

A large, gnarled tree with a thick trunk and sparse, bare branches stands in a grassy field. A fence runs across the foreground. In the background, another smaller tree is visible, and the sky is overcast and hazy.

What are judges looking for?

Vicki Moritz FAPS EFIAP

2016

What are judges looking for?

- My background
 - Acceptances and awards at National and International Salons- APS and AIPP
 - Completed Assoc Dip of Photography (PSC, Art major) in 2015
 - Judging since 2013
 - Secretary Waverley Camera Club
 - www.marysvillephotography.com.au

What are judges looking for?

- Why did you take the photo?
 - ? Is there a story to convey
 - ? Social commentary
 - ? What are you saying about the
 - Landscape
 - Person
 - Street scene
 - ? Is there a subject
 - ? Is the story/subject clear to a third party viewer

What are judges looking for?

- Each judge will be different based on their interests and background
- An image not awarded may do well second time around (listen to the comments and perhaps re-edit the image)
- Be prepared to accept critical appraisal and learn from this
- If there is a set subject, make sure you follow the guidelines

What are judges looking for?

- Tips

- Is the image sharp where you want it to be
- Have you cleaned up any spots/marks from dirty lenses/sensor
- Do you have unintentional lens flare
- Is your exposure sound (histogram)

What are judges looking for?

- Tips
 - Is your colour balance correct
 - Skin tones- watch for orange skin or too red
 - Landscapes- use your eye dropper to set white balance
 - If you are going to have a image blue as a cool tone or orange as a warm tone, do it obviously
 - Is your framing doing justice to the scene
(consider cropping)

What are judges looking for?

- Tips

- Do you have inappropriate highlights (use clipping warnings). Note that the eye will go to the bright patches first. Glare from water can be reduced by using a polariser
- Tip your print or image upside down to see where the eye goes
- Does your image include information that detracts from your story (crop out unneeded detail)

What are judges looking for?

- Tips

- Is there a clear subject, avoid competing areas of interest? (vignette/crop can help with this)
- Are there overlapping/distracting elements (classic pole behind someones head)
- “Record photos”. A photo of a village in the middle of the day is good for remembering travels, but not necessarily a prize winning shot

What are judges looking for?

- Technical proficiency
- Elements of the image/Composition
 - Spatial
 - Tonal (use of contrast and light)
 - Colour
 - Point of interest?
- Aesthetics
- A quality print

Technical

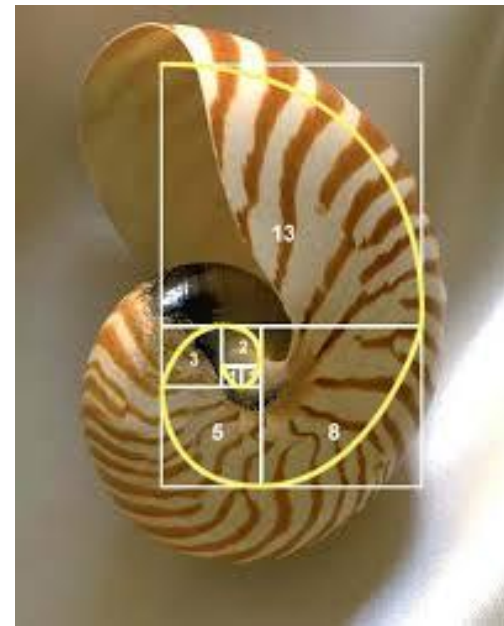
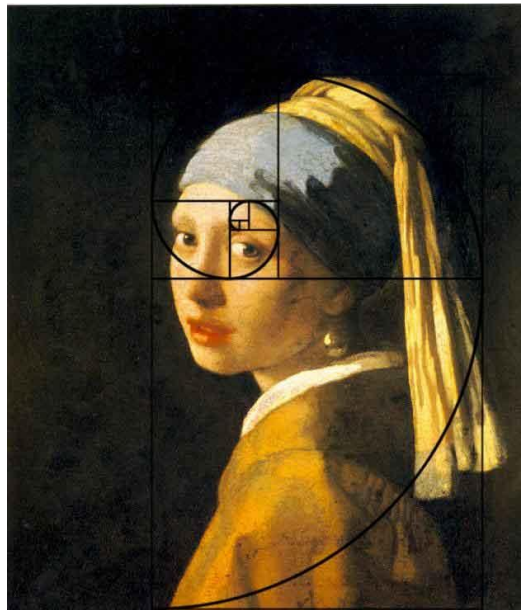
- First- get it right in camera
 - Is your point of interest in focus
 - Is your exposure correct (use your histogram)
 - Is your ISO appropriate (consider a tripod)
 - Is your shutter speed high enough (unless you are aiming for blur)?

