

# Dallas PPA Image Competition

Amended 12-31-22 for competition year 2023

## 1 Who may enter image competition?

121-A Full or Lifetime Members in good standing with DPPA may enter image competition.

## 2 When is Competition?

122-A Image judging will be conducted on the Sunday prior to the DPPA general meetings. The competition is scheduled to be held each month there is a scheduled general DPPA meeting – this does not include August, with Little Red Schoolhouse, and December. Competition results will be announced during the general DPPA meeting.

## 3 Entering Image Competition

123-A Image competition will be conducted live utilizing the services of printcompetition.com. Entrants are required to have a membership in the printcompetition.com system, at either membership level.

123-B Each entrant is allowed to enter one image or one album in the Photographic Division, one image or one album in the Wedding Division, and one image in the Artist Division per monthly competition. Entrants may submit to only one category in each division per month.

123-C A \$10.00 fee will be assessed per division per competition. Entrant may enter all three divisions with a \$10 fee assessed per division for a maximum case fee of \$30.

123-D It is acceptable for an image to be entered by another party to meet the image competition deadline. However, entrants must be checked in by the Director of Membership (or a representative) at the monthly meeting, and be present during the announcement of the awards for their image to qualify for year end awards. Check In will be recorded in the Wild Apricot system.

123-E Attendance at eight (8) membership meetings during the competition year (Jan-Nov) is required to maintain eligibility for year end awards. This may be any of the monthly membership meetings from January - July, September - November, and the summer seminar (Little Red Schoolhouse). DPPA Speaker Workshops do not count toward year end award eligibility.

123-F A title is required for each entry.

- 123-G All entries must be entered in the online competition system, and case fees must be paid, by 5:00 PM CT on the Saturday prior to competition. Once the online entry deadline has passed, no changes of any kind may be made by the entrant. Failure to pay your case fees prior to the online entry deadline will result in entry disqualification.

#### 4 **Preparing Your Images**

##### 1 **Digital Images**

- 124-A Must contain a digital presentation. Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4,000 pixels (20 inches at 200 ppi). Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. File naming convention is flexible, but should not include the name of the entrant, or any verbiage that identifies the entrant.
- 124-B Names of individuals or studios may not appear on the front of any image or on the front or inside of any album.

*NOTE: DPPA is currently not accepting physical prints. Rules are maintained here to facilitate reintroducing prints in the future.*

##### 1 **Physical Prints**

- 124-C May be submitted in any shape and size on a mount board a minimum of 80 square inches before matting to a maximum of 480 square inches with matting, with the largest dimension no longer than 24 inches.

Print entries must be mounted on standard mount materials (double weight mat board, gator board, ¼" foam or Sintra). Recommended mounting thickness is 1/8" to 3/8". Images on metal and mounted on another standard material must have rounded corners and smooth edges.

No mount that could potentially damage other entries or pose a danger to print handlers will be accepted. Masonite, glass, stretcher frames, or conventional frames will not be accepted. All physical print entries must have a matching digital file for submission in the online competition system.

The digital file must match the physical print in all aspects, including presentation. File requirements are the same as those for digital image entries.

- 124-D Names of individuals or studios may not appear on the front of any print or on the front or inside of any album. (May be covered.)

- 124-E Physical entries must be registered and labeled by the print chair NO LATER THAN 30 minutes prior to the start of judging.

## 5 Image Eligibility

- 125-A Images may only be entered once, whether they are a single print, an image in an album or an element in a collage or composite.
- 125-B Images begin their journey at DPPA.

Images entered in any other competition or PPA Merit Review are ineligible for entry into DPPA (including lateral entrances - other guilds). Once entered in DPPA, that image can only be entered once into DPPA and cannot be reworked and entered again.

When you enter an image in another competition, once judging starts there the image is no longer viable in DPPA.

- 125-C No entry will be eligible if it has been made under the supervision of an instructor or as a class assignment.
- 125-D Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure(s) in the Photographic and Wedding Divisions. (If entering the Artist Division please refer to its rules). All processing, manipulation and printing or rendering must be done by the entrant or under their direct supervision. Entries may include secondary or supporting elements not part of the original capture. These elements may or may not be created by the entrant. Guide images are required for each secondary element NOT created by the maker and must be included on the face of the presentation either below or along the side of the entry.
- 125-E The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property), and agrees to hold DPPA harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of DPPA's display of each image submitted.
- 125-F If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of DPPA, violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be accepted. This includes images that are illegally photographed on train tracks in the United States.
- 125-G If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of DPPA, closely recreates or plagiarizes another work of art it will be disqualified. Copying a current or historical photograph, album, film, commercial or advertisement utilizing all or the majority of visual elements and content is plagiarism unless the entry is represented with a different concept.

