

## **Photographic Judging Criteria**

The following guidelines for photographic judging criteria was taken from the CCJ newsletter in order to provide guidelines on what to look for when judging images and or trying to select images for competitions.

### Technical criteria

- Exposure Focus/sharpness
- Depth of field
- Colour and/or tonal rendition
- Contrast
- Lighting

### Visual and aesthetic criteria

- Framing and choice of viewpoint
- Background
- Design elements and principles
- Appropriate application of photographic and/or manipulative techniques
- Visual impact

### Content

- Information
- Emotion
- Mood
- Feeling
- Denotative and connotative content, symbolism, metaphor
- Meaning, studium and punctum
- Communication through the language of photography and visual art
- The moment
- Relevance
- Subject impact

### Viewer's response

- Visual
- Aesthetic
- Intellectual
- Emotional
- Excitement
- Interest

### General characteristics

- Originality
- Style
- Context
- Photographic vision
- Empathy
- Insight
- Validity

This list of criteria was used when CCJ judges were asked to select photographs taken by members of MENSA\* a couple of years ago for an international photographic competition.