



PSA 2024-1041

EXCELSIOR CIRCUIT

This circuit will be conducted in accordance with the requirements and practices of The Photographic Society of America (PSA).

Acceptances received in approved sections of this exhibition are eligible for PSA Star Ratings, listing in the worldwide PSA Who's who of photography, and credited toward the PSA Distinctions.

Exhibition Contact:

Shankari A.

E-Mail (exhibition & chair): fotocontests.art@gmail.com

Exhibition Website: <https://www.fotocontests.art>

Software Provider: StintGlobal (raju@stintsolution.com)

SECTIONS (all digital):

- A) Open Color - PSA PIDC
- B) Open Monochrome - PSA PIDM
- C) People - PSA PIDC
- D) Nature - PSA ND

ENTRY FEE

US \$ 28 for any one section, US \$3 for each additional section

Early Bird: US \$28 for participation in all sections upto 18th December 2023. *Upload/change of photos possible till closing date.*

Group Discount: US \$20 for all sections for 9 or more paid entrants' group; US \$12 for all sections for 15 or more paid entrants' group.

Payment via PayPal to fotocontests.art@gmail.com for overseas authors AND by NEFT/IMPS by Domestic entrants (equivalent of USD)

CALENDAR

CLOSING DATE: 25th January 2024
END JUDGING DATE: 15th February 2024
NOTIFICATION: 22nd February 2024
SUBMIT EDAS: 16th March 2024
DELIVERY CATALOG: 15th April 2024
DELIVERY AWARDS: 15th April 2024
ONLINE GALLERY: 15th April 2024

JURY MEMBERS

Judging1:

Tibor Jakab, FPSA, MPSA (Romania)
Filiz Koprulu, PPSA (Turkey)
Luc Mairesse, MPSA (Belgium)

Judging2:

Richard Bailey, EPSA (USA)
Gary Potts, APSA, GMPSA (USA)
Heide Stover, QPSA (USA)

Judging3:

Fran McFadzen, PPSA (Australia)
Vicki Moritz, GMPSA, BPSA (Australia)
Yiping Xu, EPSA, EFIAP (Australia)

AWARDS

PSA Gold Medal in each section
6 Jury Choice in each section
(pdf file to be downloaded from exhibition website)
1 BEST GROUP OR CLUB Award for the circuit

*Medal awards shall be shipped via General India Post only. We will not be responsible for any customs charges or taxes at the receiver's end.

REPORT CARD & CATALOG NOTIFICATION

All participants will receive report card notification via e-mail. The results of the exhibition and circuit catalog will also be published on the website <https://www.fotocontests.art> for download from website.

IMAGE SPECIFICATION

Photos must be in JPEG file format; Max. Horizontal length is 1920 pix. Max. Vertical length is 1080 pix. In 300 dpi. Compression 7-12, max 2Mb. Oversized images shall be rejected by the system.

File Naming/Image Title

No requirements for file names, file name should be as you would want it to appear in the catalogue (same as title name). Words such as "Untitled" and "No Title" are not acceptable as part or all of an image's title, nor are camera capture filenames or titles consisting of only numbers.

Each image must have a unique title. Once an image has been accepted in a PSA Recognized exhibition, that same image, or a like "in camera" or a "reproduction" duplicate of that image:

i. May not be re-entered in any section of the same Division Star Ratings class in that exhibition regardless of media, format, or title.

ii. May not be re-titled for entry in any other PSA Recognized exhibition.

Titles do not need to be translated to English but must be given in English characters and must be within 35 characters

PHOTO SUBMISSION

Images must be submitted following the instructions on: <https://www.fotocontests.art>

Maximum number of photographs per section is 4. No title or identification of the maker shall be written anywhere on the face of an image. The exhibition is not allowed to resize the pictures sent by the entrants.

JUDGING PROCESS

Judging is to take place **remotely (online)** by each jury member. Distribution of images shall be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant, but they shall not appear to the judges' consecutively. Remote judging will take place and all judges shall use Color calibrated equipment capable of displaying submitted images at 100% of the image resolution.

Score card sent to entrants shall reflect total obtained score of first round judging only.

Target Acceptance Percentage: 30% or under

PSA Conditions of Entry

IMAGE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS This exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the Sponsor or the Exhibition Organizers, in their reasonable discretion, believes the entry does not conform to exhibition rules and these Conditions of Entry. Membership in any photographic organization is not required.

