

Category Descriptions:

Vision: This category is designed to push you to go beyond sight, to insight; to take inspiration and make it a reality. Vision exists in your imagination and is revealed your photographs; expressing something otherwise invisible. Developing a Vision for your work is showing to others what you see in your mind's eye.

Composition: Composition refers to the way the various elements in a scene are arranged within the frame. Challenges will focus on setting up the shot and developing our personal composition styles; styles which can become our trademark. Developing your Composition will allow you to set the stage to generate a reaction from your audience.

Technical: Technical Aptitude is just as important as creative inspiration in photography. This year's technical category is primarily focused on in camera processes, however, there will be some post processing techniques included.

Creative: When this category comes up, you really have room to express yourself. You can interpret the assignment literally or figuratively. Unlike the other categories, the idea of this category is to let your artistic impression shine.

Wild Card: Consider this a Show-and-Tell for grown-ups. You have freedom do shoot what and how you wish. Let us know if you're trying a new technique, composition, style, subject, working on a specific project, or just exercising your freedom. Have fun!

Date	Week	Category	Challenge	Description
Monday, January 1, 2018	1	Vision	Look Ahead	New year. New beginnings. New you. Look ahead. Interpret as you wish.
Monday, January 8, 2018	2	Composition	Color Harmony	Get out your color wheel. Do opposites attract? Can there be harmony with opposite colors? Does the Hulk wear purple pants? Mix warm and cool colors.
Monday, January 15, 2018	3	Technical	Full Manual	While the camera often determines shutter speed and aperture for the photographer, it doesn't know your creative intent. This week, challenge your self to assume creative control over the camera by using full manual mode. Select a subject where varying the aperture and / or shutter speed helps enhance the composition and visual qualities of the image.
Monday, January 22, 2018	4	Creative	Quiet Moment	Peace. Serenity. Tranquility. Convey a quiet moment.
Monday, January 29, 2018	5	Wildcard	Photographer's Choice	Capture an image on your terms; who, what, where, when, why, how ... it's all up to you. Caveat: You must tell us your intent.
Monday, February 5, 2018	6	Vision	Alternating Rhythm	Alternate patterns of light to bring depth and rhythm to the photograph.
Monday, February 12, 2018	7	Composition	Fill the Frame	Fill the frame with your subject, no background. You will need to get up close and personal, or use a good zoom lens.
Monday, February 19, 2018	8	Technical	Zoom Burst	By changing the focal length during long exposure you can add movement to your frame, producing leading lines within your frame.
Monday, February 26, 2018	9	Creative	Forsaken	Abandoned and Forgotten were favorites in the past. Let's revisit the idea the idea this year with forsaken.
Monday, March 5, 2018	10	Vision	Selective Color	I know, I know. Yuck. Selective color can be cringe worthy, however, when done right, it brings compelling focus to the subject.
Monday, March 12, 2018	11	Composition	Negative Space	Minimize the composition to isolate your subject. The composition should be simple, thereby drawing your viewer to the subject.
Monday, March 19, 2018	12	Technical	Macro	Life is in the details. Get in close and show us the details we usually miss. You don't need a macro lens to shoot a macro shot.
Monday, March 26, 2018	13	Creative	Leading Lines	Back by popular demand, use lines to lead the viewer to your subject.
Monday, April 2, 2018	14	Vision	Diptych or Triptych	Connect 2 or 3 images together, creating one image, to provoke a thought or tell a story.
Monday, April 9, 2018	15	Composition	Rule of Space	Your subject should be facing the frame, walking into the frame, this keeps your subject "in" the frame and engaging with it. Give your subject room to move.
Monday, April 16, 2018	16	Technical	Portrait Lighting	Whether Butterfly, Rembrandt, Split, or Loop Lighting, choose the technique which best flatters your subject.
Monday, April 23, 2018	17	Creative	Humor	Laughter is the best medicine. Make us laugh.
Monday, April 30, 2018	18	Wildcard	Photographer's Choice	Capture an image on your terms; who, what, where, when, why, how ... it's all up to you. Caveat: You must tell us your intent.
Monday, May 7, 2018	19	Vision	Edge Cut Sun	Having an edge cut through the sun looks nice, or having the sun rising over a line or diagonal within the photo. Stop down the aperture to create a starburst.
Monday, May 14, 2018	20	Composition	From Below	Get down low; below 2 feet, and change your perspective. Look out or look up.
Monday, May 21, 2018	21	Technical	Product	Imagine your image in a catalog or a magazine. It's not as easy as it sounds.
Monday, May 28, 2018	22	Creative	Door	A symbol of transition, a door or a gate provide a passage way.