Emulating a popularized or established pose or style (such as baby in a bowl/basket/on beanbag, etc; high school senior posed seated on stairs; pet photographed on a chair; birds on a branch), or the reinterpretation of an existing concept, is not considered plagiarism.

The DPPA Board will make the determination on whether an entry has been plagiarized, upon notification by any guild or board member, and this decision is final. Any repeat occurrences of entering plagiarized work in the same or subsequent years may result in disqualifications from year end awards and/or future competitions and will be decided by the DPPA Board.

## 6 Competition Judging

- 126-A Image judging shall begin at or after the scheduled competition start time, and once all judges are signed into the online competition system.
- 126-B Entries will be judged in random order, starting first with digital entries in Photographic Open and Wedding Divisions, followed by Artist, in the following category order:
- PO - RAW
  - PO - Reportage
  - Wedding - Wedding
  - Wedding - Album
  - PO - All remaining non-Artist, non-Wedding categories randomized together
  - Artist - Restoration
  - Artist - Creative Open

Once all digital entries are completed, judging will continue with physical print entries in the order presented above.

- 126-C Competition will be executed by the Director of Skills, who may fulfill the role of Jury Chairman and Scorekeeper. These roles may also be filled by separate individuals if deemed necessary by the Director of Skills and/or the larger Board of Directors.
- 126-D Five Master photographers will judge the entries. Judges must have merited at internationally recognized professional photography competitions including IPC, WPPI, AIPP, and SWPP, within the last two years to be eligible to be on the judging panel. If five Masters are not available, then Craftsmen or qualified persons (as deemed by the Board) will be asked to judge.
- 126-E Scoring shall be based upon the following standards:

Exceptional 100-95

Superior 94-90  
Excellent 89-85  
Deserving of a Merit 84-80  
Above Average 79-75  
Average 74-70  
Below Exhibition Standards 69-65

- 126-F Ribbons will be awarded for first and second place in each category. These images or albums must have a minimum score of 400 to qualify for First or Second place ribbons.
- 126-G One ribbon will be awarded monthly to the Top Scoring First Time Entrant. These images or albums must have a minimum score of 400 to qualify for the ribbon.
- 126-H In the case of a tie, cumulative scores will be considered. If still a tie, both entrants will be awarded a ribbon, with the exception of the high print or album score for the month (traveling trophy). In the case of a cumulative score tie for the traveling trophy, judges will reconvene to discuss their scores and break the tie. The winner will keep the trophy until the next meeting.
- 126-I When the trophy is returned the following month, the winner will receive a trophy ribbon for the previous month's high score. In the event the trophy is not returned, the winner holding the trophy will present it to the new winner within 48 hours.
- 126-J Jury Chair will nominate one judge to choose the Judges Choice winner. The winner will be awarded a ribbon.
- 126-K Print scores will be accumulated throughout the year and published on the DPPA website.
- 126-L Individual judge's scores will be kept confidential, but entrants are free to discuss their scores with the judges. Please use good manners when discussing scores or image competition with judges or other competitors.
- 126-M The DPPA Board of Directors will settle any disputes arising from the competition. All decisions by the board are final.
- 126-N Members should only be able to compete as one member type. If a membership status changes, the member must enter four images under the new membership type to qualify for EOY awards. To qualify as Photographer of the Year, a member must have entered 8 times under one specific membership status.

## 7 Divisions

### 1 Photographic Open Division

127-A The Photographic Open Division has seven Categories of entries.

#### **12 *Illustrative - Landscape/Nature:***

127-B Scenes or elements from nature where people are not the dominant feature of the image, including natural landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets with or without people. Wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting environment and zoo animals should be placed here. Floral arrangements and other naturally occurring objects shot in the studio will be considered Illustrative - Landscape/Nature. Animals (domestic or wild) that are shot either in a studio or outdoors with structured lighting and under the control of the photographer, owner, or handler will be considered a portrait. Finishing style does not dictate the placement of these subjects into any other category.

#### **12 *Illustrative - Commercial:***

127-C 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. Non-portrait and non-wedding images not explicitly defined in Landscape/ Nature may use this category, including photojournalism, non-commercial architectural, and conceptual images that tell a story.

#### **12 *Portrait - People:***

127-D Portraits of individuals or groups (exceptions - those that meet the criteria for illustrative or wedding category). This category includes families, couples, children, models, fashion portraits, and tastefully artistic figure studies.

