

## VPPA Image Contest Rules – 2023

### Merit / Non-Merit Evaluation

#### 1. Eligibility:

- a. Image Contest is open to everyone; VPPA Members, Non-members Virginia Residents and Non-Residents, who pay the entry fees by the published deadlines.
- b. All VPPA Membership levels meeting entry requirements are eligible for any prizes that may be offered. (membership descriptions can be found online at [www.vppa.org](http://www.vppa.org))
- c. Students at any education level (college to grade school) may enter Virginia's Image Contest.

#### 2. Entries Allowed:

- a. Each entrant will be able to enter unlimited entries into the Image Contest however only the top six (6) evaluated eligible entries apply toward prizes.
- b. **Same Subject:** Entries may be of the same subject or object if they are significantly different. A different concept, look, clothing, background, etc.
- c. No entries will be accepted where it is obvious that two or more photographers assembled and photographed the same subject or object (except albums—see album rules 6b) using the same set and or lighting conditions.
- d. 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.
- e. All processing, manipulation, and printing or rendering should be done by the entrant or under their direct supervision.
- f. **Copyright:** 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. If an entry, in the good faith opinion of the ICC, violates copyright or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.
- g. **Trademark:** Trademark infringement is defined as the unauthorized use of a trademark or service mark. This use can be in connection with goods or services and may lead to confusion, deception, or a misunderstanding about the actual company a product or service came from.
- h. No entries of a prurient, pornographic, or questionable sexual nature will be accepted.
- i. Image Competition Chairman or his/her designee will have the final decision-making authority regarding eligibility of entries.

#### 3. Entry Fees and Forms: Refer to Addendum A

#### 4. Deadlines: Refer to Addendum B

#### 5. On-Line Entry:

All entries will be entered and payments online through <http://www.printcompetition.com> (except Theme Entries)

#### 6. Digital Entries: (Formatting)

- a. Image Entries:
  - i. Only electronic entries will be accepted in the image competition, no physical prints will be accepted.
  - ii. Image files should be sized with the longest side at 4000 pixels, quality 10 jpg with an imbedded color space of sRGB or AdobeRGB 1998.
  - iii. Files are to be named, Image Title (use \_ for spaces, e.g. See\_Spot\_Run.jpg). Avoid special characters, as they are sometimes not recognized.
  - iv. Borders and strokes, although not required, are suggested as part of the overall image presentation.
  - v. Studio identification or entrant's name cannot appear on any part of the entry. Image/Album will be considered ineligible and disqualified.
- b. Album Entries: (Wedding, Portrait or Pictorial Album)

- i. Each page/spread may contain as many images as you desire.
  - ii. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 page/spread files up to 36 page/spread and follow the same size requirements as single digital entries (see above)
  - iii. Files are to be numbered in viewing order using two (2) digits, i.e., 01.jpg, 02.jpg, 03.jpg, etc.
  - iv. Studio identification or entrant's name cannot appear on any part within the album entry.
  - v. Longest album spread should be sized at 4000 pixels on the longest side and contain a color profile of either sRGB or AdobeRGB1998.
  - vi. In the case of any multi-Maker album, images in the album must be the work of the entrants, with a minimum of 20 images per entrant. Multi-Maker albums will be judged as one entry. Both makers should submit the files/images.
  - vii. You will be required to submit a jpg image as the "cover" and the album file in a zip format to [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com)
  - viii. No photographs entered in an album may be entered as a separate entry in another category at any time.
  - ix. Please make sure you update the Title and Category within [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com) before Final submission date.
- c. RAW entries:
- i. The entrant will upload their untouched, unnamed NATIVE CAMERA RAW file. Do not change the file name or anything for the RAW file.
  - ii. Please leave the JPG spot blank.
  - iii. Please make sure you Title and choose RAW Category within [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com)
- d. REPORTAGE entries:
- i. The entrant will upload their untouched, unnamed NATIVE CAMERA RAW file and the Competition JPG image for this category.
  - ii. If you do not have the NATIVE CAMERA RAW file, contact [andee@reallifeevents.net](mailto:andee@reallifeevents.net) to arrange entering your NATIVE CAMERA JPG file.
  - iii. Please follow guidelines for Competition entries (item 6a) sizing, titling, etc. the file name for the JPG file.
  - iv. Please make sure you Title and choose REPORTAGE Category within [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com)

## 7. Photographic Elements:

- a. **Creative Rule:** Image Critique is to show the photographic knowledge and skills of the maker. However, a maker 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 despite the work that was not their own. Elements created by the maker must not be part of the guide images. This includes images within an album entry.
- b. **Artist Category:** Purchased digital backgrounds and image parts or elements will be accepted because it is judged on the work done to the image. An entry in this category Must include a compilation of parts, steps or stages used to make up the image on the front side, top or bottom of the image file ("guide images"). (See Item 11w)
- c. **All other categories:** Photographic elements must be photographed by the maker. Purchased digital backgrounds and image parts or elements will not be accepted unless the maker follows rule 7a
- d. **12 Elements:**
  - i. **Impact** - Compelling images evoke emotion—laughter, sadness, anger, pride.
  - ii. **Technical Excellence** - The quality of the actual image as presented for viewing. Aspects such as retouching, sharpness, printing, color, and exposure should be spot on.
  - iii. **Creativity** - The image is original, fresh, and an external expression of the maker's imagination.
  - iv. **Style** - The subject matter meshes with the presentation. Style can also include the characteristic ways that an artist applies his or her specific lighting, posing, or compositional style to underscore the desired impact.

