

# 2018 PPOK PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RULES

## READ CAREFULLY!

All entries must be registered at [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com)

The Professional Photographers of Oklahoma (PhotoXOK) annual photographic competition offers two separate divisions for entries. The divisions are Photographic Open and Artist. Participants, also referred to as makers or entrants, can enter cases in one or both divisions. The term "case" consists of the combined 6 top scoring entries entered by that maker for each division. Only digital entries will be judged.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND RULES

### ELIGIBILITY

1. All members of the Professional Photographers of Oklahoma, Inc. (PPOK) are eligible to enter the Photographic Competition. PPOK members who meet the requirements defined below may enter the General Exhibition or, if qualified, the Masters' Exhibition.
2. Non-resident (out of state) members of the association can compete in the Photographic Competition and are eligible to win any award, under which category they might qualify, as long they have paid registration fees and physically attend the event.
3. Participants who are not PPOK members, and who live outside of Oklahoma may enter the Out-of-State Exhibition.

### DEADLINE

1. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE UPLOADED ONLINE at [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com) BY 11PM (CST) TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018. No exceptions will be made except by the Print Chairman, and only in extreme circumstances.
2. No changes to your entries are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.

### FEES

1. \$10.00 per image/album for PPOK members, including PPOK out of state members.
2. \$15.00 per image/album for non-members of PPOK. Non-member residents of Oklahoma are NOT eligible for awards, but will receive print scores. Non-member out of state entrants are only eligible for the Out of State trophy.

### VIEWING CONDITIONS FOR JUDGING

Monitor Settings: D65, 120 cd/m<sup>2</sup>, 2.20 gamma

### SPECIFICATIONS FOR DIGITAL ENTRIES

1. Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, total file size should not exceed 3.5 MP. Larger files will be accepted when necessary so long as they are JPEG/10.
2. Files are to be spelled and capitalized the way you want it printed and the title announced.
3. There is not a limit to the number of entries submitted by each maker.

**SCORING ENTRIES:** Juries will judge in open session and follow the PPA affiliated association judging procedures. The point system is used with scores ranging from 100 to 65 as follows:

Exceptional 100-95

Superior 94-90

Excellent 89-85

Deserving of Merit 84-80

Above Average 79-75

Average 74-70

Below Exhibition Standards 69-65

The final score shall be the official score on these and on any challenged entry.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN SPECIFIC RULES

The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter digital images and/or digital albums to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image.

1. Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
2. All processing, manipulation and rendering, must be done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
3. The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold PPOK harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of PPOK's display, publication and promotion or other use of each image submitted to PPOK.
4. The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
5. Makers may enter any number of entries. Their "case" will consist of their top six images they entered in Photographic Open. An album entry counts as one entry in the Photographic Open case.
6. 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.
7. Any entry that has been created from a 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. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the PPOK, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.
8. No two entries shall be of the same subject.
9. Entries previously entered in a PPOK Photographic Competition will be disqualified. An image that has been awarded a merit in PPA or a PPA District will be disqualified, including any image from a merited album.

### EXHIBITION DETAILS

A maker may enter unlimited entries in the exhibition for which he or she qualifies. The entrant may also enter a case in the Artist Exhibition/Division.

1. **GENERAL EXHIBITION**— This exhibition is open to all members who do not hold the PPA Master of Photography and/ or Master Artist degree. Entries may be made in any of the print categories (see below).

- a) **FIRST TIME ENTRANT**—(special subset of the GENERAL EXHIBITION) Any member who is entering 1st time in **any** State, Regional, or National photographic competition which is affiliated with PPA is eligible for this category. First time entrants in this division are eligible for a special trophy and entry forms should be marked accordingly.
2. **MASTERS EXHIBITION** — This exhibition is open to members who hold the PPA Master of Photography and/or Master Artist degree. Entries may be made in any of the print categories.
3. **OUT OF STATE EXHIBITION** — This exhibition is open to entrants living outside of Oklahoma. Out of State entries are eligible only for the “Out of State” plaque unless the entrant is a PPOK member, has paid registration fees and physically attends the event, in which case they will be eligible for all state awards.
4. **NON-MEMBER EXHIBITION** – This exhibition is open to Oklahoma residents who are not members of PPOK. These entries will be judged for scores only; they are not eligible for awards.
5. **ARTIST EXHIBITION** – This exhibition is open to general or master members and is a separate entry case. Note: a maker may enter a case for the Artist Exhibition (Artist Division) in addition to (or instead of) their case for Photographic Open. See Artist Exhibit Rules for details.

### **AWARD CATEGORIES**

Note: Black & White or Color may be entered in the same category.

1. MP - Man's Portrait - one male subject only
2. WP - Woman's Portrait - one female subject only
3. CP - Child's Portrait- one subject only
4. GP - Group Portrait - two or more subjects, including pets
5. WE - Weddings - pertaining to brides or candid wedding images
6. C/I - Commercial/Industrial - commercial or industrial subject matter
7. U1 - Unclassified 1 - scenic, landscapes, and still life photographic art
8. U2 - Unclassified 2 - people and animate objects not fitting the portrait category
9. EA- Event Albums - All photographs from one event
10. Classic Portraiture –Image straight from camera with no or minor blemish retouching. Presentation matting is allowed.