Penalties: Entries will not be accepted from any entrant who has put on the **PSA Penalties List for Ethics Violation**. Entry fees are not refundable in these circumstances

PSA Star Ratings

To receive proper Star ratings credit from PSA, entrants must provide their names and country exactly the same way in each exhibition. Aliases are not permitted. Please contact PSA in the event of name changes or relocating to another country. Using one's name differently in different exhibition exposes the entrant to the risk that many of their acceptances may not be recognized by PSA Star Ratings.

Image creation and ownership

In all sections of the exhibition, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. They may not incorporate identifiable images produced by anyone else (for example: clip art, replacement skies, or stock images). *Images created in whole or in part by image creation software (frequently called 'AI' images) are not allowed.* Editing or alteration of images is permitted within the limits specified in the relevant section definitions that are available here <https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions>

Any person submitting or attempting to submit a totally AI generated image that does not begin with a light capture from the maker, from any Photographic Society of America exhibition, social media, event, or publication, other than for editorial purposes, shall be prohibited from PSA for a period of from 3 to life.

Reproduction

The entrant permits the sponsors to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to the exhibition. This may include low resolution posting on a website. The Photographic Society of America (PSA) may request specific permission from entrants to reproduce entered images in its educational materials. The terms of that permission will be mutually agreed between the entrant and PSA **except in the circumstances where the entered image is found to breach the PSA Ethics Policy. In those circumstances the image may be reproduced by PSA, without the entrant's further permission, for educational purposes to illustrate serious exhibition rule violations. For those reproductions, the entrant's name will be withheld.**

Entries will not be accepted from entrants who indicate that their images may not be reproduced in materials related to the exhibition." The exhibition assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright

Re-use of accepted images: Any image that has been accepted in this exhibition, past or present, may not be entered again in the same Division Star Ratings Class in any future instances of this exhibition. It may, of course, be entered in any other PSA recognised exhibitions but **must always have the same title. Re-titling in another language is not allowed.**

Entry: An Entry consists of, up to and including, four (4) images entered by a single entrant into the same Section. An entrant may only enter a specific Section once. Entrants may not enter identical or similar images into the same section or different sections of the same exhibition.

Titles:

Each image must have a unique title **that is a description of the image.** That unique title must be used for entry of that image or of an identical Image into any and all PSA-Recognized exhibitions. Titles must be 35 characters or fewer. No titles may be visible to the judges, and nothing in the image may identify the entrant. Titles may not include file extensions such as .jpg or .jpeg (or any other camera capture

filenames such as IMG 471). Titles may not consist of personal identifiers possibly augmented by a number; or include words such as “untitled” or “no title”. Titles may not consist solely of numbers unless those numbers are prominently contained within the image, such as a contestant number in a race.

Color and Monochrome:

Color and Monochrome images from the same capture that share substantial pictorial content in common will be considered the same image and must be given the same title.

The Exhibition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the PSA

An entrant's images will not be presented to the judges consecutively. An entrant's four images will be distributed throughout four rounds of judging in that section. Distribution of images will be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant. At no stage will a judge be able to view all the entrant's images together.

DATA PROTECTION

By entering this exhibition, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including physical addresses, email addresses, being held, processed and used by the exhibition organizers for purposes associated with this exhibition. You also explicitly consent to such information being sent to organizations that have accorded official recognition, patronage or accreditation to this exhibition. You acknowledge, agree and accept that by entering this exhibition, your participation status which includes your first and last name, name of the country used during registration at the exhibition, number of sections entered and number of photos entered in those sections will be made public in a published status list and that the results of your entry shall be made public in exhibition gallery, exhibition catalog. You also agree and accept the policy regarding non-compliance to the rules of PSA.

SUBJECT MATTER AND SECTION DEFINITIONS

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Statement on Subject Matter - applicable to all sections

The fundamental rule that must be observed at all times and **applies to all sections** offered in exhibitions with PSA recognition is that **the welfare of living creatures is more important than any photograph**. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in any exhibition with PSA recognition. Under no circumstances may a living creature be placed in a situation where it will be killed, injured or stressed for the purpose of obtaining a photograph. Images that show live creatures being fed to captive animals, birds or reptiles are not permitted under any circumstances.

There are also concerns about the use of aerial photography, drones, helicopters, low flying aircraft. These should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Entrants in PSA recognized exhibitions should comply with all relevant laws and regulations, associated with aerial photography, in the country in which the image was taken.

Entry into PSA recognized exhibitions is conditional on accepting these policies. The content of images must comply with the General Conditions and with the Division and Section definitions listed in these conditions. Images that - in the sole opinion of the judges- do not comply, will be disqualified so the entrant may be aware of the problem when considering entry into other exhibitions with PSA recognition.

