

Professional Photographers Guild of Houston Imaging Competition

This document is to serve as a guideline for the acceptance of entries, the judging of entries, and the selection of the ribbon winners at the regular PPGH monthly Image Competition & Annual Awards. The Image Competition Policy and Procedures document shall be applied to all qualified members' entries submitted for competition at each regularly scheduled Guild meeting. This does not include entries shown or displayed at a Guild meeting or as a Guild function not directly related to the competition.

PPGH strives to use the same rules that PPA uses for the IPC (International Photographic Competition) and the District Competitions. This gives you the opportunity to test your images at a local level before entering these larger competitions. These rules pertain to images entered as digital files created by traditional photographic processes as well as those captured electronically with a digital camera or scanner.

QUALIFYING MEETING

IMAGE Competition will be held monthly during general meetings or at the decision of the PPGH Board of Directors.

COST

The cost is \$6.00 per image, up to \$12.00 for a member's image submission of up to TWO images for each month entered. The image competition fee MUST be paid when registering your images online. Payment will NOT be accepted at the door.

Members must be registered, paid and present for the monthly meeting in order to receive any awards. Members can still enter the image competition for critiques even if they do not pay and stay at the meeting. However, those images will be disqualified for any awards.

NO Refunds or credits will be given if a member does not submit an image by the deadline.

MEMBER CLASSIFICATION

Any individual Active or (Aspiring/Student with Board approval) Member must be in good standing. Members may enter the competition in the appropriate *Status Group*: Master, Active, Aspiring, or Student.

Competition in the Master status is only open to PPA Degreed Master Photographers.

However, in the event a PPA degree is to be awarded after the first competition of the year, entrant must enter January's competition as a Master or Artist Photographer. Each member may submit up to two entries for each monthly competition. Member classification is as follows:

- Master – MAS
- Active – ACT
- Aspiring - ASP
- Student - STU

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

IMAGES:

1. No Image/Album which has scored an 80 or HIGHER at any State, District or International can be entered.
2. Any image submitted previously to PPGH, State, District or International which scored below an 80 and which has been significantly “re-worked” may be re-submitted.
3. Member agrees to allow PPGH to use image(s) in the PPGH Monthly Viewfinder, PPGH Website or other publications (digital or print) announcing the image winners for the month/year including a showcase book.
4. Members must have on file a model release from the “subject” if applicable.
5. Only digital files will be submitted for Image Competition. A member can only submit two (2) images per month.
6. Images CANNOT be of the same subject during the same month.
7. Images created as part of a class situation may not be entered at any time except by the instructor.
8. If a group is on a photo shoot, one individual from that group may enter that image. It is up to the integrity of the individuals as to which one will enter.
9. Images submitted of the same subject within the year; in order to be considered for Photographer of the Year, must be substantially different from any previously submitted image of that subject.
10. The method used to display images will be profiled/calibrated monitor. Your images should also be profiled/calibrated to the following specifications.
 - Imbedded Color Profile - sRGB or Adobe RGB 1998 (if unsure choose sRGB)
 - White Point – D65
 - Brightness – 12cd/m
 - Gamma – 2.2
11. Entries must be submitted online only through the designated location provided by PPGH. Currently members submit images via: www.printcompetition.com. You must go to the website and create an account.
12. **Deadline for uploading images is midnight on MONDAY prior to the meeting or at the discretion of the PPGH Board of Directors.** Payment must also be done online before deadline. Payment will NOT be accepted at the door. If the image has not been prepaid, image will be disqualified.
13. Maximum image file size is 7.5mb.
14. Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4,000 pixels (20 inches at 200 ppi)
15. Format: JPEG quality 10 (total file size must not exceed 7.5mb)
16. Members must be registered, paid and present for the monthly meeting to receive any awards. Members can still enter the competition for critiques even if they do not pay and stay at the meeting. However, those images will be disqualified for any awards.
17. MONTH of January ONLY: Any member who qualified in the previous year for their Masters Degree and will be receiving that award in January or February of the current year, must enter in the Masters Category.

