

CTPPA Image Competition

CTPPA Image Competition is digital to encourage more entries and to save members printing fees. For the convention competition you can enter up to 20 images

There are five Image Competition Categories:, [Portrait](#), [Fine Art](#), [Artistry](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Wedding](#) (see details of the categories below)

- www.printcompetition.com will be used to run the competition.
- o You must register with printcompetition.com, but one nice benefit is that they will SEND YOU your scores. It is *always* best to attend and see the judging in person (you learn more that way), but we know that is not always possible.
- For Convention -- You can enter up to 20 images [The top 6 will count as your "case") with no more than four per category in order to get more feedback from the judges and to figure out what images you want to enter into PPA district and/or IPC.
 - *FYI, For seasonal Competition -- You can enter up to 15 images (seasonal) with no more than three per category in order to get more feedback from the judges and to figure out what images you want to enter into PPA district and/or IPC. The top 4 (seasonal) will count as your "case".*
 - See [CTPPA Image Competition Rules](#)
 - See [Image Categories](#)
 - See [Awards](#)
 - Review [The 12 Elements of a Merit Image](#)
 - The scores from *the seasonal image competitions* will yield points towards the prestigious "Photographer of the Year" in each category.
 - o Best in Show 6 points
 - o 1st Place 4 points
 - o 2nd Place 3 points
 - o 3rd Place 2 points
 - o Corner 1 point

Image Competition Categories:

Portrait

- Using controlled lighting and posing to create image of people or pets.
- The human or animal should be the main subject.
- Environmental portrait images should be entered into Fine Art or Lifestyle (or Artistry if composited). Wedding portraits not created during the time constraints of the actual wedding should be entered in either this or the Fine Art category.

Fine Art: Landscape, Flowers, Animals, Fine Art, Still life, Dogs, Cats, Pets, Events, etc.

- **This Fine Art category is for subjects "that can't talk back", inanimate objects including fine art, landscape, flowers, still life, animals (pet portraits go into PORTRAIT)**
- **Landscapes, architecture, still life, people and pet portraits in an uncontrolled lighting situation, commercial, events, and wedding images not taken during the time constraints of a wedding event.**
- Wedding images not created during the time constraints of the wedding actual event should be entered in this category.

Artistry (previously called ART-EI)

- You **MUST** include guide images. Artistry without guide images will be scored but will not be eligible for awards.
- For this category (only) you may use elements like textures, stock images. The main subject must be photographed by the maker.

Lifestyle: Candid and documentary style images

- Lifestyle photography is a kind of photography that mainly aims to capture portrait/people in situations, real-life events or milestones in an artistic manner and the art of the everyday. The primary goal is to tell stories about people's lives".
- Lifestyle photography lies somewhere in between documentary photography and classic portraiture. Can include Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Quinceaneras, and other events.

Wedding Photographs of brides & grooms (& bridesmaids & groomsmen, etc.)

Short Category Description (for reading at competition start)

All elements in the Wedding category must be created during the time constraints of the actual event. For this category, Judges will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects such as subject matter, environment and time of day. In addition to the twelve elements, for an image to be merit worthy in the wedding competition, additional evaluation may be considered for the entries that illustrate the personality of the subject or subjects and the story of the wedding as well as the artistic and technical skills of the image maker. Ultimately, additional consideration may be given to the maker for technically and artistically executing at a merit level in spite of challenges involved at an actual wedding.

Wedding Photographs of brides & grooms (& bridesmaids & groomsmen, etc.)

Long Category Description

Images taken in direct correlation and in the time constraints of a wedding event.

The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter images to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. (For more information, go to PPA.com/IPC.) In addition to the twelve elements, for an image to be merit worthy in the wedding competition, additional evaluation may be considered for the entries that illustrate the personality of the subject or subjects and the story of the wedding as well as the artistic and technical skills of the image maker.

For this category, Judges will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects of a wedding. For example: subject matter, environment and time of day. Ultimately, additional consideration may be given to the maker for technically and artistically executing at a merit level in spite of challenges involved at an actual wedding.

Images and all elements of an image in the Wedding category must be created during the time constraints of the actual event. Images not created during the time constraints of the actual event may be entered in Fine Art category.

The entrant or entrants must have captured all elements of the final submission from that wedding. Images in the Wedding competition should reflect the personality or personalities of the subject(s) or the story of the wedding as well as the personality, artistic and technical skills of the image maker. Images should include some kind of visual wedding reference(s). The original captured image (in RAW, jpg or film) must be available if requested by the competition committee.