Photographic composition

“The composition is the placement or arrangement of visual elements or ingredients in a work of art, as distinct from the subject of a work.” (Wikipedia)

Photographic composition

- The Basics, composition
 - Rule of thirds, fibonacci sequence



Photographic composition

- Rule of thirds



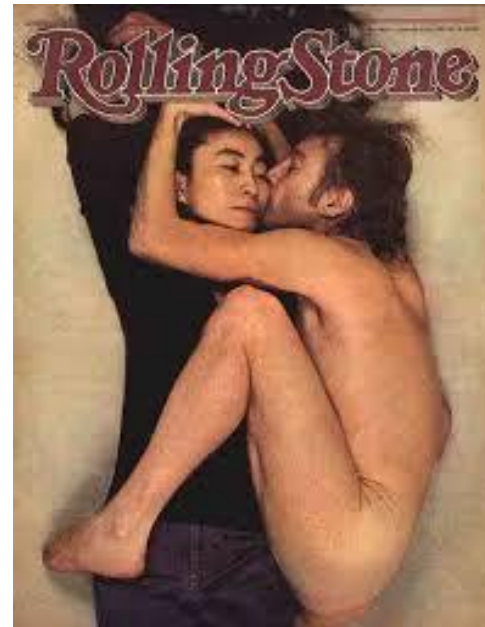
Vicki Moritz

Photographic composition

- Balance/Resonance
 - Balancing elements in the frame



Richard Avedon



Annie Liebowitz

Photographic composition

- Framing/Aspect ratio (1:1)



Joel Tjintelaar

What judges are looking for

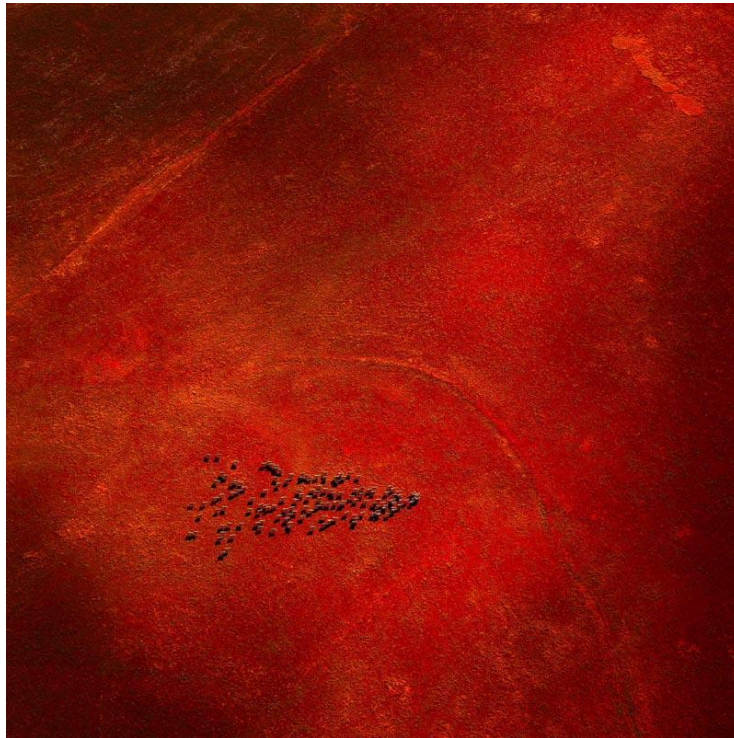
- Size and Groups



Jackie Ranken

What judges are looking for

- Size and Groups



Christian Fletcher

Photographic composition

- Lines
 - Leading lines



Bill Brandt

Photographic composition

- Lines
 - Converging



Joel Tjintjelaar

Photographic composition

- Lines
 - Vanishing point



Mark Strizic
Contre jour

Photographic composition

- Lines
 - Diagonals



Jacqueline Mittel

What judges are looking for

- Rhythm- repetition of elements



Kuki Walsch

What judges are looking for

- Repetition interrupted



Kuki Walsch

What judges are looking for

- Movement

- Motion blur adds another dimension of time passing



Alexey Titarenko

What judges are looking for

- Symmetry and patterns (and scale!)
 - Repetition
 - Texture



Rudolf Pustelnik

What judges are looking for

Using negative space



Joel Tjintelaar

What judges are looking for

- Create something different using the viewpoint
 - Low or high?



