



# Professional Photographers of North Carolina

## 2024 Image Competition Rules

### **PPNC Image Competition**

The purpose of Image Competition is to provide an opportunity for photographers to have their work judged against PPA's 12 Elements of a Merit Image by a jury of qualified judges in a competition setting. The work that is entered into Image Competition may also be formally critiqued by a judge after the competition has been completed. In 2024, 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.

To be eligible for a member award, an Active member must have participated in at least one PPNC in-person event in the 12 months prior to the competition date. This includes, but is not limited to, Carolina Photo Expo; East Coast School; the annual awards dinner; Fall, Winter or Spring seminar; an Academy Class or a Shoot Social. In addition, Awardees must be Active PPNC members, who are in good standing from the time of entry submission until the awards are presented to the winners.

Non-member images that score 80 or above will be considered for the non-member award.

### **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, only if there is a distinctly unique approach in each image. These criteria apply to images created for all past and present PPNC competitions. The same model with a similar treatment cannot be entered in different years.
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](http://printcompetition.com). The entrant must be a member of [printcompetition.com](http://printcompetition.com) at either level to upload images.

11. In order to qualify for the ASP and/or CPP Award, the participant must have checked that box in the Achievements column on their profile page on [printcompetition.com](http://printcompetition.com).
12. 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. A minimum of five (5) and a maximum of 20 page/spreads will be accepted for each album. The entire album submission must be compressed into a .zip file before uploading through [printcompetition.com](http://printcompetition.com). Both the cover page and the .zip file will be uploaded with an album entry. An album may not contain a previously-merited image or an image that is entered into the current PPNC Image Competition.
13. Each entrant is allowed an unlimited number of entries, but it is recommended that the number of entries be limited to 12 per entrant. Case scores will be based on the entrant's top six (6) scores.

### **Uploading images**

When uploading images to [printcompetition.com](http://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](mailto: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 option to order critiques will remain active until 11 PM EDT on the day of judging. The audio critique will be recorded by a qualified juror after the image competition is over.

### **Fees**

Early entry fee is \$20 per image. Early entries will be accepted until 11:00 PM EDT on May 15, 2024.

Late entry fee is \$25 per image. Late entries will be accepted until 11:00 PM EDT on May 29, 2024.

Critiques may be ordered for \$15 per image until June 1, 2024 until 11:00 PM EDT.

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 2024, the PPNC Image Competition will be held virtually.

### **Categories**

There are two (2) main categories: Photographic Open and Artist. Several categories have subcategories. Note that non-wedding albums are entered into in the Fine Art/Illustrative category and wedding albums are entered into the Wedding category.

Creative Open is not a category. The term refers to an image presentation within the Photographic Open category that uses elements that they did not create. (ex: digital or AI-generated backdrops or photos of props). The non-maker elements must be represented by a guide image in the presentation or it may be disqualified. Elements created by the maker must not be included in the guide images. This ensures that the image is judged with Photographic Open categories and not in the Artist category.

1. In the Photographic 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. Non-maker support elements may be used and must be referenced as a guide image in the presentation.
2. In the Artist category, in addition to being judged against the 12 Elements of a Merit Print, the level of artistic and technical proficiency will also be considered. Guide images for each of the elements in the image must be provided in the presentation. The strength and success of the transition from the original guide images to the finished work is an important consideration. 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.

3. AI-generated images are not allowed. No entry in any category can be created in part or whole using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology software that is intended to create whole images, entirely from programmed images. An AI-generated background must be included as a guide image. A human must have had creative control over the work's expression. Images and their elements must be created with traditional elements of authorship.

### **PPNC IMAGE COMPETITION CATEGORIES**

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

All entries in all categories except Photojournalism and Artist are randomized into one pool for judging. The juror panel does not know which category an image is entered into for the initial judging. The images are grouped into categories for head-to-head award judging.

Photojournalism and Artist categories are judged separately.