- v. **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.
- vi. **Presentation** - The way an image is showcased gives it a finished look. Everything in the presentation—mats, borders, color choices—should work to enhance the image.
- vii. **Color Balance** - Color work together to evoke feelings in the viewer. For example, it can bring harmony to an image and enhance the emotional appeal. It can also be incongruous to arouse diverse feelings.
- viii. **Center of Interest** - This is where an image's creator wants a viewer's attention focused. There may be primary and secondary centers of interest. Sometimes all the elements in an image work together to create the center of interest.
- ix. **Lighting** - The image demonstrates excellence in the use and control of light, whether natural or additive. Light informs dimensions and shape, sets tone and mood, and enhances the image.
- x. **Subject Matter** - The subject matter is central to the story being told, so the subject should sync with the story.
- xi. **Technique** - The approaches used to create the image—lighting, posing, capture, presentation—work together to be effective.
- xii. **Story Telling** – The image evokes the viewer's imagination. While the act of creating is a personal thing, so too is the act of viewing. Each image is a story, and the one it tells a viewer may be unique to that person.

## 8. Damage or Loss:

- a. The VPPA assumes no responsibility for damage, loss, storage, handling, or exhibiting of entries.
- b. Entrant Agrees to hold VPPA harmless against any liabilities or claims arising out of the VPPA's consideration, display, or other use of photographs, entries, or other materials submitted by entrant to VPPA.

## 9. Model Release:

- a. Entrant must be able to submit, on request, a model release from each subject if the image is of recognizable people or pets, private homes, private possessions, or businesses.
- b. Model Release forms, if required, will be available by request.

## 10. Prize Eligibility:

- a. Prizes are awarded to the Top Three Entrant's in the Contest. The entrants with the highest evaluated eligible 6 entries.
- b. Only current VPPA Members are eligible for Prizes. (all membership levels)
- c. Entrant must enter at least Six entries to be eligible for prizes.

## 11. Category Divisions and Classifications:

### Specialty Division:

- a. **Student:** Any student can enter. This category is to allow students learning photography to enter a professional image competition and to be evaluated.
- b. **Raw:** The purpose of this category is to allow the entry of non-manipulated imagery. This category is designed for images which come straight from the camera. You must enter your unedited, unmanipulated untouched, unnamed NATIVE CAMERA RAW file. Do not enter a JPG file please. All other competition rules apply (model release, same subject, trademark images, instructor.)
- c. **Reportage:** Images that illustrate an actual public or non-public event, life, an area of human interest, telling news that have meaning in 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 Photoshop are allowed using only these tools. Only single-capture images will be accepted. Composite and multiple exposure images will not be accepted. The entrant will upload their untouched NATIVE CAMERA RAW file and the finished competition JPG image for this category. If the maker does not have the Camera Native Raw file, contact [andee@reallifeevents.net](mailto:andee@reallifeevents.net) to arrange Camera Native JPG submission.

- d. **Event:** This category celebrates the art of capturing candid photographs at various events, where photographers demonstrate their skill and composure in high-pressure situations with limited control over their surroundings. Submissions can include images from sporting events, social gatherings, and more. Participants are encouraged to showcase their creativity through artwork, retouching, and compositing techniques.
- e. **Volume:** This category is specifically for photographers specializing in volume photography, including headshots, school portraits, dance images, sport images and similar styles. In volume photography, the photographer has limited control over the ability to move subjects and alter backgrounds and lighting patterns. However, they skillfully utilize their expertise to capture compelling images within the constraints of volume photography. Volume photography is characterized as photographing 20 or more heads per hour.

### Wedding Division:

Description: In addition to the twelve elements, for an image to be merit worthy in the wedding category, additional evaluation will be considered for the entries that illustrate the personality of the subject or subjects and the story of the wedding as well as the artistic and technical skills of the image maker. Judges will keep in mind that the maker has limited control over many aspects of a wedding. For example: subject matter, environment, and time of day. Ultimately, additional consideration will be given to the maker for technically and artistically executing at a merit level despite challenges involved at a typical wedding. Images and all elements of an image in the Wedding competition must be created in connection with an actual wedding. The entrant or entrants must have captured all elements of the final submission from that wedding. Images in the Wedding competition should reflect the personality or personalities of the subject(s) or the story of the wedding as well as the personality, artistic and technical skills of the image-maker. Images should include some kind of visual wedding reference(s). The original captured image (in RAW or jpg) must be available if requested by the ICC committee.

