

Pictorial Division

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Welcome to the new year of Pictorial Competition at MCC. You know, pictorial: that's the division where anything goes — cats, dogs, roses, colour, monochrome, hard-edge or blur. We want to see it all. Well maybe not exactly everything. Let's keep with in the bounds of good taste.



There are no new rules this year. The detailed competition rules can be found under "Documents" at montrealcameraclub.com but in general every member can submit three images in each of the five competitions over the year. Images can be slides in a 2' x 2" plastic or cardboard mount or a "best" quality jpg file. The jpg files to have a maximum size of 1400 pixels wide by 1050 pixels high (landscape format) or 1050 pixels high (portrait format) to benefit from the projector's native resolution. Images smaller than 1400 x 1050 will project at a relatively smaller scale on the screen. Larger images will be resized by the computer/projector and this may negatively adjust sharpness and colour. Slide mounts shall not have any sticky labels or stick-on colour dots but shall be identified with the maker's name and the slide title with a "thumbspot" indicated.

Submissions for each competition are due the meeting one week before the competition presentation and shall be placed in the "Pictorial" box. An entry, slides or CD/DVD, must be accompanied by an entry form with name, class, image titles and an indication if an image is to be considered "Creative". The entry form is available on the web at the club's site. I will also try to have some hard copies available. Returned entries will be placed in the "Pick-up" box the week after the competition with the marking sheet.

Each competition will be judged in advance of the presentation meeting by three judges and an average mark compiled for each image. Images will be marked for story, impact, composition and technique as seen by the judge. At the presentation, the judges will provide a commentary on the images. All images are judged to the same standards but the marks will be compiled in the Class A and Class B categories for the award of monthly ribbons and for the award of trophies in the spring. The result will be that the marks will be universally decided, the external judges will be reviled, never to be invited again, and the internal judges sent to Coventry for an unspecified length of time. Eventually, it will be found that the world has not stood still and some of the judges comments will be found to be valuable.

How do you know whether you are Class A or Class B? Well, if you have never been awarded Class A status at an Honours Award evening or if you are a new member, you are Class B.

What is a "Creative" photograph? Good question. I'm sure that all your work is creative but, in MCC terms, "Creative" images as indicated by the maker on the entry form will be considered for the award of the Chic Harris Trophy and for the Creative Image of the Year as well as in the award of the general Pictorial trophies. But, at any given judging, the judges may consider that a marked "Creative" image is not creative and judge it as a general Pictorial image. Remember, defining an image as "Creative" is asking the judges to consider what is creative about the image and how has this enhanced the impact and understanding of the photograph.

I'm looking forward to seeing all the new work. If you have any questions, please come and talk to me. We will have some information sessions at the first meetings of the year.

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