

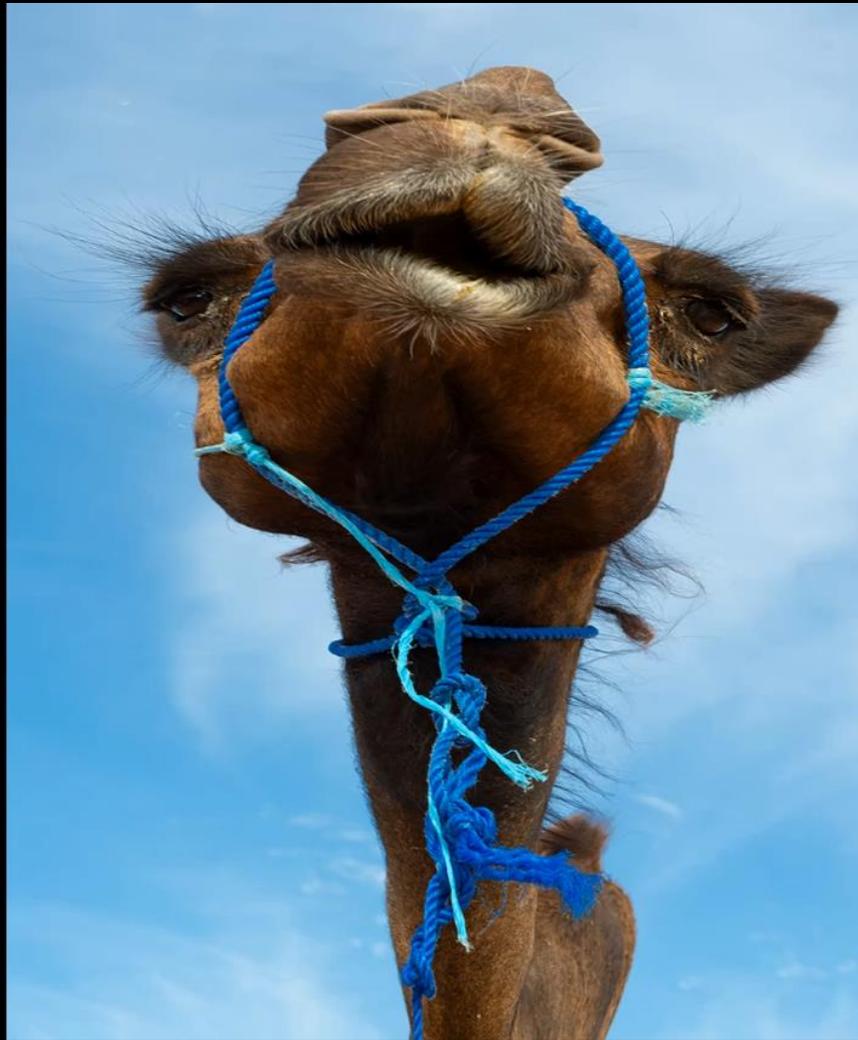


The Photographic Society
of South Africa

JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

Jill Sneesby

A photograph is not GOOD
just because you like it.



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



The Photographic Society
of South Africa

JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

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.

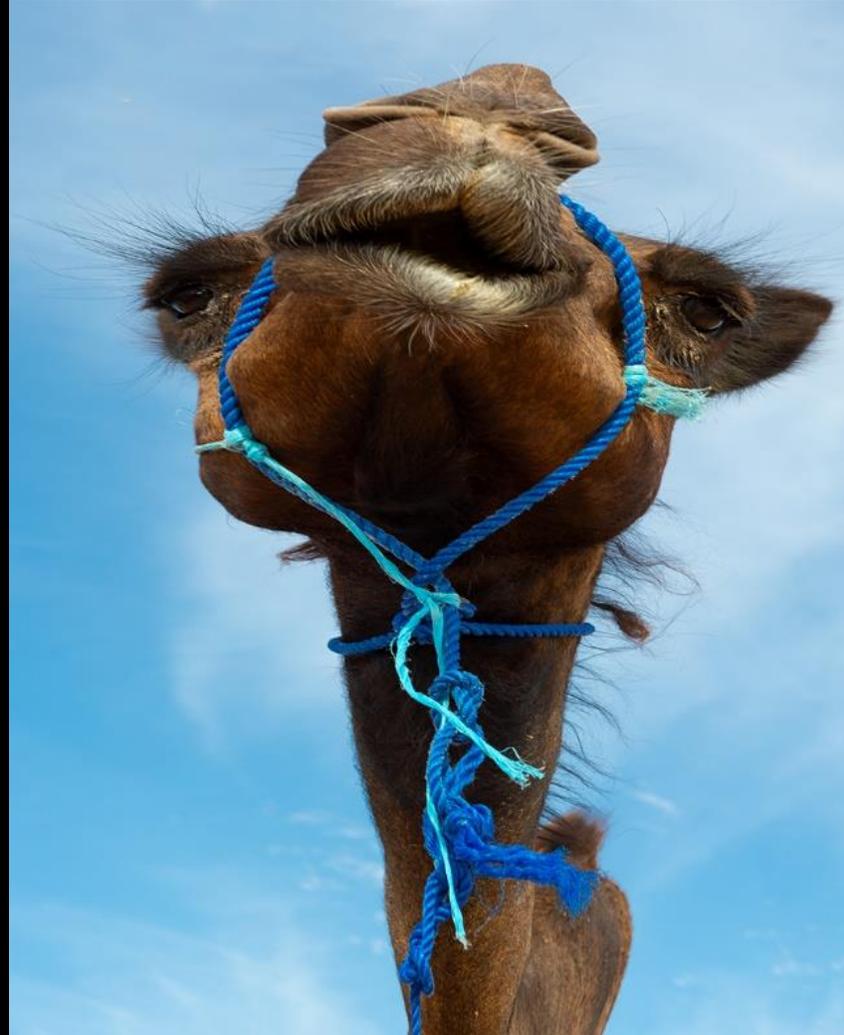


The Photographic Society
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JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

