

# ARIZONA PPA IMAGE CRITIQUE OFFICIAL RULES

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

**All rules must be followed as listed. Not doing so may prevent the judging of or disqualification of your entry.**

Highlighted text is used to identify changes/updates from the previous version of the rules.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Any AzPPA member in good standing, with dues current, may enter AzPPA Image Critiques. Non-AzPPA members may also enter AzPPA Image Critiques, but will be required to pay a per-image entry fee. Any image entered in a previous AzPPA competition which did not receive a merit is eligible for entry again, provided it complies with all other rules.

**ENTRIES ALLOWED:** These events are digitally based, therefore only digital images may be entered. No physical prints may be entered. Up to four (4) entries are permitted for Image Critiques.

**ENTRY FEES:** AzPPA members may enter up to 4 images at no cost. Non-members may enter up to 4 images at \$20 per image.

### HOW TO SUBMIT IMAGES:

- 1) Each image should be prepared to the following: sized to 4,000 pixels on its longest side, contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe1998 and saved at a JPEG quality of 10 (or 90%) with a total file size not to exceed 7.5 MB. All entries should include a presentation (i.e. matting/border and a keyline) within the 4,000 pixel dimension.
- 2) If you don't already have one, create an account at [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com), using the 'register' button on the right side of the top menu. **There is now (as of January, 2022) a nominal annual fee for creating an account on [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com).** Be sure to select AzPPA as your organization. You must accurately complete all the information requested during this process, to include organizational memberships (PPA, ASP...) and levels of achievement, as applicable (CPP, Master Photographer...).
- 3) Select 'AzPPA' as the image competition being entered, then follow the prompts for the appropriate member category and whether this is your first time entering ANY competition (PPA, PPA Districts, other PPA affiliate...).
- 4) If applicable, pay the entry fee.

- 5) Each image will be entered and uploaded one at a time. Begin this process by selecting 'Create New Image Entry'. Ensure you enter a Title and Category as well as certify that all effects were done by the image maker (yourself) or under the direct supervision and guidance of the image maker.
- 6) You'll then be prompted to upload the image file.
- 7) Repeat this process until all images have been entered for the particular event.
- 8) Once the process is completed, you may review and edit (but not cancel and refund any entry fees) your image submissions until the entry deadline for the particular event you're entering. This includes the ability to upload replacement images and rename/change titles.

**JUDGING:** During AzPPA image events (i.e. Image Critiques and Image Competitions), a multi-judge panel evaluates each image, one at a time, using PPA's '[The 12 Elements of a Merit Image](#)' as the judging criteria. At times during the evaluation, judges may discuss an image, which can provide the photographer with additional insight or guidance on how an image may be improved.

Images will be judged on monitors calibrated to the following settings: White Point: D65, Brightness: 120 cd/m<sup>2</sup>, Gamma 2.2. You may want to calibrate your monitor to these specifications when preparing your images to ensure a similar viewing experience. Images should use a color profile of either sRGB or Adobe1998.

**SCORING:** Image Critiques utilize a thumbs-up/thumbs-down, majority rules, merit based scoring system. If a majority of the judges score an image with a 'thumbs-up', that entry is scored as a 'merit worthy image' and will earn an image critique merit.

#### **DIVISIONS FOR IMAGE CRITIQUES:**

**Master Division** – All PPA Masters enter this division

**Open Division** – All active members/non-members who are *not* PPA Masters enter this division.

#### **IMAGE CRITIQUE ACHIEVEMENTS:**

**Arizona Distinguished Photographer:** AzPPA members may earn the title of 'Arizona Distinguished Photographer' by **accumulating** a total of 25 merits earned **during** AzPPA Image Critiques. **An Image Critique merit is earned when an image is judged as 'merit worthy', i.e. a majority of 'thumbs up' votes from the judges.** Image Critiques are separate and not **associated** with Image Competition. **Merits** earned during Image Competition do not count towards **the title of 'Arizona Distinguished Photographer'**. The Executive Director maintains the current standings for this title, and your status is available upon request.

**Judges' Choice:** During AzPPA Image Critiques (currently scheduled at two per year), each judge selects an image to receive their **Judge's Choice** recognition, selected from all the images entered, **whether entered by AzPPA members or non AzPPA members.**

**CATEGORIES FOR ENTRIES (adapted from PPA's MIR and IPC categories):**

From time to time, we may add or remove categories. Category definitions may also be updated, as needed, to clarify entry requirements. Please be sure to review all definitions and also note that any new categories will be noted with an asterisk (\*).

**Animal:** This captures an animal(s), either in a studio or an outside environment, as the primary subject.

**Commercial:** **Images intended to be used by a commercial client to advertise a product and/or promote a brand or company.**

**Artist/Digital Art\*:** For entries that include the use multiple digital (two or more) images that are altered and/or transformed, using post-processing techniques, to create a final image that appears cohesive and carries some level of story telling aspect. Entries may also include, or solely rely on, purely digitally rendered artwork created by the submitting artist.

*Similar to IPC Illustrative/Digital Art category, the artist shall be solely responsible for the idea behind the images and the work done to create the finished, submitted piece.*

*Differing from IPC Illustrative/Digital Art category, AzPPA's Artist/Digital Art\* entries should *not* include Guide Images with the entry.*

**General Illustrative\*:** **This category includes images that would fall within Fine Art, still-life, abstract, landscape and any other non-traditional category. Images may be altered or manipulated from the original capture but not required for this category.**

**Portrait:** These entries shall be of one or more persons as the primary subject which evokes an emotion and captures the character or personality of the subject(s).

