

# Toronto Camera Club Presentation

Audio-Visual  
Competition #2  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# Judges

Tim Harvey – Leeds Audio Visual Club

Randy Nickerson – Oshawa Camera Club



# Judging & Presentation Team

Web Posting – David Hillock

Zoom/Recording/Posting - Mike Fellhauer

Honorariums / Certificates – Dror Orbach

Presentation/AV Chair – Ray Anderson



Now for the Shows!



# Croatia – A View From The Bus

- Were it not for a presentation made by Branimir Gjetvaj, my wife and I would not have considered visiting Croatia in the fall of 2023 at all. But something in the photo essay that Branimir had put together was enticing, especially the images of the many waterfalls in Plitvice Lakes National Park, one of several UNESCO World Heritage Sites that were listed on his tour's itinerary. Being a photography tour lead by a photographer native to Croatia was reassuring and sealed the deal.
- As a “once-in-a-lifetime” tour, I wanted to make sure I captured as much as possible and the view from the bus presented the most opportunity to see the country and that is where much of our time would be spent. However, this also limited what was presented to my camera and how to compose and frame it before it was gone. It is very challenging to get decent images from a moving bus with tinted glass windows and splattered with bugs on a dirty windshield! The light was always changing and almost never from the right direction. Despite these challenges, the richness of the views allowed us to capture a sense of the country’s history, from its Roman ruins to its modern buildings, its progress out of civil conflict, how it has rebuilt itself, and most of all its natural beauty. Once off the bus we were given the opportunity to experience its people and culture, but that is a different story.
- The view from the bus is immediate without being invasive. Glimpses of people doing every day things giving a collective impression how they live their lives. Stores and shops hint at the people’s level of prosperity and opportunity. Churches, restaurants, and gas stations hint at their cultural ideals and aspirations. The images in this photo essay is my attempt to capture all that.

# Croatia – A View From A Bus

Bill Komar



# Croatia – A View From The Bus

## Judges Comments

- An interesting take on the normal holiday sequence. All the images here are mid range, it really needs a bit more variety, though if they were all taken from a bus this would be hard to achieve. The constant zooming is too much. Good to see dissolves between the images, but a bit more variety would be good. Overall, at 6:40 this sequence is too long for the subject matter.
- Shooting from inside a bus through glass will naturally render your photos a touch soft. The maker has done a nice job of keeping that issue to a minimum.
- The flow and timing was nice and steady after the few beginning slides.
- There was definitely clarity of what the maker wanted to show us but if they could have added a bit of video it would have helped us engage better. 10 sec of video of a certain section with photos to follow works well.

# Hometown Uni Art





# Hometown

- This photo essay is about my hometown.
- Mountains, rivers, rice terrace fields are unique features that represent the harmony of nature and human in a very traditional agricultural lifestyle.
- In the fast-paced modern society, urbanization and industrialization are destroying this beauty and culture. A few years ago, due to a reservoir being built there, some villages have disappeared forever under the water. Some of the photos become the last memory of the beautiful existence.

# Hometown

## Judges Comments

- This looks a like an interesting part of the world. However, you don't actually say where it is. Use dissolves rather than cuts. Fix one image format and avoid black band at the sides. Try to synch the images with the music, get some third images, and modify the fades as the music builds up. I like the use of the themes, and you have some great images, though it is also a little long at 5:34 for a sequence with no voiceover.
- In many of the images, the horizons are not level and the highlights are a bit hot.
- The show tries to show us harmony but at times the connection is not readily apparent.
- The title indicated that the show was to bring to light the harmony of things but that seemed to get replaced by photos of things and not the relationships between things.

# Route 66 Road Trip

- In March 2023, I needed to attend a reunion in Las Vegas. Instead of taking the short 5 hour flight from Toronto, my wife and I decided to take the long path by doing a road trip through Route 66 as I heard so much about it.
- Route 66 is one of the original highways in the US Numbered Highway System. The highway spans from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, covering a total of almost 4000 kilometers. Route 66 declined as a major thoroughfare following the construction of the Interstate Highway System forcing businesses along the way to close-down.
- Route 66 was referred to as "Mother Road" in John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. It was immortalized by the 1946 hit song "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" sang by Nat King Cole.
- Disney's 2006 animated film "Cars" transformed the forgotten towns and quirky roadside attractions along Route 66 into vibrant characters and settings.
- I took a lot of photos along the way originally to share on social media. I picked some of those photos to share in this video. Join me in reminiscing the path we took and the attractions and places we visited along the way. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed making it.

