

*Maryland
Professional
Photographers
Association, Inc.*



**Print/Digital Image
Competition Rules
January 2021**

updated: 01/04/21

OVERVIEW

The Maryland Professional Photographers Association holds three quarterly Digital Image Competitions each year (January, July, and October) and one Annual Print Competition (April). By entering the quarterly Digital Image Competitions, members have the opportunity to receive multiple critiques and scores, make any adjustments based on the judges' comments, and prepare to enter MDPPA's Annual Print Competition, Southeast District (SEPPA), and PPA's International Print Competition (IPC). While MDPPA models our competitions after PPA's, we reserve the right to change/create our own rules. Please read them carefully.

At the Maryland level:

- During the quarterly Digital Image Competitions, if an image scores a 79 or below the maker has the option to make adjustments and/or re-enter the image into another quarterly competition.
- If the image merits (score of 80 or above), then the maker has the option to make additional adjustments for the next step, which is entering the image into the MDPPA Annual Print Competition. However, this image is no longer eligible for any other quarterly competitions.
- If an image merits (score of 80 or above) at the MDPPA Annual Print Competition, the image is no longer eligible to be entered only eligible to be entered into any Maryland print competition. It may be entered into other states' competitions, SEPPA, or IPC.
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RULES

1) ELIGIBILITY

- MDPPA members must be in good standing and have their dues paid by 30 days prior to the print competition to be eligible to compete for awards in annual and quarterly digital image competitions. You must be a member to earn points and awards.
- New MDPPA members that have joined less than 30 days prior to competition can enter for score only (no awards, merits, etc.).
- Non-members may enter for score only (no awards, merits, etc.).

2) ENTRY DEADLINES, FEES AND NUMBER OF ENTRIES ALLOWED

Quarterly Digital Competition

All quarterly print competition entries are digital images. **You may enter up to 15 images, with a maximum of 8 in any one category.**

Image submission and payment must be entered through

www.printcompetition.com and the deadlines are as follows:

- Early Deadline – Entries are due by 11:00 pm, 2 Sundays prior to competition date.
- Late Deadline – Entries are due by 11:00 pm, 1 week prior to competition date.

The entry fee structure is as follows:

- Members - \$10/image for early deadline and \$15/image for late deadline.
- Non-Members - \$15/image for early deadline and \$20/image for late deadline.

Annual Print Competition

Annual print competition entries are either physical prints or digital images. **You may enter up to 15 images, with a maximum of 8 in any one category.**

Image submission (physical or digital) and payment must be entered through www.printcompetition.com and the deadlines are as follows:

- Early Deadline – Entries are due by 11:00 pm, 2 weeks prior to competition date.
- Late Deadline – Entries are due by 11:00 pm, 1 week prior to competition date.

The Print Chairman has the right to change deadlines when necessary.

The entry fee structure is as follows:

- Members - \$10/image for early deadline and \$15/image for late deadline.
- Non-Members - \$15/image for early deadline and \$20/image for late deadline.

3) SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

General Information

For quarterly and annual competition entries must be submitted through www.printcompetition.com. This includes physical and

digital entries. Refer to the documents on the MDPPA website (under the Print Competition tab).

Annual Print Competition

- **Physical Prints**

All physical prints entries require a digital file to be provided for administrative purposes during pre-registration. The physical print entries must be delivered to the Print Competition Committee, according to the schedule established by the Print Committee (usually the day before the print competition).

- **Digital Entries**

For all digital entries, please read and follow the file preparation guidelines in the document on the MDPPA website (in the Print Competition tab).

4) GENERAL IMAGE CRITERIA AND CATEGORIES

General Image Criteria

Images submitted for competition must be the creative work of the entrant. By entering competition, the entrant is certifying that he/she created, composed, and made the original exposures and that the processing and artwork were done either by the entrant alone or under his/her creative direction, unless the entry is for the Artist and/or Creative Open categories (see description below).

