



Montreal Camera Club

Rules Governing Monthly
Competitions

September 2019

Preamble

The rules governing the Montreal Camera Club (MCC) monthly competitions may be revised by the MCC Executive Committee. Any such changes shall be announced at the Opening Meeting of the Club.

Any member(s) wishing to effect changes to the Rules shall submit a proposal, in writing, to the Executive Committee for their review.

Except on official holidays, the Montreal Camera Club meets from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Monday evenings, commencing the first Monday in September following Labour Day, up to and including the month of May in each year. This period constitutes the MCC competition year. The MCC season begins September 01 and ends on August 31 every year.

Judging for the Print competitions shall start earlier than the regular meeting time.

Throughout the year, five (5) competitions take place in each of the three (3) main Divisions (Nature, Pictorial, Print), one Gemboree Competition, and one slideshow competition, for a total of seventeen trophies (or certificate) competitions.

Nature and Pictorial Divisions

1. A maximum of three (3) images per member may be submitted for each Nature or Pictorial competition.
2. Images that have received an Acceptance in one division may not be resubmitted in a different division, nor prints made therefrom entered in any category of the Print Division.
 - 2.1. Likewise, the digital image of a print that has received an Acceptance in the Print Division is ineligible for submission to either the Nature Division or the Pictorial Division.
3. When images substantially alike are entered for evaluation, only the highest scoring photograph shall be counted toward a Club trophy or certificate.
4. Images of similar subject material, not a duplicate but a different photograph, are acceptable.

Nature Division

5. The Nature Division has four (4) categories as follows: Botany (B); General (NG); Ornithology (O); Zoology (Z).
6. Nature images are deemed to be of natural history material as defined in CAPA rules with the following exceptions: pelicans on pylons are accepted; birds with tags are accepted.
7. As CAPA makes change(s) to its Nature rules, the Montreal Camera Club (MCC) shall review, evaluate, and decide whether or not to adopt the change(s).
8. The maker shall decide into which Nature category an image is submitted and shall name the image accordingly.
9. The eligibility of an image for this Division and category shall be made by a consensus of the judges on judging night, whose decision shall be final.

Pictorial Division

10. The Pictorial Division consists of four (4) categories as follows: Creative, Photojournalism (PJ), General (PG), and Theme (TH).
11. The Creative category consists of two subcategories as follows: Altered Reality (AR) and Enhanced Reality (ER). General (PG), See (15) through (23)
 - 11.1. Marks for images in either of the Creative sub-categories shall be counted as Creative with respect to all trophy, standings, or other calculations.
12. Any subject matter may be submitted within the three (3) Pictorial Division categories of Creative, Photojournalism, or General.
13. All images which are accepted in the Pictorial Division shall be judged on their merits (impact, composition, technique) irrespective of their subject matter.

Pictorial: Creative

14. The eligibility of an image for this category in this division shall be made by a consensus of the judges on judging night, whose decision shall be final.

Pictorial: Creative - Altered Reality

15. The "Altered Reality" subcategory promotes the manipulation of a photograph, or of several photographs, to create a fictional or conceptual image, or "photographic art." The resulting photograph exhibits an evident use of a person's imagination to alter reality. The change(s) should be evident in some fashion and are created using in-camera and/or post-processing techniques, whether they be in colour, form, shape, or any combination of these three elements. Creative images are often a blend of multiple images or a manipulation of a single image through duplication, etc.
16. The original photographic content of an image should still be identifiable in the final creation, but it may also include artwork or computer graphics generated by the photographer.
 - 16.1. Images that are created totally electronically with no photographic origin are prohibited.
 - 16.2. Contemporary practice also allows limited use of "selected" portions of a clearly identifiable artwork such as, Michelangelo's "The Creation of Adam", or a portion of an iconic (meaning universally known) photographic image, to be part of a multilayered creation. This is considered visual quoting.
17. HDR (High Dynamic Range) images without further changes are not considered Creative.
18. Judges score images based on evident creative elements, innovation, quality of execution, the WOW factor, as well as the usual emphasis on composition technique and subject matter.
19. The Montreal Camera Club guidelines incorporate the definitions of "Altered Reality" as found in the Canadian Association for Photographic Art and the Photographic Society of America.

Pictorial: Creative - Enhanced Reality

20. The "Enhanced Reality" subcategory promotes the manipulation of a photograph, or several photographs, to create a fictional or conceptual image, or "photographic art." The resulting photograph appears to have been created by a single shutter release but has, in fact, been created using in-camera and/or post-processing techniques and is usually a composite of several images.
21. Judges score images based on the believability of the image as a single shot, innovation, quality of execution, and the WOW factor, as well as the usual emphasis on composition technique and subject matter, etc.

