrow DOF, it is very narrow not helping the viewer with such an image.</p>
7	bristlecone_pine	4	4	4	12	<p>Certainly a stand out in the comp. Beautiful find, a few minor element changes and this would be magnificent. Shallower DOF to make the tree pop from the background somewhat! A minor crop losing the righthand background. Then boosting the contrast a smidge and you would be there. Well found, just work a little bit more to move the image to another level.</p>



8	budapest_roof_tiles	3	4	3	10	<p>Lovely find, great colour and pattern. Not really texture but in the confines of the definition specified allowable. Distracted somewhat by the weird angles in roofline going on here. To improve this maybe a much tighter shot on the spire and just some of the mosaic roofing. The lighting give this a great juxtaposition of the flat roof with the definition of the stone carvings – great find!</p>
9	cactus_fuzz	2	2	3	7	<p>Nice Image but is it Over exposed? More likely that it is over processed. Feel the photographer is trying to get too much out the image and felt that blowing some highlights was acceptable. Sometimes acceptable but not at the sacrifice of the main elements of the image, as well as the finer details. A well found scene nulified by what appears to be over processing. Address this and the image would have a lot going for it.</p>

10	cathedral	3	3	3	9	<p>Pattern or texture? Simply feel this is definitely more pattern. Nicely taken, sharp throughout. A not so pleasing part to the image is try not to give the viewer something that is almost symmetrical but is just off. In this case it really needs to be symmetrical, and could so easily be fixed in post! Also feel there is an opportunity to bring out the inside of the archway, some great colours there... these days an image does not finish with you pressing the shutter!</p>	
11	crushed_cans	3	4	4	11	<p>What a brilliant find!!!! think there are possibly a dozen amazing shots from what I see here. Back to the adage of "working the scene". A simple trick would have been to tilt your camera through 20 degrees and then shoot the same thing re moving the bullseye feel or better get a bit closer. A bit of extra processing to make those colours and texture sing and you would have something that one might want to put up on the wall!!!!</p>	
12	etched_in_sand	2	2	3	7	<p>This image appears to be heavily over processed – resulting in losing all the finer texture I would have expected. Great graphic find but in the context of this comp, more sand I feel is required!!!! The more textured fine sand would have made this very special & it might have been perfect!</p>	

13	feather_in_the_grass	2	3	3	8	<p>An image where I see multiple images within what is presented and feel that they would have been more interesting than the presented image! There are almost three different images presented here, the feather, the droplets and the stalks. As it stands this combination doesn't produce anything satisfying to the viewer. Think the most exciting is the water droplets so you need to get right in the middle of that cluster and then you would have something magical!</p>
14	forest_rocks	1	2	3.5	6.5	<p>A sloping horizon in today's digital age is unforgivable, and this is off by some way! Nice texture in the rock face, but as presented this is very much a picture postcard scene, that is not very inspiring. There is a need to work on processing a bit more to get the best out of this. Suggest the lowering of your angle to create more inviting lines to the rock face and water fall. The waterfall is very underwhelming and this adds to the feel of a postcard like image. Feel there could be something more here!</p>

15	good_eats	1	1	1	3	<p>Good Eats maybe but too shallow a depth of field – definitely. For this type of shot, the first slice of bread needs to be the focus, to garner the best impact not the edge of the third crust. There is great texture in the bread board and the first piece of bread and it is somehow totally ignored. The white balance appears off in the foreground resulting in Jaundice feeling to the toast/Bread, watch for how this effects your overall image. Watch also for large dark looming objects in your backgrounds... and overexposure in an area drawing you away from the main subject, these are very distracting. Detailed observation is the key to making this type of scene work best, as there is no place for the photographer to hide. Done right this would have the making of a nice food magazine cover</p>	
16	Gorge_Climbing	3	4	4	11	<p>Nice find, maybe just a tighter crop to change the emphasis from the climbers being bullseye like – to the climbers with a great textured environment. Nice find, very well taken! Watch for the little over exposure on the top of the rock outcrop where the climbers are. A little more care can raise the bar a bit more!</p>	

17	Grass_Mat	2	2	1	5	<p>Sensory overload possibly due to over sharpening - that coupled with weak composition leads to an uninspiring effort. Remember things like leading lines, s or c curves, these elements help guide your viewer through the frame to what you want the viewer to see. This lack of a clear subject within the frame leads to a very uncohesive image and viewer flat.</p>	
18	hand_made	4	4	4	12	<p>I had to admit to discussing a previous version of this prior to being asked to judge... This new version (not seen before), because of it's simplicity, it's beautifully understated composition, makes this work very well. The lighting is again subtle yet direct and has been used effectively to bring out the textures both on the cigars and especially the course weave of the hat without excessive processing. The composition has all the elements including the background working well together. Maybe some reflected light to emphaize the front of the cigars but this is minor. This image works on multiple levels including a great narrative. Was a 25 but have to mark down because of previous involvement... sorry!</p>	