Whether it's judging at your monthly meetings or at Salons, judging is one of the most important club elements, where our members gain knowledge and insight into how to improve their photography and skill, and importantly, how they get rewarded at the relevant judging forums.

As this is such a vital element, the JAP program was developed to train the judges to give consistent, fair, accurate and helpful advice and to create constancy in judging throughout the regions.



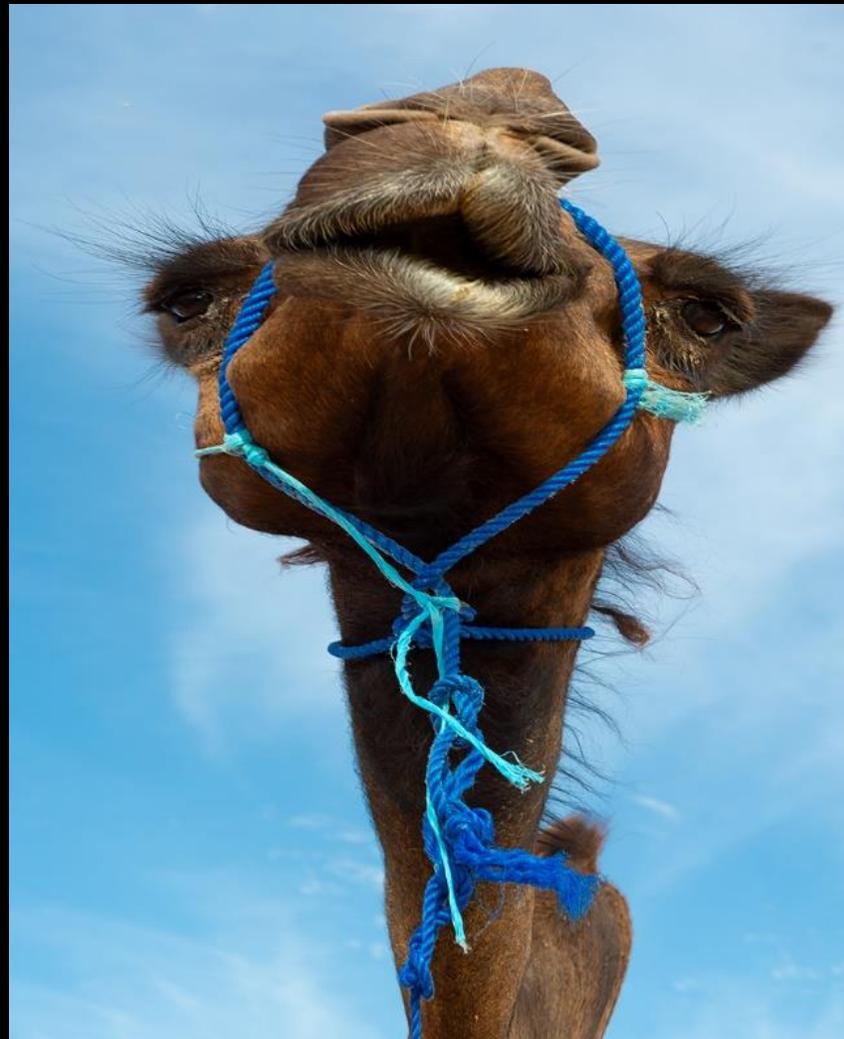


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No Clones

Your opinion is important

BUT

By following the guidelines you aim to be able to give helpful, fair and unbiased assistance.

