

PPC Member-at-Large Quarterly Image Competition

The purpose of this competition is to allow PPC ***Members-at-Large*** the opportunity to enter quarterly image competitions judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. This will allow the MAL's to have their work judged by panels that have gone through the Image Judging Academy in order to prepare them for State and regional competition put on by the Professional Photographers of California and Professional Photographers of America. No PPC or PPA merits will be given during these competitions. *The winner of the yearly competition will be the highest combined total scores of the quarterly contests. The winner will receive a certificate to West Coast School to be used the following year and is open to Members-at-Large only, however, Affiliated PPC members can participate in the competition but are not eligible for awards.*

The competitions will run every quarter (4 times a year), will be judged by a panel of three PPC or PPA qualified judges. We will use PrintCompetition.com to run the contest and will use Zoom to view the competition and judges will comment on every image in the contest so the maker can hear how the judge or judges would improve the image for higher competition.

These rules pertain to images entered as digital files created by traditional photographic processes, those captured electronically with a digital camera or scanner, as well as those created digitally:

1. All entries must be registered through PrintCompetition.com.
2. Entrants may only submit digital files for judging.
3. Entrants are required to upload a digital file for each image entered. Limited to 4 entries.
4. No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.
5. Entrants must be PPC member affiliated members may not enter.
6. Entries previously merited at any PPC State Photographic Image Competition, Affiliate competition or Professional Photographers

of America (PPA) International Photographic Competition (IPC) are not eligible, including any image from a merited album.

ELIGIBILITY

1. No entry will be eligible if it has been made under the supervision of an instructor or as a class assignment. All images submitted must be self-directed. Images created in an educational environment under direct supervision from an instructor are ineligible.
2. Entrant must have captured and created original exposure or exposures. Any entry which has been generated from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic, or any other artwork generated by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be judged, accepted, or displayed.
3. All processing, manipulation, and rendering, must be by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
4. The entrant must have obtained and have access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agree to hold PPC harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of PPC's display, publication, and promotion or other use of each image submitted to PPC.
5. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts.
6. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the PPC Board violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law and cannot be proven otherwise, that entry shall be disqualified.
7. The entrant's name or studio identification shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
8. A maximum of four (4) entries may be submitted per entrant.
9. Once an entry has been awarded an exhibition merit in any category of PPC or PPA competition, it may not be entered again in any other category, at any time, by any entrant. No entry that receives a merit may be entered more than once under any condition, including any image from a merited album.

REGISTRATION

Registration will open Friday (two weeks prior) to the competition and will close the following Sunday at midnight.

Register at PrintCompetition.com. Membership for PrintCompetition.com is required for registration; membership is good for one year, and it covers all photographic associations that run image competition using the platform.

CATEGORY DESIGNATION

You must designate one of the categories below for each entry.

Commercial

Illustrative

Landscape

Nature

Digital/Electronic Imaging

Reportage

Animal

Portrait

Wedding

DIGITAL SUBMISSION

1. Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB (1998) and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, the total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary as long as they are JPG/10.
2. Files will be automatically named and numbered by the PrintCompetition.com website.
3. The fee for entering the contest is \$15.00 per image with a four (4) image limit.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

1. Commercial - Industrial, architecture, tabletop, advertising, stock and aerial images. The maker may upload a “tear-sheet” to the PrintCompetition.com website for the judges to see how the image was used.
2. Illustrative - Images representing an alternative type of creativity, photography, and/or not meeting the requirements of any other categories.
3. Landscape - Images of landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes and nightcaps being the dominant subject. People can appear in the image.
4. Nature - Images where the flora and/or fauna are the dominate subject, and no man-made objects are visible. Domesticated animals and in-house plants are not considered nature and may be entered into Portrait or Illustrative categories where appropriate.
5. Reportage - Image captured at the peak of action and telling a story. Nothing may be altered. Minor dodging, burning, dust spot removal, curves adjustment, and conversion to black-and-white are the only treatments allowed. The maker must be prepared to submit the original file at any point for verification.
6. Portrait - Images that portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s). E.g. children, families, high school seniors, animals, groups, couples, models, and fashion portraits, in addition to tastefully artistic figure studies.
7. Animal - Images of animal(s), wild or domesticated, with or without their human companions. Man-made objects are permitted.
8. Wedding - Images created in connection with an actual wedding or related social events. Include Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Quinceaneras.
9. Digital/Electronic Imaging - One final image comprised of multiple photographic images, digitally manipulated using computer software. Source files must be included as thumbnails beneath the fine image. If a source files contain stock photography, proof of purchase or copyright release from the original artist may be requested by the Image Competition Chair. Images that have painterly qualities or use strong filter effects, heavy digital manipulations, or other special effects belong in this category.

SCORING

Entries will be scored as follows:

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

12 Elements of a Merit Image:

1. Impact
2. Technical Excellence
3. Creativity
4. Style
5. Composition
6. Presentation
7. Color Balance
8. Center of Interest
9. Lighting
10. Subject Matter
11. Technique
12. Story Telling

ELIGIBILITY - PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

1. Entered at least three (3) of four (4) total Quarterly Image Competitions throughout the current competition year.
2. Entered and merited at least (3) times in a specific category to win a Best-in-category-Award.

3. The award is given based on the highest aggregate score awarded for each image in a given category as follows:
 - A. 80 - 84 - 1 point
 - B. 85 - 90 - 1.25 point
 - C. 90 + - 1.5 point
 - D. Best in Category winner - additional 0.5 point
 - E. Best in Show Winner - additional 1 point
4. If there is a tie between two or more photographers in any category the photographer with the highest scoring image will be the winner of that category.
5. The award is given only if there are five (5) or more image entries competition in the particular classification throughout the year.
6. If needed, the tiebreaker will be the highest single score in any category, number of Best-In-Show awards, number of Best in Category awards.
7. Awards will be awarded two weeks after the last quarterly image competition.