



An Introduction to Judging

"No man has the right to dictate what other men should perceive, create or produce, but all should be encouraged to reveal themselves, their perceptions and emotions, and to build confidence in the creative spirit."

"Photography, as a powerful medium of expression and communication, offers an infinite variety of perception, interpretation and execution."

"There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer."



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"There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer."

And we are all different!



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Why do you want your
MASTERPIECE
to be judged?





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Why do you want your
MASTERPIECE
to be judged?



Judging
always is
and
always has been
CONTROVERSIAL





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so what is judging ^{& JAP} all about?

A programme designed to increase the judging pool

Club & Salons



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so what is judging ^{& JAP} all about?

A programme designed to increase the judging pool
and to help you to develop from a "back of the room expert"
to a judge whose public comments are
helpful, fair, unbiased and interesting.



Every time you see a photograph
you make judgments on it



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so what is judging all about?

Every time you see a photograph you make judgments on it

This can vary from quiet, personal thoughts,

through whispered comments to friends
at the back of the club room,

to helpful advice and words of admiration.



One of the most difficult moments in the life of any photographer is hearing an analysis of his/her work.



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Why do you want your
MASTERPIECE
to be judged?



"There are always two people in every picture:
the photographer and the viewer."



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Photographer

Decides

what to photograph

what to include

how to process

how to present



Viewer

judge, friend,
club members etc.

Interpret what has been
photographed based on, what
may be, a totally different set
of values, experiences etc.

at least

"There are always two people in every picture:
the photographer and the viewer.



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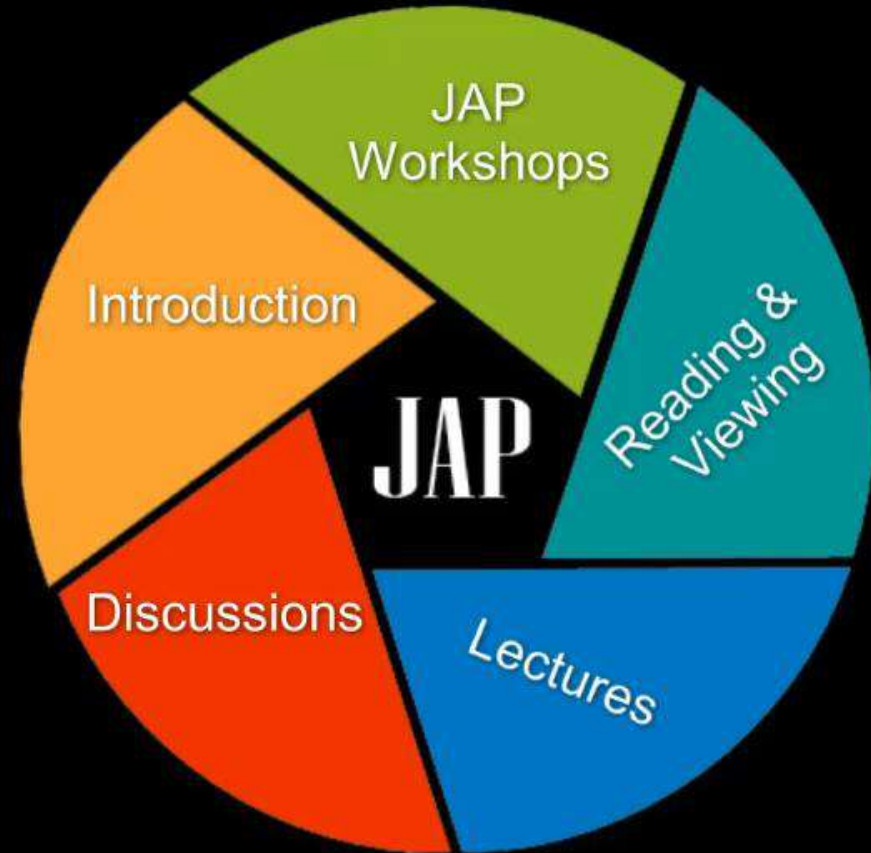
As a judge you do have a difficult task - you must be fair to the photographer
but you have to be careful not to go overboard
- you mustn't be too critical but equally you mustn't be too lenient -



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Training judges to look for the message that a picture/photographer is trying to portray.
Analysing the picture content, technique and treatment.



Sharing the information in a constructive package.



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JAP
Workshops



1. An Introduction to Judging



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Eddie Sethna

Hon RPS, FRPS, AFIAP

An Analysis of Judging

Talks and articles on judging usually amount to individuals stating how they judge, and then seeking to justify their method as the best, without making any effort to compare their own techniques with those of others, and without trying to evolve from observations credible principles of judging.

