

## Greater New Braunfels Photography Club (GNBPC) Score Sheet for May 2026

Judge: Sharon Preslipsky

Assignment Theme Photos - " *Still Life* " Scoring System: 3-9 pts

Image Title	Score	Comments
2 Elephants-James Moseley	7	In my opinion this is a good graphic image with strong shapes and lines. My eye goes first to the elephants' circle eyes and then moves smoothly up the trunk to the heart shape. I think this image would work well in monochrome. The maker might consider converting it, brightening the midtones and boosting the contrast slightly. Try it and see what you think.
A Sleeping Coco-Becky Love	6	This made me chuckle. The maker obviously has a great sense of humor. The sharp focus allows the viewer to see all the texture and detail in Coco's coat. The maker might want to consider a tighter crop to put greater focus on the sleeping dog's expression. Still Life Photography is defined as the art of capturing inanimate subject and Coco is indeed inanimate. However, I believe the images does not fit this category.
A Study In Death-Shelby Caesar	6	There is a lot to see in this image. I think of the Japanese aesthetic philosophy referring to finding beauty in impermanence and decay. The scene is slightly tilted giving me the feeling that the elements are sliding off the left. I can't tell if this is a faux frame or if the maker has captured an image of a framed painting. If it is a faux frame, consider correcting the perspective to make it level. If it is a picture of a painting there are some ethical concerns with sharing it publicly as it would be someone else's artwork.
Close Shave-Thomas Soutter	7	In my opinion this is a good choice of subject for a still-life photo. I think the focus is sharp and it is composed of a variety of different shapes which I feel are well-arranged. The direction of the light has resulted in some specular highlights and some shadows. Diffused lighting would help to control this.
Dominoes-Barry Armer	6	This image is a good example of selective focus. The depth of field (wide open aperture) has created a very shallow depth of field. This is evidenced by the fact that only the center domino is in sharp focus. This is an artistic choice by the maker. To the left side of the image and in the bottom right corner we see some areas that appear to be pixelated. This may be a result of severe cropping or of over processing.

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Feathers of Temptation-Edward Zukowski	8	The star of this image for me is the vibrant color. The red and teal are complimentary colors. The soft diagonal lines are good compositional elements which in my opinion give strength to the image. The maker may want to consider a tighter crop to remove excessive background and bring the viewer closer to the subject.
Flour Power-Christiane Menelas	6	The vibrant complimentary colors grab my attention immediately. I think the choice of arranged elements works well as there are a variety of shapes. My eye goes first to the white of the flour sack and the vases, then moves smoothly upward to the bright red flower. The focus is on the elements in the background. This is evidenced by the fact that the foreground elements, the book and the whisk are out of focus. The bottom edge of the book is cut off.
Fragments of Spring and Time-Sandy Gilbert	7	This image evokes a sense of nostalgia for me. I feel the elements are well arranged and together form a pyramid shape which is very strong compositionally in my opinion. It appears that a canvas texture has been applied. I think this gives the image a "fuzzy" look. The maker may want to check the original and see if everything is sharp. Canvas texture works best on very sharply focus images with high contrast.
Golden Arrangement-Barbara Beversdorf	8	The magenta and gold colors are vibrant and high energy. To me the triangular shape of the arrangement is visually pleasing. I feel the background competes with the subject for attention. If the maker sets this up again, I believe a gray background would better highlight the subject. Try it and see what you think.
IMG_7516-Robert Grosman	6	For me, this image evokes the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century. The elements are arranged in what in my opinion is a pleasing order. I think the perspective is slightly tilted as if shot from the left rather than straight on. If the maker chooses, this can be corrected by using the crop tool in Lightroom and tilting the image to the right or by using the guided upright tool to correct both the horizontal and vertical lines. However, since the top of the center object is so close to the top edge of the frame this may result in cutting off the tip. If the original has more room. I believe these steps would improve the image. Try it and see what you think.

