

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

Judge: Kurtis Sutley

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

Image Title	Score	Comments
A Quiet Toast-Edward Zukowski	9	Every so often an image comes to me and its beautiful simplicity takes my breath away. I think a series using different colored lights would be a winner for an upscale lounge.
Cinderella_s Carriage-Patricia Jones	7	This is an interesting use of clear glass on a white background. To me, my eyes lose the detail of the glass because it's difficult to tell what is the glass pattern and what is the background looking through the clear glass. Is there some way to use a different base/background color and still retain the texture? You might also try shooting from a quarter front angle to expose the other horse.
Cut Glass-David Koester	7	This is a nice selection of colors for the cut glass. It appears to me that you may have shot from a distance and then cropped to your desired composition. There's nothing wrong with that technique but it can exaggerate any focusing anomalies, as it did here because, to me, the focus seems soft. The background appears cluttered or even soiled. I use a black felt on board and I keep it stored in a dust free environment to avoid this issue.
Drinking Glass-Becky Love	5	This is an interesting shape for a drinking glass. To me, you need an interesting background that the glass will distort or even something colorful to pique the interest of the viewer. I found the background to be distracting. May I suggest maybe even having someone stand behind the glass and see what humorous distortions might be created?
Encased-Shelby Caesar	6	Is it possible someone is saving up for a new lens? I like the concept and how the money was encased is not revealed. With just the dollar bills and the glass container, to me this image would work better in color so as to add another dimension. You have an adequate depth of field. It appears to me to be under exposed.

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Assignment-Flatcreek Estates-Barry Armer	6	What a clever idea for a "glass" theme. The different shapes and sizes add interest. I found the girl to be a distraction. Also, the bright window and fan in the background contribute nothing to the story. In these situations, take control and rearrange the subjects to develop an interesting perspective. I would lose the girl and shoot up and left with the fan and window as a distorted background unrecognizable to most people. That should add interest.
Frodo-David Love	8	The more I looked, the more I liked this concept. The wall and floor are balanced and complimenting in the monochrome world. The dark floor adds detail to the glass base and the white wall brings out the detail of the Hobbit. Very clever without being over bearing.
From Saul to Paul-Robby Grosman	8	This image gave me some problems. I love the rich color and the use of glass to tell a story. Technically a very strong image. I struggled with this being a photograph of someone's art. In the end, I decided the assignment was vague enough to allow this.
Glass Menagerie-James Moseley	9	I'm not sure if this is "depression" glass but I like the image anyway. There are two colors and enough glass to really make it interesting. The lighting and background color makes for a dramatic presentation. Very nice.
In the Vase-Cindy Korzekwa	7	The color of these roses make them surreal. For me there is too much going on in this image to the point the glass vase is almost lost in the clutter of numerous distracting elements. To me, the furniture lower left and right add nothing. May I suggest maybe a close-up of the flowers where the vase is more prominent. Context is important but not at the expense of content.
Kaleidoscope-Adam Mauldin	9	Kaleidoscopes were always a wonder. This image should bring back lots of memories of simpler times. Virtually all the design elements and principles are represented. I'm a big fan of thinking out of the box. Nicely done.

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L'chaim-Ron Karpel	9	A wonderful example of minimalism. Purple flowers in a purple accented glass. Very nice. For me, there is a little too much empty space. Maybe a tighter crop would add more interest. I like how you think about your art. I believe the next most important tool to a photographer, after the camera, is his/her imagination
Midnight Vibes_Sam Lawson	4	This is a beautiful waterscape with a peer. Glass is the theme. Where's the glass contributing to the story?
Pareidolia in Glass-Sandy Gilbert	8	I'm not sure if I'm looking at something or it's looking at me. Nice colors, shapes, and patterns. I would bet this is just a small portion of a much bigger display. A picture in a picture, maybe? My concern is the distracting shadows in the lower right. They really break up the continuity of the shapes and colors.
Proof of a good time - 80 proof-Christiane Menelas	8	Great story with lots of possibilities. I think what you have is an opportunity for a much stronger picture-in-a-picture by either getting closer or cropping off the top. I also struggle with trying to tell too much story by including unnecessary context. We all have at one time or another. Don't forget to let your viewer use their imagination when the story allows it.
Red Green or Clear-Michael Childers	9	Light from the left and the right. I'd put this on my wall. Red, Green or Clear? Yes.
Refracted Reality-Sharlana Dillard	8	Bananas? Why not? This proves the background can be almost anything. For me, I'd like to see more light on the left side. There's no mystery the bananas are there, so there's no reason not to give them more light. I think with added light, you might have more contrast and a more dramatic presentation. Also, you could try the masking tools in Lightroom to reduce the shadows in the left glass, rather than change the whole lighting scheme. Glass! The great distorter.
Spherical Refraction-Suzanne Daunt	9	I can't see any way to improve on this image short of using different colors. Remarkable.