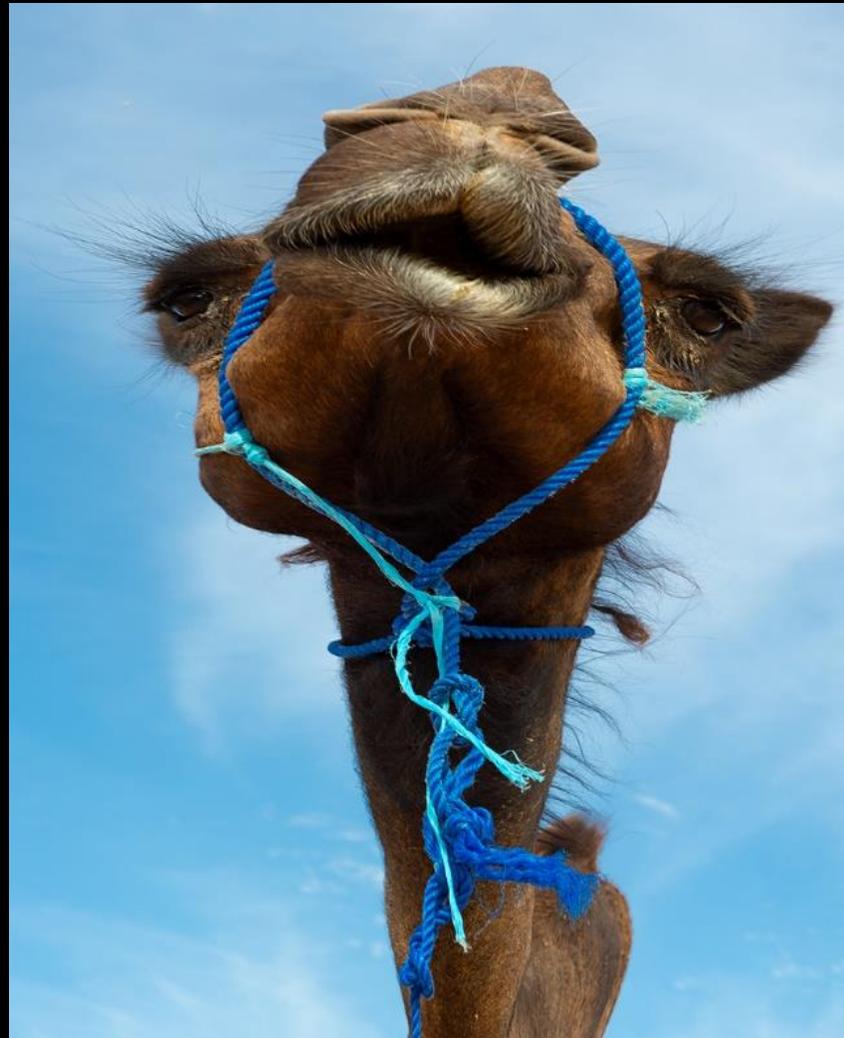


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No Clones

Your opinion is important

BUT

By following the guidelines you aim to be able to give helpful, fair and unbiased assistance.

Feedback and a willingness to listen to criticism of you as a judge is not intended to pull you down but to make you a better judge.



The Photographic Society
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JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story



The Photographic Society of South Africa

- Looking for the message/story

The Photographer

Decides

what to photograph

what to include

how to process

how to present



The 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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- Looking for the message/story
- Analysing the picture content and treatment including the technical aspects and giving a score



It is not about promoting your own ideas, neither being over critical or negative



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of South Africa

JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

What is judging about:

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- Analysing the picture content and treatment including the technical aspects and giving a score



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- Looking for the message/story
- Analysing the picture content and treatment including the technical aspects and giving a score



It is not about promoting your own ideas, neither being over critical or negative

The lighthouse is not straight – is that a mistake or is it intentional?

How do you
decide
what
score to give?

If you can find
nothing wrong
must you give it
15?



How do you
decide
what
score to give?

If you can find
nothing wrong
must you give it
15?

If you don't
give it 15 must
you point out
the problems?

What if there
are no
problems?



How do you
decide
what
score to give?

If you can find
nothing wrong
must you give it
15?

If you don't
give it 15 must
you point out
the problems?

What if there
are no
problems?

Then do you start to look for problems?

Do you Nitpick?

Something to consider

Are your comments really relevant

Or are you just trying to find something to say?





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JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story
- Analysing the picture content and treatment including the technical aspects and giving a score
- It is not about promoting your own ideas, neither being over critical or negative

None of us are right all the time.

There will always be someone who disagrees.



None of us are right all the time.

DO NOT TRY or THINK OTHERWISE



None of us are right all the time.

DO NOT TRY or THINK OTHERWISE

Be careful about finding one point you don't like,
or think you don't like, and harping on that.



The whites are burnt out.



The whites are burnt out.

Maybe they are – but maybe they work
and what about the other highlights?
And dark areas?





As a judge
you can
only make
comments
about what
YOU
think might
improve the
image.



As a judge
you can
only make
comments
about what
YOU
think might
improve the
image.

Straighten
the verticals.



As a judge
you can
only make
comments
about what
YOU
think might
improve the
image.

Straighten
the verticals.

Remove the
distracting
areas.



As a judge
you can
only make
comments
about what
YOU
think might
improve the
image.

Straighten
the verticals.

Remove the
distracting
areas.

Have you improved the image
Or have you gone overboard?



Be aware at ALL times

That it is NOT your image.

The photographer took
the image for a reason.





What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story
- Analysing the picture content and treatment including the technical aspects and giving a score
- It is not about promoting your own ideas, neither being over critical or negative

Whether true or
just a perception

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



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
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Distortion / Verticals not vertical
Mono must have from pure White To Black
Personal likes/dislikes

Are these
points
relevant?





The photographer will remember the “mistakes” you made long after he remembers the valuable comments you made.





*You should
always be able
to see the faces
and eyes*

But what about
the rest of the
image?



*You should
always be able
to see the faces
and eyes*

But what about
the rest of the
image?

Comment on what
can be improved
in the image .

By all means
comment in
passing on things
to look out for in
the future.



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of South Africa

JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story
- Analysing the picture content and treatment including the technical aspects and giving a score
- It is not about promoting your own ideas, neither being over critical or negative
- It is not a fault-finding mission





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JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING



What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story



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JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING



What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story

It is sometimes advantageous to add a fine border to an image which has a dark background as this can allow the viewer to clearly see the crop and composition.



The Photographic Society
of South Africa

JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING



What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story

It is sometimes advantageous to add a fine border to an image which has a dark background as this can allow the viewer to clearly see the crop and composition.

