

On October 5, 2009 Murth Murthy made a presentation at the St. Vrain Photographic Society titled "What Juried & Competition Look For". The following are two handouts he presented at that meeting.

Some Guidelines for Photography.

Murth Murthy, St. Vrain Photographic Society

When it comes to Art in Photography, almost anything is acceptable as long as it is done for the purposes of expressing something that the photographer wants to. There are no hard and fast rules that have to be obeyed. This is why art is such an exciting field. However there are some guidelines that are worth observing that will make that photograph all the more special.

Andreas Finnenger, one of the famous photographers of the 50's and 60's, says that there are four qualities that a photograph should have:

- 1 Stopping power.
- 2 Purpose and meaning.
- 3 Emotional impact.
- 4 Graphic quality.

Kodak says that a photograph should have the following six attributes:

- 1 Simplicity
- 2 Should follow the Rule of Thirds.
- 3 Should have Leading Lines.
- 4 Framing.
- 5 Should have balance.
- 6 Should have no mergers (e.g., where a telephone pole sticks out of a person's head).

In Digital Photography, there is a tendency to go "Click, click, click." This gets us into the bad habit of not stopping to study the things we are seeing through the viewfinder, before we take the picture. This often leads to mediocre photographs. So you have to slow down. Study what you see in the viewfinder or LCD display in your camera. Compose the picture before you press the shutter button.

Pay attention to your horizon, especially in scenes involving water(sea shore, lakes etc.).Also make sure that your camera is level and not tilting, if you are taking photographs involving objects that are vertical – such as buildings, telephone poles etc. Use a lens hood at all times.

Again let me repeat: **SLOW DOWN !!!!**

Guidelines for Judging at Photo Clubs

Murth Murthy, St. Vrain Photographic Society

1. Your first impressions and feelings about a picture are usually your best guide to base your judgment on
2. Your initial comment should relate to a positive aspect of the entry and should be encouraging to the maker
3. Further comments may relate to either positive or negative aspect of the entry, but should be phrased in a constructive manner, telling the maker how the entry might have been improved.
4. Give importance in your scoring to the quality of the print, (or projected digital image.) emotional impact, composition, color rendering and gradations if it is a Black and White photograph. Also give emphasis to its presentation (i.e. how it is mounted, are the borders straight and have the blemishes been taken care of ? etc,)
5. Photo Clubs are for fun and enjoyment of the art of Photography. They are an environment where members want to learn from the judges. So don't be overly critical about their photographs. Constructive criticism is what they are looking for. However if a photograph is so bad that there is absolutely nothing good that you can say about it, then be very diplomatic but honest about it and say something like "I'll be honest and say that this photograph doesn't quite do it for me. But it might be improved by doing the following....."
6. Most Camera Clubs have a scoring system where the points range from 0 to 9. Try and keep the points between 5 and 9, with 5 being the worst score and 9 being the top score.
7. Always try to show the maker how the picture can be improved if you feel strongly that it would - by doing such and such - to it.
8. If you see an excellent picture, don't hesitate to praise it in spite of what the other judges may think about it. (From their scoring.)
9. Do not hesitate to go up to the print to get a closer look to judge clarity and detail.
10. If you find it difficult to comment on any one photograph, you don't have to. Just have the other judges take it.
11. Ultimately, judging is a very personal thing. Your own likes and dislikes will show and that is what they are looking for any way. So just go for it and be yourself.