# Route 66 Road Trip

Larry Sy



# Route 66 Road Trip

## Judges Comments

- This iconic US road trip is a challenge to fit into a sequence given the volume of material, however, as a non-documentary I feel it could do with being shorter, (though I appreciate it's tied to the song length: is it possible to edit this down?). Presenting each image within 2 others, with the same 'drop' effect each time is too much, particularly when they are on screen so briefly. Go for something simpler, and only use this effect sparingly. There is too much text to take in with all the names. More close ups would be good also.
- Photos are sharp and show is steady. The show does show us a vacation along route 66 however a few more shots like those of the St. Louis arch would have helped the interest. The song was clear and worked for the show. The flow was very basic and a bit repetitive with the blurred background creating a bit of confusion while watching the movement. This concept could have been made to be very original. Some video components would have helped. The section around the Grand Canyon were quite nice. In a six min. slide show, you must mix it up a little, so we don't see the same effects continually.

# Pale Horse Pale Rider

## Sarah Sheard



# Pale Horse Pale Rider

- This is a compilation of several camera sessions I shot at a reining horse barn outside Uxbridge, Ontario. I have been experimenting with how best to convey the power and speed of movement of these competitive horses and their rider under saddle. Thus the deliberate blurring. Working with arena lighting and the constant dust was a challenge.
- I composed the music while watching the footage

# Pale Horse Pale Rider

## Judges Comments

- An interesting idea, but not really enough good images and the video doesn't work well. I like the movement effects and some of the close ups are nice and abstract – if you could concentrate on these you could have quite a novel sequence with this music, which I like. Too much zooming in and out.
- As this is an exercise in ICM sharp focus is not required. The maker has created several very nice ICM images. The video was very well done and added a mood to the show. The music choice was curious, something more ominous would have worked better especially with the title. The theme is to expose the rider as a ghost and the maker did a good job of this. The theme did tend to get lost as the show continued. This is very original and has a lot of impact. Some of the images leave the frame awkwardly i.e. They start in the middle and quickly move out of the frame.



# Kensington Departed

- Kensington Market is described as having: [an] “independent spirit, colourful shop fronts, vibrant murals, charismatic locals and people... [that give] the area a vibrant street culture unique to the city of Toronto.” --- The Canadian Encyclopedia
- City administrators and those who hold positions of responsibility continue to voice these descriptors.
- What I found, however, was grime, dirt, decay and vandalism, – prominent indicators of urban blight and a city in decline.

# Kensington Departed Walter Teres



# Kensington Departed

## Judges Comments

- There are some great images here in a variety of styles, however, there are really too many (full colour, b/w, desaturated) – by all means have a series of themes and use different styles for each, but don't mix them up. You need to fix one image format (avoiding black bands) and to use dissolves rather than fast cuts. You need to synch the dissolves to the music, particularly when it has such a strong melody. Potentially you could create a great urban sequence here, but it needs more strong simple images (with some close ups) that will dissolve well into each other.
- The maker used a cool technique to bring us to the centre of images. The images for the most part support the title but at a certain point it seems as though the area is coming to life. There is a nice mix of landscape orientation and portrait-oriented shots. Again for 75% of the photos, we get to see the darker side of Kensington but then the show seems to show a brightness. Great idea and very enjoyable

# Moments

- The most beautiful things in life are simple moments but somehow we miss the opportunity to truly live and enjoy this simplicity. Instead, we spend our time in regretting the past and worrying about the future.
- I am no different in that I make that mistake like everyone else however for some reason once I am doing street photography and am behind the viewfinder, time stands still and I begin to see and observe these beautiful moments, emotions and interactions. I captured these pictures on a Sunday in the market. I hope you like them and I hope you truly enjoy simple and beautiful moments like these before it's too late.

# Moments

# Ali Soheil



# Moments

## Judges Comments

- There are some excellent individual images here. But they are all vertical, don't synch with the music and the dissolves are all fast cuts – use slower dissolves and a few variations where the music changes. I don't feel that the text adds to the sequence, though trying to theme the images is a good idea.