Pictorial: Photojournalism

22. The Photojournalism category shall follow the rules of CAPA. As CAPA makes changes to its Photojournalism rules, the MCC shall review, evaluate, and decide whether or not to adopt the change(s).
23. Photojournalism relies on an image that tells a story or documents people affected by an event or a situation. The image should clearly make one point or convey a message. Good composition would significantly enhance the conveying of the story.
24. Only basic post-processing is permitted such as cropping, tone and colour adjustment.
 - 24.1. Selective adjustments or pixel modifications are not permitted. For example, elements cannot be added, removed, or cloned.
 - 24.2. No dodging or burning.
 - 24.3. No digital gradient filter and no vignettes.
25. Post-processing techniques NOT permitted are composite, HDR, stitching, using filters, applying textures, focus stacking and infrared.
26. The title of the image should complement or contribute to the vision or message being presented in the image.
27. Judges will award their marks based on key elements such as composition, technique and subject. However, judges will reward a strong emphasis on the creative message, the quality of execution, innovation and wow factor.

Pictorial: General

28. The "General" category consists of everything not included in "Creative" or "Photojournalism."

Pictorial: Theme

29. The themes for the Pictorial Division shall be announced at the beginning of the competition year.
30. Theme competitions occur at the same time as a regular Pictorial competition. Members may choose to participate in a Theme competition. When participating in a Theme competition, the member shall submit a single Theme entry plus two entries in one or more of the Pictorial categories (Creative, Photojournalism, or General) for a total of three (3) entries.

Print Division

31. The themes for the Print Division shall be announced at the beginning of the competition year.
32. There are four (4) categories in the Print Division as follows: Monochrome, Colour, Creative, and Theme, where Creative is defined and marks counted as in the Pictorial Division. See (15) through (23).
33. Prints with an overall tone or colour throughout (e.g., sepia, selenium, etc.) are designated Monochrome.
34. Monochrome prints that have been selectively coloured in a localized area are classified as colour, regardless of how small or large the area of colour.
35. The entrant must be the maker of the original digital image ("negative"); however, the resultant Print may be commercially produced.
36. Any subject matter may be submitted within the three Print Division categories of Monochrome, Colour, Creative.
 - 36.1. The maker shall decide into which Print category an image is submitted and shall label and title the image accordingly.
 - 36.2. For images submitted in the "Creative" category within the Print division, the determination of what constitutes "creative" shall be made by the maker. It is the member's responsibility to mark said entry as "Creative" in the title and on the back of the print. Failure to do so renders the entry ineligible for the "Creative" Trophy. "Creative" images (made up of the two subcategories Altered Reality, and Enhanced Reality) will be judged separately from Colour and Monochrome. "Creative" prints count in the maker's overall Print standings for the year.
 - 36.3. The eligibility of an image for this category in this division shall be made by a consensus of the judges on judging night, whose decision shall be final.
 - 36.4. Where a print previously entered in competition has been reworked in a completely different process (e.g., solarization, paper negatives, hand colouring, etc.), it may be resubmitted in another competition.
37. Prints should be at least 9" on the long side and least 8" on the short side of the image and mounted to a maximum size of 16"x20" (including the mount). Traditional mounting is required: the top mat with a bevel-cut, placed on top of the print with rear protective support.
 - 37.1. "Flush-mounted" prints will not be accepted.
38. A maximum of three (3) prints per member may be submitted in each regular Print competition whether Colour, Monochrome, Creative, or a combination of the three, plus one submission to Theme.
39. The number of prints submitted by a member in any one year in the regular print competitions may not exceed a total of fifteen (15). Of the total prints, not more than seven (7) may be from one category (i.e., seven (7) Colour, or seven (7) Monochrome, or seven (7) Creative).
 - 39.1. Prints entered into the Theme Competitions are in addition to the number of prints submitted to the regular print competitions.
40. There are five (5) Theme competitions in the year. A member may submit one (1) theme print in each of the regular five print competitions, in addition to the three (3) prints submitted in the regular Colour, Monochrome, and Creative print competitions. The marks received for prints entered into the Theme competitions will be used solely for the calculations in relation to the Theme Certificate and will not be included in the calculations for any other trophies.
41. The best three (3) of five (5) submissions shall count towards the Print Theme Certificate.

Submissions for Competitions

42. For the Nature and Pictorial Divisions, digital images with a file name in the required format shall be submitted to the designated email address of the division Chair by the deadline date and time set by the divisional chairperson.
43. For the Print Division, digital images with a file name in the required format shall be submitted to the designated email address of the Print Chair or sent using an alternate digital transfer method requested by the Print Chair.
 - 43.1. The Print Chair will return by email a form with the print title and a number indicating the print's position in the judging display sequence. This form and number are to be attached to the back of the print. The mounted and labeled prints shall be submitted no later than 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the judging.
44. Division Chairs are not required to accept entries for competition after the deadline.