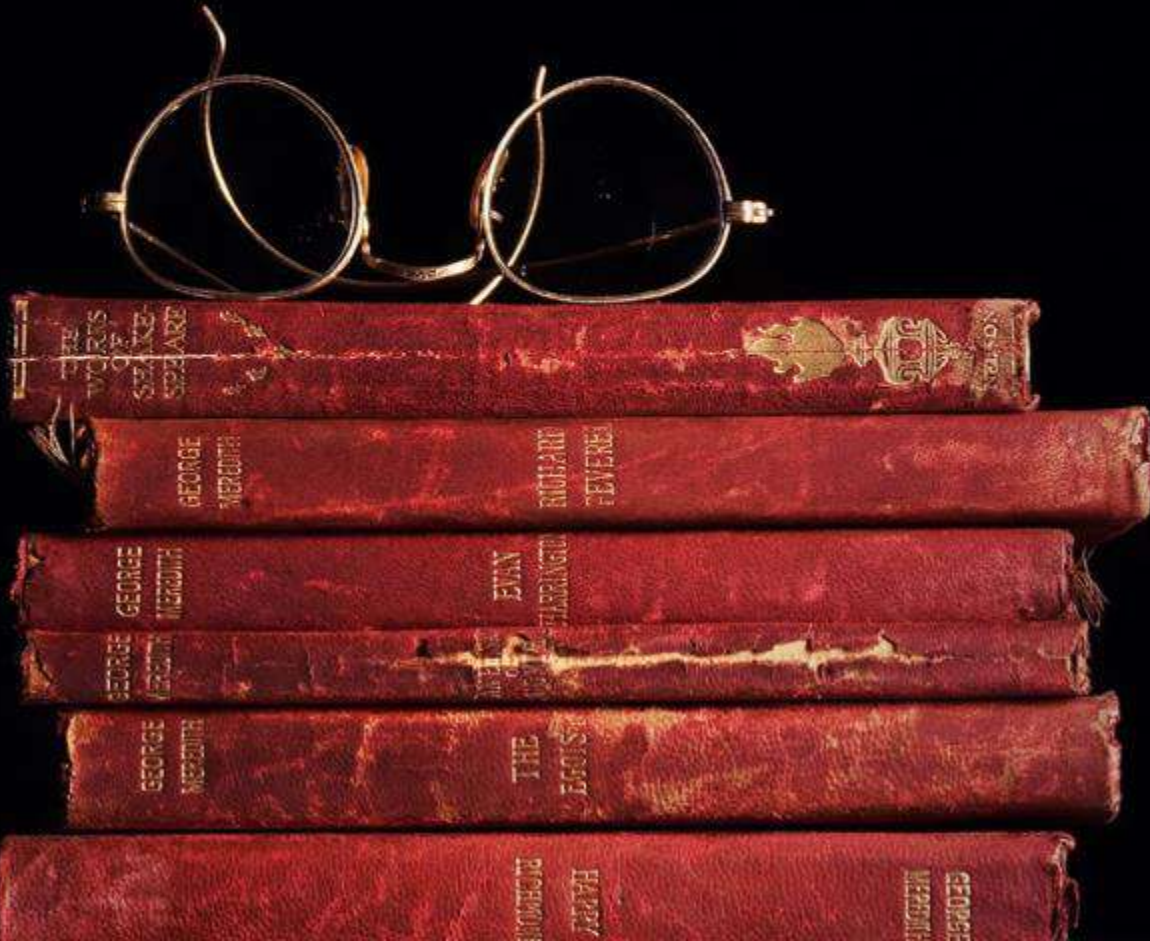




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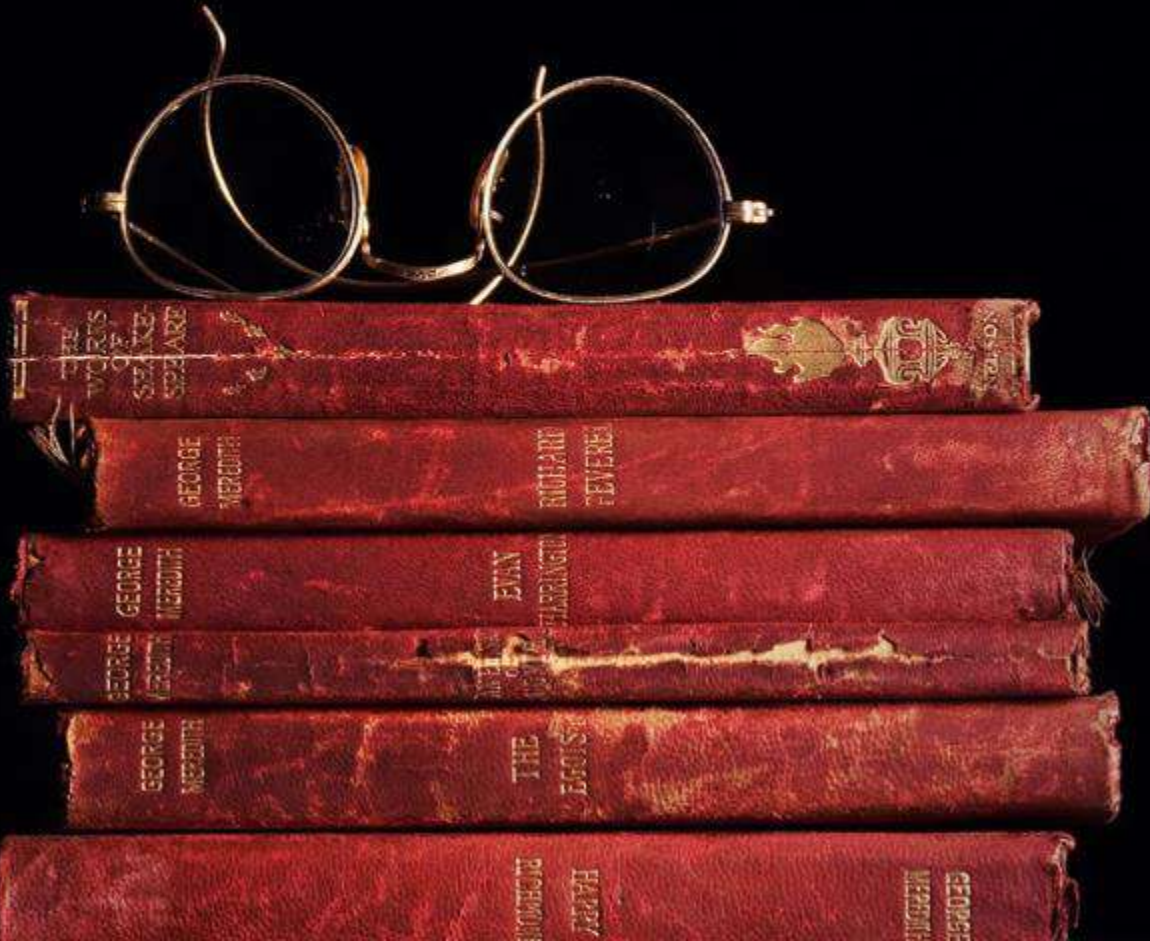


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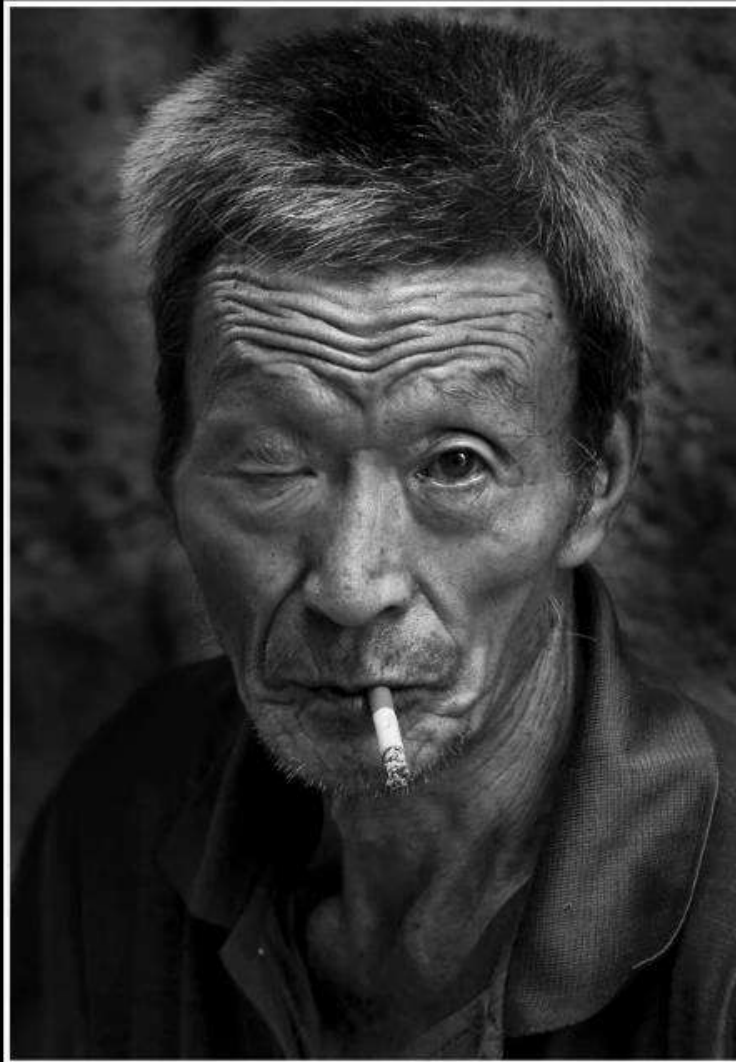
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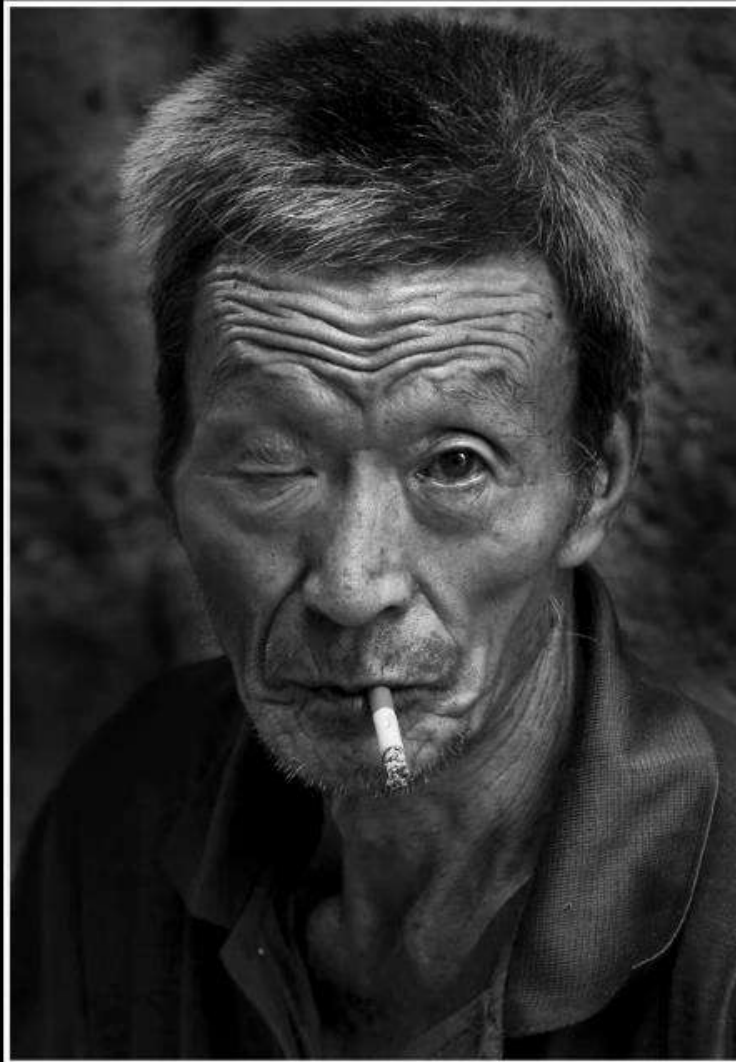
Talks and articles on judging usually amount to individuals stating how they judge, and then seeking to justify their method as the best, without making any effort to compare their own techniques with those of others, and without trying to evolve from observations credible principles of judging.

