

# CTPPA Image Competition 2021-2022

CTPPA Annual and Seasonal Image Competitions are digital to encourage more entries and to save printing fees.

- [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com) is used to run the competition. You must register with them, but one nice benefit is that they will SEND YOU your scores during the competition. Please watch the judging in person as you learn more and get inspired via watching.
- **Competition rules:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/CTPPA-imagecomp>
- Entering image competition may seem daunting, but it is a very rewarding experience as a professional -- and as an artist.
- Entering image competition pushes you as a professional photographer by letting you put your skills to the test. Find out what you are capable of while learning new skills and honing old ones.
- You might be fearful, afraid of competing against other photographers, but in reality, you are competing against *yourself*. That is you should measure your improvement from competition to competition and from year to year. To this end, we have added a new award, **the Blue Case Award**, which is awarded to EACH photographer whose case images all earn 80+ (Case = 4 images Seasonal & 6 images Annual)
- Entering a competition also provides fodder for publicity, which helps set you apart from other professional photographers. [A fill in the Blank press release can be found on the CTPPA website.](#)



## Rules: The tl/dr version:

- Files must be sized with 4000 pixels on longest side.
- Seasonal: You may enter up to 3 images/category. Top 4 = "case"
- Annual/Convention: You may enter up to 4 images/category. Top 6 = "case"
- Images taken in classes/seminars/workshops are NOT allowed (except by instructor).
- No images made under the supervision of an instructor or class assignment images.
- Only one entry per subject is allowed (per competition).
- PPA merited images are not eligible (CTPPA seasonal image winners are OK at Annual).
- Categories (Image competition chairs may move images to other categories).
  - **Portrait -- Kids under 16 and Seniors 16-18**
  - **Portrait -- Animals**
  - **Portrait: General** – (Image of posed People or Groups with controlled lighting)
    - Includes wedding portraits not created during an actual wedding.
  - **Fine Art: Landscapes/Nature** (includes wildlife, zoo animals, landscape, etc.)
  - **Fine Art: Illustrative/Commercial**
  - **Lifestyle:** Candid images. No Images that have been "set-up" or include "models"
  - **Photojournalism:** ONLY basic color/brightness adjustments, dodging/burning, and cropping are allowed. No Composite or multiple exposure images. The original captured image (RAW or jpg) must be available upon request.
  - **Artistry** (to demonstrate art skills. MUST include guide images. In this category (ONLY) textures, copyright free stock images, etc. are OK.
  - **Wedding:** must be taken in time constraints of an actual wedding.

**Categories: we are trying to follow the PPA IPC Image Competition Categories as much as possible:**

**1) Portrait - Kids under 16 and Seniors 16-18**

- a. These images typically involved posed subjects and controlled lighting.
- b. Kids under 16 must contain a child or children from birth to age 16 or Seniors 16-18
- c. Images can portray a people from all walks of life and should reflect the person's personality.

**2) Portrait -- Animals**

- a. An animal portrait using controlled or structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment, where the owner or photographer controls the animal.

**3) Portrait -- General**

- a. These images typically involved posed subjects and/or controlled lighting.
- b. Families, groups, couples, and adults (18 and older), relationships, models, groups, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Quinceañera, and fashion portraits, in addition to tastefully artistic figure studies.
- c. Wedding portraits not created during the actual wedding should be entered in *this* category.

**4) Fine Art: -- landscape/nature**

- a. Images that capture the beauty of nature and/or wildlife
- b. Images that share joy and adventures while expressing a sense of place.
- c. Wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting, and zoo animals, should be entered in this category.
- d. Flowers, seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets with or without people should be entered in this category.

**5) Fine Art: illustrative/commercial**

- a. Images that capture the beauty of industry or architectural areas.
- b. Images are created for a commercial client to advertise a product and promote a brand or company should be entered in this category.
- c. Subjects can: be an interior or exterior of a structure or within an industrial environment.
- d. Illustrative can also be conceptual images that tell a story.

**6) Artistry -- guide images required**

- a. The purpose of this competition is to allow the entrant to demonstrate their art skills.
- b. The judges will place emphasis will be placed on digital, artistic, and technical proficiency.
- c. **MUST** include guide images (images w/o guide images are scored but not eligible for awards).
- d. For this category (only) you may use elements like textures, stock images. The main subject must be photographed by the maker.