Definition

PSA Monochrome Definition

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of grey which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a greyscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example by Sepia, red, gold, etc.). A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work.

Monochrome images may not be entered in color sections of PPD or PID

Editing Guidelines for Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel

These sections require images to be truthful records, so there are limits on the amount of manipulation allowed.

[PSA statement of subject matter applies to all sections.](#)

Editing Guidelines

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.
- Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking);
- Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas);

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing.
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.

- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color

PSA/FIAP Nature Definition

Content Guidelines

- Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.
- Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.
- The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.
- Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.
- Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
- Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.
- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

PSA RULES

Non-compliance

See the PSA Ethics Policy at <https://psa-photo.org/page/ethical-practices>.

See the PSA statement on Subject Matter at <https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions>

If, in the discretion of the exhibition organizer or the judges, an entrant has submitted that may fail to comply with these Conditions of Entry, they are allowed to request unedited or raw files of the submitted image.

For composite images all files are required.

Exhibition organizers may verify that:

- a) the images are the original work of the entrant
- b) the images comply with the rules and definitions as set out in these ES-COE

Such entries may be referred to PSA for further investigation of possible ethics violations.

PSA retains the right to investigate all complaints, impose penalties if deemed necessary, void the acceptances of any image found to violate the PSA rules, include the entrant's name on the list of sanctions provided to Exhibitions, and share such investigations with FIAP. Entrants automatically agree to these terms by the act of entering the Exhibition and agree to cooperate with any investigation.

If another party is processing and/or submitting images on the entrant's behalf, the entrant will still be held responsible for adhering to the entry rules **and will be subject to penalties for any violations** to these Conditions of Entry or to PSA's Statement of Ethics.

NOTICE: When entrants fill in the Entry Form to submit an entry they will see the following feature to affirm they have read these Conditions of Entry

"I hereby confirm that I have *read* and *understood* and *agree to* the Conditions of Entry of this exhibition. I have read and understood the PSA document to be found at <https://psa-photo.org/resource/resmgr/pdf/exhibitions/exhibition-entrants-agreement.pdf> . I am aware that PSA may apply penalties for non-compliance to these Conditions of Entry"

Failure to agree will mean that the application will not proceed.

Rules from the Organizer

1. All imagery **MUST** be the total and exclusive work of the submitting author and may not include any element that was originated by or is the copyright of other photographers.
2. **For awarded images, RAW file/unprocessed jpeg file may be requested. In case raw file/unprocessed jpeg file is not received within 3 days of request, submitted image may be disqualified. Raw/unprocessed files will be deleted upon verification completion and organizer will not be liable for any misuse of the files.**
3. The right of reproduction in relation to the exhibition, including digital representation, will be assumed upon entering.
4. **Monochrome photos are NOT ALLOWED in PIDC sections.**
5. Honorable Mention and Jury Choice Awards will be sent through email only. Minimum 12 members should participate and pay their entry fee to be eligible for Best Group Award. Medal awards shall be shipped via General India Post. We will not be responsible for any customs charges and taxes at the receiver's end.
6. The exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the sponsoring organization or its agent, in its reasonable discretion, believes the entry does not conform to the exhibition rules and conditions.
7. **ENTRIES RECEIVED WITHOUT SUFFICIENT FEES WITHIN SPECIFIED DATE WILL NOT BE JUDGED AND FORFEITED. NO CORRESPONDENCE SHALL BE ENTERTAINED IN THIS REGARD.**
8. THE SUBMISSION OF AN ENTRY SIGNIFIES ACCEPTANCE OF THESE RULES & CONDITIONS.
9. Awards won by group members shall be sent to a single address only.
10. Entrants are requested to please read circuit conditions of entry carefully before raising any query.

The sponsors of this International Exhibition of Photography have been awarded Recognition by PSA, the world's largest patron of international photographic exhibitions. PSA, although it has provided recognition, is neither a sponsor nor directly involved in the operation of this exhibition.



Valid acceptances received by PSA Members in recognized sections of this exhibition are eligible for PSA Star Ratings, listing in the world-wide PSA Who's Who of Photography and credited towards the PSA Distinctions of QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA, MPSA2, GMPSA, GMPSA/B, GMPSA/S, GMPSA/G, and GMPSA/P.

PSA is a non-profit organization promoting the advancement of photography in all its forms to novice, amateur and professional photographers worldwide.

For information on membership and the many services and activities of PSA, contact:

psa

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