

# **Maryland Professional Photographers Association, Inc.**



## **2023 Annual Image Competition Rules**

updated: 09/05/23

## OVERVIEW

- Annual image competition will be held in October.
- **Deadlines:** All competition entries are digital images. Image submission and payment must be entered through [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com). The deadline is 11:00 pm the Sunday prior to the competition date.
- **Fee Structure:**
  - Members: \$10/image
  - Non-members: \$20/image
- **Number of entries allowed:** A maximum of 23 entries are allowed by each maker; eight entries are allowed in any one category in a competition.
- **Image size:** Files should be sized with a long dimension of 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 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary.
- **Judging panel:** Five qualified judges (a minimum of three PPA-approved jurors; PPA Juror in Training may fill the last spot).

## ELIGIBILITY

- 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 Category. Makers can use supporting photographic elements that they did not create, provided those elements are referenced as guide images on the face of the entry. The original photographic capture by the entrant should be merit-worthy independent of the work that was not his or her own. Elements created by the maker must not be part of the guide images.
- MDPPA members must be in good standing and have their dues paid by 30 days prior to the competition to be eligible for awards in digital image and annual print competitions. Only MDPPA members can earn points and awards. Non-members can enter for score only.

## RULES

- MDPPA Image Competitions are independent of PPA or any other sanctioned competition. Images that receive a merit through PPA's Merit Image Review are eligible to be entered.

Images that are awarded through PPA's International Print Competition are **not** eligible to be entered.

- 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.
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- Images that have merited at an MDPPA Annual Image Competition either singularly or as part of album entry may not be entered.
- Images that have merited at a digital image competition may be entered into MDPPA's Annual Image Competition.
- Images that are substantially similar to previously awarded images at an annual competition are NOT eligible to earn awards, singularly or as a part of a collection even if from a different file.
- Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed if the images are entirely different concepts (e.g., different outfit, different pose, different lighting, etc.). Each image must tell a different story.
- 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. (Restorations of originals are excluded from this restriction.) If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of MDPPA, violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published. No AI images are allowed.
- The entrant is responsible for obtaining 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.
- Offensive images and titles not of acceptable MDPPA exhibition content will be judged for Merit and but may not be displayed or announced. The decision of acceptable content will be based on the standards set by the National Gallery in Washington, DC, and at the discretion of MDPPA Board of Directors.
- The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
- During the competition entry submission, the entrant will specify the correct category for each entry based on the category descriptions below.
- The Image Competition Chairperson(s) has the right to question the category of an entry as submitted and to change it into the correct category.
- No changes to an entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.

- Offensive images and titles not of acceptable MDPPA exhibition content will be judged for Merit and but may not be displayed or announced. The decision of acceptable content will be based on the standards set by the National Gallery in Washington, DC, and at the discretion of MDPPA Board of Directors.
- Any challenges to the competition results must be made in writing to the Image Competition Chairperson(s) within 30 days of the competition.

**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.**

## CATEGORIES

- **Album/Book:** 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. To enter a multi-maker album/book, all entrants must be members of MDPPA in good standing, and 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.
  - An album/book is counted as one entry.
  - There is no minimum or maximum page requirement.
  - Any studio identification or entrant's name in the album/book must be covered.
- **Artist:** Will be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency. Entries may be created in various artistic mediums. Photographs may be used in this category in creating an entry, but it is not a requirement. Entries may include freehand drawing or painting in traditional or digital applications. Entries can include stock photography, photographs, or artwork from other artist(s) with written consent to use those sources. Creations can be a subtle application using post-processing techniques or a dramatic combination of details to suggest a larger story. The artist is responsible for the idea behind the image and the work done to create the finished art piece. All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant. Guide images are required and must be presented on the same mat as the finished image.
- **Black and White:** Not a separate category, but each category has a black and white option as an award is given for the best black and white image.
- **Commercial:** Intended to sell or market a product, service, or person/people. Simple executive portraits/headshots are not allowed in this category and should be entered in the portrait category. Tear sheets are optional and can be uploaded as a separate file with the entered image.
- **Illustrative – General:** Includes images with people (that are not considered portraits) or any scene that includes manmade objects, e.g., urban landscapes.