The intention is to teach
but not to produce clones.





1. An Introduction to Judging
2. The pitfalls of judging



Rules & Judging

Subject in the middle / thirds / center of interest

Negative space

Leading Lines

Wrong time of day / Unnatural Colours

Even/uneven numbers

Can't see the face / eyes / highlights

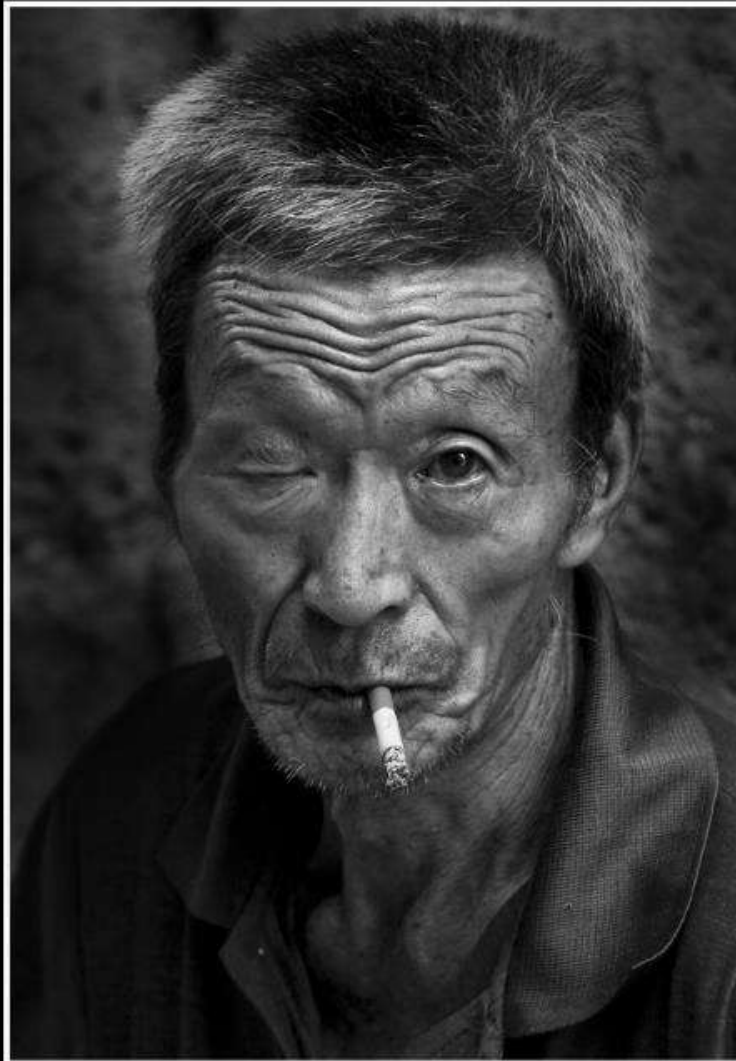
Cropping vs amputating

Borders - yes or no

Distortion / Verticals not vertical

Mono must have from pure White To Black

Personal likes/dislikes



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Monochrome must have from pure White To Black