DIGITAL ALBUM

1. All page/spread files must have the longest file dimension at 4,000 pixels (20 inches at 200 ppi), have an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10.
2. Each page/spread file may contain as many images as you desire.
3. If an image has been entered in an album it may not be entered as an individual image entry.
4. An entrant may not enter an individual image that was part of merited album at any time.
5. An entry may contain up to 36 page/spread files.
6. Files are to be numbered in viewing order using two digits (i.e., 01 jpg, 02 jpg, 03 jpg, etc.).
7. All individual files must be compressed into a single ZIP file. ZIP file must be named according to naming below.
8. Studio identification or entrant’s name cannot appear on any file within the album entry.

IMAGE CATEGORIES & SUB CATEGORIES

Images are placed into a category and sub-category for award purposes. Each image should be assigned a category and upon registration/sign-in at the meeting you will assign a sub-category to your image. Images not given a category or sub-category will be assigned one at the discretion of the print committee.

Category	Sub Category
Portrait	Portrait Child Woman Man Group Animal
Illustrative	Illustrative Scenic Animal
Wedding	Wedding Image
Commercial	Commercial Image
Digital Artist	Artist Image
Album	Album

CATEGORIES IN DETAIL

All images must be captured by the maker and not under the supervision of an instructor or at a paid training event. The only exception to this requirement is the Artist category where none of the images need to be captured by the maker.

- **Portrait Category** - Features people or animals in a studio or scenic setting. The Portrait category is sub-divided into 6 groups.
 1. **Portrait** – Images that do not fit into any one category below
 2. **Child** – Includes one or more pre-teen children
 3. **Woman** – Portraits of women
 4. **Man** – Portraits of men
 5. **Animals** – Portraits of animals that the creator wants judged with professional portraiture techniques in mind. Examples include studio settings, or nature settings with the emphasis of the image on the portrait of the animal.
 6. **Group** – Includes one or more children, adults, or animals, or any such combination.
- **Illustrative Category** – consists of scenic/landscapes, still life, sports, artistic images, nature, wild animals, and similar subject matter. Portraits and weddings are not appropriate for this category.
 1. **Illustrative** – Images that do not fit into any one category below
 2. **Scenic subcategory** – Scenic, landscapes, and similar images of nature
 3. **Animal** – Images of animals in nature that the creator does not want judged as a portrait
- **Wedding** – Bridal/groom portraits and wedding day images
- **Commercial** – Images of products, buildings, and architecture, where the purpose of the image is to sell the product or location to consumers
- 1. **Digital Artist** – (Formerly Electronic Imaging) Images created or enhanced by Electronic/Digital manipulation. Digital artist entries are judged on the artistic proficiency in digital imaging; composites, paintings, photo restorations, and other digital manipulations. The entrant must have performed all digital work on the entry. Directing the work is not sufficient to enter this category. Entries in the Artist category shall include any subject and must have Guide (“before”) images. They must be included on the submitted digital canvas to show the work that was done.

NOTE: Images created or enhanced by digital means do not have to be entered into the Digital Artist category, they can be entered into other subject appropriate categories but all the images within the image, must be captured by the maker.

The Digital Artist category is for the entrant who wants the image to be judged on the digital work that was done, not just the final image alone and none of the images have to be created by the maker only the final image.

- **Album** – Albums of weddings, events, or non-events.

MONTHLY IMAGE COMPETITION JUDGING

- Participants must sign in to qualify for the print competition. Member images must be signed in by the END of the Image Competition or they will not qualify for awards.
- All qualifying entries shall be judged by a panel of 4 judges (three primary judges and one alternate).
- Judges will be briefed before the judging and be given a copy of the 12 elements and the scoring ranking.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Each print will be judged using **The Twelve Elements of a Merit Image.**

The Twelve Elements listed below are in accordance to their importance.

