

Maryland Professional Photographers Association, Inc.



Image Competition Rules 2024

updated: 01/24/2024

OVERVIEW

The purpose of these competitions is to allow photographers to enter photographic prints, digital files, and/or digital albums to be judged against PPA's standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image, learn and earn MDPPA Exhibition Merits and Awards. By entering the Digital Image Competitions, members can receive scores and critiques, make any adjustments based on the judges' comments, and prepare to enter MDPPA's Annual Image Competition, PPA's MIR and IPC.

During the 2024 competition year, the Maryland Professional Photographers Association will host the following events:

- Digital Image Competition on March 27, 2024
- Digital Image Competition on July 24, 2024
- Annual Image Competition in October (TBA)

Deadlines: All competition entries are digital images. Image submission and payment must be entered through www.printcompetition.com and the deadlines are as follows:

- Deadline – Entries are due by 11:00 pm, Sunday prior to competition date.

Fee structure for each entry is as follows:

- Members - \$12 per entry.
- Non-Members - \$20 per entry.

Number of entries allowed: 10 entries are allowed in any one category in a competition. You may enter as many categories as you wish.

Digital Size of images: 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 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary, so long as they are JPG/10.

The judging panel for MDPPA will consist of a minimum of five qualified judges at the Digital Image Competitions.

Critiques during the March and July MDPPA competitions, up to 5 paid Critiques may be requested by each maker. Critiques are \$10 each and can be requested up to three days after the competition.

While MDPPA models our competitions after PPA's, we reserve the right to change/create our own rules. Please read them carefully.

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 :

- MDPPA members must be in good standing and have their **dues paid by 30 days prior** to the competition to be eligible to compete for awards in annual and any digital image competitions. You must be a member to earn points and awards. Otherwise, you may enter for “Score Only”.
- Non-members may enter for “Score Only”.
- All entries must be registered at www.printcompetition.com

RULES

- MDPPA Image Competitions are independent of PPA or any other sanctioned competition. Merited MIR images are eligible to be entered at any MDPPA competition for merits and awards.
- IPC Awarded Images are not eligible for any MDPPA awards, makers may enter them for score only if they choose to.
- 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.
- **Images that merited and awarded at any MDPPA Annual Image Competition,** are not eligible for any additional MDPPA awards singularly or part of an album entry.
- Previously merited/awarded images maybe entered for feedback, include (score only) after the title.
- The images submitted for competitions to be awarded must be new creative works made by the entrant.
- Images may not be duplicates of previously merited images (images previously scored of 80 or above). Images that are **substantially similar** to previously awarded images are NOT eligible to earn awards, singularly or as a part of a collection even if from a different original negative, transparency or digital file.
- Previously merited/awarded images entered for score only must include (Score Only) after the title. “Score only” will not be read/announced during the competition. This allows the maker to continue to get feedback from the judges before moving forward MIR or other competitions.
- “ Score Only” images are not eligible for any MDPPA awards.

- Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, if the images are entirely different concepts (different outfit, different pose, different cropping, etc.). Each image must tell a different story.
- The entrant has obtained 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 (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.
- The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
- 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.
- During the competition entry submission, the entrant will specify the correct category for each of their entries, based on the category description below.
- The Image Competition Chairperson(s) has the right to question the category of an entry as submitted and to change into the correct category.
- No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.
- 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

Portrait

Entries 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. Staged and stylized wedding and event images created outside of the constraints of an actual wedding/event, may be entered in this category.

Pets and Domestic Animals

Portrait of a companion animal or animals, as well as domesticated livestock animals. Wildlife and wild animals and zoo animals are not allowed in this category.

Illustrative

Entries in this category includes abstract, nature, Wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting environment, zoo animals, flowers, seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets with or without people can be placed here.

Wedding/Social Event

Entries in this category 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.

Artist

Entries in this category will be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency. A conceptual image altered or manipulated from its original condition. 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 necessary and must be presented on the same mat as the finished image.**

Restoration

Entries in this category will be judged for digital, artistic, and technical proficiency. In photographic restoration the maker uses digital artistry to repair a damaged photograph and bring it back to what is most likely to be its original appearance, remaining faithful to the existing details of that original. Where details in the original cannot be identified, the artist builds back replacements in an historically accurate and believable way. **All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant. Guide images are necessary and must be presented on the same mat as the finished image.**

Commercial

Entries in this category are intended to sell or market a product or 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 can be uploaded as a separate file with the entered image.

Reportage/Photo Journalism

Entries in this category 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.

Themed Category

Entries in this category will be based on topics discussed during MDPPA events. Themes will be announced on the MDPPA website and other communication. One entrant will earn the Category Excellence Award. There will not be a Photographer of the Year award in this category, however the scores will be considered for the Photographer of the Year Awards in the associated categories.

Album/Book Category

Entries in 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. 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.

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 and below

RE-ENTRY OF IMAGES/PRINTS

Image competitions are a great way learn and enhance photographic skills. Judges' comments and critiques can be used to improve an image or its presentation. Re-entry of images is recommended for additional feedback on the changes made.

- Images that have not merited at prior MDPPA annual or digital competitions are eligible for re-entry.
- **For those seeking additional feedback on continued improvements on previously merited images during any MDPPA Digital Image Competitions or Annual Image Competitions, re-entry is allowed for "score only".**

- **Images entered for score only must include (Score Only) after the title. (Score only) will not be read/announced during the competition.**
- **Images that have been awarded at MDPPA’s Annual Image Competition, may be re-entered for “score only”.**
- Images that earned merits or awards at IPC, MIR, or any other sanctioned competition are eligible to be entered for awards at MDPPA competitions.
- Duplicates of awarded images and images that are **substantially similar** to previously awarded images singularly or as a part of a collection are permitted to be entered for “score Only” even if from a different original negative, transparency, or digital file.
- The Image Competition Committee’s decisions about an entry’s eligibility under these criteria are final.
- The Image Competition Chairperson’s decision about an entry’s eligibility under these criteria is final.

AWARDS

DIGITAL IMAGE COMPETITION AWARDS (March and July)

At each competition:

- All images scoring 80 and above will be accepted into the competition for Category Excellence consideration.
- One Image from each category may be selected by the jurors to receive the Category Excellence Award. .
(Category Excellence Award earns one MDPPA Image Competition Merit)

The following awards are cumulative of the two Digital Image Competitions, and are presented at the awards banquet following the Annual Image Competition in 2024:

- **Maryland Photographer of the Year for Highest Overall Average** - Given to the individual with the **highest average of 8 meriting images**, across all categories during the 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**. In the event of a tie, each maker will receive the award.
(Awarded a trophy and four MDPPA Image Competition Merits)
- **Photographer of the Year (Per Category)** - Given to the maker with the highest average score of the top 4 meriting entries, per category, accumulated by the entrants during the two Digital Image Competitions. In the event of a tie, each maker will receive the award.
(Awarded a trophy and three MDPPA Image Competition Merits)
- **Photographer of the Year (Per Category), Runner-Up** - Given to the individuals in each category who accumulate the second highest point totals in Digital Image competitions. In the event of a tie, each maker will receive the award.
(Awarded a certificate and 2 MDPPA Image Competition Merits.)