

Maine Professional Photographers' Association

Photographic Image Competition Rules 2024

JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 AM EASTERN ON Saturday, March 16th, 2024

GUIDELINES

- Any photographer that is not on the judging panel may enter the competition for image judging and scoring.
- MPPA Membership must be active as of **11:59 pm Eastern Monday, March 11th, 2024** to be considered for member awards.
- Entries must be registered and uploaded **NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM Eastern on Thursday, March 14th, 2024** except for the Creative Challenge (see below).
- The entry fee for MPPA members is \$12 per entry. Non-member's entry fee is \$15 per entry.
- There are no limits on the number of entries each maker may submit.
- Albums count as one entry and each person is allowed up to 2 albums.
- Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts.
- Any image previously entered into the MPPA Image Competition that received a merit or that has been created under the supervision of an instructor is not eligible for submission.
- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) software tools must be limited to only basic tools. Tools that introduce new information may not be used with an exception given for the AI category.
- The photographer/artist must be the one to perform all editing on their submitted entries. No editing may be contracted to a third party.
- The use of third-party templates and backdrops is not allowed.
- The photographer must have obtained and have access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agree to hold Maine PPA harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of Maine PPA's display, publication, and promotion or other use of each submitted image.
- As a condition of entry, each photographer hereby grants a non-exclusive license to Maine Professional Photographers Association and its agents or designees to use any submitted images for any educational or association marketing purposes.
- Images that are disqualified may still be allowed to be judged but will not be eligible for awards.
- Under no circumstances will any refunds be given.
- Any questions related to image entry or competition rules shall be addressed to the Image Competition Chair. It is at the Image Competition Chair's discretion to involve any members of the Executive Board for questions or issues that the print chair cannot resolve on their own.

CATEGORIES OF ENTRIES

- **Portrait:** Images can portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s). This category includes images of:
 - Children
 - High School Seniors
 - Animals: where the owner or photographer controls the animal and its environment. (Wild animals would be submitted into the Animal Category).

- o General Portraits which may include families, groups, couples, children, teenagers or adults. This also includes portraits of relationships, models, fashion portraits, in addition to tastefully artistic figure studies.
- **Wedding:** Images can portray a subject or subjects from all aspects of a wedding including traditional portraits, candid, or detail work. **Images must be taken the DAY OF** the wedding.
- **Artist:** This category is to allow the entrant to demonstrate their art skills and expertise. Entries will be judged for their digital, artistic, and technical proficiency and follow the below criteria.
 - o Entries can include stock photography, photographs, or artwork by other artists with written consent to use those sources. Documentation may be requested by the MPPA Image Competition Committee before, during, or after the competition.
 - o All processing, manipulation, and artwork must be done by the entrant.
 - o 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.
 - o All photographic elements that are not made by the entrant, must be represented as a guide image on the face of the entry. Photographic Brushes and Textures do not require guide images.
- **Commercial:** This 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.
- **Reportage:** Images that illustrate an actual public or non-public event, life, an area of human interest, telling news that have meaning on the context or record of events, high impact and/or lasting emotional response. Images that illustrate sporting events can be included in this category. ONLY basic color and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging, burning, and converting to black and white are allowed. Only single-capture, single-exposure, images will be accepted. The original captured image must be made available if requested by the Image Competition Chairperson.
- **Fine Art:** Images and/or abstract art that reflects a unique or evoking perspective. These images stand in contrast to representational photography. Entrants must have performed all digital manipulations and/or techniques.
- **Landscape:** Images in which natural scenery or subjects are dominant. Seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets with or without other subjects can be placed here.
- **Sports:** Any images pertaining to sports. Action, posed, and compositing are included in this category. Unlike Reportage, images in the Sports category CAN be manipulated beyond the basic color and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging, and burning. All photographic elements that are not made by the entrant, must be represented as a guide image on the face of the entry. Photographic Brushes and Textures do not require guide images.
- **Animal:** Images in which an animal or animals are dominant and not in a controlled environment.
- **Album:** Consists of time-sensitive social events, such as weddings, bar mitzvahs, etc. or consists of related images or story-telling images.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** This category is to allow the entrant to demonstrate their art skills and expertise while using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create their elements. Entries will be judged for their digital, artistic, and technical proficiency and follow the below criteria.
 - o Entries can include stock photography, photographs, or artwork by other artists with written consent to use those sources as well as elements created with the use of AI. Documentation may be requested by the MPPA Image Competition Committee before, during, or after the competition.
 - o All processing, manipulation, and artwork must be done by the entrant.

