SCPC – Assigned Topics Definitions 2015-2016

**Creative Manipulation**

In this competition, the photographer needs to use image editing software to manipulate the photo in post processing. While creative manipulation can be accomplished in camera by the use of special lenses, filters, various attachments, camera or subject movement and slow shutter speeds, exposure control, etc., for this competition it should be accomplished in post processing. Successful images will not only be enhanced to correct flaws and add impact, but will show that the maker applied artistic ideas and editing techniques to create them. Examples of creative manipulation are photo montages, strong tonal and color adjustments, application of filters and editing techniques to modify the look of an image, adding texture, and distortion.

**Architecture**

The main subject in the image must be a man-made construction of a building, multiple buildings, or a section of a building. The photographer is expected to use the subject to create a strong image, not just capture a picture of a building. This can be achieved by taking the picture from a unique vantage point, using selective focus, shooting under unique lighting conditions, creating impact with light and shadows, strong angles, high contrast, or textures, isolating details that are not obvious to most people, etc.

**Blue Hour & Night Photography**

The blue hour is the period of twilight each morning and evening when the sun is a significant distance below the horizon and the residual, indirect sunlight takes on a predominantly blue hue. Because of the quality of the light, this period is treasured by artists. During the blue hour the sky has a deep blue hue with a cold color temperature and saturated colors. At the beginning (evening) and at the end (morning), a gradient of colors, from blue to orange, can be seen right in the place of sunset and sunrise. In the morning, buildings are still lit and streetlights on, making it an ideal time for urban and city photography. It’s also ideal for landscape photography because of the different shades of the sky and color saturation. In the evening, the blue hour starts after the golden hour. Then, warm artificial lights appear in buildings, bridges, cars, and street lights, but the blue sky (even when cloudy) and cityscapes are still visible.

For this competition, the images should have the unique look and feel of scene during the blue hour or night.

**Macro**

Macro photography is extreme close-up photography of very small subjects, in which the size of the subject in the photograph is greater than life size. Definitions of macro photography vary, because some refer to the size of the film or digital sensor and some refer to the size of the final image. For this competition, the final picture should show an area that is 2 inches, or smaller, on the long side.