- No images or albums/books created during any instructional environment or as part of a class assignment are allowed in any MDPPA print/digital image competition.
- Images created during a non-instructional field trip are allowed.
- Images in which another photographer provides assistance or instruction in the creativity, posing, lighting or composition (other than holding a light or reflector) are also not permitted.
- Instructors are permitted to enter images created during a class they taught. The images must be solely directed, composed, lit, and captured by the entrant.

The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold MDPPA harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of MDPPA's display, publication, and promotion or other use of each image submitted to MDPPA.

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. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.

Any studio identification or entrant's name on the digital or print entry must be covered.

Images may not be duplicates of previously merited images (score of 80 or above). Images that are **substantially similar** to previously awarded images are NOT permitted, singularly or as a part of a collection even if from a different original negative, transparency or digital file.

By entering competition, all entrants certify that they understand the above restrictions and face the penalty of losing five Exhibition Merits if proven false. The entrant also agrees to hold MDPPA harmless against any and all liabilities arising out of the Associations' consideration, display, publication, promotion, or other use of the photographs and any copyright infringement.

Competition Categories

Images compete for quarterly and annual awards in different categories representative of different photographic specialties. During the competition entry submission, the entrant will specify the correct category for each of their entries. A maximum of eight entries in any one category are allowed in a competition.

The Print Chairperson has the right to question the category of an entry as submitted and to change the category at his/her discretion. Once an entry has been accepted for competition by the Print

Chairperson, it cannot be withdrawn, or its category changed by the entrant without the approval of the Print Chairperson.

If there are insufficient images in a given competition category (fewer than 2 entrants and less than 6 images), the Print Chairperson may cancel the category or direct that all entries in the category be moved to another category, if possible (subject to the maximum number of entries per category allowed). In such cases, entries in the affected category may be withdrawn by the entrant without penalty. The Print Chairperson's decisions in all matters pertaining to competition categories and the assignment of entries to categories are final.

If the Print Chairman decides to proceed with a category having insufficient images, there will be no Best of Show selection in that category during the quarterly competitions.

Quarterly Digital Image Competition

These are the categories for quarterly digital image competitions:

- **Portrait**

Images in this category can portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s) in a studio or outdoor environment in which the face and expression are predominant. Images of animals in this category capture an animal(s) portrait using structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment where the animal is controlled by the owner or photographer. Wedding and event images created during the time constraints of an actual wedding/event, may **not** be entered in this category.

- **Illustrative**

This category includes abstract, nature, flowers, wildlife in an uncontrolled lighting environment, zoo animals, sporting event action and photojournalism, seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets be placed here. Images containing people may be entered in this category if they do not fall into the Portrait Category as described above.

- **Commercial**

The intent of this category is to sell a product or service. Commercial entries are best described as a photograph that is used to help sell, advertise, or market a product, service, or person(s). Simple executive portraits or headshots are not allowed in this category and should be entered in the portrait category. Tear sheets are optional and must be uploaded as a separate file with the entered image. The print committee reserves the right to request proof of intent and/or actual commercial use.

- **Artist**

Entries in this category will be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency. Entries can be created using digital or traditional art (such as painting and airbrush) or a combination of both. 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. **All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant. Printing may be done under his or her direct supervision.** Guide images are necessary and must be presented on the same mat as the finished image.

- **Creative Open**

An entry in this category consists of image(s) that have **additional photographic elements not created by the maker**. This allows the maker to enter images that may contain a digital background or other elements that were previously not allowed. Entrant should be prepared to provide appropriate written documentation indicating permission for usage. The jurors will evaluate the entire image but the elements that were created by the maker, as well as the overall image, must still be merit worthy. Guide images are necessary and must be presented on the same mat as the finished image. Only the elements not created by the maker must be shown in the guide image(s).

- **Wedding/Social Event**

All images of a wedding, bar/bat mitzvah or other social event are included in this category, posed or candid. Images in this category must be created during the time constraints of the actual event.

- **Album/Book Category**

This category includes event and non-event albums and books. Event albums/books document social events such as weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Non-event albums/books tell stories about one or more subjects.