- o There must be at least one element photographed by the entrant included in each submission in this category. All photographed elements must be shown as guide images.
- o 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.
- o The photographer must have obtained and have access to all necessary releases for commercial use of all AI created elements.
- **Creative Challenge:** This category is to challenge your interpretation and creativity of the topic. The winner of this category may determine the topic for the following year. This is a free category for MPPA members in which MPPA members are allowed to submit 1 image into this category and allowed a single vote to pick their favorite image in the category. See below for additional details.

If an entry in the good-faith opinion of the Competition Chairperson violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable laws or competition rules that entry will be disqualified.

NOTE: Many images may fit into more than one category and is at the discretion of the maker to decide which category an image will be submitted in. Should the Competition Chairperson deem that an entry is placed into the wrong category, the Competition Chairperson has the right to place the image(s) in the proper category.

HOW TO SUBMIT ENTRIES

- Register with MPPA (Maine) at printcompetition.com
- Entrants will be asked to pay a one-time fee or become a Premium Subscriber. This small fee is used to help support the ongoing software and hardware upgrades needed to keep PrintCompetition.com strong, secure and efficient going forward.
- Files shall be **4,000 pixels** on the longest side. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either **sRGB or Adobe RGB1998** and be saved at **JPEG quality setting of 10**. When possible, the total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB.
- Files are to be named: Image Name.jpg (e.g. See Spot Run.jpg).
- The maker's name, image title or other identifying information such as a studio logo CANNOT appear on any entry.
- Entries may be added and updated at any time before the competition submittal deadline.

ALBUM SUBMISSION

- All page/spread files must be sized the same way as an entry. See above.
- Album entries must contain a minimum of 5 page/spreads and a maximum of 36 page/spreads.
- Files are to be named in viewing order using 2 digits. (e.g. 01.jpg, 02.jpg, 03.jpg)
- All album page/spread files must be compressed into a single ZIP file. Zip files should be named: Album Title.zip (e.g. Summer Wedding.zip)
- The album cover should be included in the zip file if the entrant wants it to be displayed in sequence with the page/spreads. If an album cover is included it is typically saved as 01.JPG so it will be displayed first while viewing.

- Any images submitted as part of an album cannot be submitted in any other category. If an image that is included in an album is submitted in another category both submissions may be disqualified.
- Studio identification or the maker’s name cannot appear on any file within the album.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

- This award will be voted on by the members of MPPA.
- Image requirements will be the same as the rest of the competition however images will be submitted by emailing them to info@maineppa.com with the subject “**Creative Challenge 2024**” rather than submitting them on www.Printcompetition.com.
- Each MPPA member is invited to submit one image into this category at no cost.
- This image can be submitted in another category as well for judging on Saturday, March 16th.
- Entries for this category must be received by Saturday, March 9th at 8:00 am Eastern.
- Each Maine PPA Member can cast one vote for their favorite Creative Challenge image. Members are asked to consider how well the image fits the topic as well as the 12 elements of a merit image.
- Voting will take place from Monday, March 11th through Friday, March 15th at 11:59 pm Eastern. An email with full instructions on how to vote will be sent out by 8:00 am Eastern on Monday, March 11th
- The prompt for 2024 is: “**Warmth**”.
- The winner for 2024 will choose the Creative Challenge prompt for the next Image Competition.

NON-MEMBER RULES

- Non-Members are included in all the same guidelines listed above.
- Judges will NOT be aware of an entrant’s membership status and will be judged the same way as all other entries.
- Non-members will only be eligible for the Court of Honor award.

