

# Texas PPA Image Competition Rules

Texas PPA holds three Image Competitions: Photographic Open, Artist, and Wedding (each described below) The purpose of these competitions is to allow the entrant to measure their skills against a standard of excellence. TPPA judges use 4 elements– Impact, Technical Excellence, Composition and Creativity to determine whether an image meets the level of a High Quality Professional Image.

**Impact-** Is the image compelling? Does it evoke a discernible emotion that is relevant to the story and category? Impact can be immediate, fleeting and/or lasting.

**Technical Excellence-** Does the image excel in objective technical areas such as exposure, color balance, lighting, dynamic range as well as being absent of other technical flaws such as dust spots, moire, chromatic aberration, banding, clone tracks and the like.

**Composition-** The visual elements of an image come together to express intent, whether that's to please the viewer or otherwise. The viewer's attention is captured and directed where the artist plans it to be. Jurors may also consider whether the subject matter is relevant and central to the story being told.

**Creativity** - The image is original, fresh, and an external expression of the maker's imagination. Jurors may also consider any techniques that are used to best express the story of the image.

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# General Rules

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These rules pertain to all three competitions.

1. All entries must be registered at [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com). There is a separate fee payable to PrintCompetition for use of their service.
2. Entrants may only submit digital images for judging.
3. Entrants may enter up to 8 images in each competition.
4. A minimum of 4 entries is required to be considered for top entries awards.
5. No changes to your entry are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.
6. Any Image that has received a merit at PPA IPC or a merit or a Seal at any previous TPPA Image Competition may not be entered into the TPPA Image Competition again. This includes any image from an album that has received a Merit or Seal.
7. Images and albums that have received merits in PPA's Merit Image Review process will be eligible in TPPA Image Competition.
8. Entrants do not need to be TPPA members to compete in the TPPA Image Competitions. All entrants are eligible for Texcellence, pins, and ribbon distinctions, however, only TPPA members are eligible for trophies and fellowship points.
9. All entries must have a Title, chosen by the maker.
10. The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold TPPA harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of TPPA's display, publication, promotion, or other use of each image submitted to TPPA.
11. The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
12. Entry media includes digital files and digital albums. A case includes any combination of digital entries and digital album entries up to the maximum allowed in a case.
13. 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.
14. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are substantially different, including background, location, clothing, and concept. The same subject rule applies across all three competitions and all cases submitted by an entrant in a given year. For example, you may not use the same subject, background, location, clothing, and concept in both Photographic Open and Artist competitions. The same subject rule also applies to an individual image and an album (if that subject, background, location, clothing, and concept appears in an album, it cannot also be entered as an individual image).
15. For the purposes of these competitions, images created by Artificial Intelligence (AI) will not be considered to have been created by the maker.

16. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the TPPA Competition Committee, violates copyright, trademark, or any other applicable law and cannot be proven otherwise, that entry shall be disqualified and trophies, awards, and TPPA Fellowship Points revoked, if issued.

## Digital Submission Specifications

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- 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, the total file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Larger files will be accepted when necessary so long as they are JPG/10.
- Files are to be named <title>.JPG, where <title> is your image's title. No underscores or special characters are required.

### Viewing Conditions for Image Review

*This is for your information only.*

For color management help, see Video Tutorial: [PPA.com/IPC\\_tutorials](http://PPA.com/IPC_tutorials)

- Digital Files: Monitor Settings, D65, 120 cd/m2, 2.20 gamma

## Digital Album Entry

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See Video Tutorial: [PPA.com/IPC\\_tutorials](http://PPA.com/IPC_tutorials)

### All albums must be submitted in digital form.

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. 01.jpg, 02.jpg, 03.jpg, etc.
5. All individual files must be compressed into a single ZIP file. ZIP file must be named: Album Title.zip (e.g. Summer Wedding.zip).
6. Studio identification or entrant's name cannot appear on any file within the album entry.
7. Each entrant must use the same title when entering a multi-maker album.

# Photographic Open Competition Rules

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The Photographic Open Competition is for all images and albums not created during a wedding event (see Wedding Competition Rules) where the maker is responsible for creating the images of the primary subject(s) of the final entry.

1. Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
2. All processing, manipulation, and printing or rendering, were done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
3. All photographic elements in the final image must be created by the entrant or:
  - a. Photographic elements created by another person must have added guide images on the submitted digital canvas to indicate they are not created by the maker. This includes physical and digital photographic backgrounds not originally created by the maker. This does not include abstract painted backgrounds.
  - b. Photographic elements not created by the maker may be used so long as the entrant is prepared to provide appropriate written documentation indicating permission for usage. This documentation may be requested by TPPA before, during, or after the competition.
  - c. The primary subject of the final image must still have been created by the maker.
  - d. Entries with guide images are still entered into the appropriate category: Portrait, Illustrative, Album, etc. The Creative Open no longer exists as its own category.
  - e. Jurors will be instructed to evaluate the entire image but the elements that were created by the maker must still be worthy of acceptance as well as the overall image.
4. Artificial Intelligence (AI) images and elements are not allowed in the Photographic Open Competition.
5. Entry media includes digital files and digital albums. A case includes any combination of digital entries and digital album entries up to the maximum allowed in a case.

## Photographic Open Categories

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You must designate one of the below categories for each entry:

- **PORTRAIT:** Consists of portrait or wedding images. Images can portray a subject or subjects from all walks of life and should reflect the personality of the subject(s).

- **ILLUSTRATIVE:** Consists of commercial/industrial images, scenics, pictorials, digital paintings, and similar subject matter. Portraits and weddings are not appropriate for this category. Capturing the beauty of nature, wildlife, industry, and architectural areas are considered illustrative.
- **ALBUM:** albums consist of non-wedding social events, such as bar mitzvahs, etc., or albums of portraits and other storytelling albums.
- **MULTI-MAKER EVENT ALBUM:** Images in the album must be the work of the entrants (2), with a minimum of 20 images per entrant. Each entrant must individually enter the competition and pay appropriate entry fees. Multi-maker albums will be judged as one entry.

## Artist Competition Rules

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The Artist Competition allows the maker to demonstrate their art skills and expertise in the creation of an image made from one or more sources. The maker is not required to have photographed any of the source images. Entries 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.

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 TPPA before, during, or after the competition.
2. All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be done by the entrant.
3. Guide images must be included on the submitted digital canvas.
4. Any Artificial Intelligence (AI) images used in the Creative Open Artist entry **must be included in the guide images.**
5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) category images do not require guide images. Makers may only crop and add a presentation.
6. Entry media is single digital files up to the maximum allowed in a case.

## Artist Competition Categories

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You must designate one of the below categories for each entry.

- **CREATIVE OPEN (Artist):** These are works created by the entrant from any combination or original photographs or other art sources.
- **RESTORATION:** These are works created by the entrant from original, damaged photographs.

- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):** These are works created by the entrant using one or more of the Artificial Intelligence creation engines. This category is not for AI images that have been further enhanced by the maker..

## Wedding Competition Rules

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The Wedding Competition is for all images and albums created by the entrant under the time constraints of an actual wedding event. Jurors will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects of a wedding, including the subject matter, environment, and time of day. Images should include some kind of visual wedding reference(s).

1. Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
2. All images and all elements of an image must have been made during the course of an actual wedding event. Images not created during the time constraints of an actual event (such as engagement or bridal portraits) must be entered in a different competition. The original captured image (in RAW, jpg, or film) must be available, if requested, by the TPPA Image Competition Committee.
3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) images and elements are not allowed in the Wedding Competition.
4. All processing, manipulation, and printing or rendering, were done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
5. 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
6. 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.
7. Entry media includes digital files and digital albums. A case includes any combination of digital entries and digital album entries up to the maximum allowed in a case.

## Wedding Competition Categories

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You must designate one of the below categories for each entry.

- **WEDDING OPEN:** Images eligible in the Wedding Open category must be created during the time constraints of the actual event.
- **WEDDING ALBUM:** All images included in the Wedding Album must be created during the time constraints of the actual wedding event. You may

enter as a single maker or a multi-maker; (2) photographers creating a minimum of twenty images each from the same wedding.

***Please Note: Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification of the entry. The decision of the TPPA Image Competition Committee is final.***

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