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Innocent Abby-David Love	6	My attention goes right to the eyes which are sharp and have some catchlight. The background with the distinct border between very bright and very dark tones is a distraction for me as it essentially cuts the image in half. The maker might want to try this again with a solid color background. It might do well in an open category, but Still Life Photography is defined as the art of capturing inanimate subjects—natural or man-made. While Abby is an adorable pet, I believe the image does not fit this category.
Old Melodies-Cindy Korzekwa	5	This image makes me wonder about the keyboard player – I am guessing she has an interesting story. The tonal contrast of the keyboard is a good element. To me the image appears tilted to the right so that nothing in the image is straight. The focus point seems to be on the shoulder of the player and much of the rest of the image is very soft in my opinion. Still Life Photography is defined as the art of capturing inanimate subjects—natural or man-made—in a composed setting, offering total control over lighting, composition, and arrangement. Using that definition, I believe the image does not fit this category.
One Man_s Trash-KJK	8	I think this image has a strong story. I cannot help but wonder how these fresh lovely flowers came to be sitting this back of this battered old vehicle. I find the vibrant colors of the flowers very pleasing, and they pop against the texture of the background. The rusty gray area on the right does not add interest for me and it is very bright which draw my eye to the right side of the frame. The maker might want to consider cropping to eliminate the area and the large hinges off making this a portrait orientation image. To me this image is a diamond in the rough.
Peppers And Tomatoes-Michael Childers	8	The complimentary colors just pop and are the star of this image. My eye goes first to the white container then follows the reds and green to the right. In my opinion the reflection not only adds interest but provides an anchor so that the subject does not appear to be floating tin space. If the maker would like to consider removing the specular highlights from the veggies and bringing up the exposure on the reflection just a bit I feel this image would be stunning.

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Simply Sushi- Suzanne Daunt	8	In my opinion, sushi is an excellent subject for still life photography. the colors work well together, and the arrangement of the ingredients is always very artistic. I think the maker has made good use of space. If the maker would like to continue to improve this image the shadow cold be easily removed through cloning or use of the removal tool. Some additional sharpening could also be brushed in. Good luck.
Tea Anyone- Patricia Jones	7	For me, the subject matter and complementary color palette are well chosen. The negative space created by positioning the vase to the right, separated from the other two elements, results in a divided focal point. While the cup and saucer initially attract my attention as the brightest area of the composition, the vase provides the more compelling visual interest.
The Last Dance-Jackies Wise	8	The red-and-black color palette is visually striking, and the narrative comes through strongly. However, I believe the chosen depth of field made the texture of the background fabric quite prominent. To reduce distraction and keep the focus on the subject, the creator may wish to mask the background and add some blur to keep the viewer's eye on the main subject. Try it and see what you think.

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**Monochrome**

Scoring System: 3-9 pts

Image Title	Score	Comments
Breaking the Line- Sharlana Dillard	8	When photographing a living subject getting the eye sharp with some catch light in it is essential. In this case, the maker has nailed it. I think the image has good tonal range with bright whites and black blacks. If the maker would like to strengthen the image, consider cropping about 25 percent from the left side to help the viewer stay focused on the subject. Good luck.
1942 Engine-James Moseley	6	This is an interesting closeup with sharp detail on the internal portions of the engine. The perspective from which it was captured has resulted in cropping of the propeller blades on both sides and a portion of the outer rim of the housing at the bottom. The center hub is not as sharp as the rest of the image. The maker might want to consider a tighter crop with a 1:1 aspect ratio and slightly rotating the image to get the propeller blades perfectly horizontal.
Bridal Day Dream- Shelby Caesar	8	I get a sense of the drama of wedding day when I view this image. The bride must be feeling overwhelmed. I think the image has good tonal range and everything is in sharp focus. The white area in the top right corner is somewhat distracting to me. If the maker would like to improve the image one consideration would be to crop to just below that shape. Otherwise, well done.
E.T. Phone Home- David Love	5	Who doesn't love ET? I smile just thinking of that story. In my opinion the perspective – shooting up at a sharp angle – is not the best compositional choice. The background has a lot of shapes and lines which make it difficult for me to separate the main subject from all the other elements.
Elisa-Edward Zukowski	6	This closeup of Elisa is all about texture. The center of interest which is the eye is placed in a strong position within the frame. The image appears grainy to me - perhaps due to a severe crop or very low light. The maker might want to try applying a denoise program which is available in Lightroom or from a number of other third party software makers.
Film Days-Thomas Soutter	7	For me this is a trip down memory lane. My husband and I purchased this model camera in 1968 and it started a life-long passion for photography for both of us. The image is sharp and although the background has some pattern, I do not think it is overly distracting. The crop at the bottom is a bit tight in my opinion. If the original has more space at the bottom the maker might want to revisit the crop.