**7) Lifestyle**

- a. Lifestyle mainly aims to capture **people in candid** situations and/or **real-life** milestones.
- b. This category is about the art of the everyday and the goal is to tell stories about people's lives.
- c. *Images that have been setup with models or paid/"time for" subjects should not be entered here.*

**8) Photojournalism**

- a. Photojournalism/Reportage includes 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.
- b. Images that illustrate sporting events can be submitted to this category.
- c. **ONLY** basic color and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging, and burning in are allowed.
- d. Only single-capture images will be accepted. No Composite or multiple exposure images.
- e. *The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the committee.*

**9) Wedding -- Images must be taken during the time constraints of a wedding event.**

- a. All elements must be created during the time constraints of the actual event.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. **Entrants of this category, please read the full Category Description on the next page.**

## **Wedding (Full Category Description)**

- **Photographs of brides and grooms (and bridesmaids & groomsmen), etc.**
- **Images must be taken in direct correlation and in the time constraints of a wedding event**
- Images must be 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](http://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 Creative 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.**
- 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](http://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, despite challenges involved at an actual wedding.
- Images and all elements of an image in the Wedding competition 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 Print committee.

## CTPPA Image Competition Rules

- 1) [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com) will be used to run the competition.
  - a. You must register with [www.printcompetition.com](http://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. Note: No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed.
  - c. Payment must be received at the same time or your images will not be accepted. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.
- 2) Images for seasonal/quarterly competition are prepared the same way for the annual competition.
  - a. **Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels.**
  - b. **Tip/Suggestion:** Create a 16x20x300 dpi template PPT and then drag your image onto the template to make it easier and then add your keyline (or guide images for Artistry).
- 3) Entrants do not need to be CTPPA members to enter.
  - a. Only Active, Life, and Intern members are eligible for the "Photographer of the Year", Court of Honor and special awards in each category.
  - b. Nonmembers are eligible for the Highest Scoring image by a non-member (one per category).
  - c. The "Non-Member Competition" is open to non-CTPPA members.
  - d. All images in the Non-Member category will be judged with the regular entries, but are not eligible for any awards, except for the Non-Member award.
- 4) Categories:
  - a. We are trying to follow PPA categories: The Image Competition Categories are: [Portrait \(children\)](#), [Portrait \(Animal\)](#), [Portrait, Wedding, Fine Art: -- landscape/nature, Fine Art: illustrative/commercial, Artistry, Lifestyle, Photojournalism](#) (see category details above)
  - b. The image chair(s) has/have the right to question/reassign the category of any entry.
  - c. The judges also have the right to question the category of any entry.
  - d. Entries that do not fit the category or abide by the category rules may be disqualified, for example: All Artistry images must include guide images.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.

- 7) Images taken in classroom settings, seminars, and workshops are not allowed by any photographer other than the instructor.
  - a. 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.
  - b. Images created in an educational environment under direct supervision from an instructor are ineligible.
  - c. Image can receive feedback from judges, mentors, etc. including our own [Image Competition Mentor Program](#)
- 8) The following images are not eligible:
  - a. CTPPA blue ribbon winners\*
    - i. ***\*The exception being that a print scoring 80 or above during the during any season/quarterly competitions at the local level may be re-submitted for judging on the CTPPA state level at the annual convention.)***
  - b. Images that have merited and been previously submitted under one category may not be subsequently submitted under a different category.
  - c. Reuben Schaller Award, Hallmark Award, Century Award, Kodak Gallery and Fuji Masterpiece winners.
  - d. PPA IPC entries that have earned an 80 or above prior to the competition deadline are not eligible for entry in the seasonal or annual image competition.
  - e. Entries previously merited at any PPA International Competition are not eligible, including any image from a merited album.
- 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 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) **NOTE: If you are entering IPC or other PPA competitions, please review your image and image settings according to each competition's standards and rules.**
- 11) Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
- 12) All processing, manipulation, etc. were done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
- 13) 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.
- 14) The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.