Personal likes/dislikes

There are NOOOO rules in photography, only guidelines!!!!!!!



1. An Introduction to Judging
2. The pitfalls of judging
3. Getting the score right



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Hon RPS, FRPS, AFIAP
An Analysis of Judging

In good judging I found that three attributes of the picture were taken into account:

1. What the picture communicates - the message





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An Analysis of Judging

In good judging I found that three attributes of the picture were taken into account:

1. What the picture communicates - the message



It is neither essential nor important for a judge to find out what the author of the picture was trying to communicate. What matters is what feelings and thoughts it engenders in the viewer - the judge.



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An Analysis of Judging

In good judging I found that three attributes of the picture were taken into account:

2. The Content of the Picture - the medium





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An Analysis of Judging

In good judging I found that three attributes of the picture were taken into account:

2. The Content of the Picture - the medium



What appears good to the eye does not necessarily make a good photograph.



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An Analysis of Judging

In good judging I found that three attributes of the picture were taken into account:

3. The Technical aspects of the picture





3. The Technical aspects of the picture

If there are basic technical problems such as lack of focus, exposure/lighting and processing problems these are going to come into play even before you consider points 1 & 2.





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Hendrik Ferreira FPSSA On Judging and Evaluation



Perhaps in a large extent due to this technical dogma, club photography is sometimes experienced by outside art critics as perfect to the point of being sterile, predictable and boring.

However, good judging does require some flexibility in the weighting.





1. An Introduction to Judging
2. The pitfalls of judging
3. Getting the score right
4. How and what to say



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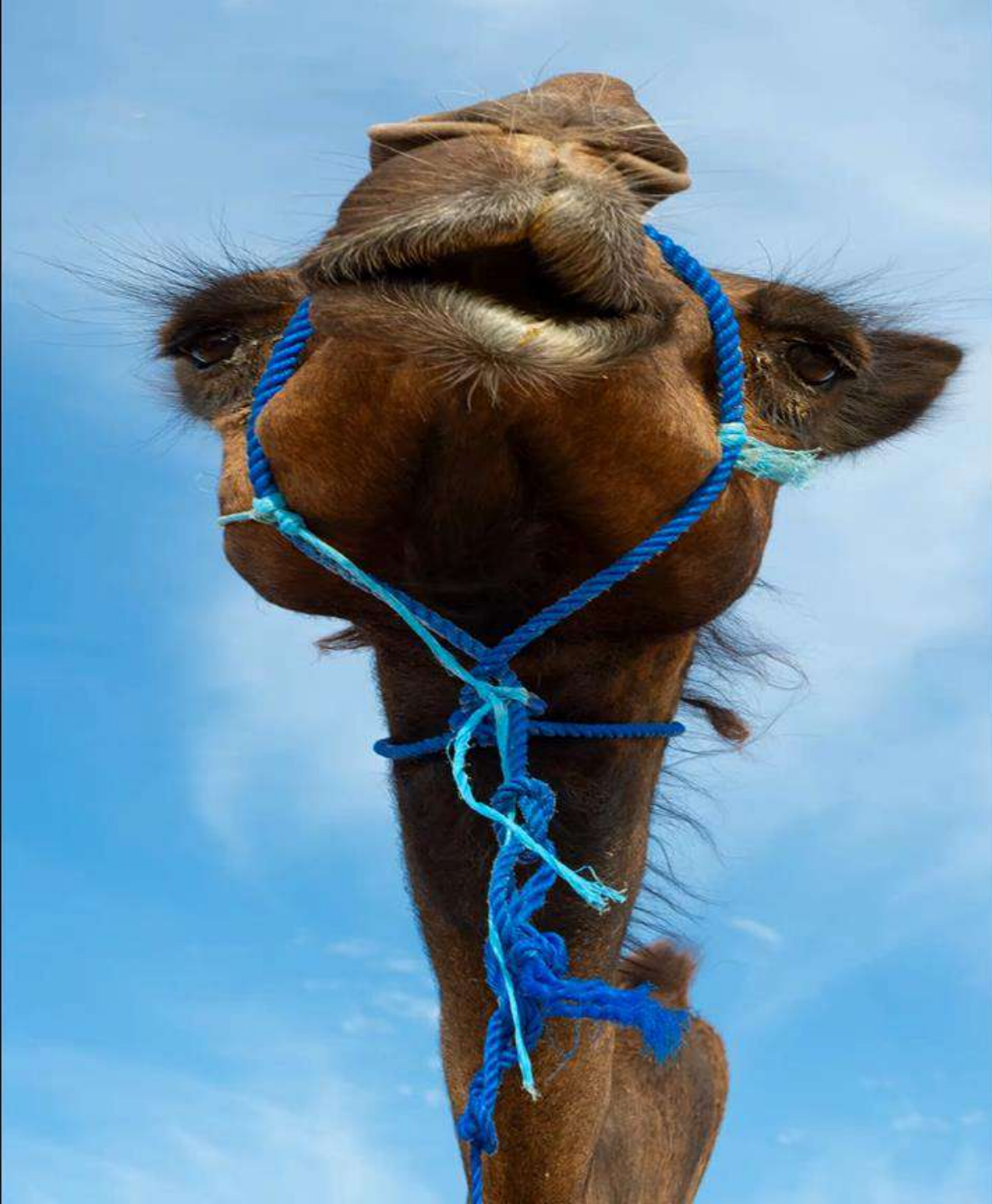
Hendrik Ferreira FPSSA