# Among the Hmongs

- This presentation is based on a small selection of photos from my two recent trips to Vietnam.
- Its culture, people, history, cuisine, traditions are fascinating, offering plenty of photographic opportunities throughout the country – whether for landscape, nature, documentary or street photography.
- As much though as places like Hanoi, Saigon or Hoi An are attractive, the minority indigenous peoples of northern Vietnam, the Hmongs among them, fascinated me most.
- This is my tribute to them.

Among the Hmongs

Andrew Wodzinski





# Among the Hmong

## Judges Comments

- Some excellent images here, and I was pleased to see some close ups. Not all fill the AV window – they could be enlarged or change the format. The fades are too dramatic and don't synch with the music.
- Photos were of good quality. A little bit of grain in some that made the closeups look a touch soft. Music was appropriate but after a couple of mins became a bit sleepy.
- The show was put together with thought and purpose. Transitions were well done. The transitions to the mountain backdrop with the photos appearing on top was a bit awkward. Great subject matter and its nice to see another culture. The maker did a nice job of this. The close-up photos were a nice touch.

# An Afternoon at the Rodeo

- Local rodeos held in various Ontario small towns are a lot of fun and a wonderful venue for photographers. Watch for all the photographers in the backgrounds, especially the “official” one dressed in black who can sometimes be seen actually inside the fence. But even without getting inside the fence you can get really close to the action and can interact freely with the cowboys and cowgirls in between events and afterwards. It’s quite an interesting life they lead. I hope this audio-visual presentation will give you some idea of what they experience on a regular basis.

# An Afternoon at the Rodeo

Victor Peters



# An Afternoon at the Rodeo

## Judges Comments

- The images here are excellent, but the variety of formats lets them down – avoid the black borders! Find a way to get one format and stick with it. Interesting choice of music which works I feel with the gentle zooms and dissolves (though there are too many zooms and a few faster alternate fades to fit with the drama of the music would add interest). I'm not keen on the black screen between sections. Maybe a few crowd pictures here, if you have them, would work or perhaps a turning page fade? At 5:22 a bit long.
- The video moved along well with a few longer pauses than necessary between changes in events. The photos brought us a wide variety of events of a rodeo however many of the shots did not have a large enough DOF and a lot of the motion of the video cut off heads of the riders. The ride of the Valkyries is great impactful music but it seems a bit off for this story. A more country sound would have been more appropriate. The viewer is tasked with guessing at what the real intent of this show is for. Is it to show us the different events in a rodeo likely? Is it to show us the physical side? Is it to show us action? The flow may have been a bit better if one though was seized on throughout

# Four Seasons in Four Minutes

## Sara Shettleworth-Mrosofsky



# Four Seasons in Four Minutes

- The gardens surrounding Spadina Museum are among my favorite places in Toronto. I have been visiting them year-round for years, in recent years frequently taking my camera. This video is a celebration of the beauty of this special place as it changes through the seasons. Revisiting the sunny days and bright colors in the midst of winter brought me a lot of pleasure, and I hope it does the same for the audience.

# Four Seasons in Four Minutes

## Judges Comments

- Some lovely images, with good use of gentle zooms and dissolves. However, where the music is dramatic you really need to synch better. Arguably would be better with 4 bits of music. The vertical flowers could be integrated into suitable backgrounds using masks, rather than all dropping in as single mid-screen pics.
- Though the music played was about the Four Seasons, it was a touch sleepy at parts and a more upbeat set of music might have helped the interest. Excellent use of transitions which helped the show move forward well. The addition of the house and green house at the end was a departure from showing just nature throughout. The maker has done a nice job of bringing us through the seasons. The photos are of high quality and show the different seasons well. Some shots of impactful weather may have helped with the impact

# Saga of Iceland Waterfalls

- Although it is called the land of Fire and Ice, the waterfalls in Iceland are spectacular. During my trip to Iceland in 2022, I traveled in the South West part of Iceland and was able to see 5 of these waterfalls.
- Norse mythology has many stories, and these are called sagas. Often these sagas are about Norse gods, but in my case, this saga is about the waterfalls I visited on my trip.
- I hope you enjoy it.