Monday, June 4, 2018	23	Vision	No Peeking	Shoot as if you were using a film camera. That means that you will not look at the photographs you've taken until they are downloaded on your computer.
Monday, June 11, 2018	24	Composition	Contrast	An easy way to make a photo more interesting is to introduce some form of stark contrast: liquid/solid, hard/soft, delicate/brush.
Monday, June 18, 2018	25	Technical	Starburst	Create a very strong focal point and add an entirely new dimension of interest to your image using a starburst.
Monday, June 25, 2018	26	Creative	High or Low Key	You don't have to do both this year; choose your favorite and shoot that.
Monday, July 2, 2018	27	Vision	Flattery	They say imitation is the highest form; so, past or present; choose your favorite master photographer and imitate their art or technique.
Monday, July 9, 2018	28	Composition	Left to Right Rule	Compose an image in the way we read; most countries read from left to right. Compose your shot to follow this direction.
Monday, July 16, 2018	29	Technical	Twilight Zone	While golden and blue hours bring beautiful lighting, shooting in twilight opens up a new way of seeing the world. Capture a "scape" that isn't dominated by darkness. Show the light and textures that can be found under the stars, in city lights, or a moon filled sky.
Monday, July 23, 2018	30	Creative	Circles	The circle is a universal symbol with extensive meaning; it represents the notions of totality.
Monday, July 30, 2018	31	Wildcard	Photographer's Choice	Capture an image on your terms; who, what, where, when, why, how ... it's all up to you. Caveat: You must tell us your intent.
Monday, August 6, 2018	32	Vision	The Alphabet	Alphabet photography involves taking photographs of existing or created objects to create a word.
Monday, August 13, 2018	33	Composition	Figure to Ground	If camouflage is designed to make things disappear, Figure to Ground is designed to make the subject stand out. Light on dark, dark on light.
Monday, August 20, 2018	34	Technical	The Wild Side	Capturing a captivating wildlife photograph requires knowledge of your camera settings and the behavior of the animal. Capture a compelling wildlife photograph that has proper subject alignment (e.g., no "bird butts") and exposure. For an easy introduction, urban critters (e.g., squirrels) are easy targets. For an advanced challenge, a bird in flight could be considered.
Monday, August 27, 2018	35	Creative	Loneliness	One is the loneliest number.
Monday, September 3, 2018	36	Vision	Ordinary	Find beauty in the ordinary.
Monday, September 10, 2018	37	Composition	Eye Lines	Eyes draw attention to certain parts of the frame, your subject will direct your audience's eye. Where is your subject looking? What are they seeing or not seeing?
Monday, September 17, 2018	38	Technical	Focus Stacking	A technique which combines multiple images taken at different focus distances to give a resulting image with a greater depth of field. Especially helpful in macro.
Monday, September 24, 2018	39	Creative	Abstract	Photograph a common object in an abstract manner.
Monday, October 1, 2018	40	Vision	Classic Novel	Create an image that identifies a classic novel or story.
Monday, October 8, 2018	41	Composition	Rule of Odds	Compose and image highlighting an odd number of subjects; some see this as natural and more pleasing to the eye.
Monday, October 15, 2018	42	Technical	Shutter Drag	Used to balance fill light with ambient light or add motion-blur to images.
Monday, October 22, 2018	43	Creative	A Song	Create a photo from the title of a song.
Monday, October 29, 2018	44	Wildcard	Photographer's Choice	Capture an image on your terms; who, what, where, when, why, how ... it's all up to you. Caveat: You must tell us your intent.
Monday, November 5, 2018	45	Vision	Show Half	Tell a complete story by only showing half of it.
Monday, November 12, 2018	46	Composition	Golden Triangles	A diagonal line divides the frame from corner to corner, two more lines are added from the other corners, intersecting the diagonal line.
Monday, November 19, 2018	47	Technical	Step Back	Edit your image to where you think it's perfect and let it sit for two days. Then return to it and see if it works. Print a picture and review it from a different perspective before finalizing.
Monday, November 26, 2018	48	Creative	Split Tones	Another favorite; last year's technical, is this year's creative. Have fun with it.
Monday, December 3, 2018	49	Vision	Look Back	We need to look back to see how far we've come. If you were Captain Ahab, which skill would be your whale? Post a comparison.
Monday, December 10, 2018	50	Composition	Golden Ratio	Often called Fibonacci, the spiral leads the viewers eye to the squares (the subject), compose your image using the Golden Ratio.
Monday, December 17, 2018	51	Technical	Exposure Compensation	While high dynamic range pictures can help capture challenging lighting situations, there are times when you need a single frame. Use exposure compensation mode on your camera to capture backlit or other challenging lighting situations.
Monday, December 24, 2018	52	Creative	Self Portrait	Not popular, but it's good for us to get on the other side of the lens. This year it's in a creative category, so be creative.

