

2021 PPSC ANNUAL IMAGE COMPETITION RULES

The Professional Photographers of South Carolina (PPSC) holds photographic competitions every year. There are three competition categories available. You can enter one, two or all three competition categories. You can enter up to eight entries in each competition category.

AVAILABLE COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- Photographic Open – See page 2
- Wedding – See page 5
- Artist – See page 8

WHY ENTER?

- Explore your creativity!
- Get feedback and scores on images you plan to enter in other competitions, e.g., Professional Photographers of America (PPA) District and/or PPA International Photographic Competition (IPC).
- Get image critiques from a trained judge to improve your photography and competitive skills.
- Compete for awards and recognition.
- PPSC members are also eligible to achieve PPSC exhibition merits toward the PPSC Fellow Designation.

JUDGING AND SCORING SYSTEM

Images will be judged on the PPA 12-Elements of a Merit Print standard. PPSC will utilize the “Merit/No Merit” scoring system that PPA implemented in 2020 for all their competitions. PPA is no longer teaching the numeric scoring system in their judging schools. Merit images in each category will be selected and compared head-to-head to select award winners.

IMAGE FEEDBACK

Providing feedback on an entrant’s images is one of the goals of PPSC photographic competition.

- The best way to get feedback is to request a critique. This provides a recorded video with suggestions to improve your images. These are normally about 3 minutes in length but vary by judge.
- Feedback will be provided on each image after it has been scored during the competition. After the image has been scored, the Jury Chairman will select one judge who scored it a “Merit” and one judge who scored it a “No Merit”. Each selected judge will provide approximately 30 seconds of commentary.
- Judges challenges will also provide feedback during the judging of an image.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN COMPETITION

Please review thoroughly, there have been changes since 2020!

The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter photographic digital files, and/or digital albums to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image.

1. All entries must be registered at www.printcompetition.com.
2. Entrants must submit digital files for judging.
3. Entrants are required to upload a digital file for each image entered.
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 do not need to be PPSC members to enter.
6. Entries previously merited at any PPSC Annual, PPA District or PPA International Competition are not eligible, including any image from a merited album.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
2. All processing or manipulation 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 PPSC harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of PPSC's display, publication and promotion or other use of each image submitted to PPSC.
4. The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
5. **A maximum of eight entries** may be submitted per entrant in Photographic Open.
6. 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.
7. 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 PPSC Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.
8. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts. (Background, location, clothing, and concept).
9. Entry media includes digital files and digital albums.
10. Once an image has been awarded an exhibition merit in any category of PPSC Annual Competition or PPA competition, it may not be entered again in any other category, at any time, by any entrant. No image that receives a merit may be entered more than once under any condition, including any image from a merited album.

REGISTRATION

Registration opens and closes on the specified Days, Dates and Year listed on the website www.printcompetition.com.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN COMPETITION CATEGORIES

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

PORTRAIT

Images can portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s).

- **Children** - This sub-category must contain a child or children from birth to age 16.
- **High School Senior** - This sub-category portrays a male or female age 16 to 18.
- **Animal** - This sub-category captures an animal(s) portrait using structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment, where the owner or photographer control the animal.
- **General Portrait** - This sub-category includes families, groups, couples, and adults (18 and older), relationships, models, and fashion portraits, in addition to tastefully artistic figure studies.

ILLUSTRATIVE

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

- **Landscape/Nature** - This sub-category shares joy and adventures while expressing a sense of place. Wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting environment, zoo animals, flowers, seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets with or without people can be placed here.
- **Illustrative/Commercial** - This sub-category 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.
- **PO Album** - consists of portrait and story-telling albums.
- **Creative Open** - This category consists of images that have additional photographic elements not created by the maker. All the other PO rules still apply with the exception that an entrant may choose to use photographic elements in the image not created by the maker. These photographic elements must be shown in a guide image. The purpose of this category is to allow makers to enter everyday images that may contain digital backgrounds or other photographic elements not created by the entrant. All necessary releases are required. The jurors will evaluate the entire image, but the photographic elements that were created by the maker must still be merit worthy as well as the overall image.

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 RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary so long as they are JPG/10.
2. Files are to be named, Image Title.JPG No underscores or special characters.

DIGITAL ALBUM ENTRY

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.

See Video Tutorial: [PPA.com/IPC tutorials](http://PPA.com/IPC_tutorials)

VIEWING CONDITONS FOR IMAGE REVIEW

Digital Files: Monitor Settings, D65, 120 cd/m², 2.20 gamma

DEADLINES & FEES

- Registration closes at 5:00pm Eastern Time on the Day, Date and Year specified on the website www.printcompetition.com for the PPSC competition.
- \$20.00 per image
- \$10.00 per image for critiques. Please allow 3-to-5 weeks following the completion of the competition.

WEDDING COMPETITION

PLEASE REVIEW THOROUGHLY!

The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter digital files, or digital albums to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. (For more information, go to PPA.com/IPC.) In addition to the twelve elements, for an image to be merit worthy in the wedding competition, additional evaluation will be considered for the entries that illustrate the personality of the subject or subjects and the story of the wedding as well as the artistic and technical skills of the image-maker. Judges will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects of a wedding. For example: subject matter, environment, and time of day. Ultimately, additional consideration will be given to the maker for technically and artistically executing at a merit level, in spite of the challenges involved at a typical wedding.