- 15) Number of entries allowed.
- a. Seasonal: No more than 3 in each category
    - i. The top 4 will count towards the makers case (Blue Case Award)
  - b. Convention: No more than 4 in each category.
    - i. The top 6 will count towards the makers case (Blue Case Award)
- 16) DIGITAL Case Fee: The fee for each image for members and non-members for seasonal and annual competitions will be listed on [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com)
- 17) Point System. Scoring shall be based upon the following standards:
- a. **Exceptional 100-95**
  - b. **Superior 94-90**
  - c. **Excellent 89-85**
  - d. **Deserving of a Merit 84-80**
  - e. **Above Average 79-75**
  - f. **Average 74-70**
  - g. **Below Exhibition Standards 69-65**
- 18) Ribbons and Awards: **Seasonal**
- a. **Seasonal:** Images scoring 80-100 will be judged for ribbons
    - i. Metal: Best in Show. Digital Ribbons: First, Second, and Third.
    - ii. The highest scoring image will automatically receive “Best in Show”, the next highest will receive “First Place” followed by “Second Place” and then “Third Place”. When there are multiple images with the same score the judges will be asked to break the tie.
    - iii. **The Blue Case Award** will be awarded to EACH maker whose case of 4 images each earn 80 or above.
    - iv. **The Highest Scoring Image by a Non-member Award (per category)** is awarded to the highest scoring image in each category. This award is open to anyone who is not a member of CTPPA. All Non-Member images will be judged with the regular entries, but are not eligible for any awards, except for the Non-Member award.
    - v. Seasonal competition awards will count [towards Photographer of the Year](#) in Each Category.
      - i. Best in Show                      6 pts
      - ii. 1st Place                            5 points
      - iii. 2nd Place                           4 points
      - iv. 3rd Place                            3 points
      - v. 80+ non-award images    2 points
      - vi. 78-79                                1 point

19) Ribbons and Awards: **Convention Competiton**

- a. Images scoring 80-100 will be judged for convention awards.
  - b. Images scoring 76-100 will earn a digital/virtual ribbon.
    - i. **White 75-76 – Award of Accomplishment**
    - ii. **Red 77-79 -- Award of Excellence**
    - iii. **Blue 80+ -- Award of Expert**
  - c. When there are multiple images with the same score that are up for awards, they will be reviewed by the judges to break the tie.
  - d. The highest scoring convention image will receive **“The Nancy Holowitz Memorial Best in Show Award”**.
  - e. **A Court of Honor**: the highest scoring image **in each category** at the annual competition
    - i. Non-masters -- Court of Honor **in each category**
    - ii. Masters -- Court of Honor **in each category**
    - iii. The same image does not win the BEST in Show and the Court of Honor. For example, an image entered into Portrait earns a 91 which is the highest score of the annual competition. That image would earn the distinction of Best in Show and the next highest image score would earn the Court of Honor for the category.
  - f. **Blue Case Award**: A Blue Case Award will be awarded for EACH photographer whose convention case (all six case images) earns 80+ at the annual convention competition.
  - g. **The Treskunoff Award** is awarded to the photographer with the highest case total (6 images)
    - i. The maker that earns the Treskunoff Award (convention) may or may not also earn a Blue case award. If one maker earns both then only one plaque will be created – that plaque will state “This case earned a Blue Case Award (all 6 images earned 80+) and the Treskunoff Award (the highest scoring case)”.
  - h. **The Rookie Award** is awarded to first time convention entrant with the highest case total (6)
    - i. The maker that earns the Rookie Award (convention) may or may not also earn a Blue case award. If one maker earns both then only one plaque will be created – that plaque will state “This case earned a Blue Case Award (all 6 images earned 80+) and the Rookie Award (the highest scoring case)”
- B. Other annual awards include the: Gerri Karamesinis Award for Best Prop(s), Reuben Schaller Award for the best portrait of a child under 16, Roland Laramie CPP Award, and Best B&W.
- C. **Highest Scoring image by a non-member (one per category)** The "Non-Member Competition" is open to non CTPPA members. All images in the Non-Member category will be judged with the regular entries, but are not eligible for any awards, except for the Non-Member award.

