



## 2025 WPPA Image Judging and More - Competition Rules

- Judging will be held on **Sunday, April 13, 2025** at 9:00 a.m.(central time).
- Registration opens on **February 24, 2025**.registration takes place at: [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com).
- Entry Deadline is 5p.m. (Central Time) on Saturday, **April 12, 2025**.
- Make sure you Read and Understand the 2025 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules before you enter this competition.

### **WPPA Image Judging and More**

The purpose of this judging and competition is to allow photographers to enter digital files to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. (For more information concerning the twelve elements, go to [PPA 12 Elements of a Merit Image](#).)

The WPPA Image Judging and More are designed to further your education in the areas of technical excellence and understanding of an exceptional image that may set you apart from other photographers.

**Scoring Scale** – Images entered into the WPPA Image Judging and More can receive scores up to 100 points, dependent on how they meet the Elements of a Merit Image.

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| 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     |

**Discussions** - Entrants that order the Discussion Fee will have all of their images talked about and recorded.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION (Read before proceeding to category rules.)**

#### **WPPA is holding THREE competitions.**

- **Photographic Open Competition**
- **Artist Competition**
- **Senior Folio Competition**

**Everyone** is encouraged to enter.

**Everyone** is eligible to win the Sponsored Awards (ONLY 1 Sponsored Award is allowed per Maker.)

- **WPPA Members** are eligible to win the WPPA State Awards.



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- You must have **renewed your 2025 Membership or Joined WPPA BEFORE you enter the 2025 Image Judging and More.** (See membership application for more information on becoming a WPPA member.)
  
- You may enter unlimited entries in each of the three competitions.
- **Entry fee: \$15** per individual entry.
- **Discussion Fee: \$36 for image discussion.**
  - Makers that order the Discussion Fee will have all of their images talked about and recorded.
    - This takes place the day of the judging.
    - One fee for all of the images that you have entered into any of the competitions
    - After your score is announced a juror will be assigned to discuss your image.
    - If your image was challenged this counts as the discussion and that recording will be uploaded to printcompetition.com
      - Make sure you are a Premium Member of [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com), this enables you to listen to not only your recordings but to go into other image competition entries and learn from those.
      - Please allow 2 weeks following the completion of the competition for the upload of the discussions to [printcompetition.com](http://printcompetition.com).
  
- Entries include any combination of digital entries and digital album entries.

## **General Rules** (Read before proceeding to category rules.)

These rules pertain to all three competitions.

1. All entries must be registered at [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com). There is a separate fee payable to PrintCompetition for use of their service.
2. Entrants may only submit digital images for judging.
3. You may enter unlimited images in each competition.
4. A minimum of 4 entries may be required to be considered for top awards in each competition (see Sponsored and WPPA Awards Rules).
5. No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.
6. **Eligible images that CAN be entered into WPPA Image Judging and More:**
  - a. Images that have received a Merit or Imaging Excellence score in Merit Image Review (MIR).
  - b. Images that were entered into IPC, but did not received a TOP 32 designation.
  - c. Images that were entered into Round 2 of ASP Images of Distinction and Scored 84 or lower.



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- d. Fresh images that have not yet been entered into a competition.
  - e. Images that have been entered into a previous WPPA Image Judging and More that have not received a score of 80 or higher.
  - f. Images from other image competitions, except those excluded below.
- 7. Image that are NOT eligible to be entered into WPPA Image Judging and More:**
- a. Images that have been selected for the **World Cup Competition**.
  - b. Images that have received a **TOP 32 designation in any PPA IPC Category**.
  - c. Images that were entered into **Round 2 of ASP Images of Distinction** and Scored 85 or Higher. (Images that scored 85 or higher are not eligible to be entered, they are included in the ASP Best of the Best Video and the IOD Book and are in the public eye.)
  - d. Images that have received a WPPA State Award.
  - e. Images that have received an 80 or higher in any WPPA Competition.
8. **AI STATEMENT:** No entry in any category can be created in part or whole using text-to-image prompts that use Artificial Intelligence (AI) image-generating technology software that is intended to create whole images and backgrounds entirely from programmed images. A human must have had creative control over the work's expression. Images and their elements must be created with traditional elements of authorship. However, non-text-to-image prompted elements (such as Photoshop's automations like generative expand) may be used in image creation. Images that are determined to violate the AI statement above will be disqualified. AI Images that are disqualified are not eligible to receive a score and cannot be entered into another WPPA competition. If the disqualification is determined after a score has been given, that image will have the score voided and will not be eligible for awards or inclusion in any WPPA digital or printed material.

## **Digital Submission Specifications**

- Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 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, the total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary so long as they are JPG/10.
- Files are to be named, use the title of the image only.

### **Viewing Conditions for Image Review**

This is for your information only. For Color management help see the video tutorial that is on [PPA.com/IPC\\_tutorials](http://PPA.com/IPC_tutorials)

- Digital Files: Monitor Setting, D65, 120 cd/m<sup>2</sup>, 2.20gama.



