

AZPPA Annual Image Critique

The annual Image Critique is open to AzPPA members, who can enter for free. Entries are accepted online at www.printcompetition.com up until 3 days before the image critique (this gives organizer time to download and sort entries). Any late entries will not be accepted.

We will have an expert panel of judges that will critique your images, and your images will be projected on the screen for the benefit of the audience.

The main purpose of Image Critique is to help our members select their best images and give guidance on preparing a image case to enter at our annual state image competition, a PPA Regional, or PPA National Competition. As such, some of our rules are a little more relaxed than at a formal competition. Before entering an image into State or National level competitions, be sure it meets their specific requirements! At the AZPPA Image Critique, our main goal is to encourage photographers to enter competition and receive the valuable learning experience that is gained by competing. Image critique will help members improve their photography and Photoshop skills, and allow members to earn merits for the AZPPA Distinguished Photographer's Award.

Qualifications For Image Entry

1. Members of the Arizona Professional Photographers Association may enter the image critique for free. Non-members must register for the event first and pay a \$20 fee to attend.
 2. *Entrants must be present at the meeting at which they enter images*, and images must be entered by the deadline time and date. The 'must-be-present' rule is to ensure the critique serves it's educational purpose primarily, and provide awards as a secondary benefit.
 3. *Entrants must be present to sign the release at registration* to permit AZPPA to display meriting images at this and other events, and to use meriting images in AZPPA promotional material (online and/or in printed materials).
- 3. Entries are accepted online only, up until 3 days before the meeting (midnight Saturday).**

Image Critique Rules

1. Images or albums may be entered. Images must be 4000 pixels on the longest side and must be uploaded through PrintCompetition.Com If you do not already have an account (you may have entered print competition at state convention), please create one.
2. Up to 4 images may be entered, and can be in any or the same category. A category designation is optional.
 - a. Portrait
 - b. Commercial/Industrial
 - c. Illustrative
 - d. Wedding Photograph
 - e. Wedding Album (Social Events) - Any size album accepted up to 50 pages
 - f. A non event album (eg. Senior, Boudoir) - Any size album accepted up to 50 pages

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3. Digital files should be jpeg and be in the sRGB color space. No other file formats will be accepted. *There are no file-naming requirements.*

3b. For albums, a digital jpeg file of the cover page of the album must be submitted with each album entered, along with a zipped file of all the 'spreads'.

3c. DO NOT embed your name, studio name, a signature, logo, or any identifying information in to the image itself. Competitions are anonymous. It is difficult for a judge to be objective if they know the maker.

4. The maximum number of images/albums that a member can enter at each meeting for judging is four.

5. All image and albums must be titled. "No title" or "untitled" is not an acceptable title, and will cause your entry to be rejected by the judges.

6. A subject may be entered more than once at the Image Critique. For example, if you photograph a family, you can enter any member in that family in another image. Also, a photograph that was contained in wedding album may be entered in the wedding photograph category. *This is drastically different from the State, Regional and National competition rules.* Our goal is to help you select the strongest of your images to enter at State, Regional and National competitions.

6. Images and Albums will be judged on a thumbs up/down method and will need a majority of thumbs up to receive a merit towards the Distinguished Photographer's Award. See the table below for merit qualification:

2 judges will require 2 thumbs up.

3 judges will require at least 2 thumbs up.

4 judges will require at least 3 thumbs up.

5 judges will require at least 3 thumbs up.

6 judges will require at least 4 thumbs up.

7. The Distinguished Photographer's Award is an award that was originally created by the Phoenix Professional Photographers Association. If you established your AzPPA membership by April 30, 2006, your local PPPA image merits have been transferred. If you did not renew by April 30, 2006, any past merits from PPPA were forfeited.

8. You must receive 25 "Print/Image Critique Image Merits" to earn the Distinguished Photographer's Award. There is no monetary value associated with the award.

9. Judges will be Master Photographers, or have received the APPLE Award from the AzPPA, or have completed a national judging class. In the event that a judge doesn't meet any of the three requirements, they will only be selected upon the approval of the Image Critique Chairperson. Judges may choose not to score images in which they know the maker of the image, if they feel that it may affect their judgment. Judges may not score,

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challenge or make comments about their own images, a spouse's image or images made by someone that works for the same studio.

9b. If a judge feels unable to judge and score a image for any reason, they may recuse themselves, or exceptionally, request the Image Critique Chairperson, to vote on their behalf.

10. Images or albums may only be entered once. Even if you make changes to an image/album, they may not be entered again in our Image Critique. You are encouraged to send the new image/album to State, Regional and National competitions.

11. The AzPPA Image Critique Chairperson has the full authority to answer any questions not specifically covered by these rules. They may also disqualify entries and remove members from the image competition room if any member acts in an unprofessional manner during or after the image competition.

12. The judge's decision will be final.

Jim Walls
AZPPA Image Critique Chair