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Geometry of Light- Jackies Wise	8	Two things about this botanical image that I find visually appealing are the low-key presentation and the symmetry. The crop is a bit tight in my opinion. The maker might want to check the original and see if the outer ring of leaves could be given a bit more breathing room.
Light_s Double Play- Barbara Beversdorf	6	Black neck stilts make great photographic subjects in my opinion due to the contrast between their white and black feathers and their interesting behaviors. The white feathers on the body appear slightly bright, and a bit more detail in those highlights could improve the image if the maker would like to put some more work into it. For future shots of wading birds, consider trying to get down to a lower level so that the perspective is strait on.
Liquid Light-KJK	6	The maker chose challenging subject matter, The large white area in the bottom portion of the frame captures my attention and holds it there because it is so bright, but I wonder if that was the intended center of interest. My thinking is that in visualizing an image simplicity is the best compositional choice. The maker might try cropping to eliminate the large white shape and cropping from the left to where the gray tone begins in order to make a cleaner composition.
Lunchtime-Becky Love	7	The children are adorable. One story I see story is the interaction between the two little boys to the right. I wonder if the child whose facial expression we see is asking the other if he would like to share. I feel there could be two different compositions here, one with the two children top left and the other of the two boys to the right. The maker might want to try some different crops to see if two stories emerge.
On Bird Watch- Michael Childers	6	The bright sharp eye and the contrast in tone and texture between the cat and the foliage are visually appealing for me. The maker might want to try to simplify the image by removing the base of the birdbath using the remove tool in Lightroom or Photoshop or alternatively darken it. The maker might also consider a tighter crop to eliminate some of the space behind the main subject.

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Silent Urgency- Suzanne Daunt	9	For me, the story is very strong and gives the image high impact. I think the tonal range is very good with bright whites and deep blacks. The focus appears to be sharp throughout. The eyes are bright and sharp and the expression makes me want to know more about this subject. There is a high level of human interest here. Very well done in my opinion.
Slow and Steady- Christiane Menelas	6	This ancient tortoise shows the effects of a long life. The eye is sharp with some catch light. I sense he is moving forward as evidenced by the blur on the leg on the right. If the original has more pixels the maker might consider adding more space at the bottom to give the subject some space to move into.
The Mill-Cindy Korzekwa	5	This image recalls all the stories I have read about migration to the Great Plains and the Dust Bowl. This is a well-maintained example of the windmills that were supposed to bring water to arid areas. The markers show that it has been preserved for historical purposes. The bright sky at the top draws my eye upward. If the maker would like to continue to work on this image, consider cropping so that we see only the top with the rotating blades – maybe try a square crop – and boost the contrast so that the subject stands out from the cloudy sky in the background.
The Quiet Depths- Sandy Gilbert	8	The sharp, expressive eye serves as the clear center of interest and creates a strong sense of connection with the subject. This image could lend itself well to a nontraditional crop, and the maker might consider cropping from the left to create a tighter, more compelling composition.



## **Sharon Prislipsky, APSA, EPSA, AFIAP**

Sharon Prislipsky resides in Hot Springs Village, where, alongside her husband Vic, she pursues her passion for nature and outdoor photography. Together, they have traveled extensively throughout the United States, capturing a diverse portfolio of images that encompass nature, landscapes, and evocative scenes that reflect historical themes.

As an active member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) Worldwide, Sharon Prislipsky has held several leadership roles, including Gulf States Membership Director, Assistant Managing Editor of the PSA Journal, Chair of the PSA Scholarship Committee, and PSA Board Secretary. She currently serves as Director of the PSA Online Club Judging Program and is a member of the PSA Historical Print Committee.

Sharon Prislipsky's print and digital works have received more than 1,200 acceptances and over 130 awards in international exhibitions. She is a member and past president of the Hot Springs Village Camera Club.

A frequent presenter at both local and national PSA Camera Clubs, as well as local Audubon Societies, Sharon Prislipsky has developed and delivered a variety of educational programs, including "Beyond Capture," "The Elements of a Winning Image," "Creative Flower Photography," and "Monarchs and Other Backyard Butterflies." In addition to her presentations, she has served as a judge for camera club competitions and international exhibitions. Her approach emphasizes the creation of impactful images through compelling storytelling and fostering meaningful connections with viewers