**Reportage:** Images that illustrate an actual public or non-public event, life, an area of human interest, telling news that has meaning in the context or record of events, high impact and/or a lasting emotional response. Images that illustrate sporting events may also be included in this category.

ONLY basic color and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging & burning-in may be made to the image itself. Only single-capture images will be accepted. Composite and multiple exposure images will not be accepted.

All entries, including this **Reportage** category, should include a presentation (i.e. matting/border and a keyline). The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available, if requested by the committee.

**Wedding:** Images captured from any aspect of a wedding day. These may be candid, portraits, group or single subjects, people or items that convey the feeling and event of the wedding.

**Film/Analog based:** These entries shall have their initial capture on traditional film, glass plates or any analog form. The intent with this category is to judge it separately from all other categories. The 'negative' may be either self-developed or developed/processed through the use of a third party lab. Conversion to digital form is expected (as this is a digital only event). This conversion may occur by any reasonable means available to the artist (dSLR capture, light table, flat bed scan, drum scan and either by the artist or using a third party vendor), as long as the initial impression of the image was captured in an analog form.

In the spirit of the pre-Photoshop/digital era, the intent of this category is to rely on traditional image capture and analog post-processing techniques of the image. The only digital editing permitted to entries in this category are: minor exposure adjustment, dodge & burn, dust spot removal and the creation of the final presentation.

All entries, including this **Film/Analog based** category, should include a presentation (i.e. matting/border and a keyline). The originally captured image (i.e. the film negative or glass plate) must be available, if requested by the committee.

**Albums:** AzPPA Image *Critiques* do not include any album categories. Albums may be entered into AzPPA Image *Competitions*, typically held concurrently with the AzPPA annual convention.

#### **ENTRANT CERTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

Entrant must certify that he/she has created, composed, and made the original exposure and that the processing and any special effect(s) and /or digital manipulations were done by or under his/her direction. Entrant further confirms they have obtained and have access to all necessary releases (model or property). He/she must further certify that he/she

understands this statement and faces the penalty of loss of five Exhibition Merits if the statement is proven false.

Entrant agrees to hold harmless against any liabilities or claims arising out of the display, publication, promotion or other use of photographs or other material submitted. Entrant also agrees to hold AzPPA Board Members, judges, and Image Competition Committee members harmless against any liabilities or claims arising out of any dispute of the rules and/or **Image Critique**.

### **INELIGIBLE PHOTOGRAPHS:**

Albums or photographs that were made under the supervision of an instructor, during a seminar, a workshop, or as a class assignment (regardless of the level of instructor involvement **or instructor oversight**) are *not eligible* for entry into AzPPA image critiques.

Periodically, AzPPA may organize group events (i.e. the Alaskan cruise in 2023) where no instruction is given and is not intended to be an educational environment. Images created during these specific events shall be considered eligible for entry into AzPPA Image Critiques and Image Competitions and will be duly noted and announced as such. Additionally, images created during these events *may or may not* be considered eligible for entry into PPA's Merit Image Review (MIR) and International Photographic Competition (IPC). The maker should consult the respective rules of eligibility when considering entry into non-AzPPA image events.

Images created during AzPPA workshops and educational events remain ineligible for entry into AzPPA image events (Image Critiques and Image Competitions).

**The use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated images is not permitted in any category. This includes the prohibition of any AI generated images in the Digital Art/Composite category.**

Entries of the same subject in multiple images are allowed, *only* if the images are entirely and distinctly different concepts (i.e. clothing and set design).

An image that has **previously** merited in an AzPPA Image Competition **or judged as 'merit worthy'** in an AzPPA Image Critique **may not** be entered into **Image Critiques**, whether it be included in a composite, as an individual image, or presented with a new treatment.

**RETOUCHING:** **Unless prohibited or limited by an image category's description**, retouching is permissible on the photographic images. Retouching may be done by someone other than the photographer but must be done under the direction **or guidance** of the photographer.

**IDENTIFICATION (PHOTOGRAPHS):** In order to identify and list entries, all photographs must be titled. No title, signature, name of maker, award ribbons or seals may appear on the digital images. However, wording or titles which are an integral part of the entry, are acceptable. *All makers are to remain anonymous to the judges.*

**COPYRIGHT:** Entrants retain copyright of their images. However, by registering your images, you provide AzPPA with a release to facilitate AzPPA's display of winning entries at the event, for marketing purposes on AzPPA's website and printed material, without further compensation.

**ARBITRATION:** The AzPPA Image Chairperson has the authority to make decisions about any questions not specifically covered by these rules, and his/her decision will be final. Any entries not following these rules will be automatically disqualified.

## FAQ

Q: For Image Critiques, do I still need to add a **mat** and key line?

A: Yes, you should prepare your entries for Image Critiques as if it were an Image Competition. This will provide the best opportunity for the judges to view and offer a meaningful critique to help you prepare for follow on competitions.

Q: If I replace a sky in a Portrait or Landscape image, does this mean I now have to enter it into the Digital Art/Composite category?

A: As long as it's not an AI generated sky that is being used in the image, it may remain in its original category.