Bill Brandt

What judges are looking for

- Viewpoint
 - Low or high?



Elliott Erwitt

Photographic composition

- Viewpoint
 - Low or high?



Simon Terrill

What judges are looking for

- Creating depth
 - Layering -foreground/midground/background (3D)
 - Use light and dark
 - Overlapping elements
 - Perspective

What judges are looking for

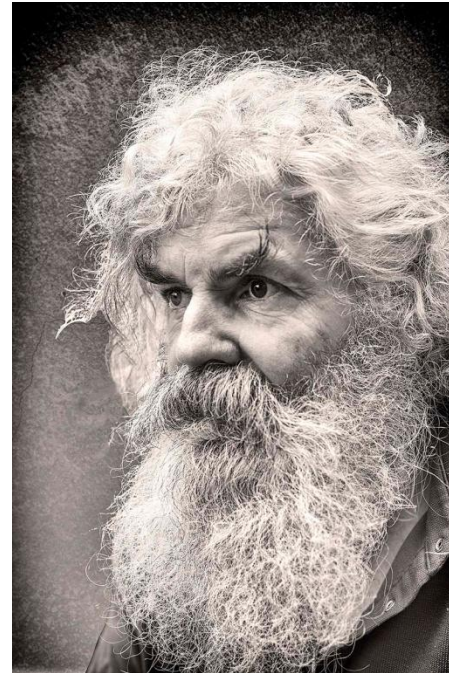
- Depth/Foreground interest



Joseph Holmes

What judges are looking for

- Background
 - Minimize or remove distractions



What judges are looking for

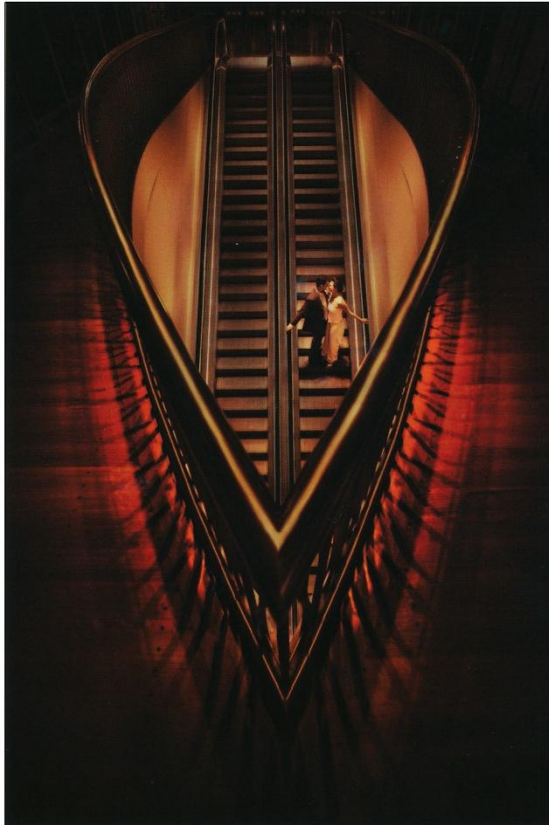
- Depth of field
 - Can be used to bring attention to your subject



