



N4C Interclub Competition topics & rules For 2026 Alternate Print Division

The Alternate Print Division is designed to challenge members in new, different, and fun ways. Some Alternate Division topics cover traditional subjects, while others have more unusual subjects that reflect a narrower subject or technique such as minimalism or street photography.

All Alternate Divisions are governed by the N4C Interclub Competition Rules for 2026. Each alternate topic is held once in the year and considered a sanctioned competition under N4C Interclub Competition Rules. Images may be submitted per Pictorial (color) or Pictorial (monochrome) definitions and per the N4C Competition Schedule.

In an effort to increase participation, each division will have two levels: Basic and Advanced. Basic and Intermediate are grouped together, while Advance and Masters are grouped together.

Judging Criteria in this Division is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence except where noted.

Note 'Time Lapse' held in March, is the only competition allowed to be in a composite format.

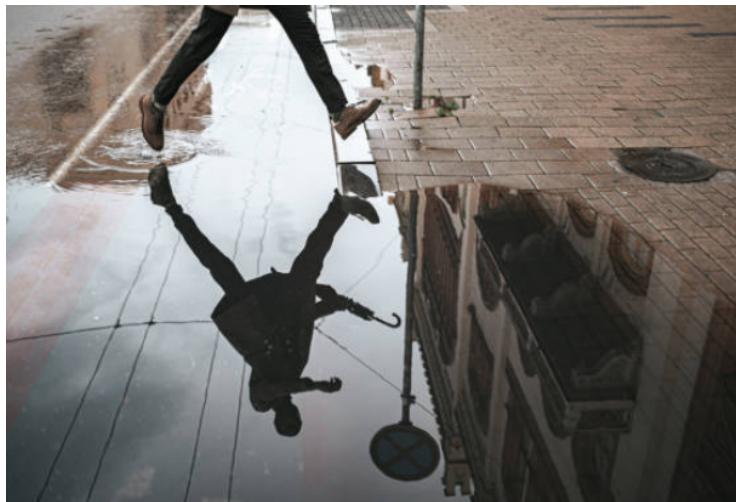
Acknowledgment: Merrill Mack and Jennifer Isaac of the Marin Photography Club for allowing the N4C Print Chair to highly leverage their work into N4C. MPC has been doing alternative categories (print and projected) for over ten years. Their experience is valued. In addition, thanks to those N4C Board, Past N4C Board and club members for their ideas and encouragement.

January

Alternate Print Division - Reflections

Definition: Reflection photography is a creative technique that captures images reflected on surfaces like water, glass, metal, or mirrors. It can be used to add depth, symmetry, intrigue, or surrealism to a photo by showing a subject and its mirrored counterpart in the same frame or use the reflection as a standalone frame.

Examples:



February

Alternate Print Division - Rust patterns

Definition: Rust pattern photography is a genre of visual art that captures the intricate textures, colors, and organic designs formed by the oxidation of metal surfaces. It transforms decay into beauty, revealing the aesthetic potential of corrosion through close-up, abstract, or documentary-style images.

Examples:



March

Alternate Print Division – Decay time-lapse

Definition: Decay **time-lapse** is a photographic or video technique that captures the gradual breakdown of organic matter like Fruit and flowers wilting, molding changing colors, by taking images at set intervals. This must be represented in a compound image of 3-8 photographs.

Example:



April

Alternate Print Division - Urban Wildlife

Definition: Animals that live in or around cities and towns, adapting to human-dominated environments. These species may use parks, gardens, buildings, and even trash as part of their habitat. They range from native animals like raccoons and hawks to invasive ones like house mice and pigeons.

Additional judging credit will be given for unusual places or species.

Examples:



May

Alternate Print Division – Light painting

Definition: Light painting photography is a captivating technique where photographers use long exposure settings to capture the movement of light sources in a dark environment, effectively “painting” with light across the frame.

Examples:



June

Alternate Print Division - Usual objects from unusual angles.

Definition: Photography of familiar objects at unusual angles is a creative technique that transforms everyday items into visually compelling subjects by capturing them from unexpected perspectives. This approach defamiliarizes the ordinary, encouraging viewers to see common objects in a new light—often evoking surprise, curiosity, or even abstraction.

Examples:



mushroom



wedding dress

July

Alternate Print Division - spider webs with dew

Definition: Photography of spider webs with dew is a niche in nature and macro photography that captures the delicate beauty of water droplets suspended on intricate silk patterns.

Examples:

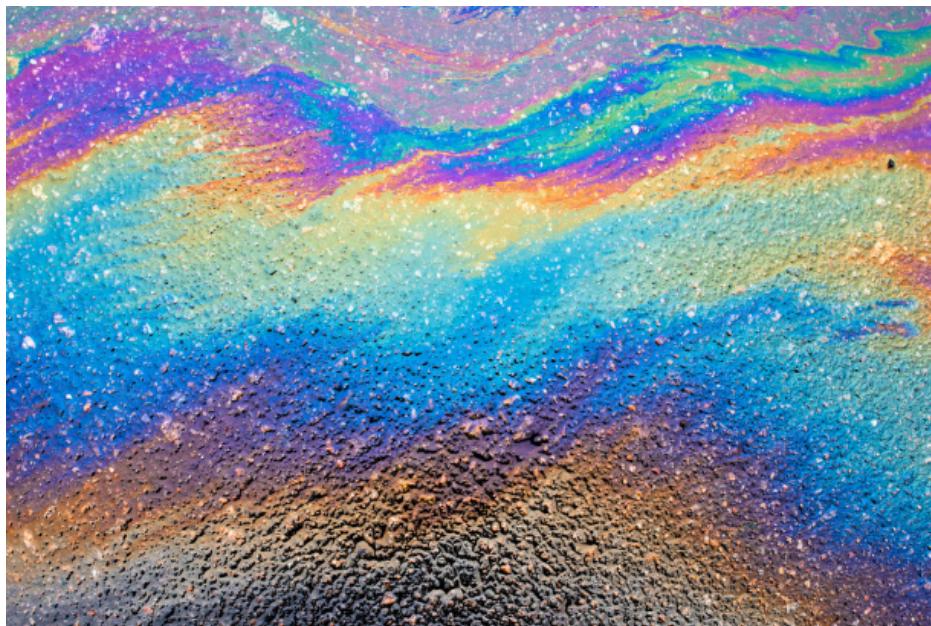


August

Alternate Print Division - Oil slicks

Definition: Oil slick photography focuses on the colorful, swirling patterns formed by thin layers of oil on wet pavement. These patterns result from light interference, like how soap bubbles or butterfly wings shimmer.

Examples:



September

Alternate Print Division - Motion blur people

Definition: Motion blur people photography involves intentionally allowing moving subjects—usually people—to blur during exposure. This technique emphasizes motion and can evoke emotion, chaos, serenity, or rhythm depending on context.

Examples:



October

Alternate Print Division - Refractions through glass marbles

Definition: Glass marble photography is a niche that uses transparent marbles as optical tools to capture refracted, and/or as photographic subjects themselves. It blends elements of macro photography, refraction, and abstract composition to produce visually striking images.

Examples:



November

Alternate Print Division - Shadows on concrete

Definition: Shadows on concrete photography is a minimalist and evocative style that focuses on capturing the interplay between light and shadow as it falls across concrete surfaces. It emphasizes texture, geometry, and abstraction, often stripping away cultural or geographic context to highlight the raw visual relationship between material and light.

Examples:

