Sedona Camera Club Photo Critiquing Rubric v5-- CRITERIA and Sub-Criteria

Rating Scale for Sub-Criteria

- 5 = Photo is an exceptional example of the sub-criterion
- 4 = Photo effectively reflects the sub-criterion
- 3 = Photo basically reflects the sub-criterion2 = Photo minimally reflects the sub-criterion
- 1 = Photo does not reflect the sub-criterion
- I Photo does not reflect the sub-citterion

Not all the items listed under each sub-criterion are relevant or appropriate to every photo, so we must not score a photo based on items that are irrelevant to the photo. For example, many of the items listed under the Composition criterion do not apply to an abstract photo in which the entire image is the center of interest and the story is left to the viewer's imagination. And some styles break the 'rules' to create an effective photo. However, at least one item for each sub-criterion should be satisfied for any photo to be a successful image. All photos from landscapes and wildlife to composites and abstracts should be able to score as high as any other photo.

INTEREST

Impact (score 1-5)

- Does the photo have Impact, which is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time?
- Does the photo evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion?
- Does the photo draw your eye into the picture and cause an immediate reaction?

Creativity or Style (score 1-5)

- Is there anything particularly creative, novel, different or exciting about the way the subject or message is expressed or interpreted?
- Does the photo represent a specific genre? If so, is it a good representation of that genre?
- Does the photo employ a specific style? Is the style appropriate for the subject and is it a good representation of that style?

COMPOSITION

Elements of Composition (score 1-5)

- Does the relative placement of image objects or elements enhance the photo? (elements include pattern, symmetry, texture, depth of field, lines, framing, perspective, space, balance, color, contrast)
- Are the center or centers of interest well placed. Does it stand out from the background? Does its placement work together with all other secondary elements to express the purpose of the photo?
- Do the main lines or elements of the picture lead to the main subject? Do they add depth? Does your eye follow a path that keeps it within the picture?
- Is the horizon line placed properly for the subject?
- Are repetitious shapes or colors appealing to the eye and clearly a pattern or design?
- Are composition rules like the rule of thirds applied, if appropriate.
- Does the photo achieve simplicity with no extraneous elements?

Subject or Story (score 1-5)

- Is subject clear, or, if the photo is an abstract, is the message or intent apparent and cohesive?
- Does the photo tell a story clearly and simply? Or does it otherwise evoke imagination or wonder?
- Does the photo communicate to the viewer what the maker saw or felt at the time the photograph was taken?
- Does the photo have a well-chosen title that helps the viewer understand the image?

TECHNIQUE

Focus, Exposure & Lighting (score 1-5)

- Do the in-camera techniques used to create the photo enhance the photo?
- Is the photo well focused? If selective focus is used, is it effective?
- Is the exposure appropriate, without any blocked shadows or blown-out highlights, unless it was intentionally and effectively over or under exposed?
- Does the use and control of light, either manmade or natural, enhance the photograph?

Contrast, Color & Production Quality (score 1-5)

- Do the post processing and production techniques used enhance the photo?
- Is the global and local contrast appropriate for the photo? Is the sharpening done effectively?
- Is the color saturation appropriate for the subject?
- Are the colors balanced supplying harmony to the photo?
- Does the digital photo or print exhibit quality work?
- Does the presentation give the photo a finished look? The borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the photo, not distract from it.

Comments: Please see the ArtsEdge framework for writing critiques.