Shigo Uchiyama

What judges are looking for

- Framing
 - Use it to bring attention to the subject



Tim Pasco

What judges are looking for

- Framing
 - Fill the frame



Glynn Lavender

What judges are looking for

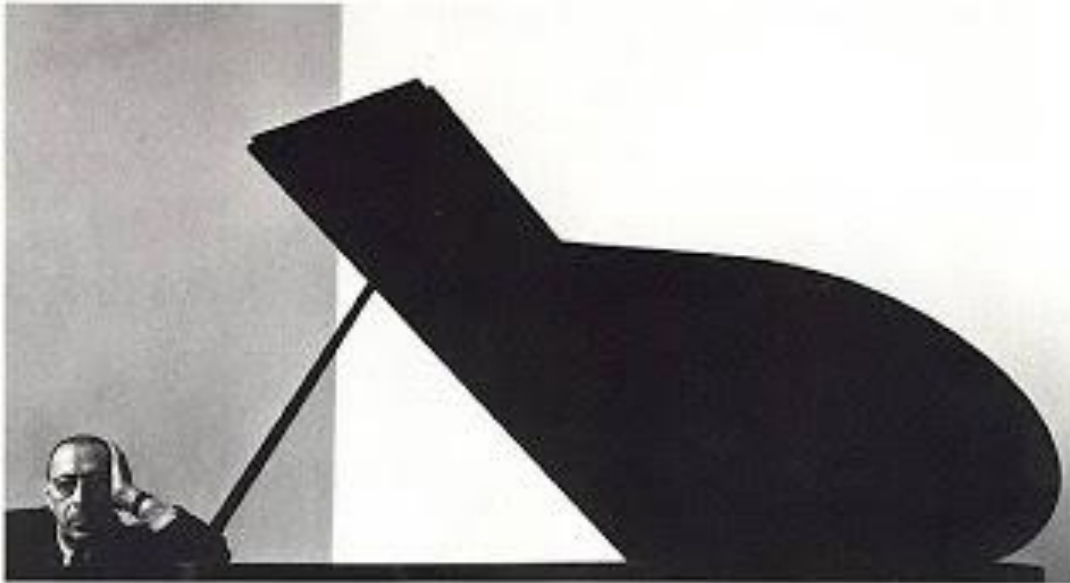
- Framing and Scale



Peter Eastway

What judges are looking for

- Simplification



Arnold Newman

What judges are looking for

- Breaking the rules

Timothy Poulton



What judges are looking for

- Breaking the rules



Trent Parke

What judges are looking for

- Breaking the rules ICM



Vanda Ralevska

What judges are looking for Tonality

Achieving tonality:

- Image capture (time of day, lighting)
- Contrast
- Dodge (lighten), calls attention to the area
- Burn (darken), sends backwards

Photographic composition

- Lighting
 - Equally critical for studio and landscape!



Peter Coulson

What judges are looking for Lighting achieves tonality



Andy Lee

What judges are looking for Tonality



Bill Henson
Chiaroscuro

What judges are looking for Tonality



Marcel Pedragosa
Tonal contrast

What judges are looking for Tonality



Christian Fletcher

What judges are looking for Colour

Colours can have emotional impact:

Red = love, lust, excitement, rage

Yellow = happiness, warmth, optimism

Green = envy, peaceful

Blue = masculinity, corporate, trust, strength

Pink = sophistication, sincerity

Purple = spirituality, power, authority, creativity

Black = grief, fear, power

White = purity, sincerity, happiness

From Emma Gilette <http://www.frankstonphotoclub.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Aesthetics-of-Photography-Emma-v2.pdf>

