

Some Examples of My Photographs of Roses – “Fully Open, Stamens Showing” – for ARS Shows

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Some Examples of my Photographs of Roses

This presentation, “Fully Open, Stamens Showing,” is the first in a planned series looking at some of the different classes for photography in ARS shows.

I hope this will help encourage friends who are considering entering photographs in the 2018 ARS National Show and Convention in San Diego to “just do it.”

Prepared for Friends Who Have Asked to See Examples

Although I have worked formally with the American Rose Society and the Pacific Southwest District in developing Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography, I have recently realized that I have not spent much time discussing roses and photography with interested friends and acquaintances who are not judges or even horticulture exhibitors.

I have prepared this presentation for friends and acquaintances who have asked for some examples, many of whom would like to enter photographs in 2018 National in San Diego.

All views in this presentation are my own, and thus not necessarily representative of the ARS.

I have followed the new ARS Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography (2016) in these examples.

ALWAYS Read the Schedule of the Show You Are Entering!

Photography is still relatively new in ARS shows.

You will find schedules that vary from the ARS Photography Guidelines.

This is partly because new things can take time to filter down and be used.

It may also be partly because there are honest disagreements, not unexpected in something so new. I will try to point some of those out.

ALWAYS READ THE SHOW SCHEDULE!

What Roses Are Included in The “Fully Open, Stamens Showing” Classes Under the ARS Photography Guidelines?

Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Miniature, Miniflora, or Floribunda classifications of roses are included in this class.

Under the ARS Guidelines, “singles” (varieties of the above having 4– 8 petals) are shown in this class.

Be certain to read the schedule for each show. Some shows continue to use previous PSWD Guidelines, where singles are given a separate class.

“Lumpers” versus “Splitters” or “Horticulture” versus “Photography”

To a rosarian who is not a photographer, it makes perfect sense to lump all hybrid teas, for example, together, whether the variety has 5 petals or many, many more. That is a decision based on Horticulture, and makes sense in that context.

To a rosarian who is also a photographer, having separate class(es) for singles would make equal sense.

Be sure to read the schedule for each show you will enter.

This presentation follows the ARS Guidelines.

Characteristics of an “Open Bloom” for Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras

From the ARS Guidelines for Judging the Open Bloom Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras:

“The open bloom should be open yet still fresh with bright fresh stamens. The judge looks for the same symmetry of the petals with a circular outline of the outer petals with the stamens exposed. Petaloids, which are immature or incompletely formed petals, often form on the innermost row of petals and can only be seen in an open bloom. Petaloids may enhance or detract from the beauty of a specimen. The exhibitor is free to remove them, but it must be done skillfully without leaving a remnant and must not adversely affect the symmetry of the open bloom.”

“The ideal form for an open bloom is with all or most of the petals lying more or less flat on a horizontal plane but still fresh, with good substance, and bright, fresh stamens exposed.”

(Photographically speaking, you can envision how much easier that is to do with a 4-8 petal bloom than a bloom with many petals.)

Characteristics of an “Open Bloom” for Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras

These characteristics apply not only to other members of this class, the miniatures, minifloras, and floribundas, but also to fully open blooms in other classes as well.

ARS Guidelines for Judging Roses – accessible to all ARS members at rose.org under Resources. Photographers and judges should review this periodically, along with the ARS Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography.

From the ARS Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography

“The color of the stamens is a consideration when judging open blooms and singles. In open blooms and singles. The stamens and the anthers they support often have distinctive color characteristics ranging from yellow to orange to brown, even purple, which must enter into the judging of the entire specimen. The color of the stamens should be typical of the variety and not browned or blackened with age. If the golden yellow anthers of a fresh specimen have blackened, a penalty as color fault must be assessed. Blackened stamens also generally indicate that the specimen is not fresh.”

“It is important to note that photographs of roses within a garden setting or taken outside of the rose show setting are strongly encouraged. Some photographs will look better with a more natural background than a plain black background. Beware the “floating bloom” as it can be distracting for some exhibits. Seeing the rose framed by foliage is a more natural setting and should be rewarded.”