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN**

**Portrait** (*Images where the main center of interest is a person or animal.*)

Children/Babies (*birth to 16 years old*)

High School Senior (*16 to 18 years old*)

Adult (*over 18 years old*)

Groups (*two or more subjects*)

Pets and Animals (*Taken in a studio or outdoor environment where the owner or photographer controls the animal*)

**Fine Art/Illustrative** (*Still life and other images that do not fit into Scenic/Landscape, Wildlife, Commercial, Wedding. Non-wedding albums should be entered into this category.*)

**Scenic/Landscape** (*Can be broad landscapes, cityscapes or more intimate nature settings*)

**Commercial** (*Advertising, industry and architectural images*)

**Wildlife** (*Wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting environment and zoo animals.*)

**Wedding** (*Images must be from a commissioned/paid wedding. Submissions may include wedding day, non-wedding day and wedding albums.*)

**Rising Star** (*First-time entrants who have not entered a prior professional image competition may choose to enter this category. Images within this category will be judged only against other Rising Star category images for awards. Entries may be of any type that would fit into other competition categories listed on this page.*)

**Photojournalism** (*Images that have high impact and illustrate an actual event (public or non-public), a slice of life, an area of human interest or a sporting event are included in this category. There should be meaning in the context of the events or provide a lasting emotional response. Only white balance and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging, and burning in are allowed. Only single-capture images will be accepted. Composite and multiple exposure images will not be accepted. The originally captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the committee.*)

**ARTIST** (*Entries in the Artist category are digitally manipulated works, such as composites, digital paintings, and/or restorations. Guide images for each of the elements in the image must be provided in the presentation of every entry into the Artist category. Restorations should have guide images that show the original image and two frames that show the progress of the restoration.*)

**PPNC AWARDS**

First, Second and Third place awards are given in each subcategory or category (if the category has no subcategories.) Honorable Mentions are optional.

CATEGORY	Judging
<b>PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN *</b>	
<b>Portrait subcategories:</b>	
Children/Babies	Head-to-head
Adult	Head-to-head
High School Seniors	Head-to-head
Groups	Head-to-head
Pets/Animals	Head-to-head
<b>Fine Art/Illustrative</b>	Head-to-head
<b>Scenic/Landscape</b>	Head-to-head
<b>Commercial</b>	Head-to-head
<b>Wildlife</b>	Head-to-head
<b>Wedding</b>	Head-to-head
<b>Rising Star</b>	Head-to-head
<b>Photojournalism</b>	Head-to-head
<b>ARTIST *</b>	Head-to-head
<b>Judges Choice Award-</b> Each judge chooses one non-awarded merit image.	Head-to-head
<b>100 Award-</b> Given to an image that scores 100.	Score
<b>ASP Award-</b> The ASP State Elite Award is to be presented to the ASP member in good standing in NC for the highest scoring entry	Score
<b>CPP Award-</b> This award recognizes the highest scoring entry by a current CPP.	Score
<b>Animal Image Makers Award</b> This is to the highest scoring image in the Pets/Animals category.	Score
<b>Non-member Award-</b> Selected from merited non-member submissions	Head-to-head
<b>Monochrome Award-</b> Selected from all of the merited monochrome images, 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.	Head-to-head
<b>Lonely Tree Award-</b> The subject must be a lonely tree (not necessarily a lone tree.)	Head-to-head
<b>What the Fudge Creativity Award-</b> Selected from those merited images that make the judges wonder ‘What the Fudge’ is this?	Head-to-head
<b>Achievement pins-</b> Must have submitted a full case (6 images). 4/6 merited = bronze; 5/6 merited = silver; 6/6 merited = gold.	Number of merited images per case
<b>President’s Award-</b> This award is given to a PPNC member who has been a member for less than 4 years, has never entered a professional image competition, and has the highest case score (average score of their six (6) highest-scoring images.)	Score
<b>Best of Show-</b> Judged from first place images from each category/subcategory.	Head-to-head
<b>Member Photographer of the Year-</b> Top 5 cases are evaluated on breadth, depth, technical excellence and execution.	Head-to-head

\* First, Second and Third place awards are given in these subcategories or categories. Honorable Mentions are optional.