

Greater New Braunfels Photography Club (GNBPC) Score Sheet for August 2025

Judge: Larry Treadwell

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

Image Title	Score	Comments
Boatload of Perspective-Suzanne Daunt	8	In my opinion this is a simplistic, yet effective image that clearly demonstrates the assigned topic. The image is technically sound with accurate exposure and the image is sharp where it needs to be. The blurred background adds greater clarity to the "minature" boat. Staying with the simplistic nature of the image the only suggestion I have to offer is to expand the image to allow space in front of the boat to give the illusion of the boat being a small part of the over all scene. As shown, the boat feels squeezed into the frame.
Cheers-Christiane Menelas	6	In my opinion the image is technically sound as it demonstrates adequate sharpness and correct exposure. The creative concept of an unseen person pouring water into a glass clearly demonstrates the assigned topic. However, the composition does not contribute to sending the visual message to the viewer. In this image everything depends on being able to clearly see the "bubbles" tumbling into the glass. The very busy and cluttered background renders most of the bubbles nearly invisible. When being creative the quality of the image depends on the viewer's ability to easily understand the message. I would suggest paying more attention to the background and select something that will contrast with the falling bubbles.

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Don_t Fall-Jackies Wise	5	I believe the maker has mentally envisioned a clever idea but needs to carefully think through exactly how this idea will be conveyed to the viewer. First, let's consider the title. The image should be clear and strong enough to deliver the message to the viewer without a title. The image should stand on its own. Note most judges never see the titles provided. If the title is provided then it should add in the understanding of the image. In this image a man appears to be pushing the subject figure from behind. Visually, he seems to be pushing the subject in a manner that will lead to the subject tipping over—actually falling. The title does not work. Technically, the image appears to be a bit soft. Some of this may be caused by the overexposure of the image that makes the image softer since edges no longer truly exist. This flaw should be corrected in camera, but in this case may be addressed in post processing. Simply select the background and decrease exposure. In my opinion this image should have a sharp foreground for the subject to sit in. This could have been solved by using a higher fstop to obtain more depth of field and also by correctly using the Hyperfocal system of focusing. I would also suggest cropping off about half of the space at the top of the frame, as it is not adding anything to the strength of the image.

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Don_t You Ignore Me-Slharlana Dillard	6	When creating an image the has to be certain the viewer sees what the maker intends to be seen. To make this work details are of the utmost importance. The subject (the dog) is well placed in the scene and commands the attention of the viewer. The major flaw in the image is the position of the man who is scolding the dog. Note carefully the position of the dog as it sits on the grass. The dog sits on the front third of the lawn. Next look at the position of the man. He appears to be standing much further into the field. Note just how much grass is between him and the front edge of the image. Visually, he is a considerable distance deeper into the field than the dog. Thus, he is effectively scolding nothing. The man should be positioned so that he appears to be in front of the dog. . I feel the image has accurate exposure and that it is acceptably sharp but not truly sharp. The dog's fur could be considerably much sharper.
Double Down Or Double Up- Barbara Beversdorf	9	In my opinion this is a minimalistic image with a great deal of immediate visual impact. The image is technically sound with excellent exposure and acceptable sharpness (the hand seems a bit soft). The subject is clear, compelling and well separated from the background. The addition to the background of a slight gradient (a bit darker at the top) provides a feeling of depth. The composition is composed of very few elements and thus each existing element carries greater weight. This greatly adds to the impact. The color palette features mostly cool colors imparting a feeling of calm to the image. Had brighter, warmer colors been used the image would be more jolting. This is a well planned and composed image.

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Giant Car Snatcher-Horst Schoninger	6	I feel this is a clever idea and is somewhat technically sound as it features semi adequate sharpness and correct, but not effective exposure. I applaud the maker's choice of using directional lighting to provide impact as it shows some originality and creates a more interesting image. For me the composition feels quite unbalanced with the strange little tree appearing as an after thought and not a cohesive part of the scene. I recognize what the maker is trying to do, I just do not think it works. The failure is likely due to the lighting which makes the tree extremely bright as compared to the rest of the image. The hand and arm, a vital part of the story, is soft and not clearly in focus. As it is vital to the story I feel slightly cropping it off along the edge is not effective. In any composition, details matter. The black boot on the left is positioned partly in shadow and thus merges with the black car next to it. If the car is going to be there it should stand on its own and be more visible. Perhaps a blue car would work in place of the black one. Note the clear separation between the car on the right and the boot and how much more effective it is. Placing the red car in the center is correct because red is a dominate color and draws attention. As it is in the center it helps to direct and hold the eye at the heart of the story. For me it seems the tree is competing for attention with the cars (due to the bright light on the tree) and something should be done to weaken impact of the tree because it is not contributing to the story.

