



Best Series winner Aaron Macfarlane came up with this for "Wild Goose Chase."



Philip Wu's entry for "Panhandle" won Best Aesthetic for the competition.



Aaron Macfarlane went literal with his interpretation of the "Panhandle" theme.



Michael Lawrence's "High Hope" won Best Theme Interpretation.



Macfarlane's interpretation of "Blank" had the Olympic spirit.

Creative thinking wins photo marathon

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Most people, when asked to photograph the word "Tie," would head to the nearest menswear shop. Not Aaron Macfarlane. Macfarlane got a shot of two pedestrians and a black car reaching a crosswalk at exactly the same time.

It was that kind of outside-the-box thinking that earned Macfarlane the "Best Series" award at the inaugural 12x12 Vancouver Photo Marathon last month.

The contest saw 60 photographers spend 12 hours shooting 12 themes that were announced at the rate of one theme per hour. The catch? They were shooting on 35mm film and were allowed only one exposure per theme.

The themes, pulled out of a hat from a pool of about 50, included such ambiguous terms as "Nosy," "Blank," "Loud" and "Panhandle."

Other winners besides Macfarlane were Michael Lawrence, who interpreted "High Hopes" with a shot of a youngster looking longingly over the boards at a hockey rink to win Best Theme Interpretation; Jason Strelaef, whose photo of welders at work ("Loud") won Best Creative; and Philip Wu, whose beautiful shot above for the "Panhandle" theme won Best Aesthetic.

Raw Talent, an exhibit of contest photos, will be on display Saturday evening beginning at 6 p.m. at Vancouver Photo Workshops, 14 W. 7th Ave.