## **Digital Album Entry**

Digital Album Entry See Video Tutorial: [PPA.com/IPC\\_tutorials](http://PPA.com/IPC_tutorials)

### **All albums must be submitted in digital form.**

1. All page/spread files must have the longest file dimension at 4000 pixels, have an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998, and saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10.
2. Each page/spread file may contain as many images as you desire.
3. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 page/spread files up to 36 page/spread files.
4. Files are to be numbered in viewing order using two digits, i.e. 01 jpg, 02 jpg, 03 jpg, etc.
5. All individual files must be compressed into a single ZIP file. ZIP file must be named: Album Title.zip (e.g. Summer Wedding.zip).
6. Studio identification or entrant's name cannot appear on any file within the album entry.
7. Each entrant must use the same title when entering a multi-maker album.

### **Final Note**

Thank you for entering the WPPA Image Competition.

- The Image Competition Committee has the right to move an image to a different competition/category/sub-category if they feel it has not been put into a proper competition/category/sub-category by the maker/entrant.
- Any decisions of the WPPA Image Competition Committee are final.



## **PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN COMPETITION RULES**

1. The Photographic Open Competition exists to show the photographic knowledge and skill set of the maker. However, a maker can use supporting photographic elements that they did not create provided those elements are referenced as guide images on the face of the entry. This includes sky replacement. The original photographic capture by the entrant should be merit-worthy independent of the work that was not their own. Elements created by the maker must not be a part of the guide images. This rule also applies to images within and album entry. This competition is for all images and albums where the entrant is responsible for creating the images of the primary subject(s) of the final entry. See additional rules for categories such as Wedding Competition Rules and Reportage.
2. All processing, manipulation, and printing or rendering were done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
3. The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold WPPA harmless against all claims and liabilities arising from any WPPA display, publication, promotion, or other use of each image submitted to WPPA's image judging and more.
4. The entrant's name, initials, business logo, watermark, or other identifying features shall not appear anywhere in the entry.
5. 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.
6. Any entry that has been created from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic, or any other artwork produced by another person 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 WPPA Image Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published. Furthermore, this image will also be disqualified from consideration for awards selection and will not be awarded points toward the WPPA Fellowship Degree.
7. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed if the images are entirely different concepts. If entries of the same subject do not have entirely different concepts, only one of the same-subject images will be accepted into the competition. The other same-subject image(s) will be disqualified. The WPPA Image Competition Committee will make every effort to monitor entries and notify the maker of same-subject images prior to the registration deadline. If the same-subject images are not identified prior to the registration deadline, the image that appears first in the maker's entry list on [printcompetition.com](http://printcompetition.com) will be accepted and any other same-subject images that are not entirely different concepts will be disqualified. If the disqualification is determined after a score has been given, that image will have the score voided and will not be eligible for awards or inclusion in any WPPA digital or printed material. The Folio Competition is the exception. Please see the Folio Competition Rules for clarification. The WPPA Image Competition Chair has the authority to disqualify images under this provision.
8. Images not of acceptable WPPA exhibition content will be judged but may not be displayed. The decision of acceptable content will be based on the standards set by the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and will be at the discretion of the WPPA Image Competition Committee.



## **PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN CATEGORIES & SUB-CATEGORIES**

You must designate one of the below categories/sub-categories for each entry:

**PORTRAIT** - Consists of Natural Portrait Images using structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment. They can portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s).

- Portrait Sub-Categories:
  - General Portrait – Includes Families, groups, adults, couples, fashion, boudoir.
  - Children/Baby – 0 to 16 years
  - Couple – Non-Wedding
  - High School Senior – Actual Client Work
  - Animal – Animal portrait using structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment. The owner or the photographer is in control of the animal and lighting.

**ILLUSTRATIVE** - Consists of pictorials, abstracts, composites, digital paintings, flowers, plants, trees, macro, zoo animals and similar subject matter.

- Illustrative Sub-Categories:
  - Composite
  - Digital Painting
  - Nature
  - Illustrative Portrait - Images where styling, creative photo techniques, extensive makeup or props are allowed. Postproduction techniques are encouraged and may be an essential part of the final story in the photograph. Entries in this category would include images that have been highly manipulated or stylized.
  - Illustrative Open – Compositing landscapes, wildlife, astrophotography and anything else that does not fall into any other Illustrative Sub-Category.
  - Album - consist of non-wedding, social events, such as bar mitzvahs, etc., or albums of portraits and other storytelling albums.

**LANDSCAPE** - This category is for photography that is devoted to displaying natural elements such as landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes, aerial, and astrophotography. This category includes Image Stitching, Focus Stacking, and Image Stacking.

- Landscape Sub-Categories:
  - Drone/Aerial
  - Astrophotography
  - Landscapes

**WILDLIFE** - Images of wildlife in a natural habitat. This category is not for composites.

- Wildlife Sub-Categories:
  - Birds
  - Animals
  - Reptiles
  - Insects



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**COMMERCIAL** - Images with an intended use by a commercial client to promote or brand a product or company. Advertising, fashion, beauty, still life, food, architecture, corporate photography is all included in this category. Composite and non-composite images, light painted, and highly manipulated images.