Through this competition, PPSC members are also eligible to receive merits toward the PPSC Associate Fellow and Fellow degrees.

Images and all elements of an image in the Wedding competition must be created in connection with an actual wedding. The entrant or entrants must have captured all elements of the final submission from that wedding. Images in the Wedding competition should reflect the personality or personalities of the subject(s) or the story of the wedding as well as the personality, artistic and technical skills of the image-maker. Images should include some kind of visual wedding reference(s). The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the PPSC committee.

RULES

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

1. All entries must be registered at www.printcompetition.com.
2. Entrants may submit either digital files, digital albums, or a combination of both.
3. Entrants are required to upload a digital file for each image entered.
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 do not need to be PPSC members to compete in the Wedding Competition.
6. Entries previously merited at any PPSC Annual, PPA District or PPA International Competition are not eligible, including any image from a merited album.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
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 PPSC harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of PPSC's display, publication and promotion or other use of each image submitted to PPSC.
4. The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
5. A maximum of eight entries may be submitted per entrant.
6. 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.
7. 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 IPCC, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.
8. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts.
9. Entry media includes digital files, and digital albums.
10. Once an image has been awarded an exhibition merit in any category of PPSC Annual Competition or any PPA competition, it may not be entered again in any PPSC category, at any time, by any entrant. No image that receives a merit may be entered more than once under any condition, including any image from a merited album.

REGISTRATION

Registration opens and closes on the specified Days, Dates and Year listed on the website www.printcompetition.com.

WEDDING COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Images created at or in connection with a wedding.

- **WEDDING OPEN:** Images can portray a subject or subjects from all aspects of a wedding including traditional portraits, candids or detail work.
- **SINGLE MAKER WEDDING ALBUM:** Multiple images combined into a digital album collection exclusively showcasing a specific wedding.
- **MULTI-MAKER WEDDING ALBUM:** Images in the album must be the work of the two entrants, with a minimum of 20 images per entrant. Each entrant must individually enter the competition and pay appropriate entry fees. Multi-maker Wedding albums will be judged as one entry.

DIGITAL IMAGE ENTRIES

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 RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary so long as they are JPG/10.
2. Files are to be named, Image Title.JPG No underscores or special characters

DIGITAL ALBUM ENTRY

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 pages/spread files up to 36 pages/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. 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.

VIEWING CONDITIONS FOR IMAGE REVIEW

Digital Files: Monitor Settings, D65, 120 cd/m², 2.20 gamma

DEADLINES AND FEES

- Registration closes at 5:00pm Eastern Time on the Day, Date and Year specified on the website www.printcompetition.com for the PPSC competition.
- \$20.00 per image or album.
- \$10.00 per image for critiques. Please allow 3-to-5 weeks following the completion of the competition.

ARTIST COMPETITION

PLEASE REVIEW THOROUGHLY!

The purpose of this competition is to allow the entrant to demonstrate their art skills and expertise. Entries will be judged for digital, artistic and technical proficiency. Entries can be created using digital art.

1. All entries must be registered at www.printcompetition.com.
2. Entrants may submit digital files for judging.
3. Entrants are required to upload a digital file for each image (print or file) entered.
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.

REGISTRATION

Registration opens and closes on the specified Days, Dates and Year listed on the website www.printcompetition.com.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Entries may be reproduced from existing photographs, portraits, graphics or any other artwork so long as the entrant is prepared to provide appropriate written documentation indicating permission for usage. This documentation may be requested by PPSC before, during or after the competition. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the PPSC Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law and cannot be proven otherwise, that entry shall be disqualified and merits revoked, if issued.
2. All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant.
3. The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
4. **A maximum of eight entries** may be submitted per entrant in this Artist Category.
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. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts.
7. Entry media is digital files.
8. Once an image has been awarded an exhibition merit in any category of the PPSC Annual or any PPA competition, it may not be entered again in any PPSC category, at any time, by any entrant. No image that receives a merit may be entered more than once under any condition, including any image from a merited album.
9. Entries in the Artist category shall include any subject and **must have guide images**.
10. **Guide images must be included on the submitted digital canvas.**
11. Entrants do not need to be PPSC members to compete and can enter this Artist Competition.

ARTIST COMPETITION CATEGORIES

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

- Artist Open
- Artist Restoration

DIGITAL SUBMISSION

See Video Tutorial: [PPA.com/IPC tutorials](http://PPA.com/IPC_tutorials)

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 RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary so long as they are JPG/10.
2. Files are to be named, Image Title.JPG (No underscores or special characters)

VIEWING CONDITIONS FOR IMAGE REVIEW

Digital Files: Monitor Settings, D65, 120 cd/m², 2.20 gamma

DEADLINES & FEES

- Registration closes at 5:00pm Eastern Time on the Day, Date and Year specified on the website www.printcompetition.com for the PPSC competition.
- \$20.00 per image
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