- **Illustrative – Nature:** Includes abstracts, flowers, seascapes, landscapes, sunrises/sunsets, etc. People, wildlife, and manmade objects should not appear in any entries in this category.
- **Illustrative - Wildlife:** Wild animals, including zoo animals, in an uncontrolled lighting environment.
- **Maryland Category:** Must be captured in Maryland and representative of the state in some way. The location The location of the image must be included in parenthesis right after the title, example: Sunset Over the Mountains (Frederick, MD). The location will not be read/announced during the competition.
- **Portrait – Child:** Portrait of subjects up to 13 years of age.
- **Portrait – General:** Portrayal of 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. Staged and stylized wedding and event images created outside of the constraints of an actual wedding/event may be entered in this category.
- **Portrait – Pet:** Posed or action portraits of companion animal(s) or domesticated livestock animals captured in a studio or outdoor environment where the animal is controlled by the owner or photographer.
- **Reportage:** Illustrate an actual public or non-public event, life, an area of human interest, telling news that have meaning on the context or record of events, high impact and/or lasting emotional response. Images that illustrate sporting events are included in this category. ONLY basic color and brightness adjustments, cropping, dodging, and burning in are allowed. Only single-capture images will be accepted. Composite and multiple exposure images will not be accepted. The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the committee.
- **Restoration:** Will be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency. All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant. Guide images are required and must be presented on the same mat as the finished image.
- **Wedding/Social Event:** Entries must be created during the time constraints of the actual event. Events include weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, or social events. Images may be posed, candid, or detail work.

## SCORING

Judges evaluate entries in accordance with standards established by PPA.

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

## ANNUAL IMAGE COMPETITION AWARDS

The following awards are selected during a closed judging session at the conclusion of the Annual Image Competition. All awards are given at the discretion of the judges and are selected from all merited entries from the competition. They do not have to be given to the highest scoring photograph in each category.

### CATEGORY AWARDS

- **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. *(Receives a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Karl Hartig Award – Artist Image of the Year:** One image shall be chosen from the Artist category to receive this award. The image cannot be a restoration image. 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. *(Receives a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Prosperos Zevallos Award – Best Black and White Image:** Chosen from any category and all merited images, 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. *(Receives a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Paul Snyder Commercial Image 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. *(Receives a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Illustrative Image of the Year:** One image shall be chosen from the Illustrative - General category to receive this award. *(Receives a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Caroline Yen Award – Best Nature Image:** One image shall be chosen from all the merited images in the Illustrative – Nature category. 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 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. *(Receives a clock trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Wildlife Image of the Year:** One image shall be chosen from all the images in the Illustrative – Wildlife category. *(Receives a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*

- **Maryland Image of the Year:** One image shall be chosen from the Maryland category to receive this award. *(Receives a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Kelly Pierce Award- Best Portrait of a Child:** 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 two MDPPA print 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. *(Awarded a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Ralph White Award- Best Portrait of a Pet** - 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 two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Reportage Image of the Year:** One image shall be chosen from the Reportage category to receive this award. *(Awarded a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Restoration Image of the Year:** One image shall be chosen from the Restoration category to receive this award. *(Awarded a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*
- **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. *(Awarded a trophy and two MDPPA print merits.)*

## SPECIAL AWARDS

- **Best in Show** – This award is chosen by the judges from all the category winners. *(Awarded a trophy and four MDPPA print merits.)*
- **Judge's Choice Awards** – Each judge chooses his/her favorite image. *(Awarded a ribbon.)*
- **AIM Award** – Provided by [Animal Image Makers](#) and awarded to the highest scoring, merited image by an MDPPA member in either the Portrait/Pet or Illustrative/Wildlife categories. There

must be a minimum of four individual entrants and ten total entries. In the event of a tie, the judges will choose the winning image. The Animal Image Makers Conference brings together professional pet and animal photographers from all over the world for an unbelievable conference like no other. The event is 100% about the animals and the business of photographing our four-legged friends. The winner of the AIM award will take home a beautiful trophy and free registration for the winning image to the next AIM image competition. *(This is a non-MDDPA award.)*

- **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 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 award.)*

## MARYLAND LOAN COLLECTION AWARDS

The purpose of this collection of images is to represent the top 50% of merited images from each category. All category, cross category and special awarded images automatically earn the Maryland Loan Collection recognition. 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 any frames purchased by MDPPA are the property of MDPPA. If the work is sold, the frame is to be returned to MDPPA. If the artist chooses to offer their image for sale, the transaction should be conducted directly between the artist and the client, 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
- Awarded a ribbon and MDPPA merit.