Frames or borders may be added to images but should enhance and not detract from the image.



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of South Africa

JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING



What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story

It is sometimes advantageous to add a fine border to an image which has a dark background as this can allow the viewer to clearly see the crop and composition.

Frames or borders may be added to images but should enhance and not detract from the image.

The border should not be the first thing you notice.



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JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING



What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story

It is sometimes advantageous to add a fine border to an image which has a dark background as this can allow the viewer to clearly see the crop and composition.

Frames or borders may be added to images but should enhance and not detract from the image.

Not all images need a border.



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What is judging about:

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It is sometimes advantageous to add a fine border to an image which has a dark background as this can allow the viewer to clearly see the crop and composition.

Frames or borders may be added to images but should **enhance** and not detract from the image.

You judge the image,



You judge the image,



EXIF Data

Shooting Data | IPTC/XMP Data

File: _MG_5242.CR2
File size: 7,286KB
Image Serial Number: 852-5242
Camera Model: Canon EOS 20D
Camera serial number: 0420110619
Firmware: Firmware 2.0.2
Owner: Jill Sneesby
Date/Time: 2005:09:26 13:00:21
Shutter speed: 1/8 sec
Aperture: 5.6
Exposure mode: Av
Exposure compensation: -1
Flash: Built-in
Metering mode: Evaluative
Drive mode: Continuous shooting
ISO: 200
Lens: 28 to 300mm
Focal length: 195mm
AF mode: AI Servo AF
Image size: 3504 x 2336
Image quality: Raw
White balance: Auto
Color space: AdobeRGB
Saturation: Normal
Sharpness: 0

NOT the Exif Data



The Photographic Society
of South Africa

JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

What is judging about:

- Looking for the message/story
- Analysing the picture content and treatment including the technical aspects and giving a score
- It is not about promoting your own ideas, neither being over critical or negative
- It is not a fault-finding mission
- Comments: Delivered in a constructive package
- Be clear, honest, constructive and consistent in your judgement and comments





The Photographic Society
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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.



GOOD JUDGING

Your score and comments MUST match.

Do NOT describe the photo!!

Judging should be evaluative, not critical.

Constructive, friendly, respectful, don't waffle, admit if you don't know

Don't lecture

Don't make assumptions (you will most likely be wrong)



GOOD JUDGING

The message of the photograph is all important.

It might be that the photographer got it “right” and you as judge “failed” to read the message.

Mindset of the Judge

Do I look with a critical mind, or with an appreciative mind?



SALONS & SALON JUDGING

The Salon Director will invite judges whose opinion and knowledge he appreciates.

This “opinion” will influence the style and type of images which are accepted on a specific salon.



JUDGES

Judges must have proven competency and be fairly current in the category in which they are to judge. If you as a judge do not feel that you are sufficiently experienced in the category you have been invited to judge, you should turn down the invitation.

A salon is not the place to gain experience. Exceptions.

Manipulations are prohibited in the Nature, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism or in the categories as specified in the category definitions.

This means that no elements of the photograph may be cloned, added or erased.



RULES

Plagiarism is NOT allowed. • Everything in your photo MUST be your own work

AI is not allowed.

An artificial intelligence (AI) generated image is not deemed to be a photographic image because it was created from scratch by the AI system and contains no image captured by the entrant.

Use of AI features (limited to: clear, de-noise, masking, sharpening, subject selection, tone adjustments, upsizing image) contained within a post-processing application is permitted provided they comply with a competition's editing criteria and do not contain any elements which were not captured by the entrant (e.g. element, texture, sky, etc...).



MANIPULATION

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original scene

Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene, whether done via cloning, darkening, lightening, blurring or any other photo editing technique except for cropping and straightening

Darkening or lightening parts of the image to hide elements in the original scene.

Adding an excessive vignette.

Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene

Moving or repositioning an element of the image that was contained in the original scene. In the categories Nature, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism, manipulation is not allowed.





Manipulation is :

Darkening or lightening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.

Adding an excessive vignette.

A subtle vignette as seen on the right is allowed.



Manipulation is :

Darkening or lightening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.

Adding an excessive vignette.

The vignette on the right is excessive and is not allowed.



MANIPULATION

Manipulation shall constitute any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original scene.
 - Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original scene.
 - Cloning or duplicating an element from the image that was contained in the original scene.
 - Adding or removing elements from the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
 - Moving or repositioning an element of the image that was contained in the original scene.
- In the categories Nature, Photo Travel, Street, Sport and Photojournalism, manipulation is not allowed.