### **DIGITAL ALBUM ENTRY RULES**

See Video Tutorial: [www.ppa.com/jpc\\_tutorials](http://www.ppa.com/jpc_tutorials)

1. All page/spread files must have the longest file dimension at 4000 pixels, have an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10.
2. Each page/spread file may contain as many images as you desire.
3. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 page/spread files up to 36 page/spread files.
4. Files are to be numbered in viewing order using two digits, i.e. 01jpg, 02 jpg, 03 jpg, etc.
5. All individual files must be compressed into a single ZIP file. ZIP file are to be spelled and Capitalized the way you want it printed.
6. Entries will be disqualified if the photographer's name, studio name or title appears on the front of the entry.
7. Albums are only allowed in the Photographic Open division.

## **ARTIST SPECIFIC RULES**

The purpose of this competition is to allow the entrant to demonstrate their art skills and expertise. Entries will be judged for digital, artistic and technical proficiency. Entries can be created using digital compositing or computer graphic (such as digital painting or both) techniques or a combination of both.

Entries will also be judged on the presentation of the final artwork, as defined in the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. All entries must be “original work.”

1. 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. This documentation may be requested by PPOK before, during or after the competition. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the Professional Photographers of Oklahoma Second Vice President, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law and cannot be proven otherwise, that entry shall be disqualified.
2. All processing, manipulation, artwork or rendering must be done by the entrant.
3. Entries will be disqualified if the photographer’s name, studio name or title appears on the entry.
4. Entries previously entered in a PPOK Exhibition will be disqualified. Any image that has been awarded an exhibition merit in PPA or a PPA District will be disqualified.
5. There is no limit to the number of entries submitted per entrant. The 6 top scoring Artist images by the maker will define the Artist “print case”.
6. No entry will be eligible that has been made under the supervision of an instructor, during class time or as a class assignment.
7. No two entries shall be of the same subject.
8. Entries in the Artist category can include any type of subject. There are no subcategories in this division.
9. All Artist entries must include at least one guide or reference image to show the work performed on the resulting entry. The guide images must be included on the submitted digital canvas.

## AWARDS FOR EXHIBITING

1. Selection of entries to be exhibited will be made by the 2nd Vice President and the print committee when judging is completed. The number of points necessary for viewing is determined at that time.
2. The best accepted entry in each the General and Masters category within the Photographic Open division will be awarded a First Place plaque. The best accepted entry in the Artist division will be awarded a First Place plaque. Awards will be given to the best entries of the various categories and divisions by the majority vote of the judges in closed session.
3. The judges may also, at their discretion, give as many as two Distinguished Print ribbons and as many as two Honorable Mention ribbons in each division.
4. Plaques will be given for the most outstanding body of work submitted. Plaques awarded for total points are determined by adding together the top 6 scoring images of all entries by each entrant in his or her case with the highest print case total winning. In case of a tie, the majority vote of the judges decides the winner.
  - a) Past Presidents’ Plaque for the best entry in the General Exhibition.
  - b) The Directors’ Plaque for the best entry in the Masters Exhibition.
  - c) Two Presidents Plaques for the persons with the most total points from all his/her entries in the General and Masters Exhibitions. These awards will be designated as the “Oklahoma Photographer of the Year—General Division” and “Oklahoma Photographer of the Year—Masters Division.”
5. Oklahoma Certified Professional Photographer Trophy will be awarded to the PPA Certified entrant with the highest scoring entry.
6. The Out of State Trophy will be awarded to the person living outside Oklahoma with the most total points from his or her case in the Out of State Division, unless that entrant is a PPOK Member who has paid the convention registration fees and is in attendance at the convention, in which case they are eligible for any member awards.

7. Nelson-Helt Memorial Scholarship for total case points for the First time entry in General Division.
8. Members' Choice plaque for the print with the most votes by registered convention attendees.
9. Judges may give "Judges' Choice" ribbons for prints selected by individual judges at their discretion.
10. Classic Portraiture plaque will be awarded for the best classic entry.
11. PPOK will not give awards other than those already stated without prior approval of the Board of Directors.

## THE 12 ELEMENTS OF A MERIT IMAGE

The Photographic Exhibitions Committee (PEC) of PPA uses the 12 elements below as the "gold standard" to define a merit image. PEC trains judges to be mindful of these elements when judging images to the PPA merit level and to be placed in the International Print Exhibit at Imaging USA, the annual convention. PPOK Judges will use this standard to judge entries.

Twelve elements have been defined as necessary for the success of an art piece or image. Any image, art piece, or photograph will reveal some measure of all twelve elements, while a visually superior example will reveal obvious consideration of each one.

**Impact** is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of these twelve elements.

**Technical excellence** is the print quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, printing, mounting, and correct color are some items that speak to the qualities of the physical print.

**Creativity** is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.

**Style** is defined in a number of ways as it applies to a creative image. It might be defined by a specific genre or simply be recognizable as the characteristics of how a specific artist applies light to a subject. It can impact an image in a positive manner when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other, or it can have a negative effect when they are at odds.

**Composition** is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.

**Presentation** affects an image by giving it a finished look. The mats and borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.

**Color Balance** supplies harmony to an image. An image in which the tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect.

**Center of Interest** is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they

view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest, when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.

**Lighting**—the use and control of light—refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Whether the light applied to an image is manmade or natural, proper use of it should enhance an image.

**Subject Matter** should always be appropriate to the story being told in an image.

**Technique** is the approach used to create the image. Printing, lighting, posing, capture, presentation media, and more are part of the technique applied to an image.

**Story Telling** refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.