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The Beginning-Ralph Nordenhold	9	I think I could watch glass blowers all day. These colors are wonderful. Your composition helps the story along and the blow tube is a natural leading line. Your post process really brought out the patterns in the glass ball and the texture of the kiln. Representing the white-hot interior while maintaining the details in the shadows is a skill many would covet. I think your perfect white balance helps.
Thistle Bloom Refracted in Glass-Barbara Beversdorf	9	I believe you've figured out how to utilize a glass ball to create a stunning photograph. This is a case of emotional impact trumping technical perfection. I would like to see just a little more vibrance in the "real" flower. To me it appears a little under exposed.
Urban Migrage-Jackies Wise	8	I think my favorite aspect of this image is I can't tell the real from the reflection. There's no two of anything to hint where reality starts or ends. Am I inside looking out or outside looking in? Whether this was intentional or not, claim it as intentional. I think a higher f/stop might enhance the effect. It does appear to me to be under exposed.
Whispers in Crystal-Marlys Stahl	9	This is an image that grew on me. The rich gold tone speaks of elegance and class. The decanter slightly out of focus hides the secret contents. The dark background hints of age and perfection. Your lighting plan complimented a well-thought-out shoot. Well done.

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A Closer Look-Marlys Stahl	8	Wonderful composition and I think the little bud stands out well. For me the supporting elements are right to be blurred but not so much as to detract from their importance. The little flower made a big impression.
Beauty and the Bee-Suzanne Daunt	8	Very nice color and composition. It's hard enough to get one flying critter on a flower, but TWO! The balance and color are appropriate. How much border/empty space for context is always a difficult choice. I think you did well. I would like to see a little more detail in the butterfly shadows.
Blue Swan-James Moseley	8	Great idea for the theme. Obviously the crown makes this image. For me, the swan is over lit creating a competing white element with the blue. You might try a point light to create sharper contrast. Nice use of a pure black background. Great imagination.
Charro in Action-Sandy Gilbert	6	This image gave me some problems in light of the theme. It is a color photo but for me, the star is the action. I feel like for this theme the colors need to be a significant element of the story. Technically excellent.
Downtown New Braunfels-David Love	5	As a color image, this fits the theme without the color making much of a contribution. It is my usual process to remove anything that does not contribute to the story. In this case, you might crop off the sky above the tree. Also, the pedestrian sign is a major distraction. It looks to me (from the shadows) this image was made with a high sun that washed out much of the color.
Earthmovers-Christiane Menelas	7	On the one hand I will say there is a lot to like about this image. The contrasting rock and sky colors are very pleasing. The addition of people in action shows you're thinking like a photographic artist. I think the contrasting colors would be improved with a little bluer saturation. I would recommend the use of a "filler" flash to settle whether the people are supposed to be illuminated or in silhouette. Also, there is something funky about the hands and legs of the humans.

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Find Your Own Flower-Shelby Caesar	6	Anyone who has chased a monarch around a garden would appreciate this image. I find the colors pleasing and true. I would suggest trying to get some separation between your subjects. Also, the loss of the left wingtip of the trailing butterfly is distracting. If you cropped it off to maintain a particular aspect ratio, that is not necessary. Non-standard aspect ratios are a major composition tool. I found the two white partial buds along the bottom to be distracting.
Growing Up-Adam Mauldin	8	Stunning. This is proof pastels can be dramatic under the right circumstances. To my eyes, tack sharp and properly lit. You might try providing some space on the right since that is the direction the flower is pointing. I think that would provide a stronger sense of balance.
Onion and Tomatoes-Michael Childers	9	Simple but dramatic. The use of an earthtone cutting board is a nice touch. I like "as is" but would suggest maybe a point light to see if you can get a "catchlight" effect on the tomatoes. I think the background color is perfect.
Oxidizing Copper-Becky Love	6	I applaud your imagination. There is color in the image. The blue is a good compliment to the red. I think, since the blue is so dominant, shooting from the right might expose more of the red insulator and the yellow. When your subject is relatively uncomplicated, try to minimize background distractions.
Reflection Really-Ron Karpel	9	Very nice. The use of a white background really makes the subtle colors pop. There is a natural spacing between the glasses I would suggest maintaining on the image sides. I think maintaining the design elements are critical in a minimalist image such as this. You almost got me thinking this was a reflection. Love the effort.
Sandy Sunrise-Sam Lawson	8	This is why we get up early to shoot. The matching sand and cloud color makes this image. For a dramatic touch, you might try deepening the shadows to add contrast to the sand. To me, you could crop off the footprints in the foreground. As a learning experience, try going 2/3 sky or 2/3 sand and look at the mood difference. Many judges find a centered horizon boring. Not me, if you have a good reason. In this case, I think you did.