Composition Note: [There are good tips and explanations of the composition rules in this article by Petapixel.](#)

Facebook Group names

Official Dogwood Photography Challenge

For posting images shot specifically for the 2018 Challenge.

Dogwood Challenges-Previous

For posting images shot for the 2016 and 2017 Images.

Are you ready for a side challenge? If so, then we have one for you.**It's Showtime!**

Photography can be an introspective activity that allows you to connect to the world in many wonderful ways. Being behind the lens is frequently comforting, but being solely behind the lens may mean your work is not seen by those it may positively affect. For the third year in the challenge, set a goal to have a photography exhibit that showcases your best work. This exhibit could be nothing more than have a few neighbors over to see your work. It could also be something grand at a gallery. Below are some thoughts to help guide you down this path.

Select a theme:

When selecting a theme, select something that is meaningful to you. All of the photographs should clearly link back to the theme. Some themes will be literal, e.g., classic cars, doorways, portraits, etc. Some themes may be more subtle and arranged around technical or artistic aspects, e.g., black and whites, minimalism, high key, etc. While the same subject could be used in each image, the exhibit is more than a contact sheet from a single outing. Capturing diversity while maintaining continuity of the theme enriches the experience. With careful planning, many of the prompts in the challenge, past and present, can be used to guide you through building and refining your photographic identity. This identity can be the theme of your first exhibit.

Print and frame your work:

Photography has quickly become an online only activity for many photographers. The flash of time they are seen online is quickly forgotten as a steady stream of new photographs is posted every second of the day. The photograph in its printed forms begs for life to slow down for a moment. The composition, processing and subject matter are brought to life with printed photographs. Careful choice in frame materials enhances the feelings the photograph generates. For this challenge, challenge yourself to print and frame your work for the exhibition. If costs are a barrier, simply print (or have printed) the work using whatever means you have available.

Show your work:

When it is time (your portfolio contains 12-20+ images), arrange a photography exhibit. The show could be as simple as a dinner party at your house. You could also reach out to local coffee shops and community galleries to see if space would be available. There may be some incidental costs for showing your work, so you may want to contact early so that you can plan accordingly.

Sell your work:

Assuming your photos are nicely framed, consider selling the prints at the exhibition. This may offset the costs of hosting the event. You may also consider having orders for a calendar based on the 12 (or 13) best photos in the exhibition. There are places that print to order, so you should have flexibility for the demand.

Resources for conducting your first exhibit:

<http://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/technique/expert-advice/exhibiting-your-photography-67898>

<http://photsy.com/blog/?p=484>

<https://www.adorama.com/all/how-to-prepare-for-a-photography-exhibit>