# Saga of Iceland Waterfalls

Rob Jemmett



# Saga of Iceland Waterfalls

## Judges Comments

- Iceland is certainly a country with a lot of impressive landscapes. The use of the map is excellent, so you don't need to reshoot the place names. The saga style narration is a good idea but it's too quiet. At times there were too many images to take in. The slow dissolves fit with the mood far better than the 3 image fast cuts. People add scale, but some distract and could be Photoshopped out.
- Excellent smooth and well executed. Fantastic photos and video that show off the main goal... Waterfalls. The music was great, but the narration was soft and lacked some bass. That narration would need to be improved, not the words but the sound quality. The theme is well supported with the map and the indication of each place we were to see next. Original approach, great images and makes the viewer want to visit. Enjoyment is sensed throughout the show.

# Japan 2023 Finding Our Ikigai

- While travelling around Japan in the Fall 2023, we discovered a beautiful Japanese concept called **IKIGAI (ee-kee-guy)**. It refers to something that gives you a deep sense of purpose, satisfaction, and joy. The Japanese believe everyone has an Ikigai - a passion inside you, a unique talent that gives meaning to your day.
- In writing about this concept, authors Hector Garcia and Francesc Miralles, determined that there were “**SIMPLE RULES THAT THE JAPANESE LIVE BY.**” They believed that if you follow these rules, you can improve your health and well-being - so you can discover and live your own Ikigai.

# Competition Runner-up

Japan 2023 Finding Our Ikigai

Susan Lemieux



# Japan 2023 Finding Our Ikigai

## Judges Comments

- Great use of animation on the titles and 'chapters'. A novel way to show holiday photos which works well. There could be better synch between the images and music. Slow some of the dissolves to reveal third images (you may need to tweak the image order) and look at how the 3 images at 1:37-1:52 fade – if you line them up with each other it would be more effective.
- The photography was outstanding. There is a bit too many text slides in the beginning. Reduce the amount of written information. The maker was able to captivate the viewer in a very unique way by intriguing us to keep watching to see all of the rules to a happy life. Loved it!

# Combobulate

- Combobulate – defined as “To put together in order. To bring something out of a state of confusion or disarray” – was the perfect title in my mind for an exploration into the world of experimental photography, since whenever I tried to get my mind around it, I always found it confusing.
- So, an essay that brings order to a confusing genre of photography seemed like a good idea. What could go wrong? Just start with some examples and then push the photographic images as far as I could to create interesting, dynamic and sometimes fun/playful images.
- That’s what I did in this essay.
- It will certainly push people to think about experimental photography and how the heck do you even consider what’s a good image in this genre. But that’s one think I like – to push the limits, see what’s possible.
- After all of this, when I finished, I realized that I’ve only just scratched the surface – I can see another 50 essays here!!
- I’ll likely leave that to others.... Enjoy.

Competition Top Winner !!

Combobulate

Gareth Jones



# Combobulate

## Judges Comments

- I loved the way this is presented, though it could perhaps be a little shorter. I suggest that the artists names should be presented the same way – some of the name animation here was a little overdone. The commentary could do with being slowed down a bit.
- The maker clearly has skill to create an interesting show. The maker kept with the same feel throughout and that really worked for the viewer. I felt as though I was at the planetarium or the science centre. The only negative is the title though explained, still did not resonate with me for the show. Something like Unkown Masters etc. might work better. Very original and inspiring. I learned something from this. Really kept my interest as I wanted to see each artists work. Even though this was long, it felt quick.



# Results



Essay Name	Members Name	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Sum of Judges Scores	Final Results
Combobulate	Gareth Jones	93	88.5	-	181.5	Top Winner
Japan 2023 Finding Our Ikigai	Susan Lemieux	81	96.5	-	177.5	Runner Up
Saga Of Iceland Waterfalls	Rob Jemmett	75	88	-	163	
Four Seasons In Four Minutes	Sara Shettleworth- Mrosovsky	76	80	-	156	
An Afternoon At The Rodeo	Victor Peters	70	68	-	138	
Among the Hmongs	Andrew Wodzinski	63	71	-	134	Tie

# Results



Essay Name	Members Name	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Sum of Judges Scores	Final Results
Moments	Ali Soheil	58	76	-	134	Tie
Kensington Departed	Walter Teres	55	75	-	130	
Pale Horse Rider	Sarah Sheard	54	73.5	-	127.5	
Route 66 Roadtrip	Larry Sy	55	66	-	121	
Home Town	Uni Art	56	64.5	-	120.5	Tie
Croatia-View From the Bus	Bill Komar	53	67.5	-	120.5	Tie

# Thank You

Ray Anderson

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