CTPPA Competition Rules

1. www.printcompetition.com will be used to run the competition.
 - a. You must register with www.printcompetition.com, but one nice benefit is that they will SEND YOU your scores. It is always best if you can attend and see the judging in person (you learn more that way), but we know that is not always possible.
 - b. Another benefit of using this system is that you can change or swap out images right up until the deadline.
 - c. No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed.
 - d. Payment must be received at the same time or your images will not be accepted.
 - e. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.
2. The images are prepared the same way as for the seasonal and annual image competition.
 - a. **Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels.**
 - b. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10.
3. Entrants do not need to be CTPPA members to enter. Only Active, Life, and Intern members are eligible for the “Photographer of the Year” awards in each category.
4. Categories: There are five Image Competition Categories: [Wedding](#), [Portrait](#), [Fine Art](#), [Artistry](#), [Lifestyle](#) (see details of the categories above)
 - a. The image chair(s) has/have the right to question the category of any entry.
 - b. The judges have the option to change the classification; their decision is final.
5. Images taken in classroom settings, seminars, and workshops are not allowed by any photographer other than the instructor. 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. Images created in an educational environment under direct supervision from an instructor are ineligible.

6. Any entry that has been created from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic or any other artwork produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be judged, accepted or displayed.
7. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the judges, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.
8. The following images are not eligible:
 - a. CTPPA blue ribbon winners*, Reuben Schaller Award, Hallmark Award, Century Award, Kodak Gallery and Fuji Masterpiece winners.
 - b. Images that have merited and been previously submitted under one category may not be subsequently submitted under a different category.
 - c. PPANE or PPA entries scoring 80 or above are also not eligible.
 - d. Entries previously merited at any PPA International Competition are not eligible, including any image from a merited album.
 - e. *The exception being that a print scoring 80 or above on the local level, may be re-submitted for judging on the state level at the annual convention.
9. Only one entry per subject is allowed. You may not enter the same subject in different files in the same case.

Note that this CTPPA rule is different than the 2019 IPC rules "Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts."
10. Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
11. All processing, manipulation and printing or rendering, were done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
12. The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold CTPPA harmless against all claims & liabilities arising out of CTPPA's display, publication, & promotion or other use of each submitted image.
13. The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
14. Entries Allowed:

a. Seasonal

a. The total number of entries permitted in each of the seasonal competitions is 15.

i. No more than 3 in each category

b. The top 4 images will count towards the makers case.

b. Convention

a. The total number of entries permitted in each of the seasonal competitions is 20. **No more than 4 images in each category.**

b. The top 6 images will count towards the makers case.

15. DIGITAL Image Fee

The fee for each image for members and non-members for seasonal and annual competitions will be listed on www.printcompetition.com

16. NOTE: If you are entering IPC or other competitions, please check with that competition's standards and rules. CTPPA rules may vary.

17. Point System

a. All images scoring 78 or above will receive corners.

b. Images scoring 80 or higher will be judged for ribbons.

c. The highest scoring print will automatically receive "Best in Show", the next highest will receive "First Place" followed by "Second Place" and then "Third Place".

d. When there are multiple images with the same score that are up for ribbons they will be reviewed by the judges.

17. Awards

- a. The “**Club320 Award**” is awarded to ALL makers whose case (4 images) all earn 80+ (for the **seasonal competitions**).
- b. **Photographer of The Year in Each Category** (non-master): Points are accumulated in the seasonal competition in *each category*. The photographer with the highest point score in each category will win “Photographer of the Year” for that category. The photographer in this competition can be PPA Certified but cannot be a Master.
- c. **Certified Photographer of the Year (non-master)**: Points will be accumulated for all categories entered and the individual with the highest cumulative points will be awarded “Certified Photographer of the Year”.
- d. **Master Photographer of the Year**: Points will be accumulated for all categories entered. The individual with the highest point score in all categories is “Master Photographer of the Year”.
- e. **Neophyte Photographer of the Year**: Points will be accumulated for all categories entered. The individual entering for the first time with the highest total score in all categories earns this award.
- f. **Most Improved Photographer of the Year**: Points will be accumulated for all categories entered and the individual entering for two consecutive years with the highest point difference between the two years in all categories will earn “Most Improved Photographer of the Year”.
- g. **Convention Awards**
 - 1) **A Court of Honor** will be awarded to the highest scoring image in *each category* (Court of Honor in Wedding, Portrait, Artistry, Fine Art, and Lifestyle), -- and for a Masters.
 - 2) **The Judges Choice Awards**: Each judge and the jury chair will select an image.
 - 3) **The Treskunoff Award** is awarded for the highest case (6 images) total.
 - 4) **Rookie Award** is awarded the highest case (6 images) by a first-time entrant.
 - 5) **The “Club480 Award”** is awarded to ALL photographers whose convention cases (six images) all earn 80+ at the **annual convention competition**.
 - 6) **The People's Choice Award**: The image most liked by the attendees. Each convention attendee will receive one colored ballot slip in their welcome packets.
 - 7) **Other annual awards** (may not be awarded at every convention) include:
 - i. The **Reuben Schaller Award** (in remembrance of child photographer extraordinaire) is given to the best portrait of a child under the age of 15.