45. In the Print Division, digital images must be submitted in advance to allow the organization of the images to be displayed to the audience during the judging. The file name must be in the required format and shall be submitted to the designated email address of the division Chair by the deadline date and time set by the Division Chair.
46. In the event of a misplaced entry, the Division Chair has the discretion to place that entry in a subsequent competition, in addition to the member's quota for that competition.
47. In the event of the disqualification of a Nature competition image, a replacement image may, at the discretion of the Nature Chair, be submitted in a subsequent Nature competition in addition to the member's normal submission quota. This provision shall not apply to more than three images in any one competition year per member. The same rule shall apply to Creative images, under the discretion of the Pictorial Chair.

Classes "A" and "B"

48. In each of the competition divisions, members shall be classified in one of two classes: A or B.
49. All members are considered to be in Class B until they have fulfilled one of the following requirements:
 - 49.1. won the William Spry Memorial Trophy in the Pictorial Division, or the Dorothy Benson Trophy in the Nature Division, or the Blossom Caron Trophy in the Print Division;
 - 49.2. obtained four or more Acceptances in recognized national or international competitions, in addition to 90% of the score of the Class B trophy winner (Pictorial, Nature, and Print Division);
 - 49.3. obtained nine or more Acceptances in the Club Pictorial, Nature, or Print competitions, and 90% of the score of the Class B division trophy winner.
 - 49.4. are improperly classified in the opinion of the Honours Chair.
50. Images and prints in Classes A and B are scored on the same basis, at the same time, and on the same standard of merit.

Judging

51. The judging panels shall consist of three judges as selected by the Division Chairs or the Judging and Standards Chair.
52. Members who serve as a judge for a competition cannot compete in that competition. In this case, the member is permitted to enter his or her quota of photographs on another competition night.
 - 52.1. A judge who wishes to compete in a Theme competition may do so but, with the help of the Division Chair, abstain from voting on their entry by holding up a zero (0) mark, thus masking the identity of the maker. The final mark will be the average of two rather than three marks.
 - 52.2. In the case where more than one judge wishes to compete in Theme, the Division Chair shall arrange for one or two alternate judges as needed.
53. Pictorial and Nature Images will be judged prior to the competition meeting. During the competition, all images will be projected, the mark announced, and, at the discretion of the division Chair, the maker identified. Constructive evaluations of as many of the images as time permits will be presented by the judges, or representatives of the judging panel, or an experienced commentator;
54. Print Division judging shall be done during the first half of a Print Competition meeting, in a room separate from the meeting hall.
55. Judges may view a print presented on the MCC lightbox in any way necessary to evaluate it. The judges shall view and evaluate each print on the Club Light-box.
56. In the second half of the Print Competition meeting, the prints shall be presented to the judges on the Club Light-box. The judges will provide comments on each print, time permitting.
57. A digital version of each print shall be projected onto a large screen for the benefit of the audience during the judges' comments.

Scoring

58. In the Pictorial Division, each judge will score out of a possible 100 points, evaluating pictorial value, impact, composition, and

technique.

59. In the Nature Division, each judge will score out of a possible 100 points, evaluating nature value, composition and technique.
60. In the Print Division, each judge will score out of a possible 100 points, evaluating pictorial value, impact, composition and technique, as well as the presentation of the mounted image.
 - 60.1. The term "value" as used above, shall mean the evaluation of the photograph in terms of its success in portraying the subject matter of its particular category.
61. In all divisions, an average score of 70 points or over will constitute an Acceptance.
62. In all divisions, an average score of 90 points and over will rate an Honourable Mention and will be awarded a ribbon.
63. The highest score achieved in each division and/or category shall be awarded a ribbon.

General

64. Each Division Chair shall pre-screen all entries for conformity to file-naming rules, category, and theme.
65. Problems arising from the application of any rules shall be referred by the Divisional Chair to a committee consisting of the President, the Honours Chair, and the Judging and Standards Chair.
66. The rules governing Club competitions shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to the start of the competition year. The rules may not be changed during any competition year.
67. In the event of a tie between two or more members for anyone trophy or award, the trophy or award shall be shared.
68. All Chairs and other Executive members, with the exception of the person responsible for the Club archives, must remove members' images from their personal computers, devices, emails, and cloud storage prior to the start of the following competition year.

Nature, Pictorial, and Creative Images of the Year, and Prints of the Year

69. All images which have been Accepted during the year are eligible for entry in the Pictorial, Nature, Creative, or Photojournalism Image of the Year competitions.
70. All prints which have been Accepted during the year are eligible for the Print of the Year competition which shall be judged separately for Monochrome, Colour, and Creative.
 - 70.1. A member may choose a maximum of ten (10) of his/her Accepted prints from that competition year's five competitions to re-submit for Print of the Year (all categories).
71. To select the images and prints of the year, three judges shall evaluate the images presented on an "in" or "out" basis. Those photographs obtaining "in" votes by a minimum of two judges will be re-evaluated by the same procedure. The process of elimination will continue until the number of images or prints has been reduced to no more than ten, at which time the final selection shall be accomplished by discussion amongst the judges.