

EXHIBITION STANDARDS OF PERFECTION

for

PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY: STANDARDS OF PERFECTION

Updated September 22, 2009

Score card for Photography
Effective use of line, form, space, colour and texture

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| Good Composition | 30 |
| Content appropriate to the class entered..... | 15 |
| Depth created through the use of perspective and proportion | 30 |
| Shadow and light used effectively | <u>25</u> |
| Total | 100 |

Most fairs in British Columbia have divisions for photography; however, there is a great diversity in judging standards and categories depending on the size of the fair. Smaller, one-day fairs may have just a few categories, while larger fairs may have a large number of categories.

Given this situation, the BC Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions is providing some generalized guidelines only that may assist each fair in their photography division.

Type of photography to consider:

- * Black and white photographs
- * Colour photographs
- * Infrared photographs
- * Colour slides
- * Video or film
- * Computer enhanced photography

The highest percentage of amateur photographers today use a digital camera to produce their photos. Many produce their digital photographs from home computers or printers. This has made the hobby of photography much more popular in today's society.

Some photographers still use film to create photographs. These are usually developed at a photo lab.

Black and White prints and colour prints are the most popular form of photography at this time, and are fairly inexpensive to produce. They can be easily submitted, judged, and displayed.

Infrared photography is starting to grow in popularity but is a specialized field, as it requires a camera that only takes infrared photos. However, they can be printed fairly inexpensively, and can be easily submitted, judged, and displayed.

Colour slides are still utilized by some, but require additional equipment to display them for both judging and exhibition during the fair.

Movie film and videotapes are not well suited to be judged at fall fairs, as again they require specific equipment to present them. They can however, be presented by transferring the movie or video to a memory card, CD, or DVD to be played for judging and at the fair. But once again an appliance is required to play the entry.

Computer enhanced photography includes: a combination of two or more photographs; the addition, duplication, deletion or moving of objects in the photos; the use of artistic digital filters and effects (ex. Watercolour, neon glow, posterizing, stained glass, or other similar enhancements). Entries in these classes should submit a copy of the original photo before the enhancement, as well as the finished product for judging.

Age and experience of the photographer.

Some fairs use the following age groupings:
2-5 years; 6-8 years; 9-11 years; 12-14 years; and adults.

Other fairs categorize photographers by experience; such as junior, open, novice, and advanced.

Open - for beginning photographers and amateurs who just enjoy taking pictures.

Novice - for beginning photographers and those who have done well in the open classes in the past and who wish to have more critical judging of their work than is offered in the open class.

Advanced - for experienced photographers and others who want more critical judging than is given in the novice class.

Note: – Competitions are not for professional photographers and should be so stipulated and enforced.

Classes:

Classes for photographs have many options. Here are some suggestions;

- * Animals (including wild, farm animals, and pets),
- * Birds, insects, reptiles
- * Flowers and gardens (also wild flowers)
- * Scenics (landscapes and seascapes, sunrises and sunsets)
- * Nature (Weather, scenics, flora and fauna)
- * Agriculture
- * Architecture
- * Sports
- * People
- * Humour
- * The previous fall fair
- * Travel
- * Panoramic
- * Computer enhanced
- * Three or more photos that tell a story or relate to each other
- * Any subject of photographers choice

Display:

There are differences between fairs as to how to display the photographs – with one exception, and that is that all exhibitors' names must be hidden from the judges by putting name, address, class and category on the back of the photograph or mounting.

Framed prints and glass are usually not allowed.

Photography should be mounted on lightweight matting board, construction paper or poster paper. This makes it fairly simple to pin the entries to a display board.

Mounting material (paper products only, mat mounts, art paper, or any suitable paper) overall dimensions should be at least 1 ½" (3.81cm) beyond the edge of the photograph to a maximum of 2". No decorations or text should be on the photograph or the mounting paper. Any suitable colour of mounting paper is usually acceptable.

Standard prints produced by photo labs are 4" x 6" (10.16 cm x 15.24 cm). This should be the standard size for snapshot categories. Some fairs ask for a first enlargement, which is 5" x 7" (12.7 cm x 17.78cm). Enlargements may cost the photographer more money, but larger prints will give more detail for the judges. Some fairs have categories for enlargements of 8" x 10" (20.32 cm x 25.4 cm) and even up to 22" x 30" (55.88 cm x 76.20 cm).

Slides should be in a standard 2" x 2" mount (5.08 cm x 5.08 cm) and should be marked to show how to view or project.

Fairs accepting entries on memory card, CD or DVD, must request the format they wish them submitted in, as not all software programs are compatible. Submissions should be marked as to the program or software used to prepare the entry.

Number of entries:

It is logical that the photographer be allowed one photo entry per class, but some fairs allow more or even multiple entries per class.

Judging guidelines: 100 points

Good composition (30) – Does the photograph tell a story? Where is our eye led to in the photograph? Is the photograph balanced (using the rule of thirds), if not is it creating the visual impact it should?

Content appropriate to the class entered (15) – How well does the photograph fall within the class assignment? Creativity?

Depth created through the use of perspective and proportion (30) – How technically correct is the photo for focus, sharpness, detail, depth of field?

Shadow and light used effectively (25) – Are the following the best that they can be: colour, brightness, contrast, saturation, and usage of light.