

Professional Photographers of North Carolina

2021



PPNC Image Competition

Purpose: Image Competition provides an opportunity for photographers to have their work judged against PPA's 12 elements of a Merit Print by a jury of qualified judges in a completion setting. The work that is entered into Image Competition may also be formally critiqued by a judge after the competition has been completed. In 2022, the PPNC Image Competition will be held virtually.

Authority:

The entries will be judged by a panel of PPA-approved jurors and jurors-in-training.

Interpretation of the image competition rules are on the authority of the Image Competition Committee, with final responsibility resting on the Chair of the Image Competition Committee.

Entries that do not comply with these rules are subject to disqualification. The decision of the Image Competition Committee and its Chair are final.

Eligibility:

Anyone may enter.

Only Active PPNC members, who are in good standing from the time of entry submission until the awards are given, are eligible for awards.

General Rules:

1. Entry is limited to digital images only.
2. The entrant's name, studio name, or other identifying mark shall not appear in the submission.
3. Images that have been created under the direction of an instructor or as a class assignment are not allowed and will be subject to disqualification. All work must be self-directed.
4. Entries that have previously received a merit score of 80 or higher in a PPNC image competition are not eligible.
5. Entries of the same subject, model, or scene are eligible if there is a distinctly unique approach in each image.
6. The entrant must possess the appropriate model and property releases and hold PPNC harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of PPNC's display of submitted images.
7. Entries may not infringe on any copyrights or trademarks.
8. Entries may be in any combination of categories.

9. Prior to uploading images in any category, files must be sized at 4000 pixels on the longest dimension, be saved at a JPEG quality of 10, and contain an embedded color profile of sRGB or Adobe RGB1998.
10. Images will be submitted through printcompetition.com. The entrant must be a member of printcompetition.com at either level to upload images.
11. Albums should be prepared in a sequential layout with each page/spread numbered in viewing order. Each page/spread can contain any number of images. The entire album submission must be compressed into a .zip file before uploading through printcompetition.com. A minimum of five (5) and a maximum of 20 page/spreads will be accepted for each album.
12. Each entrant is allowed an unlimited number of entries. Case scores will be based on the entrant's top six (6) scores.

Uploading images

When uploading images to printcompetition.com, the entrant should make sure that they see a thumbnail of the image after the image upload has been processed. If no thumbnail appears after a second try, contact support@printcompetition.com for assistance. If an entrant uploads an updated version of an image, the thumbnail may not update immediately to reflect the change. This is normal.

Images that have been uploaded will not be considered to be entered until the entry fee is paid.

Critiques

A critique for any image that is entered can be ordered at the time of submission. The audio critique will be recorded by a qualified juror after the image competition is over. The option to order critiques will remain active for one week after the judging has been completed.

Fees

Early entry fee is \$20 per image. Early entries will be accepted until 11:00 PM on March 8, 2021.

Late entry fee is \$25 per image. Late entries will be accepted until 11:00 PM on March 15, 2021.

Critiques may be ordered for \$15 per image.

In years when the competition is held in-person, the deadline to have images printed by American Color Imaging (ACI), will be the same as the early deadline. In 2021, the PPNC Image Competition will be held virtually.

Categories

There are two (2) main categories: Photographic Open and Artist, with subcategories in each. Note that Albums are subcategories of Photographic Open.

1. In the Open categories, the entrant must have captured and/or created the original exposure(s). All elements contained in the image must have been created, composited, and manipulated by the entrant.
 - A note about Creative Open: Creative Open is not a category. It is a type of image presentation within the Photographic Open category. If an entry contains supporting elements that are not created by the maker (ex: digital backdrops or props), the non-maker elements must be represented by a guide image in the presentation or it may be disqualified.

Because every Creative Open entry must have guide images for the non-maker elements, the label of Creative Open ensures that the image is judged with the Photographic Open images and not with the Artist images.

2. In the Album subcategories, all page/spread files must conform to the constraints presented in General Rules.
 - Each page/Spread may contain as many images as the maker desires.
 - A minimum of five (5) page/spreads and a maximum of 20 page/spreads will be accepted.'
 - Files (page/spread) are to be numbered in viewing order.
 - All files/spreads must be compressed into .ZIP files in order to submit to printcompetition.com.
 - An album may not contain a previously-merited image or an image that is entered in the Photographic Open or Artist Categories of the current PPNC competition.
3. In the Artist category, in addition to being judged against the 12 Elements of a Merit Print, digital, artistic, and technical proficiency will also be considered. While the digital work must be done by the entrant, individual elements that have been created by someone else may be used, as long as the entrant has permission and the rights to use the elements.

***Words marked in yellow highlight need to be reviewed and updated each year.**

CATEGORIES

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN

A Creative Open image may be entered in any Photographic Open category. It doesn't have its own category.