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Hey! That_s My Toy!-Taryn Bradley	5	At the heart of every successful image is a strong subject, that is clear, easily understood, compelling and well separated from the background. As the maker of the image it is your responsibility to make the viewer understand what your message is. In this image I have no idea. I believe the camera's are the subjects? But are they toys? This image is supposed to be "forced perspective" but the cameras look to be normal size as compared to the cars, so what is forced? In technical terms the exposure is a bit off. The green leaves in the foreground are a bit over exposed as are some of the cars in the background, especially the white one on the right. Looking at the sharpness the cameras appear to be the only things that are close to being sharp. If you are trying to blur the background (and maybe the midground cars??) then you would need a more shallow fstop, perhaps F2.8-3.5, to actually blur some of the elements. As it is, it appears as if you could not make up your mind which way to go and in the end nothing is really sharp, including the cameras nor is anything really blurred.
I Do Believe in Fairies-Shelby Caesar	6+	In my opinion the image shows a solid interpretation of the assigned topic. The image is sharp were necessary and the exposure it mostly accurate. I do feel the hot spot could be toned down or have more individual rays so it appears more delicate. Fairies are delicate things and not monsters. When creating fantasy details matter. While the child's face carries of hint of awe and wonder much of her eyes and face are hidden. The environment does not show a fantasy wonderland and thus the realm of fairies rather it looks sterile and empty. When being creative the image requires more than just a subject, the setting (composition) is important. I would be remiss if I did not mention this this image has the greatest emotional impact of any image in this judging. It all stems from the expression on the child's face. Capturing just that moment is wonderful. Over all I feel this earns a score of 6. But that "moment" of wonder makes me want to give a image a boost in score. It is really quite wonderful.

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Is It-Edward Zukowski	9 Or 10	Oh my!! This is ELECTRIC, powerful stunning and an immediate visual "WOW". Judges look for images that have the elusive WOW factor, that which drops jaws. So excuse me while I put my dentures back in..... Why does this image just work? It is original, this is something you don't see every day. It is a minimalistic image. Such images generally have few elements and as such each of those elements is intensified in value. The viewer sees them more clearly. The image has contrast that extends from the pure black and clashes with the pure intense mostly primary colors. This contrasts creates a visual jolt. Extreme use of color. This image makes use of the two most powerful color combinations. Blue and Yellow is the second most powerful color combination. Blue is generally a calm and stabilizing color while yellow embodies joy and energy. They are complimentary colors. Red and Green are the most powerful color combination. Red is associated with energy, passion, and has attention-grabbing qualities, while green often represents nature, calmness, and balance. This pairing can evoke a sense of excitement, festivity, and even a feeling of rejuvenation. In this image all the colors are pure and shown at their greatest intensity. Finally. the image shows a bit of reality (the apple) is staged against pure geometric forms. These two elements are in constant opposition to each other creating a visual battle between reality and science. The image is masterly conceived and realized.

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Jurassic Park-Cindy Korzekwa	5	I feel the visual concept of dinosaurs existing in the modern world to be fantasy and in itself entertaining. To carry off this fantasy the two worlds must be brought together in a visual that feels realistic. In the presented image the background image is quite soft and lacks contrast making it feel dull and flat, almost muddy. Even if the day itself was dull it could given some energy through the use of contrast, vibrance and exposure during the editing process. The background is busy and filled with clutter that other than the windmill plays no part in the "story" and just becomes a series of distractions. The image of the dinosaur is soft and out of true focus. The vibrance of his coloring clashes with the muddy, flat appearance of the background. The best fix for this to adjust the background as noted above. The dinosaur is not blended into the image, but just layered on top of the background and he does not appear as a natural part of the scene. If you lack the Photoshop skills to do the blending then consider doing this all as a single image. Set the dinosaur on the ground so the dirt and grass cover parts of his feet thus making him seems to be the scene. Use a stick or a prop hiding behind him to hold him vertical. Then use a small building or toy from a toy store or a grandchild's toy box (such as a windmill) and place it into the image provide scale.