Multi-maker albums/books will be allowed in this category. In order to enter a multi-maker album/book, entrants must be members of MDPPA in good standing. All entrants must complete the necessary entry forms and pay the appropriate entry fees. Multi-maker albums are defined as those in which multiple photographers contribute at least 20 images each.

- 1) Album/book covers may not exceed 400 square inches.
- 2) An album/book is counted as one entry.
- 3) There is no minimum or maximum page requirement.
- 4) Any studio identification or entrant's name in the album/book must be covered.

Annual Competition

For the Annual competition, category descriptions remain the same as the Quarterly Digital Image Competition with the addition of the Maryland Category. While images are judged in an open category, following IPC's model, each sub-category will have its own individual award, as described below.

These are the categories for the annual competition:

- **The Open Category** contains the following sub-categories: Portrait, Illustrative, Commercial, Creative, and Album.
- **The Artist Category**
- **Wedding Category**
- **Maryland Category**
Images entered in this category should be representative of the state of Maryland in some way. Images in this category **MUST** be captured within the state of Maryland. **The location must be identified on the print entry form.**

5) **SUBJECT MATTER**

More than one entry of the same subject by an individual maker will be accepted in a single competition. The images must be significantly different from each other (different outfit, different pose, different cropping, etc.). Each image must tell a different story.

6) **ENTRY PREPARATION**

Physical and digital file preparation guidelines may be found in the “How to Enter Your Digital Images and Physical Prints” document on the MDPPA website (in the Print Competition tab).

Physical prints are for the Annual Print Competition only. Prints failing to meet the following requirements will be disqualified.

DIGITAL IMAGE DIMENSIONS

Digital images must be sized so the dimensions are 4,000 pixels on the longest side (20 inches at 200 ppi).

PRINT DIMENSIONS

The overall entry size must be between 80 and 480 square inches with the longest dimension no longer than 24 inches.

IDENTIFICATION

Maker Identification - The name of the maker must not appear on the FRONT of the entry. The maker’s name must be covered or taped over on albums. Award ribbons or seals from previous competitions must be removed.

MOUNTING

All prints must be permanently mounted (example: single-weight matboard, double-weight matboard, foamcore, artboard, gator board or sintra). No Masonite is allowed. Minimum thickness of the entry is 1/8th inch at the thinnest and 3/8th inch at the thickest.

PHYSICAL EMBELLISHMENTS

Physical embellishments such as underlays, overlays and Polaroid transfers are permitted as long as the maximum thickness requirements are not violated.

FOREIGN MATERIAL

No foreign material may be added to the surface of the print other than standard retouching material. In addition, to prevent damage to other prints, no attachments (such as hanging hardware, Velcro, or other embellishments) may be added to the entry (front or back).

7) **RE-ENTRY OF IMAGES/PRINTS**

General Information

Print competitions are a way to enhance photographic skills. Judges' comments and critiques can be used to improve an image or its presentation. Therefore, limited re-entry of images as specified below is permitted in MDPPA competition.

Quarterly Competition

Images that have not merited at prior MDPPA (annual or quarterly), SEPPA, or IPC are eligible to be re-entered into quarterly competition. Images that have won awards in MDPPA, SEPPA, and IPC competitions are NOT eligible for competition. Duplicates of such awarded images and images that are **substantially similar** to such awarded images are NOT permitted, singularly or as a part of a collection even if from a different original negative, transparency or digital file. The Print Committee's decisions with regard to an entry's eligibility under these criteria are final.

Annual Competition

Images that have not merited at a previous MDPPA annual, District or International PPA competitions are eligible to be re-entered into annual competition. Images that have won awards at MDPPA quarterly competition are eligible to be re-entered in annual competition. Images that have won awards in MDPPA annual, District and International PPA competitions are NOT eligible for MDPPA annual competition. Duplicates of such awarded images and images that are **substantially similar** to such awarded images are NOT permitted, even if from a different original negative, transparency, or

digital file. The Print Chairperson's decisions with regard to an entry's eligibility under these criteria are final.