#### **12 *Portrait - Animal:***

127-E Animal and pet portraits using structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment and where the owner, handler, or photographer controls the animal. Portraits of wild/outdoor animals photographed in the studio should also be placed here.

#### **12 *General Album***

127-F Albums may be of any subject except wedding events (bridal and engagement portrait albums with no images from a wedding event may be entered in this category). For instance, a general album may be a portrait album, commercial album, illustrative album, etc. Album cover size must be between 63-400 square inches (8x8 to 20x20) in size and meet minimum of 20 images. No multiple volume albums are allowed. Each spread may contain as many images as you desire. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 spreads up to 36 spreads. Any studio

identification or entrant's name in the album must be covered.

- 127-G Multi-Maker Album – If an album entry is from multiple makers (maximum of 2 makers), it will be judged as one entry, but shall be counted as the album entry of each photographer with images in the album. Each participating photographer must have a minimum of 20 images represented in the album. The album entrants must have created all the images within the album. No other photographer's images are allowed.

## **12 Reportage**

- 127-H 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 are included in this category. ONLY basic color and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging and burning in are allowed. Elements may not be added or removed from the original capture in this category. Only single-capture images will be accepted. Composite and multiple exposure images will not be accepted. The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the committee.

## **12 RAW**

- 127-I Images presented Straight Out Of Camera (SOOC) with no editing applied. Images may be of any subject matter, however, images may not be manipulated in Photoshop or any other editing software. Images may not be cropped, rotated, color balanced, exposure corrected, or changed in any way from the original capture. RAW images created using a cellphone or drone are NOT allowed. Both the jpeg format (for display in the competition system) and RAW files must be uploaded to complete an entry in this category. The uploaded jpeg and RAW files must not be different in any way.

As RAW files are entered and embedded JPEGS are judged, no additional presentation is allowed or possible.

In-camera presets (picture styles) can be applied, such as Monochrome mode, etc. The embedded JPEG within the RAW file will have those presets applied and will be used for judging.

Images created with in-camera techniques like double exposure, gels, shutter drag, etc. are allowed. Your creativity with in-camera techniques is your limit.

The Director of Skills will extract the embedded JPEG and this file will be used for judging.

1 **Wedding Division**

12 ***Wedding***

127-J Images from a bridal portrait session or wedding event, including traditional portraits, candid, or details. Bridal portraits must be created in direct connection with a wedding assignment. Portraits styled as bridal portraits that were not created as part of a wedding assignment may be entered in Photographic Open: Portrait - People.

12 ***Wedding Album***

127-K All photographs must be of the same wedding assignment. May contain images from an engagement or bridal portrait session. Album cover size must be between 63-400 square inches (8x8 to 20x20) in size and meet minimum of 20 images. No multiple volume albums are allowed. Each spread may contain as many images as you desire. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 spreads up to 36 spreads. Any studio identification or entrant's name in the album must be covered.

127-L **Multi-Maker Album** - If an album entry is from multiple makers (maximum of 2 makers), it will be judged as one entry, but shall be counted as the album entry of each photographer with images in the album. Each participating photographer must have a minimum of 20 images represented in the album. The album entrants must have created all the images within the album. No other photographer's images are allowed.

1 **Artist Division**

127-M This division is for composites, paintings, restorations, and other elements that extend beyond traditional retouching and changing the entire scope of the finished product. In addition to consideration of the 12 elements, the Artist Division evaluates the skill level of the artwork done to the image as well as creativity demonstrated by the maker.

127-N Artist may use an image or images in their entry that were not photographed by the entrant. The scoring in this category is more than judging just the final image.

127-O 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. Artist does not need to have taken the photographic elements.

127-P All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant.

127-Q No entry will be eligible that has been made under the supervision of an instructor or as a class assignment.



127-R Entries in the artist division can include any subject.

127-S Guide images are required for each entry and must be included on the face of the presentation either below or along the side of the artwork.

## 1 **Artist Categories**

### **12 Artist - Restoration**

127-T This category is for restorations of damaged or aged images. The original images may be old, faded, folded, torn, water-damaged, etc. Submitted artwork may include repair of the damage, colorization, or other enhancements and may use photographic editing or painting techniques.

### **12 Artist - Creative Open**

127-U This category is for composites, paintings, and other elements that extend beyond traditional retouching, changing the entire scope of the finished product.

## 8 **Competition Award Guidelines**

### 1 **Photographer of the Year**

128-A At the end of the year, the eight highest monthly scores of each Full or Life member in the Photographic Open Division will be tallied to determine the "Photographer of the Year". The "Photographer of the Year" award is based upon the total points earned from January through November of each year. The EIGHT highest monthly scores will be added together for the participant's total to compete for "Photographer of the Year". This is a singular award. Any entrant who earns Photographer of the Year in two successive years will not be eligible for Photographer of the Year in the third successive year. Entrants may continue to compete and will be eligible for all other awards in the third year following two successive wins.

