

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS of MICHIGAN

A Michigan Nonprofit Corporation



Annual Image Competition Rules

Updated October 16, 2023

Section 1 - Competition Rules & Guidelines

1. The PPofMI Annual Image Competition will be held on a date prior to the PPofMI Annual Convention.
2. Deadline for entries will be 24 hours before the start of the Image Competition.
3. Members must be current on their membership dues at the time of submission to enter members-only competitions.
4. Submissions from members not current on their annual dues will be judged in non member Annual Open Image Competition and will not be eligible for any PPofMi awards.
5. All entrants may enter an unlimited number of images.

CATEGORIES

PORTRAIT - Images can portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s). Wedding images not shot on the day of a wedding event are included in this category.

ILLUSTRATIVE – Capturing the beauty of nature, wildlife, industry, and architectural areas are considered illustrative.

Landscape/Nature - This description shares joy and adventures while expressing a sense of place. Flowers, seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets with or without people can be placed here.

Illustrative /Commercial - This is used when images are created for a commercial client to advertise a product and promote a brand or company. This can be an interior or exterior of a structure or within an industrial environment.

Illustrative can also be conceptual images that tell a story.

ANIMAL - This category captures an animal(s) portrait using structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment, where the owner or photographer controls the animal, wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting environment and zoo animals.

WEDDING - Images can portray a subject or subjects from all aspects of a wedding including traditional portraits, candid or detail work. **Images taken in this category are taken during the actual wedding event.**

REPORTAGE /PHOTOJOURNALISM - Images that illustrate an actual public or non-public event, life, an area of human interest, telling news that have meaning on the context or record of events, high impact and/or lasting emotional response. Images that illustrate sporting events are included in this category. ONLY basic color 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 original captured image (in RAW or JPG) must be available at the time of entry.

ALBUMS -

Single Maker Album – Multiple images combined into an album collection from one maker.

Multi-Maker Album - Multiple images combined into an album collection from two makers, with a minimum of 20 images per entrant. Each Entrant must individually enter the competition and pay appropriate entry fees. Multi-Maker Albums will be judged as one entry.

ARTIST - Work to demonstrate art skills and expertise. Entries will be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency. Entries can be created using digital or traditional art (such as painting and airbrush) or a combination of both.

NEXT GENERATION - (17 and under) - This is designed for friends and family who are under the age of seventeen and have the sponsorship of an active PPofMI Member. See rules and entry form to participate.

WORKSHOP - Images in this category are created during a workshop using techniques provided by an instructor. Images in this category are only eligible for **Best of Show Workshop award.**

MENTOR - Entries in this category allows experienced PPofMI Members to support image competition without award recognition still providing scoring information for entries.

ELIGIBILITY

Judging is on an individual basis, based on PPA standards.

NOTE: Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification of the entry.

1. Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4,000 pixels. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB.
2. Files are to be uploaded to www.printcompetition.com.
3. The image must not include any identifying marks of the image maker on the image.
4. All entries must have a title.
5. A registration fee must accompany each entry.
6. Entries must be registered and submitted by the deadline listed for each competition.
7. Entrants must have captured and created the original exposure except in the Digital Artist category. Digital Artist entries may be created with images not captured by the entrant (such as stock photography), but the entrant must do all artwork and have rights to use the image. Digital Artist entries require the maker to provide guide prints on the face of the finished image.
8. All processing, manipulation and printing or rendering, were done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
9. If multiple entries from one maker utilize the same subject, the entries must be completely different in theme, location, and clothing. Images with the same subjects that do not differentiate themselves enough from one is subject to disqualification.
10. Images entered in the Reportage / Photojournalism category must be without retouching except for conversion to black and white, and any other technique that would be capable in a dark room such as dodging and burning. Any other retouching beyond these limits will result in disqualification. The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the committee.

ENTRIES NOT ALLOWED:

- a. Images that previously merited in any Annual PPofMI image competition may not be entered.
- b. Images previously merited/awarded in Professional Photographers of America hosted image competitions and/or merit reviews may not be entered, including images from an album, **except for images merited/awarded within the 365 days prior to the PPofMI Annual Image Competition.**
- c. No entry shall be eligible if the image was created under the direct supervision, or immediate guidance of an instructor. **Except entries in the WORKSHOP category.**
- d. No single image from any merited album may be entered as a stand alone image in any PPofMI competition.
- e. Any entry that has been reproduced from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic or any other artwork produced by another person or Artificial Intelligence is a violation of the competition rules and will not be judged, accepted, or displayed. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the competition committee, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall be disqualified. Digital Artist and entries *may* use images that were produced by other artists with that artist's permission.