19	hole_with_a_view	1.5	1.5	2	5	<p>Careful when you name an image... where is the view??? No view and an out of focus image that may or may not be part of a larger image cropped down. The tree texture is amazing and really needs to be the subject from what is presented. Zoom in closer and try a different time of day to get the most out of it! Think about your presented images a bit more. Find someone you trust in the club, to ask to help with your choices. Don't be afraid to ask for help! It is easier than you think!</p>	
20	inside_box_grater	4	5	5	14	<p>One of the shinning lights in this comp! Is it patterns or texture? Again works within the remit of the comp definitions so lets leave that and move on. Love the contrast, sharpness and patterns here. Fantastic find, very creative indeed. Minor thing stops this from perfection, there is something that isn't quite working with this image. After a while its almost grating! (pun intended). The 3 to 1 ratio of the shapes in the grater's sides leads me to think maybe turing it either clockwise or anti clockwise by 90 degrees may take this to a much stronger place - emphasizing the corridor effect... As I said minor from a brilliantly Inventive shot!</p>	

21	islander	3	2	4	9	<p>Not a great fan of vintage reverse vignetting, and unfortunately, combined with the somewhat excessive post processing texturing, creates something that is almost drowning the main subject of this image. She has a great expression but it is all but lost in the intensity that this texture produces. For what was presented, think about a possible head and shoulders shot, it might have improved the overall feel of this type of texturing. Think carefully when using these elements in PS. They can make or break an image, so use sparingly is my advice.</p>
22	japanese_garden	2	2	3.5	7.5	<p>Timing is everything in photography, it can make or break an image! The time of day this structure was photographed is a good example. It results in it to being excessively busy with all that stone work. The various levels and depths all run into one another. Lack of any coherent composition doesn't help, as there is no room for the building to breathe - no leading lines or similar vehicle to help the viewer. Another time of day and a bit more care and this could have been very cool! Lastly watch for poorly executed burning of the sky</p>

23	lacy_lichen	2.5	2.5	2	7	<p>This is a great effort but there needs to be more care and attention with such images, as there is no where to hide if it does not work! Taken in a controlled environment and yet unfortunately not controlled very well. The direction and quality of light does not create a pleasing image. There is also an issue with the DOF. It is sharp on the left and soft the other, never a good thing in this situation. `Make sure your camera is absolutely square on to such subjects to avoid this. This will make sure your place of focus is constant throughout. Also because both top and bottom of the limb are visible the viewer's eye is struggling somewhat, trying to make this vertical, coupled with the growth of the foliage also suggests a vertical shot! Cropping the lower part of the image to take the white background out would help this dramatically.</p>	
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24	Lamp_Glow	2	2	2	6	<p>This image appears to be not one thing or another! Is this really one photograph or not a good composite! To create a pleasing composite like this, you need to understand how light works. The PS skills used produce the superimposed lamp look, it is left floating in mid air and not truly vertical. Not possible if it was photographed insitu! Since this is the key element of the image, it does not work at all well! The computer rendered star burst is not realistic and quickly becomes a very distracting element. The texture is the strongest part of the whole image and is nice as the background, where the colours suits it well. Then the shadows or lack of shadows also becomes something we need to discuss. The unrealistic nature of what is presented to what light and shade would produce in such circumstances also help to undermine the image – especially underneath the lamp, where a shadow should be cast. With a rethink it might become more interesting. possibly with an exaggerated shadow of the lamp on the wall with that great texture. Very film Noir!</p>	
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25	Lion	3	2	4	9	Nice find, but the lack of DOF makes this image too busy, with very distracting elements in the background. By shooting with a shallower DOF it would have helped to create separation between the background and subject, allowing the viewer to revel in the wonderful pitted carved stonework! Working on the shadows somewhat would allow for the mane to become more prominent and enhance the overall feel!	
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26	loop_to_work	2	2	3	7	<p>This appears to be a case of seeing something and not being able to translate that vision to the viewer. Question: is this patterns or texture? The lack of interesting light on the building makes it flat and somewhat lifeless. Yet if you examine the frame there are gems all over this image. For example: A tighter look at some of the windows with their variable lighting fixture shapes... definitely some stuff there. Yet the "elephant" here is the rivet work on that gorgeous coloured bridge. Looking at what is presented there is a strong diagonal cutting the frame but taking the eye to no real payoff. Think about you what you want the viewer to do. This is clearly two different images in the same frame. One strong, one weak... maybe concentrate on the bridge and explore that for all the gems it has to give! Sometimes the best picture, was the one behind what originally caught your attention!!!</p>	
27	metallic_suit	4.5	4	5	13.5	<p>The subtlety of this image makes it very powerful indeed. The elegance of the subjects pose, not too contrived, coupled with a lovely expression. Finally the texture of the paint from top of the hat to the violin, because it includes the face, make this quite special. A little more post processing to accentuate the texture somewhat in the image is the only improvement I see.</p>	

