



MONTREAL CAMERA CLUB

WESTMOUNT PARK CHURCH
4695 DE MAISONNEUVE WEST WESTMOUNT / QUEBEC / H3Z 1L9

Digital/Slide Show Competition

Monday, April 6, 2009

We've seen some great presentations given at the Club this year. Now it's your opportunity to show your own photography and at the same time demonstrate your creativity and imagination, by entering the Digital/Slide Show Competition on April 6, 2009.

Whether you are a beginner, or more experienced, don't miss this chance to experiment and have some fun. The beautiful Catherine Rasmussen trophy will be awarded to the winner on Awards Night.

Some Helpful Hints

Although you may choose any theme or subject, it should be cohesive but not repetitive. Since the time allowed is fairly short (4 minutes), you might like to try something other than your latest trip - go through your slide collection and come up with a theme that may be funny - off-beat - innovative - imaginative.

Choose top quality images with good technique and composition. This is an excellent opportunity to edit your images. Try not to repeat similar images unless you have a specific point to make. Include photos that show variations and different points of view. Eliminate images that do not advance the story. Be ruthless!

If music accompanies your essay, it should compliment the subject matter. If you are using commentary, your remarks should be concise, with accurate information. Lighthearted personal anecdotes often help to advance the story and keep the audience interested.

Pacing and tempo are of utmost importance, 5-7 seconds per slide is generally the norm.

Traditional Slides

If you plan to show traditional slides and want to use dissolve for your show, arrange and practice your show as usual with one carousel. Once you are comfortable with your presentation, timing, music etc. with one single carousel, simply place your slides alternately into two carousels. - Slide one will go into Tray 1; slide two will go into Tray 2; slide three into Tray 1; slide four into Tray 2. In other words, all the odd numbered slides will go into Tray 1 and all the even numbered slides will go into Tray 2. Be sure to mark which is Tray 1 and Tray 2, so your presentation will start in the correct order. Start early and rehearse.

Digital Presentations

If you have produced a digital show, the same rules as to time etc. apply.

You will need to burn your presentation onto a CD or DVD to be played the night of the presentations.

The Club has a digital projector which has a true resolution of 1400 X 1050 pixels. It is compatible with PC and Power Mac. The Club has a Mac Mini Computer with Preview; iPhoto and Keynote installed. If you have a PC presentation please confer with the organizer of the competition or arrange to bring along your own laptop.

Evaluation

Each member of the audience will act as a judge. Judges will take into consideration the following: Theme; image quality; editing; story flow; pacing; music or commentary; titles. They will judge each entry on how well these different elements work together to create an imaginative and original presentation.

Eligibility

This competition is open to all members.

Rules

Essay may be on **any subject** of the photographer's choice. Titles should be included.

Length: 4 minutes (it may be shorter)

Essay should be accompanied by music and/or commentary.

Suggested number of images: 32-50 including titles.

This may vary according to pacing. (5-7 seconds per image is suggested)

Entry

An entry sheet will be posted at the Club on meeting nights. Please sign if you would like to participate and indicate your choice of format (traditional slides; digital).

Deadline for signing up: Monday, March 30, 2009

Please indicate the title of your presentation not later than March 30, so judging sheets can be prepared.

You should indicate to the organizer if you want to use the club dissolve unit and the club CD player or tape deck.

If using traditional slides, bring your slide essay arranged in Kodak carousel(s). If music accompanies your essay, please bring it recorded on a tape cassette, or a CD.

If you have produced a digital show, you will need to burn your presentation onto a CD or DVD to be played the night of the presentations.

Competition night: Monday, April 6, 2009

(Please arrive by 7:00 p.m.)

See reverse for more information on digital presentations. If you need more info on digital contact a member of the Executive Committee.

Questions?

Contact: Ann Pearson at (514) 483-8481

Email: a.pearson.mtl@gmail.com



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Digital Slide Show Notes

Why Go Digital?

Most people now have digital cameras and would like to display their work.

It also permits the use of images from many different sources ie: slides; negatives; prints as well as digital.

The screen surface can be used as a canvas making it possible to create multi-image effects with stunning transitions not possible with traditional slide projectors and dissolve units.

Soundtracks and/or narration can easily be added.

Text can also be inserted on slides and titles can be most creative. Shows can be saved on CD or DVD and shared via the Internet or viewed on TV.

Some Basic Considerations

Whether you prepare a traditional slide show or a digital slide show, the same rules apply for creating an effective presentation. Do you have enough quality images for the presentation you have chosen?

Quality means crisp, clean, well-exposed, well-composed and above all variety for a change of pace.

Then edit ruthlessly.

Remember - less is more.

Hardware

Is your computer equipment up to the task? Obviously, the newer more powerful computers with faster processors will do a better job, so you will need to experiment.

Most newer computers have a CD or DVD burner installed, but you can purchase a burner that will connect to your computer at a fairly inexpensive cost. This is essential if you want to show your presentation at the Camera Club or elsewhere, unless you have your own laptop computer which you can bring along.

With a digital camera additional hardware is not necessary, but if you want to utilize your traditional slides, negatives, prints etc. then you will need a slide and negative scanner and a flat bed scanner.

Software

An Image Manipulation program ie: Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, Lightroom, Picassa, iPhoto is essential to optimize and resize your photos for projection.

Some type of Slide Show Software.

If you wish to make a very simple image show, then a group of photos in a folder can be viewed using Preview on the Mac Mini.

Music could be played separately using a CD.

There are many other programs that can be downloaded from the Internet at varying costs as well as freeware.

Examples of Digital Slide Show Programs

Microsoft Powerpoint (The club computer does not have Powerpoint installed. Powerpoint files can be opened by Apple Keynote, but the transitions may act differently and the text may not appear the same as the original Powerpoint presentation)

Apple Keynote (on the MCC Mac Mini)

Apple iPhoto (on the MCC Mac Mini)

Preview (on the MCC Mac Mini)

FotoMagico - www.boinx.com/fotomagico/overview (Mac only)

Photodex ProShow Gold - www.photodex.com (PC only)

Important Considerations for Digital Presentations

When starting a presentation you will most likely be asked to choose the size (resolution) of the images to be projected. The MCC projector has a true resolution of 1400pixels x 1050pixels, so if asked you should make this the size of your presentation screen. If you need to resize your images individually, refer to the documents/digital on the club website that explains how to resize digital images for entering into club competitions. The method is exactly the same.

However, today many slide show programs automatically resize for you and you simply have to drag the images onto the storyboard. Refer to your individual software instructions.

If you are planning to enter a digital presentation in the competition, please confer as early as possible with a member of the Executive Committee to ascertain the compatibility of your software with the MCC equipment. This will avoid disappointment on the night of the competition.