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Scattered Showers-Sandy Gilbert	8	I think that this is a simplistic image that has great visual impact. The background scene appears perfectly real. The woman nicely blended into the scene giving her the feeling of actually being there. Placing the near red umbrella in her hand draws immediate attention to the subject and keeps the eye of the viewer locked on the woman. However, the best part of the image, and what completes the selling of the image, is the clarity of the falling drops of water. The manner in which the water drops are separated from the background is what makes them seem quite real. Having the watering can appear as a dark color that seems to fit in with the colors of the yard helps to keep the attention riveted to the actual water drops and on the eye catching umbrella. The technical excellence of the image is clear as the exposure is accurate and there is sharpness where necessary. The image would be more believable if some of the foreground were sharper because the woman is sharp. Photographically, if she is sharp then what she is standing on needs to be sharp as well. Adjusting the focal point would solve the problem of foreground focus
Texas Sized Beer-Barry Armer	7	I believe the image is technically sound with adequate exposure and acceptable sharpness. The title provides a believable story to support the image. What I see in the image is a beer bottle sitting on a table top that is positioned a short distance from the stage. This scene could easily be taken using a wide angle lens (maybe 20mm focal length). With such a lens, and using a very small aperture, the bottle would to appear large and in focus while making the background seem further away. This could also have been created by blending two photos, one of the tabletop and one of the band on stage. In either case the "illusion" of size differences feels believable. I would suggest, for composition purposed that the label on the bottle be rotated so it could be read and that its position be slightly adjusted so that the left edge of the bottle does not merge with the singer.

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Image Title	Score	Comments
34 Cents Per Gallon-Taryn Bradley	6	I find this to be a technically sound image with correct exposure and adequate sharpness. The composition is basically a fill-the-frame format. It provides no context. A successful image will have an immediate impact on the viewer. This impact is generated by such elements as an emotional response shown here by the old gas pump which will have a nostalgic connection to older viewers. Impact may also be generated by showing an original approach to the subject. In this case the fill the frame composition creates a "postcard" like image that lacks creativity. There is a clear subject that is easily recognized. However, there is little in the way of a visual story. Lighting is quite ordinary and not inspiring. I feel the maker would have a stronger image if they backed up several feet and did not chop off the hose on the left and also allowed some breathing space on the right so the subject was not so crowded into the frame. Overall, the image is bright and somewhat cheerful.
Anticipation-Suzanne Daunt	9	I find this to be a strong image with immediate and powerful visual impact. This impact is created by the strong, clear and easily understood subject that is well separated from the background. The composition is well balanced by the two visible elements of bird and flower. There is an implied story of the bird arriving to feed upon the flowers. This story could be enhanced if the bird were actually feeding rather than just arriving. The image is technically sound with accurate exposure exceptional sharpness. The image makes good use of color as it features a green bird and a red flower. Green and Red are the strongest color combination as they command the attention of the viewer. They are also complimentary colors. The clean and simple background helps make the subject explode from the frame. In general this is a frequently seen image and does not show are real creativity and there are a few highlights on the flower that are slightly over exposed. The diagonal position of the flower stem is a compositional plus as is the visible eye of the bird. The noted flaws ae minor and do not hinder the score.

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Image Title	Score	Comments
Colorful Pistachios-Thomas Soutter	7	In my opinion the image is technically sound as it contains acceptable sharpness and accurate exposure. Images that move beyond being technically strong will generate impact by telling a clearly understandable story, or by presenting the subject in a creative manner or even by generating an emotional response from the viewer. For me the image serves as an objective and accurate documentation or recording of pistachios. It contains no technical flaws but it does not inspire.
Hooligan Fishing-Sharlana Dillard	6	I feel this is a technically solid image with adequate sharpness and correct exposure. In terms of generating impact the image lacks originality as what is being shown is a quite ordinary scene. The story line, while present remains common place and the image does not have a strong emotional response. I feel the composition is poorly constructed as the man's feet, his net and the bucket are all cut off along the bottom edge. In photography there is a saying that you crop with an ax and not a hatchet. That is you do not just clip off feet, but remove the legs. By just clipping the feet it looks to be accidental and not on purpose. Likewise the shore line on the far right feels like it was accidentally included. If the maker feels the shoreline to be important enough to include, then give the shore some recognition and not just an edge. The lower edge would look stronger if we could see the water in which he is standing and perhaps part of the beach as well.

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Hurry Up and Wait-Shelby Caesar	7	In photography it is important to remember that the eye of the viewer is both naturally and immediately drawn to the lightest and the brightest portion of an image. This is a natural instinct and the viewer cannot help this reflex. Thus, it is best if your subject is the brightest thing in the image since that is what the viewer is going to see. In this instance the brightest portion of the image is the greatly overexposed outdoor area seen through the window. The simplest solution would be to crop at least the upper section of the window off thus reducing the bright area and leaving a square composition. The BEST solution would be to balance the exposure and then since the shadows would still be dominate to use editing tools to open the shadow areas. Better yet would be to shoot this scene on an overcast day when the outdoor light would not be as strong. This is a lovely image of what is likely an important moment to the maker and I agree that such a moment should be captured. That makes it a memorable moment, but does not make it a good photograph. These are two completely different things. If the goal is to take a good photograph then there is a proper conditions under which to take a photograph such as this and the conditions were not present at this moment. The image is sharp and the shadow areas are properly exposed.

