2024 Category Competition Definitions

FEBRUARY 22

Red (Projected)

This category is about the color red. You can photograph whatever you want – people, animals, places, things, abstracts, etc. - but the dominant color has to be red. **Processing:** Follow the general rules.

Openings (Projected)

Think doors, windows, holes, tunnels and anything else that lets you move from one space into another. **Processing:** Follow the general rules. Compositing is okay as long as all of the elements are created by you.

Open (Projected)

An Open category will be included in every competition. "Open" means that just about anything goes – from straight photography to photo-based digital art. You can submit a portrait or landscape straight out of the camera, a psychedelic multi-layered composited extravaganza, or something in between. All elements must be 100% the maker's work and derived from a photograph. Non-photographic elements like drawings are not allowed. Textures are permitted as long as they are based on an image captured by the maker.

APRIL 25

Weather (Projected)

Submit images that say something about weather. This doesn't mean you have to risk your life and go out shooting in the middle of a hurricane. A picture of bright yellow dandelion against a blue sky or a hazy day at the beach can say as much about the weather as a picture of a snow plow blasting down the road in a blizzard. Sunshine, rain, snow, wind, clouds, fog, ice, etc. can all be part of a great image. Remember that all of those things also impact light, shadows, colors, shapes, patterns, texture and most importantly expressiveness. **Processing:** Follow the general rules.

Things Arranged (Print)

This is a broad category that includes an image of anything that you set up. For example, it covers traditional tabletop still lifes, flower arrangements, outdoor setups of beach stones,

debris and detritus, even posed people or pets. Processing: Follow the general rules. Some compositing is allowed, including textures (as long as you created them), combining light-painted images and focus stacking.

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JUNE 27

Nature (Projected)

We follow the PSA definition. You can read it here https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions. The key points are: Nature images may include landscapes, geologic formations, weather, animals, and plants as the primary subject matter. Human elements must not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. The truth of the scene must be preserved. You can't remove things except by cropping.

Street Photography (Projected)

Street photographers capture unscripted moments in public places. The images usually feature people "captured at the "decisive moment" doing something that the viewer finds expressive. Although most examples feature urban settings, "street" images don't have to be created in a city or even on a street. In addition to streets, Cape Cod beaches, harbors and parks and other locations offer lots of potential for "street" photography. For examples of classic street photographs, visit https://streetphotographersfoundation.com/the-best-street-photographers-of-all-time. Processing: Follow the general rules.

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AUGUST 22

Water (Projected)

Waves, waterfalls, rivers, puddles – even your kitchen sink could work here. Techniques such as traditional images, long exposures and ICM can all be used to say "water."   Processing: Follow the general rules.

Close Ups (Projected)

Any kind of close-up qualifies in this category. It can be macro, but doesn't have to be. It's a great opportunity for abstract-ish images and images that show us part of a familiar thing – anything - in a new way. Strong composition will be as important as the subject. Think about light/shadow and the arrangement of shapes, lines and points. Processing: Follow the general rules.

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OCTOBER 24

Black & White (Projected)

In this category, judges look for black, white and shades of grey, along with composition, impact, etc. Check out some of the old masters like Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lang, Henri

Cartier-Bresson plus old black and white movies like Citizen Kane, Casablanca, or any of the old Hitchcock's, and notice how they use light and shadow to create a mood and help tell the story. In addition to the more traditional look, you could also try high key in which the image is mostly bright tones with just a few bits of grey and/or black, or try low key, which has mostly dark tones. Any subject works for this category. Processing: Follow the general rules.

Beyond Photography (Projected)

Let your inner digital artist run wild. Do whatever you want in whatever way you want as long as all of the elements are created by you with a camera. This means you can't use prompt-generated AI imagery or the work of other artists.

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