- Commercial Sub-Categories:
  - Food
  - Fashion/Beauty
  - Architecture
  - Commercial Open

**REPORTAGE** - Images that illustrate an actual public or non-public event, life, an area of human interest, news stories 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 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 JPEG) must be available if requested by the committee.

- Reportage Sub-Categories:
  - Reportage Open

**WEDDING** - The Wedding Category is for all images and albums created by the entrant under the time constraints of an actual wedding event. Jurors will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects of a wedding, including the subject matter, environment, and time of day. Images should include some kind of visual wedding reference(s).

- Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
- All images and all elements of an image must have been made during the course of an actual wedding event. Images not created during the time constraints of an actual event (such as engagement or bridal portraits) must be entered in a different competition.
- Wedding Sub-Categories:
  - Wedding Day Open - Images eligible in the Wedding Open category must be created during the time constraints of the actual event.
  - Wedding Day Album - All images included in the Wedding Album must be created during the time constraints of the actual wedding event. You may enter as a single maker or a multi-maker; (2) photographers creating a minimum of twenty images each from the same wedding. Please Note: Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification of the entry.



## **ARTIST COMPETITION RULES**

The Artist Competition allows the entrant to demonstrate their art skills and expertise in the creation of an image made from one or more sources. The maker is not required to have photographed any of the source images. Entries will be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency.

1. Entries may be created in various artistic mediums. Photographs may be used in this category in creating an entry, but it is not a requirement. Entries may include freehand drawing or painting in traditional or digital applications. Entries can include stock photography, photographs, or artwork from other artist(s) with written consent to use from those sources. Documentation may be requested by WPPA before, during, or after the competition. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the WPPA Image Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law and cannot be proven otherwise, that entry shall not be displayed or published. Furthermore, this image will also be disqualified from consideration for awards selection and will not be awarded points toward the WPPA Fellowship Degree.
2. All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant.
3. The entrant's name, initials, business logo, watermark, or other identifying features shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
4. 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.
5. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed if the images are entirely different concepts. If entries of the same subject do not have entirely different concepts, only one of the same-subject images will be accepted into the competition. The other same-subject image(s) will be disqualified. The WPPA Image Competition Committee will make every effort to monitor entries and notify the maker of same-subject images prior to the registration deadline. In the event that the same-subject images are not identified prior to the registration deadline, the image that appears first in the maker's entry list on [printcompetition.com](http://printcompetition.com) will be accepted and any other same-subject images that are not entirely different concepts will be disqualified. If the disqualification is determined after a score has been given, that image will have the score voided and will not be eligible for awards or inclusion in any WPPA digital or printed material. The WPPA Image Competition Chair has the authority to disqualify images under this provision.
6. Guide images must be included on the face of the entry. For restorations, it is recommended that, in addition to the guide image for the image being restored, two guide images that show the progress of the restoration be included.

## **ARTIST COMPETITION CATEGORIES**

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

- CREATIVE OPEN (Artist)
- RESTORATION





# **SENIOR FOLIO COMPETITION RULES**

Please review thoroughly!

1. A Folio is created with at least **8 portraits** of a high school senior.
2. The digital file must be cropped to a 10x20 with a dpi of 4000 for the longest dimension.
3. Folios will be looked at as a body of work. When scoring, judges will use the judging elements as normal but also weigh the sale ability, variant, posing, creativity and consistency across the poses shown.
4. The Senior Folio Competition exists to show the photographic knowledge and skill set of the maker.
5. Images must be from the makers **actual Senior customer/client work**.
6. You may use the same images that you might have used in the High School Senior Sub-Category in the WPPA Photographic Open Competition since the Folio is judged differently.
7. All processing, manipulation, and printing or rendering must be done by the entrant.
8. The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold WPPA harmless against all claims and liabilities arising from any WPPA display, publication, promotion, or other use of each image submitted to WPPA's image judging and more.
9. The entrant's name, initials, business logo, watermark, or other identifying features shall not appear anywhere in the entry.
10. 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.
11. Any entry that has been created from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic, or any other artwork produced by another person 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 WPPA Image Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published. Furthermore, this image will also be disqualified from consideration for awards selection and will not be awarded points toward the WPPA Fellowship Degree.
12. Entries of the same subject in Multiple Folio's **will not** be allowed. The other same-subject folio(s) will be disqualified. The WPPA Image Competition Committee will make every effort to monitor entries and notify the maker of same-subject images prior to the registration deadline. If the same-subject folios are not identified prior to the registration deadline, the folio that appears first in the maker's entry list on printcompetition.com will be accepted and any other same-subject folios that are not entirely of a different subject will be disqualified. If the disqualification is determined after a score has been given, that image will have the score voided and will not be eligible for awards or inclusion in any WPPA digital or printed material. The WPPA Image Competition Chair has the authority to disqualify images under this provision.

## **Senior Folio Competition Categories**

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

- Senior Boy
- Senior Girl