

JUDGING PANELS

I have in the last year judged Club, Federation and National Panel Competitions and put a few thoughts to hopefully assist others in doing similar judging's.

The first thing for the judge to do is find out what "rules" that have been given to the individuals or the clubs before they submitted their entries.

A good example is in the N&EMPF Exhibition where there are 2 different rules that apply. The individual panels, only prints at present, are to be related images as the rules state "a panel will be judged on its merits as a complete panel".

However the club panels for the Hiscox Trophy (Mono prints), Chesterfield Trophy (Colour prints) and Derwent Trophy (Projected Images) have a totally different requirement in that the rules were amended many years ago to follow the guidelines for the original Inter-Club Monochrome competition in that the 4 images were to show a variety and quality of work. This meant that the 4 images should have no relationship by subject.

As you can see this shows that in one Federation competition there can be 2 totally different rules governing the panels involved and the judges involved must be aware of the different criteria.

However in most competitions that you are asked to judge you will only find one set of rules/requirements that you need to consider when viewing the images.

The organisers must have a system of displaying the images at the same time either digitally or laying the prints out as the author requires. This can make a difference to the overall effect of the panel of images.

In my experience the most difficult thing about judging panels, whether they be 3, 4, 5 or 6 images, is assessing the relative quality of the panel as you will find that whatever the number that the rules require there will always in many panels with at least one or two weak images.

This is helpful to you in your judging panels as it can easily give you the top panels to sort out for the top positions and awards. If however you find that all panels have the "one poor image" affliction then you will have to decide which one panel has the best related though weak image.

A judge must not be led down the path of selecting a panel with a few very good images and the remainder being weak against a panel of images that may not stand alone as separate pictures but work together as a related panel.

A panel of images that show a variety of work is unusual but at times is easier as it is just a case of the set with the highest score you would give them as individual pictures wins.

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