

WILLIAM STICKNEY PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC

2734 NE 96TH ST
SEATTLE, WA 98115

TEL: (206) 985-9916

BILL_STICKNEY@COMCAST.NET

WWW.WILLIAMSTICKNEY.SMUGMUG.COM

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Dear Søren and Andreas,

Here are my selections for the photo contest. First, I must congratulate all of the participants for the excellent images they submitted – it was a joy to see them all, and it was difficult to make the final selections. It's wonderful that so many people share the passion for black and white images, and please encourage all of them to keep taking photographs and to keep refining both their ideas and technical skills.

My selection for first place is Simon_Jepsen_010210. This is a wonderful example of “decisive moment” photography in the Cartier-Bresson tradition, and it dramatically captures the energy and excitement of the concert. It's also a very technically difficult situation in which to shoot, and Simon shows a complete mastery of that, from the initial exposure to the b/w rendition of the shot.

Second place is kim_simonsen_010210. Well.... just what can I say....!?! Stunning, shocking, disturbing and full of meaning, though just what the meaning is depends entirely on the person seeing it. And the technical aspects are close to perfect as well. Whether one likes the image or hates it, the reaction to it is inevitably intense and visceral – exactly what a photograph is meant to do.

Third place is Poul Rasmussen 02.02.10. This studio (or carefully lit location) photograph is masterfully done. It has a very strong visual impact – lighting, tonality, composition – and, for me at least, evokes a strong feeling of sympathy. There is a reason, or story, behind this – an abstraction of something we all might have felt at some time.

As for the rest, all of them are striking and each has a story to tell. I know Søren suggested that I pick about 10, but I simply couldn't eliminate any of the final 17. Here they are, simply sorted by file name:

Birte_Faaborg_020210.jpg
flemming_winther_010210.jpg
jan_weber_020210.jpg
John_Bjerregaard_010210.jpg
kim_simonsen_020210.jpg
knud_nielsen_020210.jpg
Lone_Evald_010210.jpg
Lone_Evald_020210.jpg
Mette_Kramer_Kristensen_020210.jpg

michael_++rsted_pedersen_010210.jpg
ole_petersen_010210.jpg
Ole_Yssing_010210.jpg
per_martens_020210.jpg
Per_Tornehave_010210.jpg
Rawia_Farah_010210.jpg
Thomas_Larsen_010210.jpg
Villy_Poulsen_010210.jpg

Sincerely,

Bill Stickney