



Panels Night

On Thursday night, Gabriel O'Shaughnessy gave a talk on the topic of panels, how to envision them, how to construct them and ultimately how to shoot for them.

Not everyone may be comfortable with the competitive side to club photography. Presenting a panel of your images is another way to establish your level of expertise. Gabriel explained the Irish Photographic Federation's Distinctions Sittings and how one may present panels for Licentiate, Associateship and Fellowship distinctions. He explained, from a judge's perspective, what was required from a panel of images to be successful in achieving each of the distinctions.

<http://irishphoto.ie/distinctions/>

For a practical exercise, Gabriel presented a set of images from a member's prospective licentiate panel of ten images. Rather than present the final ten images, Gabriel had printed a set of eighteen postcard-sized images from which ten were to be selected. Two groups were formed to allow members to discuss and make their own selections or even to conclude whether they felt a successful panel could be formed from the eighteen images. This led to much constructive discussion and elucidated the entire process for many of us.

To further explain the requirements for an associate panel, Gabriel presented Frank Condra's (Drogheda) successful panel. Many thanks were expressed to Frank for allowing his panel to be viewed. We really enjoyed the street scenes from China and it was clear how a cohesive panel of fifteen images could be formed on a single theme. Other successful panels can be viewed on the IPF's website

<http://irishphoto.ie/distinctions/successful-distinctions/>

We were reminded of Arthur Carron's recent fellowship panel with twenty images that were not only cohesive on a single theme, Indian daily life, but that Arthur had established his own style in order to be successful.

To conclude, Gabriel presented another member's images from which it is intended to form an associate panel. The set of images was not complete and the discussion centered on how one can be self-motivated to shoot images specifically for a panel. This led to more discussion on the requirement for a successful associateship and how to generate cohesion in a panel of fifteen images that may be captured over a number of years.

All told, it was a very interesting and instructive night with many members encouraged to consider forming panels of their own in the future.