On Judging and Evaluation

Through his commentary,
this person is also an educator
whose comments on a specific picture
may influence the
future work of several other learning
and aspiring
photographers in the audience.



A photograph is not GOOD
just because you like it.



Nor is it BAD
just because you don't like it.

A photograph is not GOOD
just because you like it.

You judge the image,
not the person or the place
or the difficulty.

It doesn't matter what it is,
you judge the image
as presented.

Nor is it BAD
just because you don't like it.



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Reading
&
Viewing

The important point about judging is that you need to have the knowledge and understanding of photography to have confidence in yourself.

Provided you are clear and confident in your judgement, and are able to support it, then you are on the right track.



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Reading
&
Viewing



The important point about judging is that you need to have the knowledge and understanding of photography to have confidence in yourself.

Provided you are clear and confident in your judgement, and are able to support it, then you are on the right track.

BUT

You do need to listen to others and be open to different viewpoints.



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Anyone who aspires to be a judge
should have experienced photography
at all levels.

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PSSA Senior Club Competition Winner July 2019

Martin Barber from Southern Suburbs Camera Club wins the July PSSA Senior Club Competition with the image "Out on the Range".

[Click on the winning image for more](#)



PSSA Junior Club Competition Winner July 2019

Stephen Kangisser from Edenvale Photographic Club wins the July PSSA Junior Club Competition with the image "Winter wonderland".

[Click on the winning image for more](#)



PSSA Website Competition Winner July 2019

Eric Bosman from Kriel Foto Club wins the July PSSA Website Competition with the image "The Chase".

[Click on the winning image for more](#)



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Although not necessarily having produced all categories of photography, or being expert in them, a judge should have seen many examples.

3rd Pretoria Photographic Society PDI Salon Medal Winners



PSSA Silver Medal - Creative or Visual Art Colour and Mono - going to work - Johan Brits - Vanderbijlpark Fotografiese Vereniging



PSSA Silver Medal - Open Colour - Past to Present - Joy Mullin - Amber Camera Club



PSSA Silver Medal - Open Mono - after dinner coffee - David Barnes - Tygerberg Photographic Society



PSSA Silver Medal - PJ incl Sport Travel and Street - Colour Colour run - Marleen La Grange - Tygerberg Photographic Society

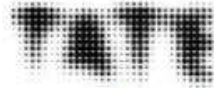


PSSA Silver Medal - Wildlife incl birds Colour - Playful attack - Annette Ligtheim - AFO Photography Club



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Some background knowledge of art can empower a judge to identify and understand artistic styles, concepts and ideas.



Search

Shop

BECOME A
MEMBER



John Singer Sargent
Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose
1885-6