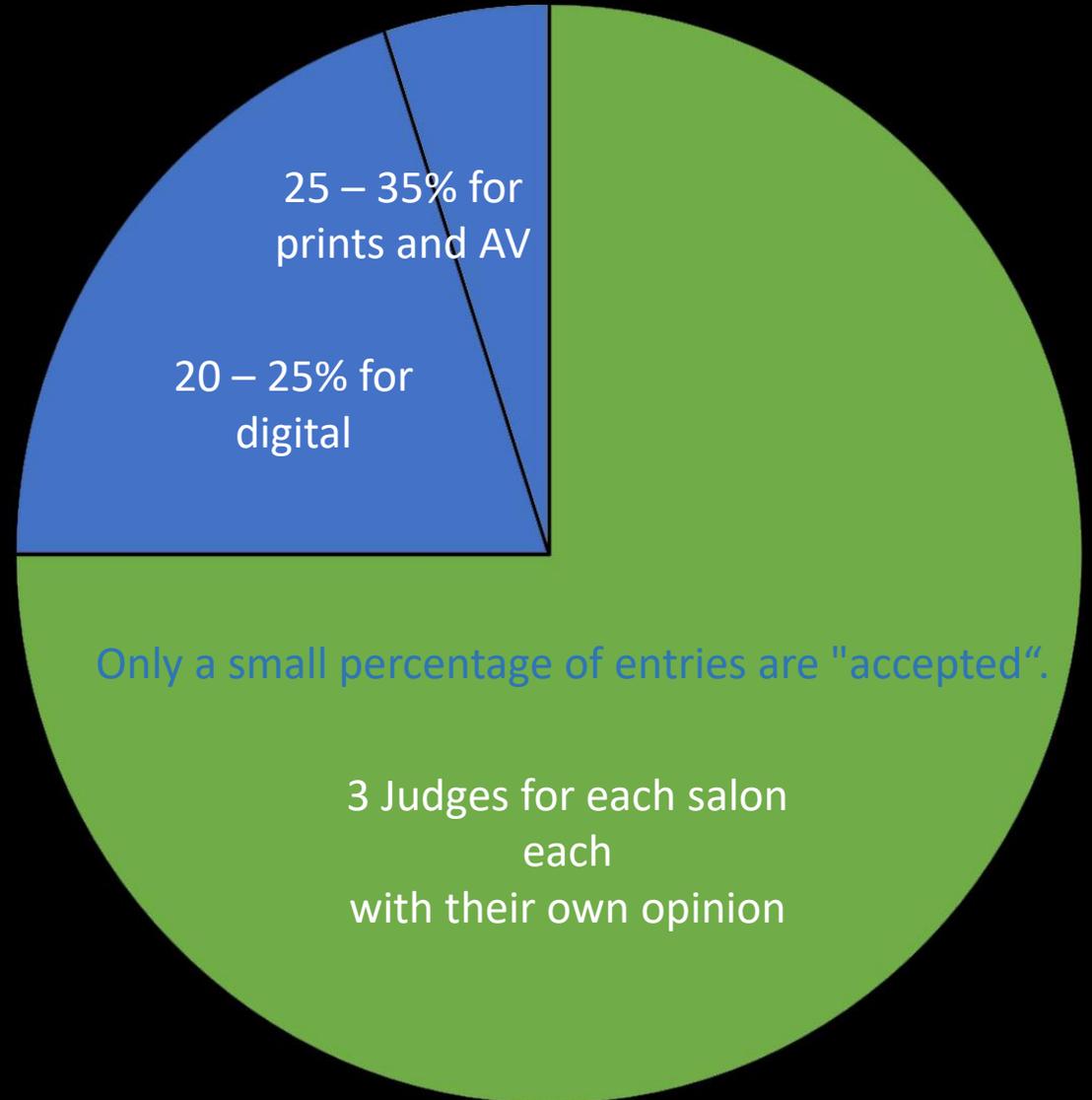
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With so many different viewpoints, styles etc. and with such a small percentage being accepted it is normal that the acceptances may vary drastically from salon to salon.

It is a good thing otherwise salons would become very boring with the same images being accepted and winning every time.





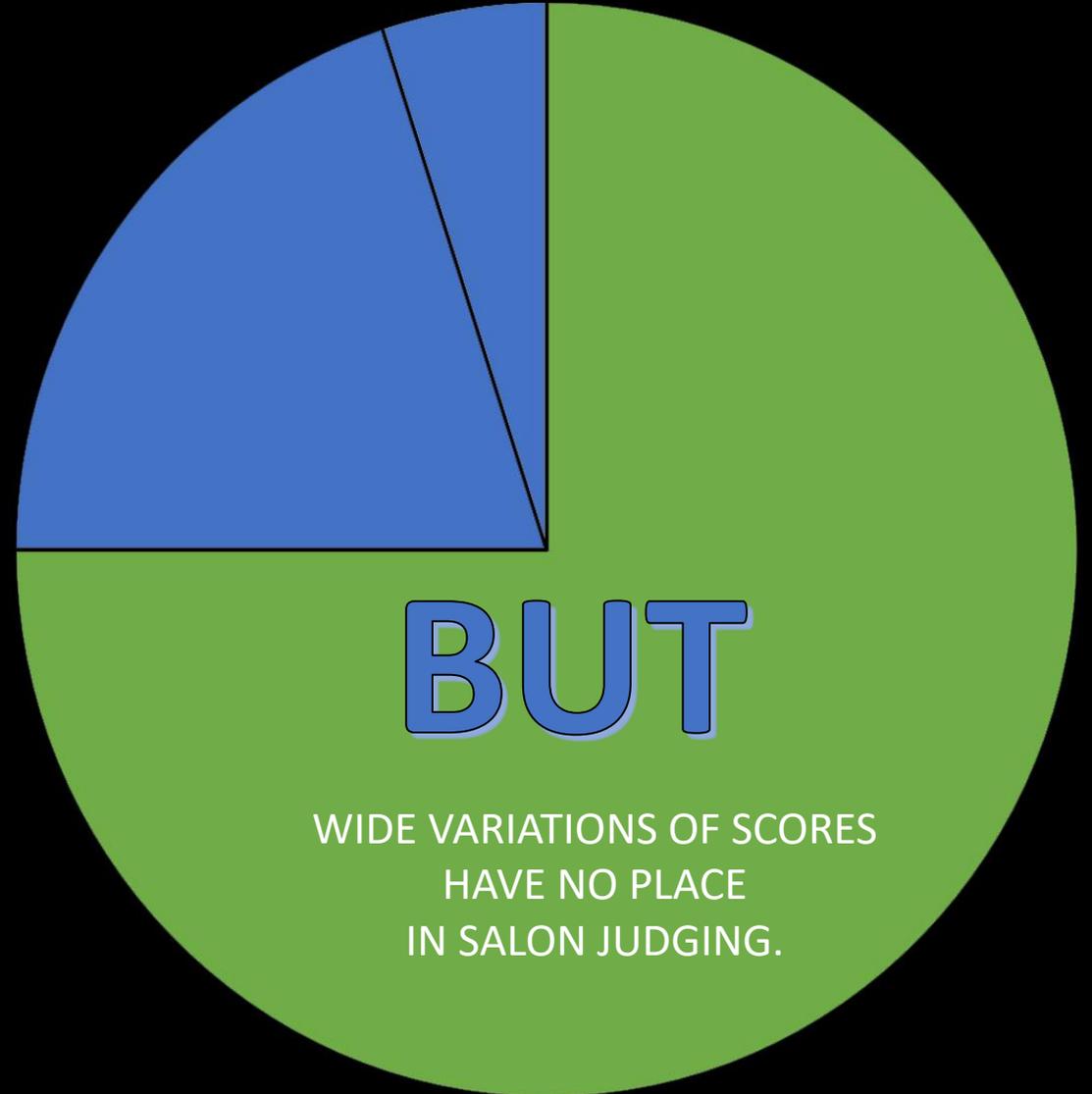
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3 judges
each with their own opinion