1. **Impact** is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of these twelve elements.
2. **Technical excellence** is the print quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, printing, mounting, and correct color are some items that speak to the qualities of the physical print.
3. **Creativity** is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.
4. **Style** is defined in a number of ways as it applies to a creative image. It might be defined by a specific genre or simply be recognizable as the characteristics of how a specific artist applies light to a subject. It can impact an image in a positive manner when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other, or it can have a negative effect when they are at odds.
5. **Composition** is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image-maker.
6. **Presentation** affects an image by giving it a finished look. The mats and borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.
7. **Color Balance** supplies harmony to an image. An image, in which the tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect.
8. **Center of Interest** is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest, when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.
9. **Lighting** —the use and control of light—refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Whether the light applied to an image is manmade or natural, proper use of it should enhance an image.
10. **Subject Matter** should always be appropriate to the story being told in an image.
11. **Technique** is the approach used to create the image. Printing, lighting, posing, captures, presentation media, and more are part of the technique applied to an image.
12. **Story Telling** refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.

PRINT SCORING:

The following point system will be adhered to.

- 100-95 Exceptional
- 94-90 Superior
- 89-85 Excellent
- 84-80 Deserving of a Merit
- 79-75 Above Average
- 74-70 Average
- 69-65 Below Exhibition Standards

CHALLENGE

Any image which a judge scores 10 points from the average score will be an automatic challenge. A judge can challenge any image, which the final score is above or below that judges original score. When a challenge is presented the judges must speak to the 12 elements of the merit. They are asked not to just speak to the quality or technical aspects of the image.

HOW THE AWARDS ARE DETERMINED:

MONTHLY RIBBON WINNERS

- The Top 3 Images in each membership category scoring an 80 or higher will receive ribbons for Master (First, Second, Third), Active (First, Second, Third), Aspiring (First, Second, Third) and Student (First, Second and Third). In the event that no Student scores an 80 or above, the highest student score above a 75 will be recognized.
- Any tie will be broken using the decimal in scoring. In the event there is an exact tie, 2 ribbons shall be awarded for that place. In this instance there could be 4 or more ribbons based on exact tie.
- Any image scoring an 80 or above will receive a PPGH Merit* designation.
- Ribbon Color are: RED – Masters, BLUE – Active, WHITE – Aspiring & Students

*PPGH Merit designation is for local competition only and does not qualify for merits with Professional Photographers of America.

ANNUAL AWARDS:

In order to be considered for any year-end award(s), a member must be an active, current member and be a member in good standing.

SUB-CATEGORY AWARDS: Year End Awards in sub-categories for each of the Membership Classifications, Masters/Active will be awarded as follows: The image that has the highest score (an 80 or above) will determine the winner for each of the Membership Classifications sub categories. If there is not an image, which meets the above criteria, then no award will be given in that category. For example: Masters: Best Overall Portrait, Active: Best Overall Portrait, etc.

Category	Sub Category
Portrait	Best Portrait Best Portrait Child Best Portrait of a Woman Best Portrait of a Man Best Portrait of a Group Best Portrait of an Animal
Illustrative	Best Illustrative Best Scenic Animal
Wedding	Best Wedding Image
Commercial	Best Commercial Image
Digital Artist	Best Digital Artist Image
Album	Best Album

NOTE: Sub-Category Awards will not be awarded for Aspiring or Student – this is considered a full member benefit.

REQUIREMENT FOR DETERMINING THE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR:

There will be one photographer of the Year in both the Master & Active Membership category and will be judged using the following criteria

- Participant must enter at least 5 monthly meeting image competitions

- An image of the same subject, in order to be considered for Photographer of the Year, must be substantially different from any previously submitted image of that same subject. If the image is not substantially different, the image (of the same subject) with the lowest score will be eliminated from the calculation of the top 5 scoring images
- Participant must enter a minimum of 8 images in any category
- The top five (5) scoring images will be added together (no matter what the score)
- The individual with the highest cumulative score will receive Photographer of the Year.

IN THE CASE OF A TIE: The individual with the highest print score will be award Photographer of the Year. In the case of a tie for highest print score, the decimal system will be used to determine the winner.

NOTE: Photographer of the Year will not be awarded for Aspiring or Student – this is considered a full member benefit