## 20) End of Year Awards

### a. **Photographer of The Year in Each Category – For Masters and Non-Masters**

i. Points will be tallied from the seasonal image competitions:

- |                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Best in Show         | 6 points |
| b. 1st Place            | 5 points |
| c. 2nd Place            | 4 points |
| d. 3rd Place            | 3 points |
| e. 80+ non-award images | 2 points |
| f. 78-79                | 1 point  |

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 earn “Photographer of the Year” for that category. The photographer in this competition may or may not be PPA Certified, but they cannot be a Master.

c. **Photographer of The Year in Each Category (Master):** Points will be accumulated for all categories entered. The individual with the highest point score in all categories is “Master Photographer of the Year”. The photographer in this competition may or may not be PPA Certified but must be a PPA Master.

d. **Certified Photographer of the Year:** Points will be accumulated for each category entered and the CPP with the highest total will be awarded “Certified Photographer of the Year”.

e. **Neophyte Photographer of the Year:** Points will be accumulated for all categories entered and the individual entering for the first time with the highest point score in all categories will win “Neophyte Photographer of the Year”.

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 win “Most Improved Photographer of the Year”. Anyone is eligible for this award.



21) Judging Procedures: Images are judged utilizing “**The 12 Elements of a Merit Image**”:

- 1) **Impact** -- Viewing an image for the first time always evokes some kind of feeling. Sometimes they can make us sad, happy or angry. Sometimes they force us to look inward at ourselves. That’s called impact, and the more powerful the image, the more powerful the emotional response of the viewer.
- 2) **Technical Excellence** -- This is the print quality of the actual image itself as it’s presented for viewing. There are a lot of aspects that speak to the qualities of the physical print. These can include: Retouching, Manipulation, Sharpness, Exposure, Color correction
- 3) **Creativity** -- Your point of view is exactly that– yours. And it’s unlike anyone else’s. This element speaks directly to that perspective. It shows your imagination and how you used the medium to convey an idea, a message or a thought to the viewer. This differentiates you from others.
- 4) **Style** -- There are many, many ways to apply this element to your work. Maybe you use light in a specific way on a subject, or maybe you make a technical decision for the express purpose of underscoring desired impact. When subject matter and style come together in an appropriate manner, the effects on an image can be spectacular. But remember, when subject matter and style don’t work together, the results can be, well, less-than-spectacular.
- 5) **Composition** -- When all the visual elements of an image come together to express intent, that’s when the magic of composition happens. Good composition captures a viewer’s attention and directs it where you, the artist, want it to be. Depending on your intent, you can make something that pleases the viewer– or disturbs them.
- 6) **Presentation** -- How you showcase an image is just as important as how you compose it. Everything in the presentation should work to enhance your image and not distract from it. Keep this in mind when choosing mats, borders and everything in between.
- 7) **Color Balance** -- Proper color balance can bring a sense of harmony to an image. When the tones all work together to support an image, the emotional appeal is that much greater. But color balance doesn’t have to be used to bring harmony to an image. You can use color balance to evoke any number of feelings from a viewer. The choice in how to take advantage is entirely up to you, but no matter what, be sure your choice enhances rather than distracts.
- 8) **Center of Interest** -- This is where an image’s creator wants a viewer’s attention focused. Sometimes there can be a primary and a secondary center of interest. Sometimes everything in an image will work together to create that center of interest.
- 9) **Lighting** -- The use and control of light has an effect on every aspect of an image. It informs dimensions and shape, it sets tone and mood, and, like every other technique, proper lighting can be used to enhance your image while improper lighting can detract from it.
- 10) **Subject Matter** -- Even though it lacks words, your image tells a story, and your subject matter is central to that. So make sure that your subject matter is right for the story that you’re trying to tell.
- 11) **Technique** -- How you choose to execute your image is key. It’s also a holistic decision. Technique informs everything in the creation of your image. From lighting and posing to printing and presentation, it all works to show off the techniques that you’ve mastered and applied to your craft.
- 12) **Story Telling** -- What does your image evoke in a viewer’s imagination? What do you want your image to evoke in a viewer’s imagination? Keep in mind: You are creating art. And while the act of creating is a personal thing, so too is the act of viewing. Your image is a story, and the one it tells your viewer may be one you never knew you were telling.