8) LIGHTING CONDITIONS

For judging photographs (physical prints), there is an illumination of 75 foot candles of incandescent light. If you do not have a meter that can measure foot candles then simply set your meter at ISO 100 and position your lights so that you get a reading of F-16 at 1 second in order to view your prints under the approximate brightness of the approved MDPPA competition lights.

9) SCORING

Judges evaluate entries in accordance with standards established by the PPA IPC. They first select the scoring category and then the numerical score within that category based on the following scale:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Exceptional | 100 to 95 |
| Superior | 94 to 90 |
| Excellent | 89 to 85 |
| Deserving of a Merit | 84 to 80 |
| Above Average | 79 to 75 |
| Average | 74 to 70 |
| Below Exhibition Standards | 69 to 65 |

Majority Challenge—When the minority of the panel merits or prevents an image from meriting an automatic majority challenge occurs and the judges will discuss and rescore the image.

10) JUDGING PROCEDURES, CRITIQUES AND CHALLENGES

The judging panel will consist of a minimum of three qualified judges at the quarterly Digital Image Competitions and five qualified judges plus a Jury Foreman during the Annual Print Competition. There shall be no discussion among the judges until the print has been scored.

The audience must remain silent during the judging. The exception to this rule is that, during quarterly in-person competitions only, the maker of an

image may request a critique of the image from the judges. This is done by calling “Critique” after the image score is announced and before the next image is announced. Only the maker of the image, or the maker’s designated representative, may request the critique. No other comments are allowed during judging. The Print Chairperson will choose a judge to give the critique (often the judge who gave the lowest score).

Requests for a critique are permitted only if the judges do not challenge the score of an image. Any judge may challenge the average score at any time. If a single judge’s score varies from the average by ten points or more, there is an automatic challenge and will be indicated by the scoring machine. A challenging judge may subsequently alter his score only in the direction of the challenged score - i.e., he may not change his score so as to increase the disparity with the original average. The Print Chairperson shall be responsible for seeing that the judges are properly informed of the print rules, practices and keeping critiques to 30 seconds.

During all online Print Competitions, the maker is not able to call for a critique. During these and all other print competitions, the maker can pay \$10 for a critique. This is a much more in-depth critique from one of the judges and will be recorded and available for the member to download usually within 2-3 weeks of the competition. These critiques may be requested in advance or up to 3 days following the print competition through www.printcompetition.com.

During Annual Print Competition, requests for in-person critiques are **NOT** allowed.

11) AWARDS – QUARTERLY COMPETITION

At each quarterly competition, all images scoring 80 or above are awarded blue ribbons. Additionally, one Best of Show award may be selected from each category. A Best of Show winner is not necessarily the highest scoring image in its category. Best of Show images are chosen by the judges from all meriting images in that category and are given a gold ribbon ((each Best of Show during quarterly competition is awarded one MDPPA merit).

The following awards, based on Quarterly Digital Image competitions, are presented at the awards banquet following the Annual Print Competition:

Maryland Photographer of the Year for Highest Overall Average
- Given to the individual with the highest average of 10 meriting images, across all categories for the quarterly digital image competitions. **Meriting images must be accumulated in at least 3 different categories during the year, with a minimum of 2 meriting images per category.**

(Awarded a trophy and four MDPPA merits)

Photographer of the Year (Category) - Given to the individuals in each category with the highest average score of the top 6 meriting entries, per category, accumulated by the entrants during the three quarterly image competitions.

(Awarded a trophy and three MDPAA merits)

12) AWARDS – ANNUAL COMPETITION

The MDPPA Annual Convention entries will be awarded as follows:

- Prints that earn a score of 80 and above are awarded a blue rosette ribbon
(each merited image is awarded one MDPPA merit)
- Corners will be given to prints that earn a score of 70 and above

The following special convention awards are selected during a closed judging session at the Annual Print Competition. All awards are given at the discretion of the judges. They do not have to be given to the highest scoring photograph in each category. However, the image must have scored 80 or better in order to be eligible for any of these awards.