probably agree on the craft
but not necessarily on the art
because we all see things differently.

A large, weathered tree trunk with bare branches against a clear blue sky. The tree trunk is thick and textured, showing signs of age and decay. The branches are thin and leafless, extending outwards against the bright blue sky.

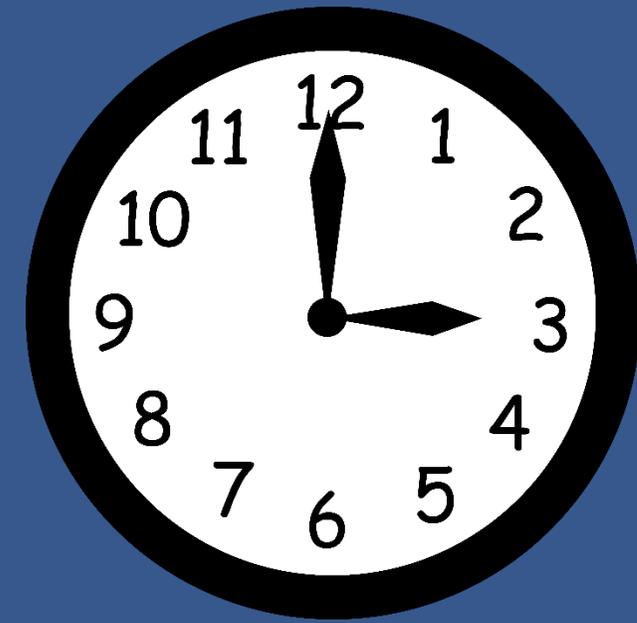
3 judges
each with their own opinion
probably agree on the craft
but not necessarily on the art
because we all see things differently.

Judges should not sit on the fence
BUT

They must be sure to have a valid reason for their score –
they cannot score an image down just because they don't like it.

The speed at which you judge for a salon is far faster than for club judging

Images that succeed on a salon are often topical and interesting, have impact or are something different.



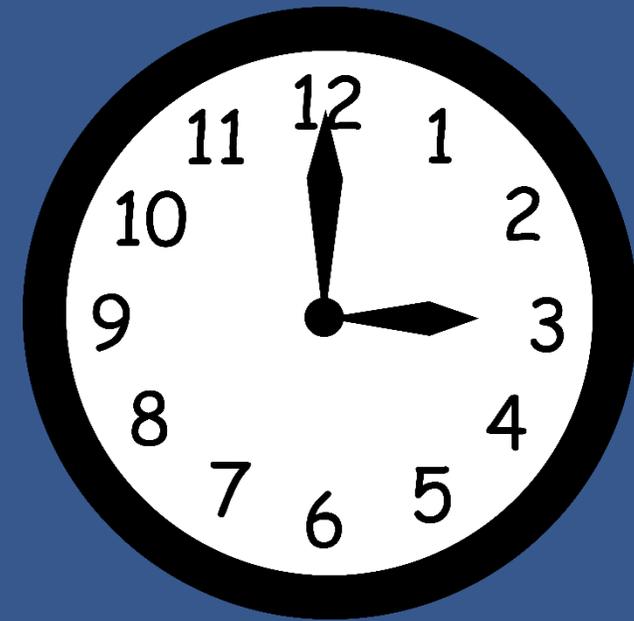
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3 judges

each with their own opinion

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because we all see things differently.

Technical problems sometimes slip through because
of the speed of judging.



Oversharpening such as in this image should be picked up if the image comes up for review.