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Sunset Threw a Rose- Patricia Jones	7	This is a beautiful yellow rose with no obvious blemishes. I like that you filled the frame with your subject. The soft colors complement the flower's texture. For me the vegetation behind the rose (particularly behind the reddish leaves) adds little to the story. Even when your subject is static, it can feel more comfortable with some space in the direction the subject is pointed.
Swallowtail on Horsemint- Barbara Beversdorf	8	The theme is color and you brought them in spades. Tack sharp with a very nice bokeh. You have a nice composition but to me you tried to include too much context. I think the composition would be stronger with just the central flowers and the one background bud on the far right. To me the purple flowers on the left add nothing to the story. The red blotch in the lower left seems out of place.
Thanksgiving Cookies-Cindy Korzekwa	5	There certainly are a lot of different colors and I'm sure the cookies were delicious. To my eyes the whole image seems soft. When everything is out of focus my eyes can't settle on the subject because it's the subject that should nearly always be in focus. Nothing says Thanksgiving like a turkey and a pumpkin.
The Pope's Royal Guard- Ralph Nordenhold	7	Very nice color, focus and depth of field. The Pope's Guard certainly have nice uniforms. If allowed and you have the program, Photoshop 2026 has generative expand that can add pavement under his feet. To me the composition is a bit crowded, particularly at the bottom.
The Vessel-Edward Zukowski	4	Minimalism is alive and well and very popular. To me the focus and composition is spot on. In my opinion, this is a worthy art image. To paraphrase an old hamburger add, "Where's the color?".
Through the Door of Whimsy-Jackies Wise	9	I can't overstate all the things I like about this image. Virtually every design Element and Principle is represented. It would have been easy to crop into the posts and you resisted the temptation, to your credit. The extra context contributes to the mystery of a young girl in a mysterious place of colors, patterns and textures. By moving the subject off center, you avoided a conflict with the top hat and the dark window post. All while wearing a gown and top hat. Remarkable.

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Tunnel Talk-Sharlana Dillard	6	This image made me laugh. Apparently, he can only steer with his left hand and only hear in his left ear. I think this is a fun street photo, but it suffers from a lack of color. Technically there aren't any serious issues other than meeting the expectation of a "color" theme.
Vase in Color-David Wilson	7	I love the colors and shape of the vase. I really want to like the image. To be frank and honest. I took one look, was impressed by the colors and then my eyes were drawn to the shadows in the background, and I found myself wondering about the source. Really? A beautiful vase of striking complimenting colors and I was wondering about the background shadows. That's just how subtle it can happen. It's not about the subject. It's about the whole image. I think if you crop to place the horizontal shadow line at the bottom of the image, there may not be enough shadow pattern to distract the viewer. To me it's about colors and patterns and not about some specific vase. Try it. Maybe you'll like it...or not.



Kurtis Sutley Biography

Kurtis began life as one half of a set of identical twins. Born in Dalhart, Texas on April 24, 1950, he was the son of a cattle ranch manager. He lived the life of a cowboy until entering pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in 1974. He was a fighter pilot serving seven years as an F-4E pilot and three in the F-15. He completed Airborne and Ranger School at Fort Benning prior to entering the Air Force. That's a long story. He and his wife Sue met at Oklahoma State University in 1972 and were married in 1975. He retired from the Air Force in 1995.

Kurtis has always had a camera, but his extensive slide collection has yet to be digitized. Kurtis and Sue have traveled Europe, Russia, Africa and the Far East.

Kurtis is an active member of the Hot Springs Village Camera Club. He joined the club in 2015 and was their photographer of the year in 2022. He is a member of the Photographic Society of America as well as numerous on-line groups. He completed the PSA Image Evaluation course in 2020 and the Image Analysis course in 2019. He has been a PSA club competition judge since 2023.

Kurtis uses a Canon R5 Mk II and R6 Mk III. He has been shooting with digital cameras since 2011. His favorite subjects are anything associated with horses and wildlife. Some of his favorite images can be seen at [instagram.com/kurtissutley/](https://www.instagram.com/kurtissutley/)

His motivation is summed up in his moto: By God's grace I can. For God's glory, I do.