



# CATHAY CAMERA CLUB

## **Competition Guidelines Regarding Manipulation of Images – April 2008 V1.0**

For the purpose of complete disclosure in competition judging, Cathay Camera Club is introducing the concept of “manipulated” and “un-manipulated” images. The intent is to distinguish those images that may have been subject to significant post processing from those that are more “pure” and unaltered beyond what was actually captured by the camera. These guidelines set out to provide some insight as to what may or may not constitute “manipulation”, however they are not intended to be an exhaustive definition on this topic and may be revised.

It should be noted that both manipulated and un-manipulated images may be entered in the competitions but the default assumption will be that the image has been “manipulated” unless the photographer indicates otherwise. Individual judges may or may not take this into account when scoring an image.

**Un-manipulated images should be marked with a “U” inside a circle and clearly shown on the print. This will then be noted on the scoring sheet given to the judge.**

**A slide processed in the normal manner should be taken as the standard for an un-manipulated image.**

For the purposes of club competition nights, an un-manipulated image should, within the limits of current technology, be an accurate record of what the camera captured on film or electronic imaging chip. The image should be as close as possible to slides/transparencies with respect to manipulation, whatever medium is used to capture it.

### **Un-manipulated Images:**

- The image should be the result of a single exposure (shutter release) by the camera.
- Contrast adjustments and colour balance adjustments may be made after the image is captured, as may selective darkening or lightening of areas of the image (dodging and burning) – within limits, see below. The emphasis should be on realism and the resulting image should be as true to the originally captured subject as practical, or at least should not be any more unrealistic than the effects produced by selecting normally available films.
- Sharpening tools are acceptable.

- Cloning/airbrushing tools may only be used to remove miniscule processing artifacts, such as produced by dust.
- Cropping is acceptable.
- Completely de-saturating a color image to make it black and white is acceptable.

### **Manipulated Images:**

- Stitched panoramic images, multiple exposures, or composites of more than one image are all considered to be manipulated images for our purposes here.
- Contrast adjustments and colour balance adjustments should not be so extreme as to render the image an inaccurate or unrealistic representation of what the photographer saw. (It is not intended that this be interpreted in some psychological way -- for example that Van Gogh's colours were in some subjective sense what he "saw".) If features that are darkened or lightened or changed in colour so far that the effect is the same as if they were removed by a cloning tool, this would be considered manipulation.
- Cloning/airbrushing tools may not be used to add features that were not captured by the camera or to move or remove unwanted features that were captured.
- Use of blurring tools is considered manipulation.
- Images created by processing film through non-standard chemistry such as "cross processing" is considered manipulation.
- Colourizing a black and white image is considered manipulation.
- Selectively de-saturating a colour image is considered manipulation.