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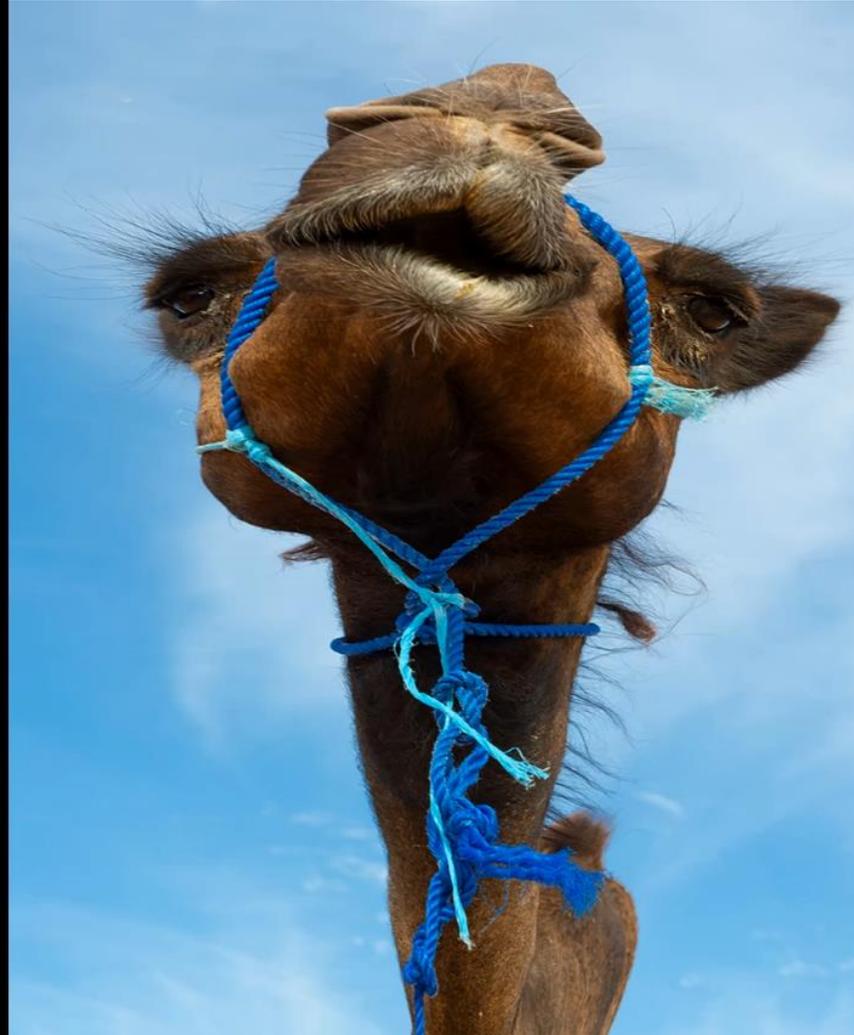
JAP REFRESHER & SALON JUDGING

As a Salon Judge you are
being asked for YOUR
opinion.

BUT that does not mean
that you should score an
image so low (or high) that
the other judges are
automatically outvoted.

Although time is limited it is
important to discuss images
if the scores are very wide /
different.

A photograph is not GOOD
just because you like it.



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



The Photographic Society of South Africa

15 - Strong candidate to win an award

14 - Certificate of Merit

42 – 45 *Very Good / Excellent / Wow - I would like this photo to get an award*

13 - Salon standard - definitely good enough to get an acceptance

12 - Lower-end salon standard but still good enough to get an acceptance

36 – 41 *Good - I would like this photo to be accepted*

11 - Unsure if it is salon standard

33 – 35 *Average – nothing wrong with the photo, but it doesn't really inspire me. If the other judges like it enough I do not really mind if it is accepted.*

10 - Definitely not salon standard

28 – 32 *Weak I definitely do not want this photo to be accepted*

8 - Technical and obvious problems

19 – 27 - *I definitely do not want this photo to be accepted BECAUSE of some technical problems*

6 - Disqualification

WIDE VARIATIONS OF
SCORES HAVE NO
PLACE
IN SALON JUDGING.

Although time is
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An entrant compares
the score he/she
receives to the
“acceptance” score.



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Although time is
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An entrant compares
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“acceptance” score.



Entered in 4 Salons
2 Rejections, 1 Acceptance,
Won 1



Score received / Acceptance score

R 28/29

R 30/31

A 34/32

1st 42/33

27 - 32

Average – nothing wrong with the photo, but it doesn't really inspire me.

If the other judges like it enough I do not really mind if it is accepted.

33 – 41

Good

I would like this photo to be accepted.

42 – 45

Very Good / Excellent / Wow

I would like this photo to get an award.

An entrant compares the score he/she receives to the “acceptance” score.

The acceptance score should be in the region of 32 – 35.

Less than that and the judges were too harsh and more than that, perhaps too lenient.



Score received / Acceptance score

R 28/29

R 30/31

A 34/32

1st 42/33

27 - 32

Average – nothing wrong with the photo, but it doesn't really inspire me.

If the other judges like it enough I do not really mind if it is accepted.

33 – 41

Good

I would like this photo to be accepted.

42 – 45

Very Good / Excellent / Wow

I would like this photo to get an award.