Wassily Kandinsky
Cossacks
1910-1



Henri Matisse
The Snail
1953



Salvador Dalí
Lobster Telephone
1936



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Recommended Reading

Reading
&
Viewing





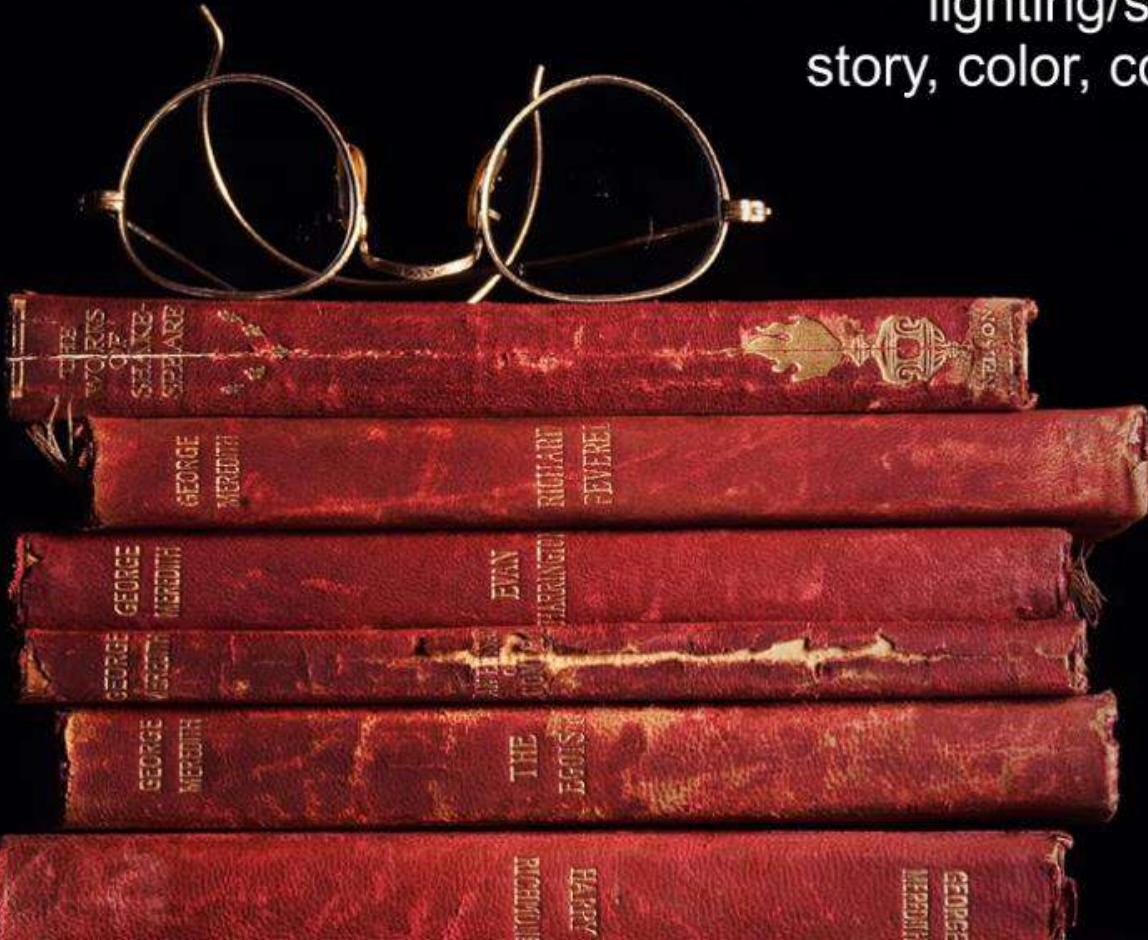
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Richard Lynch Good Photography

Good photography takes into account many things:
lighting/shadow, composition, exposure, subject,
story, color, contrasts, sharpness, depth of field, and more

- often intangible -

Lectures





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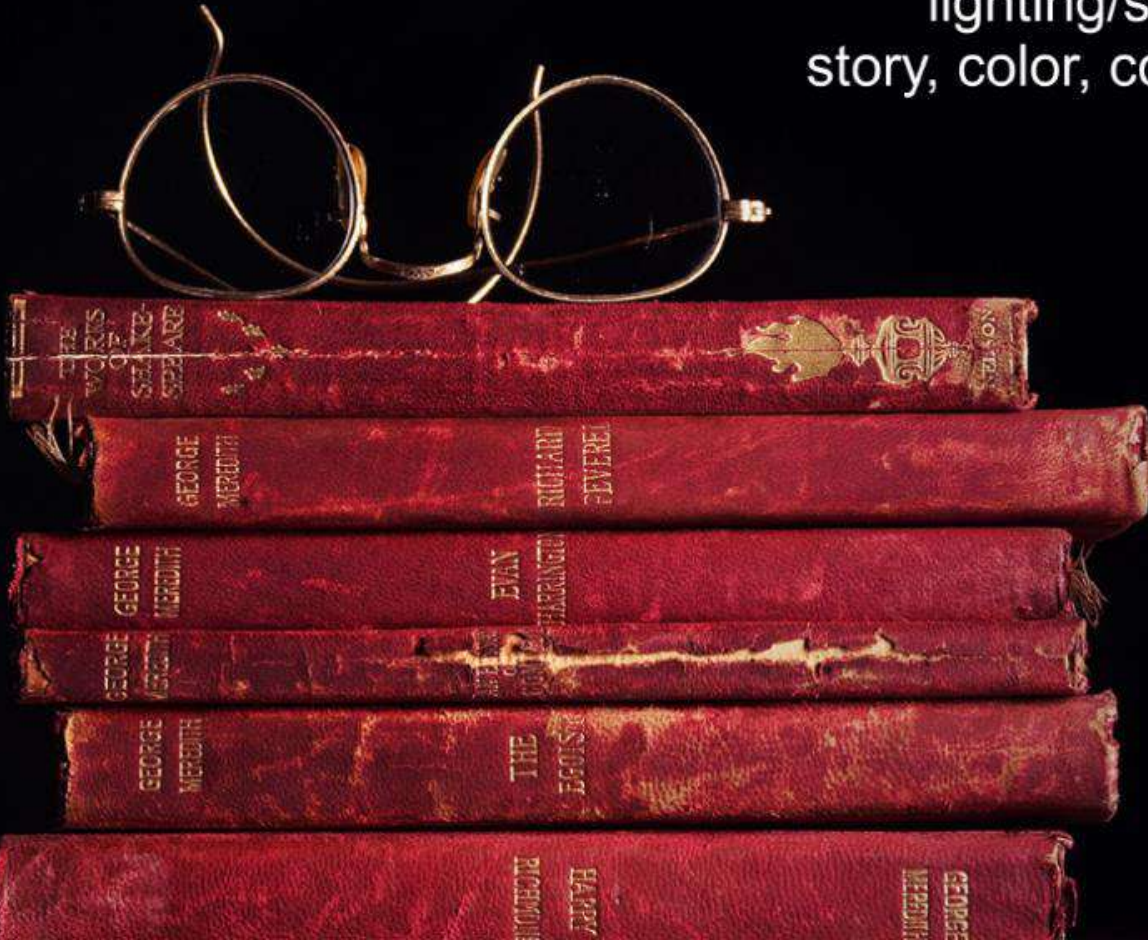
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Lectures





