

JUDGING GUIDELINES FOR SCORING PHOTOGRAPHS IN 4CS COMPETITIONS

- 1) Use the **9-point scoring** system described later in this document, using a panel of 3 judges
- 2) **Be consistent:** do not change your scoring in the middle of a session for complete fairness of the competition. Previewing all the images in a competition before starting to score makes it easier to maintain scoring consistency throughout a session.
- 3) **Set aside your personal biases** on subject and style. Screen out any personal bias, and use consistent reasoning in evaluating the image.
- 4) **Do not indiscriminately apply the "Rules of Composition."** Evaluate composition based on how it works in the image, not how it follows or fails to follow the rules.
- 5) **Do not give a disproportionate number of high and low scores.** For almost any collection of images, the majority of the images will fall in the middle of the group, fairly close in quality to the average for that particular group.
- 6) It is permitted in 4Cs' competitions to manipulate images in any way on a computer. Score them normally.
- 7) Judges are discouraged from discussing images during the preview and initial scoring stages of judging.
- 8) It is expected that the 3 judges' scores will be within "3" points of each other for any single image. Judges can be asked to reconsider their scores if the spread is 4 points or more.

SCORING BREAKDOWN

1, 2 or 3 points - Elementary photography – Submission acknowledged, snapshot level:

4, 5 or 6 points - Intermediate photography – work shows promise

7, 8 or 9 points - Advanced photography – demonstrated skill and creativity

1 POINT - Use this score to disqualify an image. An image may be disqualified if it clearly infringes on another artist's copyright or if it is submitted for a category competition and you feel that it clearly does not fit.

2 POINTS - The image shows serious technical defects: gross under or over exposure, very poor focus or significant (and clearly unintended) camera movement, or similar problems.

3 POINTS - The image either has significant technical defects, serious shortcomings in image content, or some combination of these problems. Because most of the photographers who compete in 4Cs' competitions have at least some photographic experience, this score and lower scores are rarely awarded in 4Cs' competitions.

4 POINTS - The image does not have significant technical defects or serious shortcomings in image content. However, it may have minor technical defects, and the content (composition, lighting, etc) is not well handled.

5 POINTS - The image is acceptable in most respects but does not create any significant interest.

6 POINTS - The image is solid, creating some interest. Technical aspects and image content all competently handled. This is generally the average score for 4Cs' competitions.

7 POINTS - The image is very strong. Handling is a notch above competent, and the image rewards contemplation.

8 POINTS - The image is exceptional: unique and worthy of special recognition. You should feel excited about the image.

9 POINTS - The image is of the very highest quality; equal to the best you have seen. You feel that it should win a medal in salon competition or slide of the year in 4Cs' competition. This score is awarded only rarely in 4Cs' competitions.