CATEGORY-SPECIFIC AWARDS

Monte Zucker Wedding Image of the Year - One image shall be chosen for this award from the Wedding category. This award is given in honor of Monte Zucker, former MDPPA president and Honorary Life Member, who was known world-wide as the dean of the traditional-style wedding photography for his classic posing and lighting techniques. He achieved every photographic degree that

exists. His numerous honors included the 2002 Photographer of the Year Award from the United Nations.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except Maryland Loan Collection and Fuji Masterpiece Award; receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Tom Kreiger Album of the Year - One social event album/book will be selected to receive this award from the album/book category. This award is given in memory of Tom Kreiger, former MDPPA president, who specialized in event photography. Tom was diagnosed with a brain tumor and passed away at the age of 40.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except Maryland Loan Collection; receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Album of the Year – Non-Event - One non-event album/book will be selected to receive this award from the album/book category.

(The winning entry receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Meyer Rivkind Portrait of the Year - One image shall be chosen for this award from the portrait category. This award is given in memory of Meyer "Mike" Rivkind, an outstanding classic portrait photographer who brought many of his techniques here to the U.S. from Europe. He suffered a serious heart attack shortly before he was to go to the PPA convention to receive his Master of Photography degree. Although the PPA rules require a degree recipient to receive his or her degree in person, the PPA thought so highly of Rivkind that his degree was allowed to be sent to Maryland. Three of MDPPA members visited him and presented him with his degree. He passed away shortly thereafter.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except Maryland Loan Collection and Fuji Masterpiece Awards; receives a trophy and two MDPPA Merits)

Paul Snyder Commercial of the Year - One image shall be chosen from the Commercial to receive this award. This award is given in recognition of commercial photographer Paul Snyder, the only photographer who is still alive to have an award named after him or her. This award was established when he retired from photography and the Association.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except Maryland Loan Collection; receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Artist Image of the Year - One image shall be chosen from the Artist category to receive this award.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except Maryland Loan Collection; receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Illustrative Image of the Year - One image shall be chosen from the Illustrative category to receive this award.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except Maryland Loan Collection; receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Karl Hartig Most creative Image of the Year - One image shall be chosen for this award from the Illustrative category. The criterion for this award is the most creative photograph in the category. This award is given in memory of Karl Hartig, one of MDPPA's founding fathers. Karl was considered by many to be the epitome of quality photography. He was always willing to share his knowledge and educate up-and-coming photographers.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except for the Maryland Loan Collection; receives a trophy and one MDPPA merit)

Maryland Image of the Year - One image shall be chosen from the Maryland category to receive this award.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except for the Maryland Loan Collection; receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Creative Open Image of the Year - One image shall be chosen from the Creative Open category to receive this award.

(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except Maryland Loan Collection; receives a trophy and two MDPPA merits)

Maryland Loan Collection Awards – The purpose of this collection of images is to represent the top 50% of merited images from each category. Images that earned category-specific awards during the annual competition will automatically earn the Maryland Loan Collection Award. To be eligible for this award you must check the box on the entry form that states, “I hereby agree to the Maryland

Loan Collection (MLC) terms and conditions as stated in the Print Rules”. The terms and conditions are:

- I agree to supply the MLC officer with the print and an artist’s bio within 30 days upon receipt of the award at my expense (print and mounted as per MLC Guidelines) unless MDPPA secures a sponsor for the printing of images.
- I understand that the MLC image will travel Maryland for three years. If I leave the MDPPA organization, my print will be removed from the MLC.
- I agree to supply the MLC officer and the MDPPA Secretary with updated contact information so that I can be notified of where & when my print will be exhibited.
- The new MLC print will include my name & the title of the print on the back of the image.
- I agree that the frame belongs to MDPPA. If the work is sold, the frame is to be returned to MDPPA. If the artist chooses to offer their image for sale, MDPPA is not involved.
- I agree that images may travel as an entire loan collection or travel separately (in the event of entry into a themed exhibition)
- I understand that failure to comply with the MLC terms and conditions will make me ineligible to be considered for this award in the future.
(Awarded a ribbon and one MDPPA Merit)

