

# HELDERBERG PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## JUDGING GUIDELINES

### Keep the following in mind:

- Never judge an image as if it was your own.
- Judge the Technical and Compositional skill, not the subject matter. (Remember, Technical skill includes the awareness, and subsequent use, of lighting characteristics.)
- You owe it to the Photographer to give an honest appraisal of the image and not to let personal relationships get in the way. Do not be reluctant to give credit where credit is due and, more importantly, do not be scared to give a low mark if the image deserves nothing better. By patronizing a photographer and giving a higher score than what the image deserve, you erode the value of the higher scores.
- Do not be afraid of taking your time when you are not sure about the score an image deserves.

Score	Guideline
1	An image that is technically incompetent (out of focus and over- or underexposed), with no attempt at composition.
2	An image with serious technical flaws and poor composition.
3	An image showing reasonable composition with serious technical flaws, or a technically reasonable image with poor or no composition.
4	An image with slightly doubtful technical aspects and/or serious compositional flaws.
5	The average. An image showing acceptable technical skill and some attempt at composition, but where the result does not stand out above the ordinary.
6	An image showing fair compositional skill, where the photographer used technical skill to enhance the subject and clarify the message.
7	An image where the technical skill is unquestionable, with a strong sense of composition.
8	An image showing unquestionable skill, with the composition and technique working together to create an image with immediate impact.
9	An image where unquestionable technical skill, strong sense of composition and a keen sense of observation creates an unusual image with lasting impact. Should convey a sense of seeing the subject clearly for the first time.
10	An image that is, unquestionably, in a master class. There is no sense of unease about any aspect of the image and the impact is immediate. The image should convey a sense of surprise and wonderment.