28	monochrome_fog	3	3	4	10	<p>the muted tones in this shot are almost too muted for this theme, too subtle. On another day or another comp – a winner. A little more processing would have helped bring out the dancing clouds, and a possible crop to loose the dark negative space in the bottom left, leading you to the trees and then through</p>	
29	moulton_barn	2	2	3	7	<p>This suffers from over exposure, Having a large area in the centre of your image overblown is a major distraction. A well know locale, this is shot in the most postcard of ways! No real composition, and as is is more about pattern than texture. Maybe a shot from an archive that fitted the theme? There are so many interesting textures throughout this image, that with a little more time and effort could have yielded exquisite results. Maybe move to the left, then shoot the building head on and use a long lens to concentrate on one of many doors or windows with so much character. So much that could have been shot, a lost opportunity where texture is concerned!</p>	

30	need_to_rest	1.5	2	2	5.5	<p>What is presented with this image has the subject looking down at his feet. The title makes a reference to tiredness and yet there are no feet in the image to complete the thought. The harsh lighting conditions are certainly not helping the image, with blown highlighted areas left and right. The texture in this image is weak, as presented. A missed opportunity for something exciting... look carefully at the amazing texture of the subject's hands and shirt, a tight crop via long lens would have made an extraordinary image.</p>	
31	nyc_fence	1.5	2	3.5	7	<p>A simple case of wood for the trees? See so much opportunity, don't just take one shot and say nailed it and move on! This is either an image from an archive that somewhat fits the theme (I suspect this) or someone that missed the wonderful texture of the fence work. Don't be afraid to fill the frame with the fence or part of it, inviting the viewer to experience the age and majesty of the wooden structure</p>	

32	paint_and_rust	1.5	2	3.5	7	<p>This is an image that has no clear subject. What it most definitely feels like though, is a grab shot. Something taken quickly, meeting a criteria and then quickly moving on to the next shot. There is a need for increased contrast to help separate the elements from each other. The potential in this image is astounding, not just for this theme but way beyond. With this gift of a location, start with head on shots, then zoom in, then zoom in tighter. Learn to "work a scene" ... move left, move right, move up, move down, get closer, get further away. Each time taking a new shot. Each change will give you something different. Learn to see what is presented to you, and capitalize on that.</p>	
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33	Purple_Mountains_Majesty	1.5	1.5	1.5	4.5	<p>Be careful when titling an image, using a word like Majesty, it implies a grandeur. Something which is not present in this image, unfortunately! Having difficulty seeing what the subject is, is it the lake? Is it the tress? Is it the mountain way off in the distance? What I conclude is that you have not been successful in showing the viewer what you think is majestic. The image is somewhat soft, but is this down to a crop? As the area on the lower left that shows gravel, appears sharper than the rest of the image. If not, watch where your focus point is? My favourite part of the image is the clouds... would have been a great texture!</p>	
34	roots_and_rocks	1.5	2	3.5	7	<p>The hard part of finding an interesting subject has been done, then snap or click – shout of “nailed it!” then off the next! Not enough. Give the viewer a composition that leads them to something memorable. Here the right side of the base of the tree is screaming to be the subject, By playing with angles and depth of field this could have been so so interesting! The extreme posterizing of the colour is somewhat too distracting for this type of subject... dial it back.</p>	

