

VCC Competition Etiquette

In running our competitions we must be mindful that our judge is being asked to provide feedback and a fair evaluation of 60 to 80 separate images in under two hours. We have adopted a number of practices to ensure that the evening moves along speedily and that each competing member gets a fair and constructive evaluation of their work. However, there are some things that every member can do to help.

First, please help to maintain a quiet atmosphere -- cell phones should be muted and there should be no conversations, rustling papers or eating during the critique phase. If you need to leave, do so quietly through the door at the back

Also, it is key to a fair competition that the judge should never know who the maker is prior to picking the places - that is why we can't put our name on the front of the image when it is being judged. For the same reason it is **prohibited for the maker to engage in any sort of conversation with the judge about the image until the judging is over.**

So what do we do if the judge says "I wonder what app was used", or "I don't know if this was taken in the morning or the afternoon" or "I wonder how the maker achieved that effect"? Even though the maker knows the answer, he or she **must remain silent.** Perhaps the judge was just thinking out loud. If the judge persists with a question then the competition manager or projectionist will simply say that the maker will talk to them after the judging.

As Alison Brooks told us during her program at the November meeting, each image needs to stand on its own without being explained. It needs to tell the maker's story at first glance - that is why the title is so critical. Be aware that at the N4C level the judge is going through literally hundreds of images at a rapid pace -- the maker's meaning must register within a space of seconds.

Thanks for reading this and adhering to these simple rules. We have a vibrant and thriving club, we have ever more new members taking part and competing. Let's do what we can to help the judges and ensure that all have a positive experience in competition.