Cambridge Camera Club

Guidance Document on Near Duplicate Images

Introduction.

General competition Rule 9, as given in the Cambridge Camera Club Handbook, states the following:

"A particular image capture (or near duplicate) may not be used more than once in each competition type (serial, annual, portfolio, or *i*Comp).

Near duplicate images are defined as:-

a) the reworking of a previously used image. This includes, but is not limited to,
- a print of a previously used digital file or vice versa
- a monochrome conversion of a previously used colour image or vice versa
- any post-production computer based manipulation e.g. posterisation or painterly effects

b) separate image captures that are considered to be substantially similar i.e. have only minor alterations to the composition or viewpoint, and where the basic impression remains constant between the images and would normally be interpreted as being the same by the casual viewer."

In the above definition, the proscription against reworking previously used images can be considered to be self-explanatory.

The purpose of this document is to give guidance, by use of examples, regarding whether separate image captures should be considered similar or non-similar. The examples given are meant only to illustrate the factors that should be considered when submitting an image that is potentially similar to a previous entry. They should not be considered to form an exhaustive and definitive treatise on the subject.

Council have given authority to the Internal Competitions Secretary to be the final arbiter of whether or not a competition entry constitutes a near-duplicate of a previous entry.

Thus, where members are at all uncertain as to whether images could be considered near duplicates, they are strongly encouraged to seek guidance from the Internal Competitions Secretary (Email: IntCompSec@cambcc.org.uk) in advance of entry.

Nature.

All three images below are of six spot Burnets mating on a pupa case. The first two images (*N1* and *N2*) are regarded as similar, even though they are of different pairs on different perches. The third image (*N3*) is non-similar because the female has spread her wings.

Image N1.

Image N 2.

Image N 3.

People.

All three images show the same child, Phoebe, mimicking a rock singer. Images *P1* and *P2* are similar. The poses are slightly different, but both are taken with the same lens and from the same position. The third image (*P3*) also uses the same lens and basic viewpoint. However, this image may be regarded as non-similar because the camera has been tilted (deliberately!) and the child is caught mid-air leaping from the "stage".

Image P1

Image P2

Image P3

Sport.

Three monochrome greyhound images just to test those who think all greyhound snaps are the same. Images *S1* and *S2* are similar in that the dogs are going into the bend and the "S" shape is a key feature of the images. The third image (*S3*) is non- similar, as the dogs are gathering in the finishing straight, and the concentration on the faces of the dogs is an important feature.

Image S1

Image S2

Image S3

Creative.

These three creative images (*C1*, *C2* & *C3*) all show people on the spiral staircase of Southwold Lighthouse. Images *C1* and *C2* are taken from the same angle, have the same tonal quality and show full length blurred figures. Image C3 differs in both its view of the stairs and figures, and in its overall tone. This would thus be quite acceptable as a different image.

Image C1

Image C2

Image C3

Landscape.

With landscape it is often difficult to determine which images are too similar. Generally, if two images share the same or nearly the same viewpoint and the same lighting conditions, such as Images *L1* and *L2*, these would be considered near duplicates and both could not be used. Image *L3,* however, is acceptable as a different image since both the viewpoint and lighting differ substantially from the first two images.

Image L1

Image L2

Image L3