What judges are looking for Colour



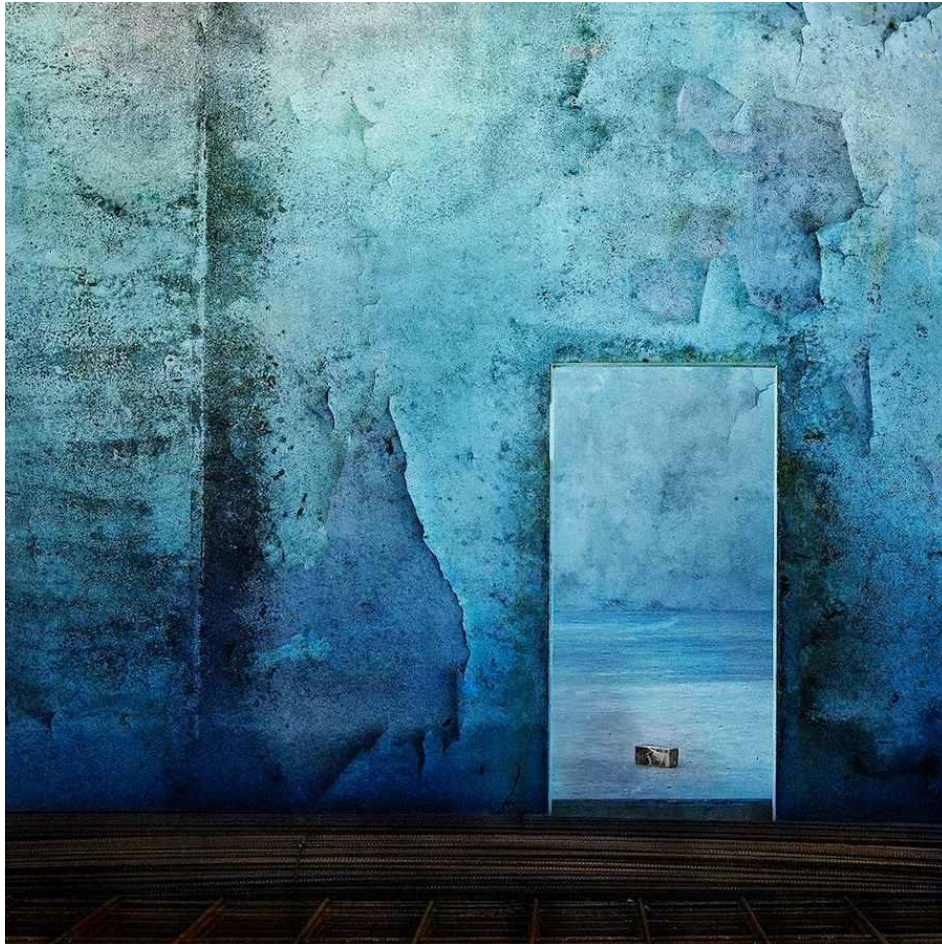
Murray Fredericks

What judges are looking for Colour- warm tones



Chen Xiaolong

What judges are looking for Colour- cool tones



Tony Hewitt

What judges are looking for Aesthetics

adjective

1.

concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.

"the pictures give great aesthetic pleasure"

noun

1.

a set of principles underlying the work of a particular artist or artistic movement.

"the Cubist aesthetic"

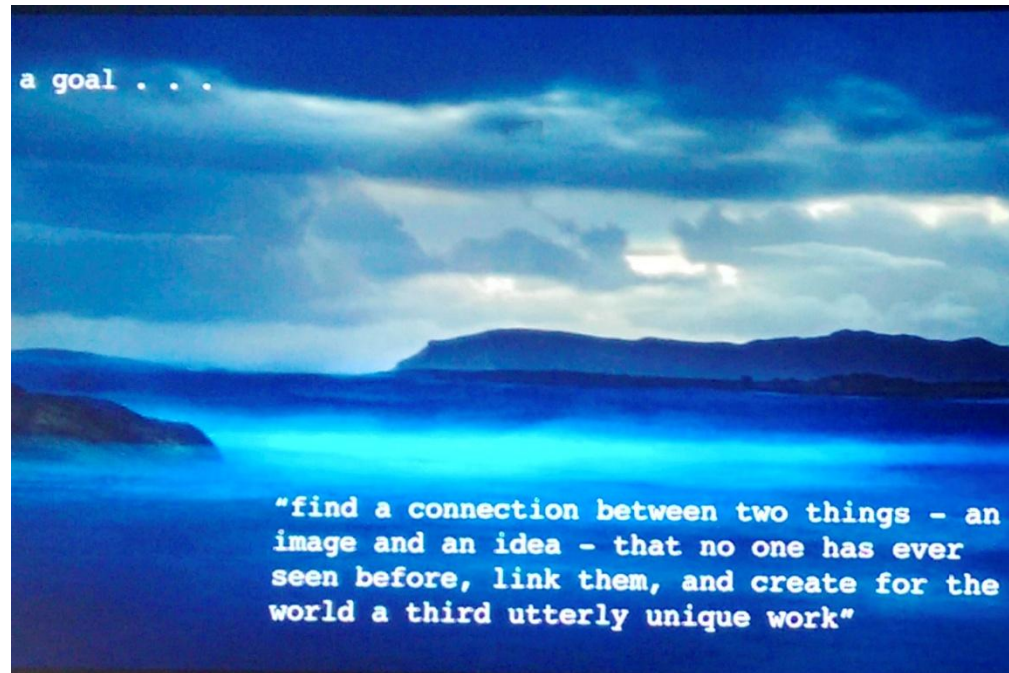
Leads to subjective judgements in photography!