From the ARS Guidelines for Judging Rose Photography

Although the ARS Guidelines *allow* the so-called “bullseye” shots and for parts of the bloom to be cut off in the blooms in “The Rose” sections, I try to avoid these as much as possible in my own photography. The ARS, at the present time, does not *encourage* this type of imagery, although it is allowed. This could change at some point in the future, for example, with blooms with cut off petals being shown in an artistic class rather than horticulture class.

At the present time, judges should not penalize such images.

Photographers might try such images, and at the same time create images in which the bloom is not centered and is not cut off on the edges, and see which they personally find more pleasing.

One Approach to Fully Open Roses

With a few exceptions, which I will show later in this presentation, I tend to photograph these roses “straight on” when photographing for rose shows. (Photographer friends who do not know roses or the hybridizer history of the founding of the ARS, find this amusing.)

I nearly always crop the digital negative from its native 2:3 aspect ratio to a 4:5 aspect ratio, so that the image is ready for printing an 8x10 inch for a rose show.

That size allows me to use inexpensive mats and mounts for our rose shows, definitely a consideration for me. (My technique is explained, with illustrations, in [How to Mount and Mat an 8x10 Photo for a Rose Show](#) is available at Amazon as a Kindle e-book for \$0.99)

I put the bloom off center whenever possible, rather than right in the middle of the image. This does add a feel of movement in the image.

I generally photograph these blooms on the bush, and I try to include a visible leaf or two for context.

Examples of “Open Bloom” Miniature Roses

FOLLOWING THE NEW ARS PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES, SINGLES AS WELL AS DOUBLES ARE INCLUDED HERE. MANY LOCAL SHOWS CONTINUE TO SEPARATE SINGLES INTO THEIR OWN CLASS. IN MY OPINION, SINGLES ARE MUCH EASIER TO PHOTOGRAPH, AND FOR THAT REASON ALONE I LIKE SEEING THEM HAVE THEIR OWN CLASS.

Miniature
Rose,
'Child's Play'



Miniature
Rose 'Petite
Perfection'



Miniature Rose, 'Cinnamon Delight'

Russet roses result from a combination of mauve and yellow genes. On close inspection, many 'Cinnamon Delight' blooms show that influence pretty clearly.



Miniature
Rose,
'Salute'



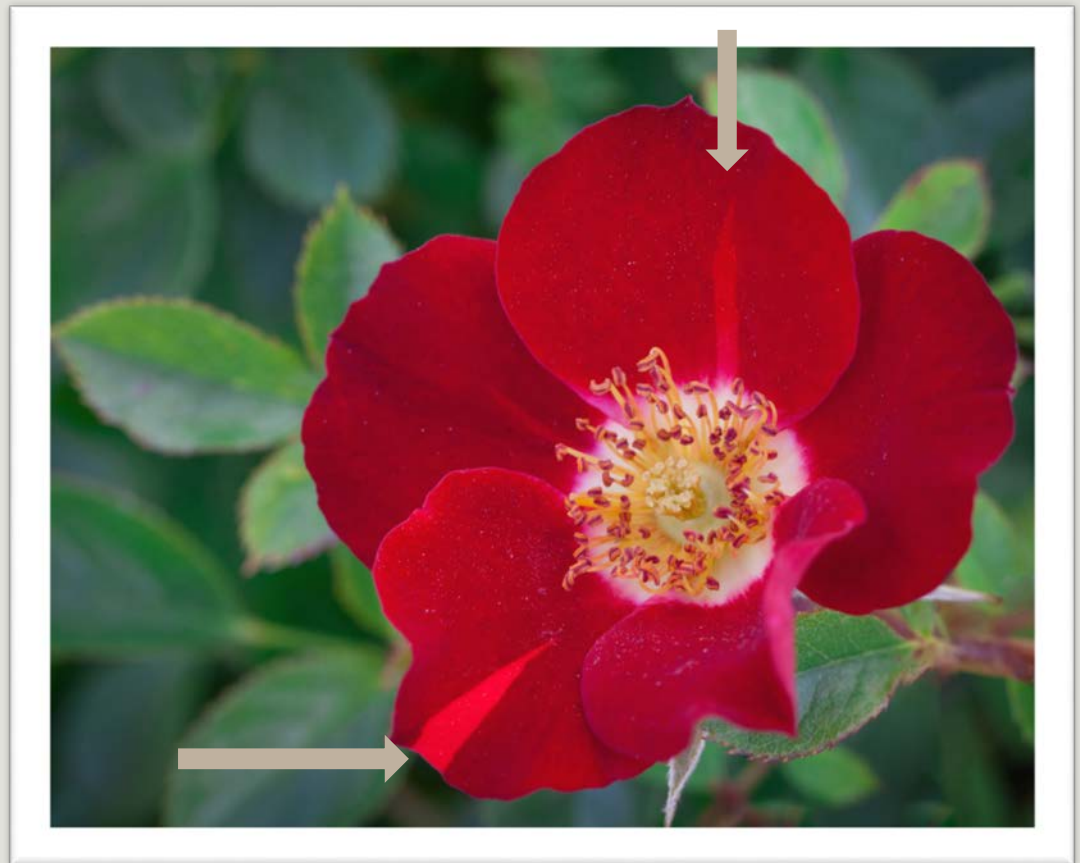
Miniature
Rose 'Bees
Knees'