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What is judging all about?

Looking for the message that a picture is trying to convey
Analysing the picture content and treatment
Considering the technical aspects
Delivering it in a constructive package





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And we are all different!

It is not about promoting your own ideas,
neither being over critical or negative (looking for faults, something wrong).



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PSQA

Although a judge may be able to contribute to club members' craft of photography, this is ultimately not their task at hand.

The main task of a PSQA (PSQ accredited judge) is to assist fellow photographers to develop as photographic artists.





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What do you think about that statement?

Discussion



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Answer from one JAP participant follows:



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A photograph is the result of how something ordinary or extraordinary has been seen, interpreted and captured in a meaningful way.

We all interpret things differently and alternative interpretations or views from judges, especially with regard to lighting, composition, storytelling and emotion are valuable.

Valid comments and criticism broaden the reference base of the photographer to inform future interpretations, to create images with stronger impact to a broader audience.

The true photographic artist must use his own creativity and imagination to achieve the perfect composition to convey the correct vision or message, knowing what works through the eyes of others makes this easier!



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Discussion

1. How does this image evoke emotion, feeling & mood?
2. What is the story?
3. Does the photographic craft support the image and how does it do so?
4. Considering each of these factors what score would you give this image?



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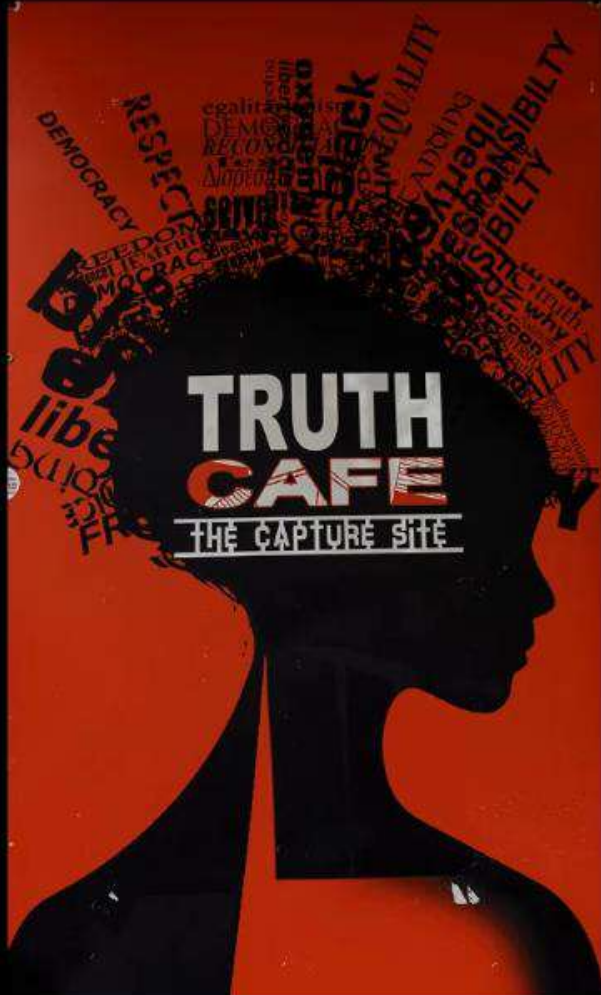
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What are your answers?



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JAP

is an ongoing process -
it does not end
when you receive
your accreditation.

There is always
something more
to learn.