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I_m Dreaming of a White Christmas-Becky Love	6	When you take an image for yourself, you know what you are trying to capture so there is no problem with the result. Once you start showing images to others then, to have a successful image you have to see the image as a neutral viewer will see it—without the backstory that only you know. Think about how many times you have explained an image to someone else? Every successful image starts with a strong, clear subject, that is easily understood and well separated from the background. So, when I look at this image, I start by looking at the subject. But just what is the subject? It is the single car parked between the trees? By the way those trees make an excellent compositional frame for the car. You may be dreaming of a white Christmas, I'm trying to figure out if the car needs to be shoveled out of the snow. Simply put, your composition is not delivering your intended message to the viewer. I can make the image stronger by cropping, but it still will not tell your message. The image is sharp, mostly well exposed (the trees are too dark and the shadows should be opened in Editing.). I also applaud that you managed to get the snow white. That seldom happens. Your image has a lot of visual distractions. I have attached a sample crop to help solve the composition issue. In addition to cropping I removed distractions along the edges, reduced the highlights to bring texture back into the snow, opened the shadows on the trees to show detail and sharpened the overall image. It is important to try and retain some detail in a snowy landscape. Merry Christmas! 

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Let the Water Flow-David Love	5	In my opinion you have discovered an interesting subject but need to just slow down and think about the technical aspects as well as composition before shooting. It does not appear that you had the best of lighting conditions when shooting and that adds a challenge. The image is not truly sharp and a bit overexposed throughout. I would suggest shooting with a tripod and shooting with an aperture of at least f8 or f11 to obtain adequate depth of field. The tripod would also allow you the luxury of trial and error. By checking your histogram after each shot you adjust your settings so the sky would not be over exposed. Your composition would be stronger if you changed position and left out the bright green pool on the far right. It is an extra bright area and does not help the composition. I would also suggest eliminating most of the sky since it is overexposed and has no detail. You might consider positioning the falls on the right side of the frame so that the falling water would fall into the scene and not (as seen in your current image) fall into the pool and seem to run out of the frame. Using a polarizing filter would also reduce the glare in the water.

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Pep Ventosa Technique-Edward Zukowski	8	Images such as this represent a unique challenge for PSA competitions. They clearly fall within the realm of “creative” images and at the present time there is no separate category for such images. Most often, I’m afraid, judges will view them as being created through the use of filters or other such gimmicks. Images with this appearance rarely do well. I have devoted several hours over the last few days trying to understand this technique. The following remain only my opinions. Note I applaud your pushing photographic boundaries. The first things I note is your exposure seems to be accurate and you have avoided harsh highlights and dense shadows. Sharpness also seems adequate. I do feel the image horizon tilts to the left. I base this on the horizon line and the two tall bare branch trees (one on each side) that both lean to the left. In terms of pure composition I believe the image would be stronger without them. While a certain amount of ghosting is inherent in this style the large area on the left edge is annoying to my eye. The technique seems to require that some areas remain sharp to serve as visual anchors and I believe the central foreground meets the requirement. According to much of what I’ve read the key subject elements need to retain a central core of sharpness to maintain a sense of form with the overall abstraction. This I feel is lacking in the bush. Other than a couple of flowers to the left of center I do not find a strong visual anchor. I do find the overall “painterly” look appealing. I do wish that glaring white area in the lower right corner were removed. I find it draws my eye from the subject.

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Right Outside the Gate-Cindy Korzekwa	4	In my opinion this is an attempt at a creative image that just didn't quite work. The top of the image features either the sun or moon, likely taken with a small aperture. However the result, when viewed by a neutral viewer, is a large very over exposed area with no detail. The foreground is sharp (the gate) and the fact that the gate is red makes it an instant eye catcher. Remember that red is the most powerful of all colors and will always draw the attention of the viewer. In terms of composition I feel you should slightly raise the gate in the composition. The gate should have a ground upon which to stand so I would suggest showing a piece of the road or ground. I feel the image does not have a strong, easily understood subject that is compelling.
Slot Canyon-Horst Schoninger	8	I feel this image does an excellent job of using the Art Elements of shape and form along with line and pattern to create visual impact. In addition the use of the yellow/orange rock and the blue sky add a comfortable warm feeling to the image. Note that the aforementioned colors are complimentary. The vertical lines of the rock walls create a rising, uplifting feeling and due to the lines being both curved and diagonal they add a powerful dynamic to the image. While I find the image to be technically strong with exceptional sharpness and correct exposure I also find that the image has been over processed. This flaw can be seen by the white halo that runs along the edge formed by the blue sky and the red rock.

