

## Photographic Panels by Stratford Photographic Group

A photographic panel for our competition will consist of 3 images. These can be mounted on a single mount or 3 separate ones up to a maximum of 50cm by 40cm each. Images within a panel must work together as a set, they can tell a story, be images of the same item taken in different seasons for example, or a model in different outfits or in varying locations. The images have to have a relationship in some way to each other. The Images will be displayed in a row so each one needs to indicate the order of display i.e. A, B and C or Left, Centre and Right.

### Why a Panel?

A lot of Panels tell a story. This is best described as where one image could not tell the whole story eg it could be the progression of a child growing up, so the images could have been taken over a long period of time. Storytelling panels are quite popular. A lot of photographers also use a panel to show different aspects of a subject eg it could be a car. You may show it in pristine condition as per the selling brochures, but then show some details, such as the badge, lights etc. You may opt to show it at night, or moving, the options are only limited by your imagination. You will find it best to have an idea for a panel and roughly sketch out how you will see it together. You can then set about getting the images you require. Post processing can help in balancing things like exposure and cropping etc.

Many things need to be considered when working on a panel - these are just food for thought:

- ◆ Relationship of the images.
- ◆ Does it tell a story?
- ◆ Do the images work together?
- ◆ Is the exposure similar across all the images (or massively different?)
- ◆ Are they all printed on the same paper?
- ◆ Has the post processing 'style' been applied to all the images?
- ◆ Are they all mounted in the same format (borders/mount colour/window/flush etc)?
- ◆ Diagonals work better pointing into the centre of the panel.
- ◆ Portraits work better facing into the panel.
- ◆ Try vignetting the very outside corners of each image (e.g. the top right corner on the top right image, bottom left corner of the bottom left image etc.).
- ◆ Don't have images that are too similar.
- ◆ Landscape and Portrait formats can be mixed but the Panel needs to be balanced.
- ◆ The use of leading lines, diagonals etc. is to keep the interest within the panel and to prevent the viewer's eye wandering off at a tangent.
- ◆ Consider flipping/rotating images during processing to get angles/faces pointing the right way. Use all the tools you have in your box to help achieve impact and balance.
- ◆ Keep images the same size if possible - it's easier to view in this way.
- ◆ There will always be a weak image in a panel, it's unavoidable.

And finally, remember these are just guidelines, not rules, and are meant to be broken should the panel improve by so doing.