



# *Plano Photography Club*

## **Description of Competition Themes** **For the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Contest Years**

The Plano Photography Club board uses themed contests to encourage the photographers in the Club to extend their skill sets and to broaden their experience. Contest themes fall into various categories. Technical themes encourage photographers to become more familiar with the capabilities of their camera. Compositional themes teach the elements that make a photograph outstanding. Photojournalism allows photographers to extend their ability to communicate and tell stories through their photography. Creative themes provide freedom for imagination and interpretation. Of course, many themes fit into more than one category.

### **May 2017 – Closeups**

Looking at an object close up often makes the ordinary appear more interesting. It focuses the viewer's attention to the detail that is not normally noticed. Shapes, textures and colors are seen in a different light. Lighting and focus (or selective focus) come into play in important ways. Ordinary subjects seen in your house or backyard offer a wealth of opportunity for creating interesting images. Insects and flowers always make good subjects, but look around also for the out of the ordinary objects. A closeup image does not require a macro lens. Almost any lens can render a good closeup. A tripod and use of manual focus may improve your results.

### **July 2017 – Perspective**

A photograph taken from eye-level provides the image that people most expect to see. It is how we view the world most of the time. Differentiate your image by taking it from an unusual perspective. Getting down low and looking up can change how the viewer feels about and reacts to your subject. The small can appear to be large and the large small. Taking pictures from an unexpected angle can add interest and provide a different perspective that enhances the interest of your image.

### **September 2017 – Geometric**

Geometric patterns show us straight lines, circles, triangles, rectangles, and polygons, as well as variations and combinations of these shapes – such as squares, ellipses, cubes, cylinders, and pyramids. Geometric patterns tend to be repetitive and symmetrical. Architecture offers many opportunities. Think also of patterns provided in nature or reflected in shadows.

### **November 2017 – Cemeteries**

Images taken of, or within, a cemetery.

### **January 2018 – Special Effects**

Special effects may be created either in camera or through digital manipulation of the image.



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## **March 2018 – On the Road (print)**

Capture an image featuring something happening on highways, streets or roads of any kind. The image may include cars, people, roadside cafes, or just a scenic road by itself. The image should tell a story about travel.

## **May 2018 - Diagonals**

Diagonal lines, shapes, and arrangements create a more dynamic composition by conveying a sense of visual movement or direction in an image. Diagonals can be found everywhere, or merely tilt the camera, or use a wide angle lens to exaggerate perspective.

## **July 2018 - Motion**

The image is to convey the motion of the subject, which can be either fast or slow. The photographer should carefully control shutter speed to either freeze motion (fast shutter speed) or to show motion blur (slow shutter speed).

## **September 2018 – Rusted and/or Peeling**

The subject is to show either or both of these characteristics.

## **November 2018 – Reflections**

The reflection of the subject should dominate the image. The subject itself may be seen either directly in the image or only via the reflection.

## **January 2019 – On the Street Where You Live**

No restriction on subject. The photograph should be taken in the vicinity of the photographer's residence.

## **March 2019 – Panoramas (print)**

The print must have an aspect ratio of 2:1 or greater. That is, one dimension must be at least twice that of the other.