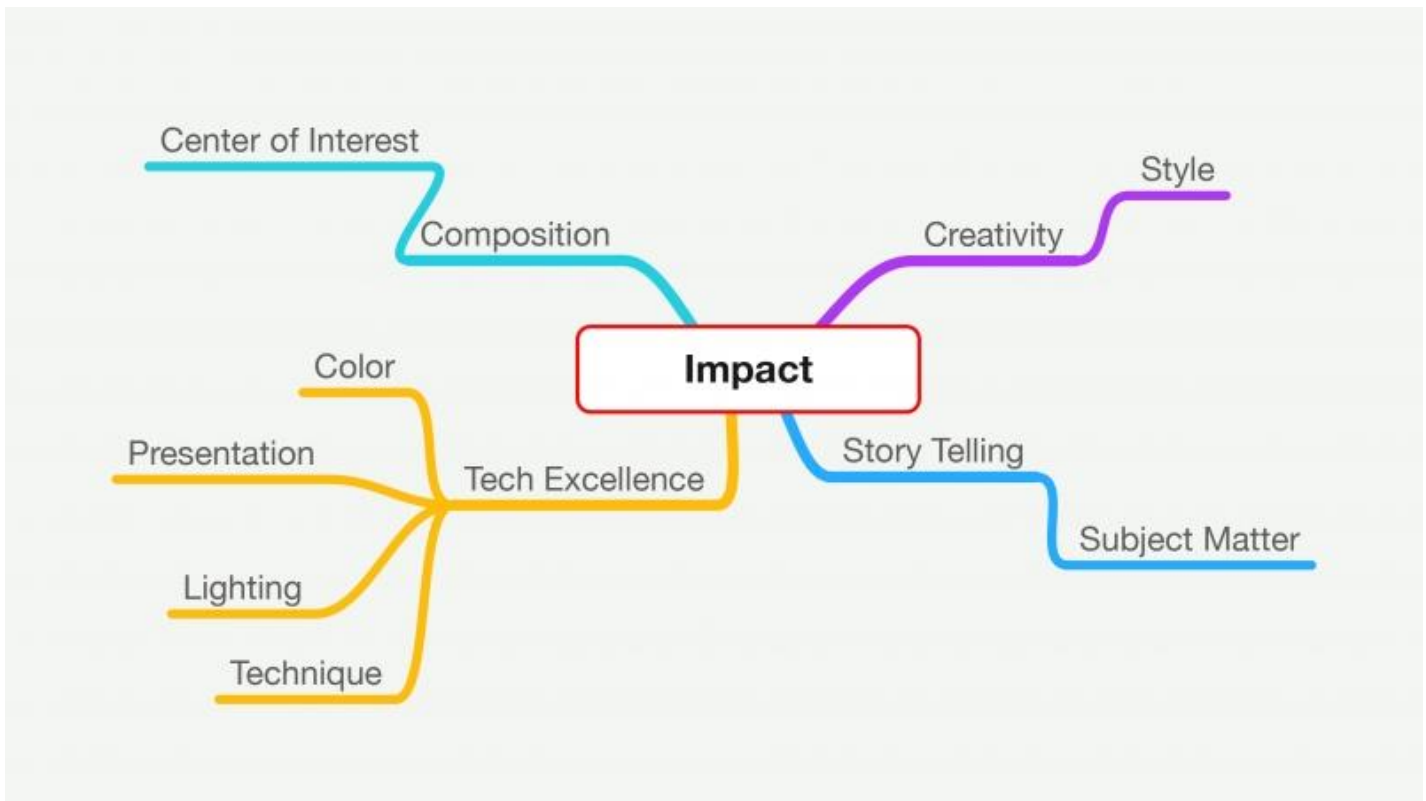
## A Mind Map of the 12 Elements on PPMag.com

Lisa Dillon, M. Photog. Cr., CPP, and Bryan Welsh, Cr. Photog., API, share a fresh perspective on PPA's International Photographic Competition. Specifically, they look at the "12 Elements of a Merit Image" in a new light. They write:

"If you're new to image competition, it can feel like a game. It's possible you have only a passing familiarity with the 12 elements of a merit image. Yes, the list is displayed at every image competition and a short description of each element can be found on the PPA website. But do you really understand what they mean? Do you understand how they underpin one another and build upon one another?"

Rather than looking at the elements as a checklist, Lisa and Bryan created a mind map (a diagram used to visually organize information) for a unique take on these elements and how to succeed in the IPC.

Read their fascinating article, "[A Fresh Look at the 12 Elements](#)", at PPMag.com today!



## 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](mailto: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!