CROSS-CATEGORY AWARDS

Best Portrait of a Child - Kelly Pierce Memorial Award- One image shall be chosen for this award that represents the best portrait of a child or children from any category. This award is given in memory of Kelly Pierce, who was the daughter of Ed and Barbara Pierce. Ed is a past president and an Honorary Life member of the MDPPA. Kelly passed away in 1980 at the age of 9 due to a previously undiagnosed brain tumor, which caused an aneurysm that burst without warning.
(Awarded a trophy and one MPDDA merit)

Best Portrait of a Pet - Ralph White Memorial Award- One image shall be chosen for this award that represents the Best Photograph of a Pet. This award is given in memory of Ralph White who was a wonderful pet photographer. He photographed everything in transparencies and regularly scored 90's and 100's for his pet photographs.
(Awarded a trophy and one MDPPA merit)

Best Nature Image - Caroline Yen Memorial Award- One image shall be chosen to receive this award. This award was established and funded by Harry Yen in honor of his wife Caroline who passed away after a long illness. Harry Yen was a world-respected photographer who had won just about every photographic award there was to win. He was a Master Photographer of China, Europe, and the USA. At his request, this award has traditionally been in the form of a clock.
(The winning entry is not eligible for any other awards except for the Maryland Loan Collection and is awarded a clock trophy and one MDPPA merit.)

Best Black and White Image - Prosperos Zevallos Memorial Award - Chosen from any category, one image shall be chosen for this award that represents the best black and white image. This award was created in honor of Prosperos Zevallos, a long-time member of MDPPA known for his black and white photographs and his endearing wit and humor.
(Awarded a trophy and one MDPPA merit)

SPECIAL AWARDS

ASP Elite Award – Provided by ASP and awarded to the highest scoring entry by a current, active member of the American Society of Photographers at the state convention. This award is sponsored by Millers Professional Imaging in memory of their founder William Miller. In the event of a tie, total case score will be the first tiebreaker. In the unlikely event that a tie still exists, the second highest scoring entry in the case will break the tie, the third highest scoring entry will break the tie. If by the remotest chance a tie still exists, ASP will declare co-winners of the award and provide an additional trophy.
(This is a non- MDDPA merit award)

CPP Award – Provided by PPA and awarded to the highest scoring entry by a member in good standing with PPA and who is a current CPP. In the case of a tie, the judges will select a winner. (This is a non- MDDPA merit award)

Sweepstakes Award - This award is given to the entrant with the highest average score. This will be calculated from an entrant's highest four entry scores from the following categories: Album/Book, Artist, Commercial, Creative Open, Illustrative, Maryland, Portrait and Wedding.
(Awarded a trophy and four MDPPA merits)

13) **MANUFACTURER AWARDS**

These awards are subject to changes based on manufacturer requirements.

Kodak Gallery Award

The Kodak Gallery Award is no longer offered at the state level. It is available at the District Competition.

Fuji Masterpiece Award (non-merit award)

The Fujifilm Masterpiece Award is given to the makers of the best image in the Portrait, Illustrative and Wedding categories. **Only Physical Prints are eligible for this award.**

This award is given in recognition of technical execution and visual impact and is not necessarily the highest scoring print in its category. Any or all the awards may or may not be given if, in the opinion of the judges, there are no prints meeting the criteria. The entry form and print label must be marked appropriately to indicate being eligible for the award.

To qualify for a Fujifilm Masterpiece Award:

- The image must receive a score of 80 or higher
- The judges must agree that it best represents the category with the highest level of professional photography
- The image must be printed on Fujicolor Paper

- The maker must not be an employee of Fujifilm North America Corporation

14) CHALLENGES BY ENTRANTS

Any challenges to the competition results must be made in writing to the Print Chairperson within 30 days of the competition.