VIEWING CONDITIONS FOR IMAGE REVIEW

Digital Files: Monitor Settings, D65, 120 cd/m², 2.20 gamma. Vertical images will be viewed on a horizontal monitor.

DIGITAL IMAGE ENTRIES

- a. Files must be sized, so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of sRGB and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, the total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB.
- b. Files are to be named as *ImagePrintTitle.jpg* - No underscores or special characters.

DIGITAL ALBUM ENTRIES

- a. All page/spread files must have the longest file dimension at 4000 pixels, have an embedded color profile of sRGB, and saved as a JPEG quality setting of 10.
- b. Each page/spread file may contain as many images as you desire.
- c. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 pages/spread files up to a maximum 36 pages/spread files.
- d. Files are to be numbered in viewing order using two digits. Example: *01.jpg, 02.jpg, 03.jpg*, etc.
- e. All individual files must be compressed into a single ZIP file. ZIP file must be named: *Album Title.zip* (e.g., *Summer Wedding.zip*).
- f. Studio identification or entrant's name cannot appear on any file within the album entry.
- g. MULTI-MAKER ALBUM: Images in the album must be the work of two entrants, with a minimum of 20 images per entrant. Each entrant must individually enter the competition and pay appropriate entry fees. Multi-maker albums will be judged as one entry. Each entrant must use the same title when entering a multi-maker album.

SUBMISSION EVALUATION

Images are evaluated using PPA guidelines and judged according to [The 12 Elements of a PPA Merit Image](#):

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

Submissions will be evaluated according to judges score method:

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

Section 2 - Annual Open Image Competition (non PPofMI Members)

- The Annual Open Image Competition adheres to all rules and guidelines set forth in Section 1.
- The Annual Open Image Competition is open to any photographic or digital artist. Membership in PPofMI is not required for entry, however, membership is required for award eligibility.

Section 3 – Annual Image Competition Awards Image Competition

AWARDS CRITERIA

- Presented annually at PPofMI PhotoMax Convention.
- Must be a PPofMI member to win awards in the Annual Image Competition.
- Participant in Annual Image Competition.
- Image must be deserving of a merit to be eligible for awards/trophies.
- Awards are decided by judges at the conclusion of the Annual Image Competition.

AWARDS

Awards given for participation in Annual Image Competition are as follows:

- PPofMI Michigan Photographer of the Year (**top 4 images by score**)
- PPofMI Award of Excellence (**top 4 images by score**)
- PPofMI Award of Merit (**top 4 images by score**)
- PPofMI Top 10 Photographer (**top Four Entries must total at least 310 Points by score**)
- PPofMI Master Artist of the Year (**top 4 images by score in the artist category**)
- PPofMI “4 for 4” pin. (**Must designate which four images are to be scored for “4 for 4” all deserving of a merit**)
- Highest scoring first time entry (**judged by score**)
- Highest scoring entry (**judged by score**)
- "Top Animal Image in Competition" (AIM) (**judged by highest score in Animal Category**)
- "CPP Award" (**judged by highest scoring PPA Certified Professional Photographer in the state of Michigan**)
- "ASP State Elite Award" (**judged by highest scoring ASP member registered in the state of Michigan**)
- Best-of-show Album (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show Portrait (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show High School Senior Portrait (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show Family Portrait (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show Children Portrait (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show Wedding / Event (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show Illustrative (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show Black and White (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-show Reportage (**judges selection**)
- Best-of-Show Workshop (**judges selection**)
- Best of Show Artist (**judges selection in the artist category**)
- Best of Show – Next Generation (**judges selection**)
- PPofMI Court of Honor (**One is given for every 10 images per category. Entries must be deserving of a merit or at the discretion of the Competition Chairperson**)
- Barry Rankin Memorial Award – **Judge’s choice for Best Environmental Portrait**
- Steven Kahn Memorial Award – **Judge’s Choice for Excellence in the Illustrative Category**

Tie Breakers for Items 1-5: In the event of a tie for these awards the winner will be decided by the score for top single image. In the event of a tie after the first tie breaker the winner will be decided by anonymous vote of competition judges.