Miniature Rose 'Yoyo'

This is my own registered
(2003) sport of 'Gizmo'

Note the orange stripes.



Miniature Rose 'Spring Fling'

Another sport of 'Gizmo,'
this one was registered in
2006.

It is not unusual to see
'Gizmo,' 'Yoyo,' and 'Spring
Fling' on the same bush. Be
aware of this and be sure to
name properly if you are
entering in an ARS show.

If it is solid red, it is 'Spring
Fling.'

If it has any orange at all, it
is 'Yoyo.'



‘Spring Fling,’ which Can Appear on the Same Plant at the Same Time.

‘YOYO’



‘SPRING FLING’



Consider How a Slight Change in Angle Gives a Different Feel to this Bloom

‘BULLSEYE’



‘SLIGHT ANGLE’



Examples of “Open Bloom” Floribundas

HAVE FUN EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT
ANGLES AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS

Floribunda 'Betty Boop'

This is a 'bullseye' shot.



How Many
Ways to
Photograph
'Betty Boop?'



'Betty Boop,' Fresh, with Stamens Showing

Which image do you find more visually appealing?

This image has a problem with harsh shadows, but I still find this presentation more beautiful than the first or second one.

The issue of how an image like this would be judged by ARS judges is a matter for discussion in the Photography Committee, probably for some time to come.

But, you'll have more fun if you allow yourself to experiment with some images away from 'bullseye,' even if you do not enter them in an ARS show.



‘Betty
Boop,’
Stamens
Showing



What About a Different View?

'Betty Boop' with stamens
showing.

This view, to my eye, is
much more interesting than
the straight-on "bullseye."

How would our ARS judges
judge an image like this in
an "open bloom" class? It is
a matter for discussion.

This is the only one of the
five 'Betty Boop' images
here that I would show to
photographer friends who
are not also rosarians.



Floribunda 'Fabulous!'

A bullseye shot showing the
stamens.



Climbing Floribunda, 'Dreamweaver'

Here you can begin to see why singles (4-8 petals) are much easier to photograph than many other fuller blooms. Here the ruffled petals are fresh, the stamens are fresh, but it will never have that wide-open fresh appearance of many of the singles.



Floribunda 'Chihuly'

This bloom of 'Chihuly'
again shows why it is hard to
compare singles with full
blooms in one "Fully Open,
Stamens Showing" Class.



Floribunda
'Marmalade
Skies'



Examples of “Open Bloom” Hybrid Tea Roses

I PERSONALLY CONSIDER THIS TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT CLASS TO PHOTOGRAPH! I SHOW THESE EXAMPLES TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO GIVE IT A TRY, AND THEN TEACH THE REST OF US!

Hybrid Tea
Rose,
'Gemini'



Hybrid Tea Rose, 'Veterans' Honor'

This is a rose that shows well fully open as a horticultural specimen in rose shows. I have always found it difficult to photograph without that 'tunnel' look.

This bloom was photographed cut, against a white background, in natural light on my back porch.



I Hope You Will Consider Photographing Your Roses This Year and Next

AND ENTERING THEM IN THE 2018 ARS NATIONAL
CONVENTION AND ROSE SHOW TO BE HELD IN
SAN DIEGO, OCTOBER 2018