35	Roses_on_my_mind	3	3	4	10	Wonderful crisp image, well found, yet let down somewhat by the static approach to the composition. It is not one thing or another... in between something... never a good place to get to. Would think a slightly more elevated approach looking down at the skull might have yielded more of the painting on the skull, and maybe help created a more interesting composition. As is, it is well taken but sadly uninspiring
36	Santa_Fe_wall	3.5	2	3	8.5	Extreme sharpening makes this image somewhat of a sensory overload. Its just too much by a number of degrees. Sometimes less is more. This looks as though it was correctly focused and exposed well. However consider concentrating on a small section rather than this whole. It would have been much stronger.
37	silk_unwound	3.5	3.5	3	10	The simpler the image the greater the care needed to execute well. Love the find, but not the composition. Cropping the left side a bit plus taken out the area under the bench and the composition becomes much stronger. Natural light is well used but try to have a piece of white card or folded tin foil to add a reflected highlight to the bobbins that they would have jumped off the page. Feels a little out focus, so get that dead on when taking something like this!

38	SIT	4.5	3.5	5	13	Slightly disturbing subject but well executed. Great texture, excellent exposure. Think about what you present to the viewer. I can see a stronger image by rotating counter clockwise and making a few selective edits. Would suggest looking for much stronger items to photograph in this way, as you have the technical so well done!	
39	smashing_pumpkins	1.5	1.5	1.5	4.5	Out of focus is not the best move in a competition. Many reasons could explain this, a too tight crop from something larger, poor camera technique or a faulty camera/lens combination. The composition such as it is is very poor leading the viewer to one location only. Suggest getting closer and maybe try this with a good macro lens and tripod.	
40	something_forgotten	2	2	4	8	Nice find but the extreme DOF here means everything is in focus. When this happens, the composition becomes critical to help the viewer, so they know what to look at throughout the image. If not, then we get the result where everything fights for viewer's equal attention. This will tire the viewer and make it a difficult image to look at for long. Get in tighter, use the natural frame to show us something amazing in nature. Think about black and white to help the viewer too. As presented, even the colours are competing for our attention too!	

41	spiral	2	3	2	7	Great find, know the area well! Love the texture in the subject. Difficult one to get right because of the shining coating on this. Feel that maybe using a tripod instead of handheld would have yielded a much more pleasing result.	
42	The_shape_of_wood	2	2	5	9	Weak composition leaves the viewer struggling to find the subject of the image other than a general of the ceiling. Excellent record of the ceiling, nice and sharp. The exposure has the lights blown out and then over correcting for this in PS. As impressive as the ceiling is, for our purpose it comes across as very busy. Yet there are lots of other opportunities to find better images in this location. Instead of all the panels, look at just one, zoom in on the wood grain and the guiding... wonderful possibilities gone begging! Don't be afraid to scale down your image to create something extraordinary.	
43	trojan horse	4.5	5	4.5	14	Nice crisp image full of wonderful textures all working well together. This fine art style of image leans heavily on the shapes produced rather than a conventional composition, there is nowhere to hide if this goes wrong. Not the case here. Great exposure, shape and texture... well done!	

44	uganda_girl	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	<p>Some serious dodging and burning going on here on the face, certainly makes it the centre of attention. However it is not executed well, with the brush effect overspilling into the background creates an unwanted halo! The background goes from in sharp focus to defused. I find that a major distraction. Crop the left side to make the background consistent. This crop will help the image tremendously. Allowing the viewer to concentrate on that engaging expression!</p>	
45	umbrella	3.5	2.5	3.5	9.5	<p>well exposed shot considering the obvious challenges here, lovely texture in the thatched roof, yet the rest of the frame doesn't hold my attention for any time. Adding an element on the beach possibly near the shoreline would have added to the image greatly, even a brightly coloured hat might have done the trick. Think about how the whole of the frame works together for maximum impact!</p>	

46	venetian_mask	5	5	3.5	13.5	<p>What a great find. Beautiful, Intricate, delicate and yet!! More patterns than true texture but again within the confines of this comps definition well within theme. The crop works well but because of it, one thing puzzles, why would you not make sure that both eye slits had consistent light or shadow? As human beings we are programmed to go directly to the eyes in a face. The crop accentuates this, and as such, when we get there we are presented with an anomaly that could so easily be corrected in post, allowing for the rest of the image to sing (pun intended). A case of missing the obvious!</p>	
47	view_from_the_ground	3.5	2.5	3.5	9.5	<p>Experimenting using a fast lens comes to mind. Sometimes the extreme shallow depth of field is too much, as it cannot convey the scene correctly to the viewer, even in such an abstract image like this. A little more DOF and the circular shapes in the back of this would have a bit more definition as would the column and would make this so much more interesting. Suggest bringing up the shadows just a touch, to avoid large areas of dark neg space. Keep experimenting!</p>	