### 1 **Wedding Photographer of the Year**

128-B At the end of the year, the eight highest monthly scores of each Full or Life member in the Wedding Division will be tallied to determine the "Wedding Photographer of the Year". The "Wedding Photographer of the Year" award is based upon the total points earned from January through November of each year. The EIGHT highest monthly scores will be added together for the participant's total to compete for "Wedding Photographer of the Year". This is a singular award. Any entrant who earns Wedding Photographer of the Year in two successive years will not be eligible for Wedding Photographer of the Year in the third successive year. Entrants may continue to compete and will be eligible for all other

awards in the third year following two successive wins.

## **1 Artist of the Year**

- 128-C At the end of the year, the eight highest monthly scores of each Full or Life member in the Artist Division will be tallied to determine the “Artist of the Year”. The “Artist of the Year” award is based upon the total points earned from January through November of each year. The EIGHT highest monthly scores will be added together for the participant’s total to compete for “Artist of the Year”. This is a singular award. Any entrant who earns Artist of the Year in two successive years will not be eligible for Artist of the Year in the third successive year. Entrants may continue to compete and will be eligible for all other awards in the third year following two successive wins.

## **1 Top Score Awards**

- 128-D The “Top Score CPP” award is for members who are Certified Professional Photographers. Full or Life members who compete for this award must enter FOUR prints FOLLOWING certification in the Photographic Open Division. Prints entered prior to formal certification will not be eligible. It is the member’s responsibility to update their profile upon earning their CPP designation and notify the Skills Director when entering their first qualifying print. This is a singular award.
- 128-E The “Top Score First Year” award is for Full or Life members entering print competition for the first time in the Photographic Open Division. This award is limited to an individual who has not at any time previously entered the DPPA print competition.

*It is up to the individual to indicate that they are competing in their first year by answering the question “Is this your first year entering DPPA image competition?” This question should be answered with every entry during the entrant’s first year. An individual may enter each month in any of the categories. The individual entrant must be the sole maker of an album. (No multi-maker albums for this award.)*

The “Top Score First Year” award is based upon the points earned from January through November of each year. The FOUR highest monthly scores will be added together for the participant’s total to compete for the award. This is a singular award.

## **1 Special Awards**

- 128-F Special awards (Top Score B/W, and Judges’ Choice) will be awarded based on single images in the Photographic Open Division throughout the year and may be given to Full or Life members.

128-G The FOUR highest scores of each Full or Life member in each category in each Division will be tallied to determine the category winners. The participant can enter all the categories over a given year but must have minimum of 4 entries in a given category to be eligible for the award. There is a first and second place award. Albums with multi-makers will have the total monthly points given to each of the makers.

#### 1 **Service Award**

128-H The “Service Award” may be awarded in recognition of a single non-board member who has gone over and above in service to the guild over the course of the year. This is not strictly a print competition award, and all manners of service to the guild will be considered. This is a singular award chosen at the board’s discretion and may not be awarded every year.

#### 1 **End of Year Awards**

128-I All year end awards will be awarded at the annual holiday party.

- Photographer of the Year – Singular Award
- Wedding Photographer of the Year - Singular Award
- Artist of the Year - Singular Award
- Top Scoring CPP – Singular Award
- Top Scoring First Year – Singular Award
- Top Score Black and White Image – Singular Award
- Judges’ Choice – Singular Award
- Portrait - People Category – 1st & 2nd Place
- Portrait - Animal Category - 1st and 2nd Place
- Illustrative - Landscape/Nature Category – 1st & 2nd Place
- Illustrative - Commercial Category – 1st & 2nd Place
- Illustrative - Reportage Category - 1st & 2nd Place
- General Album – 1st & 2nd Place
- RAW Category - 1st & 2nd Place
- Wedding Category – 1st & 2nd Place
- Wedding Album – 1st & 2nd Place
- Artist - Restoration – 1st & 2nd Place
- Artist - Creative Open – 1st & 2nd Place

- Service Award - Singular Award

1 **Print Competition Medals**

128-J There are 10 monthly competitions between January and November, and for each score of 400 or more, you will accumulate one point toward a medal. Medals will be awarded separately for Photographic Open and Artist.

- scores of 400+ = DIAMOND
- scores of 400+ = PLATINUM
- scores of 400+ = GOLD
- 5 scores of 400+ = SILVER
- 4 scores of 400+ = BRONZE