

## ***St. Catharines Photographic Club Variable Topics – 2016-17***

Please note that the variable topics will be included with the Digital Clinic scoring for the 2016-17 season and will be used to determine the top aggregate score for the Digital Clinic program. The variable topics for the clinics will also be automatically entered in the previous Special Assignments competition with an award being presented to the maker with the top variable topic aggregate score. Judges will be advised to consider the fit of the image to the topic when scoring.

### **Clinic 1 – Soft Focus (Camera Skill)**

NOTE: This is a Camera Skill challenge so your representation MUST BE DONE in camera. Any interpretations that are made by using post processing will be disqualified.

A soft focus lens deliberately introduces spherical aberration in order to give the appearance of blurring the image while retaining sharp edges; it is not the same as an out-of-focus image, and the effect cannot be achieved simply by defocusing a sharp lens. Soft focus is also the name of the style of photograph produced by such a lens. You can use commercial options (e.g. Lens Baby, Soft Focus filters) or DIY by applying a transparent and diffuse substance to the front lens element or a plain filter (i.e. Vaseline is commonly used).

### **Clinic 2 – The Older the Better**

We have all heard the expression “The Older the Better”. In our culture, progress is made and driven at the speed of youth. Everything in our daily lives is influenced by progress. Whether it’s the essentials or luxuries of life, everything has roots and an attachment from days gone by. Your challenge is to make an image that best illustrates and tells a story expressing why “The Older” is “The Better”. The judges will be ask to reward images that best interpret the theme.

### **Clinic 3 – Salvador Dali**

Salvador Dali is one of the most celebrated artists of all time. His fiercely technical yet highly unusual paintings, sculptures and visionary explorations in film and life-size interactive art ushered in a new generation of imaginative expression. Surrealism best defines his work. There are countless examples of his work readily available. Your challenge is to produce an image that will have inspired Salvador Dali.

### **Clinic 4 – Food for Thought**

When cheese gets it's picture taken, what does it say? Why do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight? Why do we call it a hamburger when it is made from beef? If you're in France and you order toast, do you get toast or French toast? If instant oatmeal is instant, then why does it take 1 to 2 minutes to cook in the microwave? What was the best thing before sliced bread? Why is there neither pine nor apple in pineapple? Why does pizza come in a square box?

OK enough nonsense ... The point is that we are challenging you to be thoughtful in making an inviting image of “Food”.

The most important components of food photography are:

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- 1) Your love for food
- 2) The light you can find (or create) in which to take photos
- 3) How creative you can get with food styling
- 4) Basic knowledge of photography

Inspire the judges with your food photography creations

### **Sharpe–Tester – Down Low (Lowdown)**

Are you looking for a fresh new angle to spice up your images? Here's your opportunity to get down and dirty!

Getting the low-down (perspective, that is) on changing your camera angle changes the mood of the story. A down low perspective will alter the emotional impact of an image significantly. The perspective you will seek is right at your feet, or at least in the general neighborhood, is what we're talking about.

We are looking for you to create an image by getting down with your camera and shooting up from a unique low perspective.

Digital Competitions