Portrait- Subcategories: Images where the main center of interest is a living subject

- Children/Babies
- Men
- Women
- Groups
- Pets and Animals
- High School Senior
- Flower or Insect

Illustrative- Subcategories:

- Fine Art/Illustrative
- Scenic/ Landscape
- Commercial
- Photojournalism
- Wildlife

Wedding- Subcategories: Images must be from a commissioned/paid wedding.

- Non-wedding Day (wedding-related images such as bridal or groom portrait, engagement, trash the dress, etc.)
- Wedding Day

Album- Subcategories:

- Wedding
- Non-wedding

Nouveau- For first-time entrants only.

Entries may be in any category. This is an award category for those who have never entered any professional image competition.

Aspiring- For children of PPNC members.

Entries may be in any category or subcategory. The images should be made by the entrant, not the PPNC member. This is an award category for a child (ages 18 and under) of an active PPNC member. The active PPNC member must be in good standing from the time of entry submission until the awards are given.

ARTIST

Entries in the Artist category are digitally manipulated works, such as composites, digital paintings, and/or restorations. Every entry into the Artist category must have guide images for all of the elements in the image.

PPNC AWARDS

IMAGE CATEGORY AWARDS

First, Second and Third place awards are given in each subcategory or category, if there are no subcategories. Honorable Mention ribbons are optional.

Portrait subcategories:

- Children/Babies
- Men
- Women
- High School Seniors
- Groups
- Pets/Animals
- Flowers/Insects

Non-Portrait subcategories:

- Fine Art/Illustrative
- Scenic/Landscape
- Commercial
- Photojournalism
- Wildlife

Wedding subcategories:

- Wedding Day
- Not Wedding Day

Albums subcategories:

- Wedding- single maker
- Wedding- multi-maker
- Non-wedding- single maker
- Non-Wedding- multi-maker

Categories with no subcategories

- Artist
- Nouveau
- Aspiring

OPTIONAL, NON-CATEGORY AWARD

Lonely Tree Award

The Lonely Tree award is selected by the judges from all merited images in which the subject is a lonely tree.

ANNUAL, NON-CATEGORY AWARDS

ASP Award

The State Elite Award is to be presented to the ASP member in good standing for the highest scoring entry at his or her State Image Competition.

The recipient must also be a member in good standing of PPA and PPNC at the time of entry submission until the award is given.

CPP Award

The Certified Professional Photographer (CPP) Award is used to enhance the Affiliate State or Regional Competition. This award recognizes the highest scoring entry by a CPP.

Best of Show

This award represents the best of the best. The judges will select this award from the first place images from all of the categories and subcategories.

President's Award

This award is given to a PPNC member who has been a member for less than 2 years, has never entered a professional image competition, and has the highest case score (average score of their six (6) highest-scoring images.)

Photographer of the Year

The photographer of the Year award is given to the PPNC member with the highest case score (average score of their six (6) highest-scoring images). In case of a tie score (taken out to two (2) decimal places), both members will be named Photographer of the Year.

Monochrome Award

The judges will choose this award from all of the merited monochrome images entered, regardless of category or subcategory. Special consideration will be given to the result of the monochrome conversion and how well it works with the image.

PPNC Image Competition Scoring Categories

100 EXCEPTIONAL PLUS- Images in this category show an exceptional use of all skills and originality. Images in this category exhibit qualities that leave a long-lasting impression on the viewer. They often have elements of great story-telling and elicit deep emotion. This is the category where a judge gets goose bumps over and over.

95-99 EXCEPTIONAL- Images in this category should exhibit exceptional use of skills and/or originality, but may be missing some element that would take it to the next level. These images will often evoke great emotion or sense of awe and often give the judges goose bumps, but at the same time, there is some doubt or apprehension in a judge's mind about moving up to the next category.

90-94 SUPERIOR- Images in this category exhibit a superior use of photographic and processing skills. Images in this category should have lasting impact on the viewer. Images may or may not be original in concept, but show a high level of craftsmanship.

85-89 EXCELLENT- Images in this category exhibit all of the attributes of the Merit category and display additional elements that increase the impact of the image. These images often have the potential to go into a higher scoring category, but have an attribute that is holding the image back.

80-84 MERIT- Images in this category are free of photographic and post-processing faults. Work on this level should be capable of being judged a Merit image in most professional image competitions.

75-80 ABOVE AVERAGE- Images in this category often contain photographic or processing flaws and/or lack impact or a center of interest, which are easily pointed out by judges. These images have room for technical improvement as an entry in a professional image competition and have potential to move into the Merit category if the issues are addressed.

70-74 AVERAGE- Even though images in this category may be salable work, they often have deficiencies that are not correctable enough to move the image into higher categories. This category is meant to encourage the maker to work to improve their image competition skills and refine their preparation of images.