

ARIZONA PPA IMAGE COMPETITION 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.

ELIGIBILITY: Any AzPPA member in good standing, with dues current, may enter AzPPA Image Critiques and Image Competitions. Only AzPPA members residing in Arizona are eligible for awards. Non-members and out-of-state entries will be judged for score only. An image or album entered in a previous AzPPA competition which did not receive a merit is eligible for entry again, provided it complies with all other rules. An image or album that has received an AzPPA Sate Merit may not be entered again, even if it has been changed.

ENTRIES ALLOWED: These events are digitally based, therefore only digital images may be entered. No physical prints may be entered. Up to 6 entries are permitted for Image Competitions. To be eligible for all AzPPA Image Competition awards, participating AzPPA members are encouraged to submit a complete case of at least four (4) entries. Regardless of how many images are entered (up to a maximum of 6), only a participant's four (4) highest scoring images will be considered for awards in Image Competitions.

ENTRY FEES: The submission fee is \$20 per image (members and non-members alike).

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, using the 'register' button on the right side of the top menu. There is now a nominal fee for creating an account on 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 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.

Images will be judged on monitors calibrated to the following settings: White Point: D65, Brightness: 120 cd/m², 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: Images will be scored on the traditional 100 point system, previously used by PPA. Based on scores received and the award categories described further down, AzPPA members may earn awards. The scores are further broken down, as noted below.

65-69: Below Exhibition Standards

70-74: Average

75-79: Above Average

80-84: Deserving of a Merit

85-89: Excellent

90-94: Superior

95-100: Exceptional

A second round of scoring will take place for all images scoring between 80 and 94 for consideration of inclusion to the AzPPA Image of Excellence Collection (for the subsequent year. All images scoring 95 or higher shall be automatically included in the AzPPA Image of Excellence Collection. This second round will be judged as 'in' or 'out' as to whether the image is included in the AzPPA Image of Excellence Collection. Images chosen for inclusion in the AzPPA Image of Excellence Collection will receive an additional AzPPA Image Merit. Those not voted into the AzPPA Image of Excellence Collection shall retain their score and remain in the General Collection.

AzPPA IMAGE COMPETITION MERITS: An entry receiving a final score of 80 or above will automatically receive an AzPPA Image Merit.

DIVISIONS FOR IMAGE COMPETITION:

Master Division – All PPA Masters enter this division

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

IMAGE COMPETITION AWARDS: AzPPA members are eligible to earn the following awards during our annual state Image Competition, coinciding with the AzPPA annual State Photography Convention. To be eligible for an individual image award, an image must score a minimum of 80 points/be considered merit worthy.

Ty Bass Award: This award is given to the highest scoring image among those AzPPA members that have earned their CPP within the previous 12 months. Introduced in 2021, this award honors the late Ty Bass and his outstanding contributions to both the AzPPA and PPA CPP programs.

Al Buehman Award: This award is given to the single highest scoring image from all the entries.

Frank Rigo Award: Awarded to the highest scoring 'case' of images for a first time entry (top four of up to six entered images to complete a case).

Emil Eger Photographer of the Year: Awarded to the highest scoring 'case' of images (top four of up to six entered images to complete a case).

Top 10 Case Awards: With the highest scoring case earning the **Emil Eger Photographer of the Year** award (see above), the remaining top nine scoring cases overall (top four of up to six entered images to complete a case), regardless of which division was entered, will receive a certificate of award to honor this achievement.

Judge's Choice: Each of our competition judges will select an image to receive their 'Judge's Choice Ribbon', selected from all the images entered. All images entered are eligible to receive this recognition, whether entered by AzPPA members or non-AzPPA members.

CATEGORIES FOR ENTRIES (adapted from PPA 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 storytelling aspect. Entries may

also include, or solely rely on, purely digitally rendered artwork created by the submitting artist.

Similar to the 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.

A maker may use supporting photographic elements that they did not create, provided those elements are referenced as Guide Images on the face of 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. Any single entries in this category shall not be included in any Wedding Album entries.

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:

All album entries shall contain a minimum of five (5) pages/spread files, with each page/spread containing as many images as may be desired. Album entries may be single maker or multi-maker. Images included in any album entry may not be entered as a standalone image in any other category. No studio or entrant identifying information shall appear on any files submitted as an album entry.

- **Portrait and Storytelling*** These albums may be from any non-wedding event, portrait sessions or other storytelling compilations. Portrait oriented albums shall be of the same subject, whether captured in one session or over multiple sessions. Any non-wedding event album entry (such as a bar mitzvah, quinceañera or other similar, special events) shall consist of only images that represent a single, specific event and not images from a set of similarly themed events. See 'Additional Rules for Album Category'.
- **Wedding Album:** A set of images that represent the events of a specific wedding. This may include weddings that span multiple, consecutive days within the same general geographic area. Photographs that are in a wedding album may not be entered separately into the **Wedding** image category. See 'Additional Rules for Album Category'.

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 AzPPA 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 competition.

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 ELIBIGLE* for entry into AzPPA image competitions.

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.

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

An image that has previously merited in an AzPPA Image Competition (previously known as Print Competition) may not be entered again, whether it be included in a composite, as an individual image, in an album, 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.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR ALBUM CATEGORY

1. Albums will be judged for impact, creativity, style, image quality, technique, story content, expression of the subjects, lighting, presentation, and stability of work.
2. No multiple-volume albums are allowed.
3. An image entered in an album cannot be entered as an individual submission in the Image Competition of the same year.
4. Albums may not contain any images that previously merited in AZ State Image Competition.
5. Albums accepted into the AzPPA Image of Excellence Collection will receive an additional AzPPA Exhibition Merit.
6. Additional Rules for Multi-Maker Albums.
 1. All contributing photographers must be AzPPA members in good standing.
 2. Each contributing photographer shall contribute a minimum of ¼ of the images within the submitted album. The album will be judged as one entry. Each participating photographer must complete an online registration form and include a submission fee.
 3. Submission of a Multiple Photographer Album will be counted as one entry towards each of the participating photographer's total allowed entries.
 4. In the event physical awards are presented, only a single physical award shall be presented for each award winning entry (regardless of the number of makers involved with the album).
 5. All identifying marks indicating the maker must be obscured.

Special Note for Album design: The photographer is responsible for the original layout design and all digital effects. Template design software may be used or someone else may create the digital effects, but these must be done under the photographer's direction.