

picture this

amateur photographers snap to it



The Just Out Amateur Photo Contest turned up hundreds of entrants in travel, abstract, people, pets and environment categories. A photo selection committee pawed through portraits and snapshots to select the best in each category and a grand prize winner. The entire staff also picked their favorites for "staff picks."

Q Center will exhibit winners and entrants of the JUST OUT AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST June 30 to July 31 at 69 S.E. Taylor St. The opening reception will run from 6 to 8 p.m. July 11.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

"Fairland, CA" by Erin Alperetti

For three days in the summer of '07, Erin Alperetti and 47 of her closest friends camped in a Northern California ranch, made an electrical feast of burning wood and sang around a campfire to make up for lost time.

Alperetti had the photo for a contest that night, so she took the annual outdoor social gathering held on the ranch to her camera, and in a matter of time she had a photo that she would submit to the contest. With her signature K134 camera from the late 1940s and her Canon Blue Moon Camera in mind, Alperetti captured the beauty of the night, the fire, the full moon, the outdoor kitchen, seen in the back and front of her camera, and the moment.

"I just kind of got a little with the picture, so I took it with the moon and lighting," Alperetti said. "I basically have a technique. I'm still figuring it out, and I think I just got lucky on this photo."

Alperetti, a 33-year-old graphic designer, grew up in New York and has been living in Portland for 13 years. She is enrolled in Portland Community College in the paralegal program and hopes to work in the social justice field in her free time. Alperetti enjoys hiking and swimming in the Sandy and Hewitt rivers.

Julia Calabrese

TRAVEL CATEGORY WINNER

"Untitled" by J. Wong

Thousands of torii gates line up from the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto, Japan, forming outdoor tunnels that creep up the forested mountain behind the Shinto Shrine in a two-hour trail leading to ponds and a scenic view of Kyoto, depending on the route you take. Inari is the Shinto god of rice, equivalent to modern wealth, and many businessmen travel to this destination to pay their respects to the deity. Foxes are said to be Inari's messengers, and statues of the cunning canines can be found throughout the maze of red gates.

"Untitled" turns these oriental portals into a geometric wormhole of red and black columns. Joseph Wong's composition invites viewers into Eastern aesthetics with a sultry color palette of fiery tones cooled off by the stony floor of the hiking trail. Beyond the torii pillars are trees and plants, but the focus of this photo is an unknown destination hopefully leading to Inari's blessings.

Wong, 23, grew up in Portland and will soon return from teaching English in Tokyo. He has published a few photographs in photo-of-the-week contests in Japan and enjoys taking photos of buildings, people on the street, events, scenic views, night shots, and architecture.

"I'm not shooting to save the world," he said. "I just do my best to capture a moment in time and represent it as much as possible in one final photo."

Julia Calabrese



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