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Starry Starry Night-Christiane Menelas	8	In my opinion this is a technically sound image with acceptable sharpness and good exposure. You did a good job with the Milky Way as the core has proper exposure, the Black Horse is clearly defined, and your stars appear to be pinpoints of light rather than being elongated. Additionally, the foreground building has enough detail to be interesting. In terms of composition the image would be stronger if the building at the bottom had some land upon which to stand. There also appears to be a bit of visible noise in the lower left corner. Given a choice I might have considered having the Milky Way rise from the chimney of the cabin. It would be an artistic touch. The image has strong impact, clearly shows intent and has a compelling subject.
The Road to the Coast-Sandy Gilbert	9	I believe this image is technically strong with adequate sharpness and accurate exposure. The color palette that utilizes cool colors helps to create the feeling of quiet and loneliness that connects strongly to the lonely winding road leading to the distant water. I find that the color of the road, the water and the sky create a strong leading line making for a cohesive image. The composition uses the diagonal lines of the flanking hillsides to frame the winding roadway. This is a well thought out and carefully planned composition. I even find the slightly bright grasses in the foreground help pull the eye of the viewer to the foreground and then the nearby bright road encourages the viewer to join the road at its beginning so the viewer may enjoy traveling the length of the road. I feel this makes the image stronger as the maker is forcing the eye of the viewer to move throughout the frame and not remain static. Two minor adjustments that may make the image stronger would be to work with masking to use contrast to help separate the wonderful tones found in the vegetation throughout the image. Finally, a slightly higher camera position would create separation between the two large trees in the foreground and the row of trees into which the trees merge. That separation would make the trees more dynamic. It is a good rule to keep various elements in the image separate so they can command their space and be clearly seen by the viewer.

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Twin Dance-Jackies Wise	9	One of the most powerful ways to improve the strength of an image is to use light for more than just obtaining proper exposure. This is the only image in the color series to use light in a creative manners. Simply using light creative will generally lift the score of an image because it is so seldom seen. In this image the quality of light is carefully managed and this management is to be commended. While this is a still life the image provides the illusion of movement as if the flowers were swaying to an unheard melody and thus introduces the element of story telling and movement to the image. The twin subjects are well paired and compelling (you chose the perfect type of flowers). Red and Green are the most powerful color combination and by slightly muting the hues of the red and green you have been able to use the eye catching power of these colors without displaying the shock value often seen in the use of red and green. This is well planned and executed. While judges generally frown upon the use of pure black backgrounds the faded background flowers of each pair play well against the black. Finally the strong directional side lighting makes the flowers seem to be emerging from the background rather than blending in. This simple, minimalistic image has a great deal of surprise and character that invites the viewer to look deeply into the image. This quality is seldom seen. Well done indeed.

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Yet Another Backyard Visitor- Barbara Beversdorf	6	In my opinion your title says everything about this image. While the image is technically strong with adequate sharpness and exposure the image is quite ordinary in every respect. The lighting is ordinary mid day light and not interesting. The subject is, as you say, "yet another" bunny. The image lacks creativity and is not much more an image of record. Capturing the bunny in motion (be patient, sooner or later it will move), or nibbling at something, would create a much more interesting image. The strongest part of the image is that you place the bunny slightly to the left of center. This position provides more space in front of the bunny than behind it and creates the illusion that the bunny has space to move into. It is subtle, but this implies motion and thus adds to the image. Note that simple portrait style images of any wildlife are the most common type of wildlife image. capturing the animal doing something creates greater interest and will yield higher scores.

Bio for Larry Treadwell

Larry Treadwell has been involved in Photography for nearly 40 years. Over his career he has been an Artist in Residence at Smoky Mountain National Park and been a Guest Speak at the U.S. Botanical Garden in Washington D.C. where he spoke on the issues facing the Florida Everglades. He has been a judge for the Florida Council of Camera Clubs and currently judges numerous international competitions for PSA as well as local camera clubs throughout the USA. He also teaches two online courses for PSA one titled Image Evaluation and the other titled Creating Images for Competition.