- ii. The **Roland Laramie CPP Award**, courtesy of PPA, is given to the CTPPA Certified Professional Photographer (CPP) with the highest scoring image.
- iii. The **ASP State Elite Award** is given to the highest scoring image by a CTPPA ASP member.
- iv. The Gerri Karamesinis Award for the most Creative image (Artistry category)
- v. The Gerri Karamesinis Award Props for best use of props
- vi. The ACI Award \$150 gift certificate.
- vii. The White House Custom Color Award is for the "Most Creative" Wedding image.
- viii. Millers Award
- ix. Fuji Award
- x. Richmond Award
- xi. Sunset Award
 - 1. All inkjet-printed entries are eligible to win the "Best Print in Exhibition" Sunset award. The competition must have a minimum of 150 prints entered and judged as prints. Any category within a competition must have a minimum of 25 entries. Entries need not be printed on Sunset inkjet media to win but must be an inkjet print. An image must be submitted and be judged as a print. The image must be chosen from the 10 highest scoring prints in the competition. The image does not qualify if it was previously named as a Sunset Print Award winner

The 12 Elements of a Merit Image:

1. **Impact:** Compelling images evoke emotion—laughter, sadness, anger, pride.
2. **Technical Excellence:** The quality of the actual image as presented for viewing. Aspects such as retouching, sharpness, printing, color, and exposure should be spot on.
3. **Creativity:** The image is original, fresh, and an external expression of the maker's imagination.
4. **Style:** The subject matter meshes with the presentation. Style can also include the characteristic ways that an artist applies his or her specific lighting, posing, or compositional style to underscore the desired impact.
5. **Composition:** The visual elements of an image come together to express intent, whether that's to please the viewer or otherwise. The viewer's attention is captured and directed where the artist plans it to be.
6. **Presentation:** The way an image is showcased gives it a finished look. Everything in the presentation—mats, borders, color choices—should work to enhance the image.
7. **Color Balance:** Color work together to evoke feelings in the viewer. For example, it can bring harmony to an image and enhance the emotional appeal. It can also be incongruous to arouse diverse feelings.
8. **Center of Interest:** This is where an image's creator wants a viewer's attention focused. There may be primary and secondary centers of interest. Sometimes all the elements in an image work together to create the center of interest.
9. **Lighting:** The image demonstrates excellence in the use and control of light, whether natural or additive. Light informs dimensions and shape, sets tone and mood, and enhances the image.
10. **Subject Matter:** The subject matter is central to the story being told, so the subject should sync with the story.
11. **Technique:** The approaches used to create the image—lighting, posing, capture, presentation—work together to be effective.
12. **Storytelling:** The image evokes the viewer's imagination. While the act of creating is a personal thing, so too is the act of viewing. Each image is a story, and the one it tells a viewer may be unique to that person.

Image Competition Mentor Program

Entering image competition? Here is a free service that can help you critically evaluate and improve your competition images.

For those of you who are sitting on the fence, not sure if you should enter, or even if you want to enter image competitions, this could help you to take that first step. This service can also help you determine *which images* to enter.

Joan Genest, M. Photog., Cr. ASP. has volunteered her services to help us as photographers in selecting the right images for print competitions.

Critiques will address numerous issues such as basic composition, impact, color, cropping, matting (should there be a mat or will it detract from the image), clothing choices, and props (are you using too many?).

Perhaps you are having trouble deciding which image to select from a recent session? Select 3 or 4 from that session and the Master will help you to figure out which one to submit to the print competition.

Review the 12 Elements of a Merit Image, select the images you would like the Master to critique and then send an email to Joan jmgenest@aol.com. Please type CTPPA Critique in the subject heading. Send your images for critique as attachments. Expect a truly honest opinion of your submitted work(s). Although emailed submissions initially go to Joan, she may elect to ask another Master Photographer to review/critique the images. Please note that this service is currently being offered for free, however, that may change down the road, so don't hesitate to take advantage of this now!

"The Master's Critique Forum" is a mentoring program that was first created by Nancy Holowitz, Master/Craftsman, Honorary Educational Degree ASP. With Nancy's passing we at CTPPA are very pleased that this service will continue. Thank you Joan!