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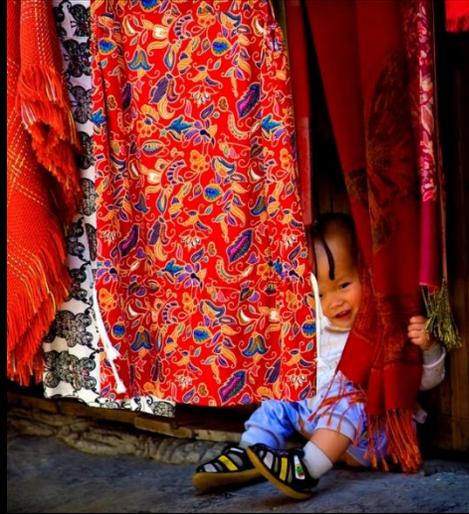
Less than that and the judges were too harsh and more than that, perhaps too lenient.

While no-one is “happy” when they don't get acceptances there will be far fewer “complaints” if the judging is fair.



A Nature/Wildlife image entered in a nature category.

But what if it was entered in the Open category? And why would it be entered in an Open category?



A Nature/Wildlife image entered in a nature category.

But what if it was entered in the Open category? And why would it be entered in an Open category?

And how do you judge the OPEN category?





The PSSA system of arriving at a final salon result (all accepted images selected, all COMs and awards selected) is a 2 or 3 stage process.

Stage 1 is the scoring of all images and sorting into totals receiving the different scores.

The total scores should be announced after each image is scored and if the scores differ by more than 2 points a wide should be called and the judges should discuss the image and adjust their scores if necessary.

These totals are then added to find the acceptance score and percentages accepted.



Example - 1000 entries
between 200 (20%) and 250 (25%) images to be accepted

EXAMPLE 1			EXAMPLE 2			EXAMPLE 3		
45	1	1	45	1	1	45	1	1
44	3	4	44	3	4	44	3	4
43	2	6	43	2	6	43	2	6
42	12	18	42	12	18	42	12	18
41	15	33	41	15	33	41	15	33
40	10	43	40	10	43	40	10	43
39	50	93	39	50	93	39	50	93
38	30	123	38	30	123	38	30	123
37	10	133	37	10	133	37	10	133
36	25	158	36	25	158	36	25	158
35	20	178	35	20	178	35	20	178
34	50	228	34	20	198	34	20	198
33	100	328	33	50	248	33	175	373
32	100		32	175		32	50	
31	142		31	142		31	142	
30	75		30	75		30	75	
29	60		29	60		29	60	
28	30		28	30		28	30	
27	50		27	50		27	50	
26	150		26	150		26	150	
25	50		25	55		25	55	
24	10		24	10		24	10	
18	5		18	5		18	5	

In Example 1 the acceptance score would be 34 and 228 images (22.8%) would be accepted.

In Example 2 the acceptance score would be 33 and 248 images (24.8%) would be accepted.

In Example 3 if the acceptance score was 34 then only 198 (19.8%) images would be accepted which is less than the required 20%.

If the acceptance score was reduced to 33 then 373 (37.3%) images would be accepted which is more than the maximum (25%) allowed.

In the case of examples 1 & 2 no further judging will be required to determine the acceptance rate and number of acceptances.

In the case of example 3 a re-judging will be required to increase the number of 34's awarded.



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SALON JUDGING

Example - 1000 entries
between 200 (20%) and 250 (25%) images to be accepted

The Salon Director / Section Administrator may decide, in discussion with the judges, as to the best method of doing the re-judging.

The Judges do the rejudging.

EXAMPLE 1		EXAMPLE 2		EXAMPLE 3	
45	1	1	45	1	1
44	3	4	44	3	4
43	2	6	43	2	6
42	12	18	42	12	18
41	15	33	41	15	33
40	10	43	40	10	43
39	50	93	39	50	93
38	30	123	38	30	123
37	10	133	37	10	133
36	25	158	36	25	158
35	20	178	35	20	178
34	50	228	34	20	198
33	100	328	33	50	373
32	100		32	175	
31	142		31	142	
30	75		30	75	
29	60		29	60	
28	30		28	30	
27	50		27	50	
26	150		26	150	
25	50		25	55	
24	10		24	10	
18	5		18	5	



Example - 1000 entries
between 200 (20%) and 250 (25%) images to be accepted

EXAMPLE 1			EXAMPLE 2			EXAMPLE 3		
45	1	1	45	1	1	45	1	1
44	3	4	44	3	4	44	3	4
43	2	6	43	2	6	43	2	6
42	12	18	42	12	18	42	12	18
41	15	33	41	15	33	41	15	33
40	10	43	40	10	43	40	10	43

The Salon Director / Section Administrator may decide, in discussion with the judges, as to the best method of doing the re-judging.

The Judges do the rejudging.

The final stage is the selection of the award winning images.

The top scoring images and any others requested by the judges, are then selected to go through to select the award winners.

A category winner is not necessarily the top scoring image; the winner, runner up and all other awards must be chosen by the judges.

The judges will want to see all images first and then decide to either score all again, or mark each as 'in' or 'out'. The judges may discuss the images between them during this round and also express their favourite.

The Salon Director / Section Administrator needs to manage this process carefully and ensure that each judge has a chance to express his / her opinion and that the deliberation is not dominated by a single person.

DQ's

Disqualifications Only the Salon Director may disqualify an image and only when they have absolute proof of the reason for disqualification.

If a judge feels that an image should be disqualified he / she should advise the Salon Director / Section Administrator who should then follow up with due diligence.