JUDGING

- There will be no previewing of any entries.
- Judges will not be aware of an entrant’s name until all scoring and post-judging award selections have been made. Please refrain from any communication with a judge about any entries until all competition judging has concluded.
- Scoring of images will be based on the following standards:

Exceptional	95-100
Superior	90-94
Excellent	85-89
Deserving of a Merit	80-84
Above Average	75-79
Average	70-74

Below Exhibition Standards	65-69
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- The judges, along with the Jury Chairperson and Competition Chairperson will have the authority to make decisions based on any questions not covered by these rules. Any additional ruling will be FINAL.
- Judges will make the selection of awards in any case of a tie.

AWARDS

- The judging of all awards will be closed for viewing. Only the judges, Competition Chairperson and assistant(s), Jury Chairman, and/or moderators will be present.
- Judging for these awards will be based on the quality of the entries in question.
- Only Maine PPA members who primarily reside in Maine are eligible for awards with the exception of the Court of Honor award and the Non-Resident Member award.
- If it is determined by the Image Competition Chair with agreement from the Image Competition Committee that there are not enough entries in a particular category an award may not be presented for that category.
- **Category Photographer of the Year Awards** will be given in the following categories: **Portrait, Artist, Wedding, Fine Art, Commercial, Reportage, Landscape, Sports and Animal**. The award is given to the entrant with the highest total of 4 entries in a category. 2 of which must score an 80 or above to be eligible for this award. If the total number of entries is not enough in any given category the Competition Chairperson reserves the right to award Photographer of the Year for that category based on the highest-scoring image in the category or not award a Photographer of the Year for that category.
- **Best Artificial Intelligence Image** will be given to the highest scoring entry in the AI category.
- **Creative Challenge Award** will be selected by MPPA members. In the event of a tie, the Jury Chair will decide the winning image.
- **Client Image Award** will be selected out of the blue-ribbon (merit) entries produced for actual clients that the judges determine are most worthy of this award.
- **First Time Entrant Award** will be selected out of the entries produced by an MPPA member who has entered the image competition for the first time that the judges determine is most worthy of this award.
- **Best Black & White** will be selected out of all the black and white blue-ribbon entries that the judges determine is most worthy of this award.
- **Artistry in Photography Award** is selected out of all the blue ribbons winners from any category. It is presented for the Outstanding Highest Achievement for Artistry in Photography, showcasing Artistic Vision and a Mastery of photographic technique and skill as determined by the judges.
- **Court of Honor** will be given to the highest scoring entry created by a non-member.
- **Non-Resident Member Award** will be given to the highest scoring merit image created by a Maine PPA member who does not reside in Maine.
- **Best of Show Award** will be given to the highest scoring entry. In the event of a tie for the highest score, the Judges will choose the best in show.
- **Judges Choice Awards** will be given by each judge for any entry, of any score, in any category that they deem to be their favorite.
- Sponsored awards are made available through the generosity of our vendors, PPA, and other PPA Affiliates. There is no guarantee that they will be available. The exact criteria for selecting the

winner for each award will be provided by the sponsor. These awards typically include the **CPP Member Award, ASP Member Award, and Animal Image Makers Award.**

- Ribbons will be awarded to entries based on the following criteria:

Ribbon	Image Score
Blue	80-100
Red	78-79
White	75-77
Green	70-74

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

- The **Win Tracy – Maine Photographer of the Year Award** is selected by the judges based on the best body of work by the top 5 highest scoring entrants. The winner chosen must reside in Maine and be a current active member. The judges will decide which body of work they think best represents the “Photographer of the Year”.
- Bodies of work are composed of an entrant’s 5 highest scoring entries.
- The winning photographer will retain the award until the next MPPA convention when the award will be returned to the Association.

ERRORS OR OMISSIONS

- The Competition Chairperson reserves the right to correct any errors or omissions in the rules or judging procedures. The Competition Chairperson also has the authority to make the final judgment on any question(s) regarding these rules.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Competition Chairperson:
Allen Small
allen@flutterfocus.com