What judges are looking for Aesthetics

Q What is “Fine Art” photography

A1- Whatever you can get away with (Neil Stanyer, PSC lecturer)

A2- Making something out of nothing (Tony Hewitt)



What judges are looking for Aesthetics



Art Wolfe

What judges are looking for Aesthetics



Andre Kertesz

What are judges looking for? Printing

- FAQ
 - Why doesn't my print look like what's on my screen?
 - Why is my print dark?
 - Why is my print lacking contrast on matt paper?
 - What is the difference between prints from a photo printing service and a fine art printer?

What are judges looking for? Printing

- Answer?

- It's all about colour management

What are judges looking for?

Printing

- Key points
 - Camera colour space, RAW capture
 - Profiled monitor (Spyder or similar)
 - Use ICC profiles for your printer, ideally tailor made (Kayell, Image Science, Les Walkling)
 - “Soft proof” to check results

What are judges looking for?

Printing

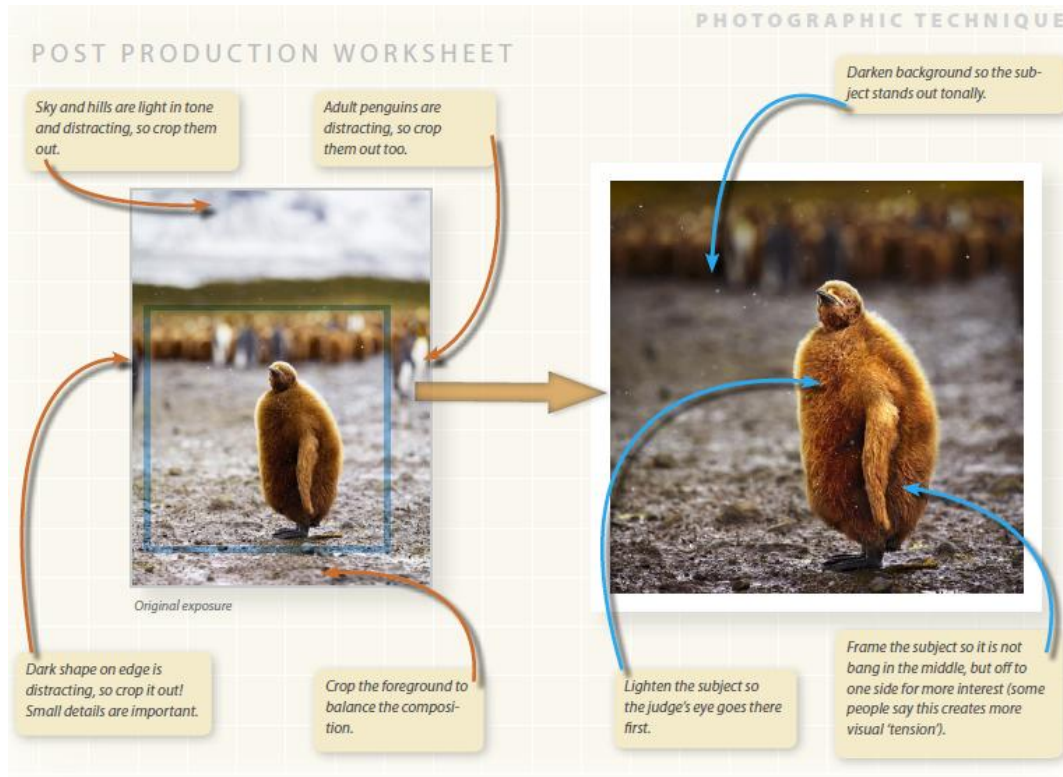
- Key points
 - Quality papers (Canson, Hahnemuhle, Museo)
 - Choose papers appropriate to the image and try matt papers
 - Dedicated photo printers (more inks!)
 - Print your own images- not for the faint hearted but rewarding!!
 - Where to learn how to print?
 - Dr Les Walkling, CCP and home studio workshops

What are judges looking for? What else?

- Key points for success
 - Something different
 - Something very well done
 - Learn how to process for the best results

What are judges looking for? What else?

- Bringing it all together (Peter Eastway)



What are judges looking for?

References

- References
 - Peter Eastway
<http://www.betterphotography.com/index.php/bpshop-sp-18927/ebooks-for-downloading/how-to-win-photo-competitions-detail>
 - Paul Robinson 2012 Judging photographs

Thank you for listening!

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www.marysvillephotography.com.au

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