- f. **Wedding Day Portrait:** Posed portraits made on the wedding day. They may be individuals or groups, including but not limited to brides, grooms, family members, groups, and wedding parties.
- g. **Wedding Day Candid:** Candid photographs taken on a wedding day. The purpose of this category is to show how well a photographer can operate under pressure on the wedding day.
- h. **Wedding Album:** A collection of images highlighting one or more individuals associated with a Wedding. All photographs must be from the same wedding day. There may be more than one maker for a Wedding Album; such an album will count as one entry for each maker and should be so indicated on the entry form.

### Album Division:

- i. **Portrait Album:** The album should have photographs from the same portrait sitting, assignment, or be a "Day in the Life", "Baby to Adult", or High School Senior type album. It could also be a compilation of images from one trip or one assignment.
- j. **Pictorial Album:** Group or collection of images used to express people, places, or things, not specifically in a social setting but can be in a social setting, commercial assignment, etc. It could also be a compilation of images from one trip or one assignment, a sporting event, etc.

### Portrait Division:

- k. **Portrait of a Child:** Portrait of **ONE** (1) Child. Category must contain a child from birth to age 16 (Image with pets allowed, but should not be the center of interest)
- l. **Portrait of a Woman:** Adult Woman (Image with pets allowed, but should not be the center of interest)
- m. **Portrait of a Bride:** Brides photographed in the studio, outdoors, indoors or on location. Bridal portraits made on the wedding day must be entered in Wedding Day Portrait. There should be no other people in the photograph.
- n. **Portrait of a Man:** Adult Man (Image with pets allowed, but should not be the center of interest)

- o. **Portrait of High School Senior:** Only portraits made in the studio, outdoors, indoors or on location of an individual high school senior are eligible for this category Male or Female ranging in age between 16-18. They may be composites, if desired. (Image with pets allowed, but should not be the center of interest)
- p. **Portrait of a Group:** Includes more than one person of any age group, with or without pets.
- q. **Portrait of Pets:** This Category captures an animal(s) portrait using structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment, where the owner or photographer controls the animal. (Image with people allowed, but should not be the center of interest)

### **Pictorial Division:**

- r. **Illustrative:** This category includes macro photography, still life, vignettes, creative art pieces, etc. (Image with pets or people allowed, but should not be the center of interest)
- s. **Landscape:** This category includes scenic photography, seascapes, cityscapes, urban landscapes, and sunsets. (Image with pets or people allowed, but should not be the center of interest)
- t. **Nature/Wildlife:** This category includes nature and wild animals in an uncontrolled lighting environment, zoo animals, insects, flowers, field, etc. (Image with people allowed, but should not be the center of interest)
- u. **Commercial/Industrial:** These are photographs made for advertising or for depicting activities associated with business, industry, sales, marketing, branding, commerce, etc.
- v. **Architectural:** Photographs of building exteriors, interiors, or architectural details.

### **Artist:**

- w. **Artist:** 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. Artist category is designed to judge the technique of the artist. An entry in this category must include a compilation of parts, steps or stages used to make up the image on the front side, top or bottom of the image file (“guide images”). The maker will be judged on how well he/she handled the medium used in the image. This category will include enhancements/ restoration, composited images, and single image files.

### **Theme:**

- x. **Theme:** These entries are Completely FUN! The Image Committee will select a theme for each competition and entries should follow that theme. The Committee will designate a prize for the chosen winner. The judging panel will choose their favorite. Monies raised from this fun competition are donated to a designated VPPA fund (established each competition) These entries are not considered for any other credits, prizes, or awards. It is best to follow image submission guidelines. This is also a great way for entrants that typically do not enter Image Competitions to participate. Images are to be emailed to [Andee@reallifeevents.net](mailto:Andee@reallifeevents.net) and the entrant will receive an invoice through Wild Apricot to pay the entry fee.

## **12. Evaluation Value:**

Value is given to each entry based on Juror’s Votes. Merit, Non-Merit or Commonwealth.

Evaluated Image Values:

Non-Merit Vote	1 Point
Merit Vote	2 Points

## **13. Judging Panel:**

- a. The Judging Panel chosen by the Image Committee.

## **14. Judges Voting Scale:**

- a. B - Merit
- b. C - Non-Merit – Potential with improvements
- c. D - Non-Merit – Low Potential

**For more information:**

Andee Moore, Image Competition Co-Director – [andee@reallifeevents.net](mailto:andee@reallifeevents.net) or (804) 222-4111 (studio)

Jamie Hayes, Image Competition Co-Director – [jamie@hayesandfisk.com](mailto:jamie@hayesandfisk.com) or (804) 740-9307 (studio)

Update: 6/28/2023

**Addendum A. Entry Fees and Forms:**

- a. The fee is **\$20 per entry** (image or album).
- b. A **live critique** will be available for every entry entered (image/album). Each entry will be critiqued Live by one Juror during the Image Contest. If time is running short, the committee will arrange an online meeting later in the week to complete the Image Contest Critiques.
- c. Entrants should read and understand the Certification Statement on the entry form and the penalties that apply if the entry is in violation of VPPA Rules.
- d. Theme Entry fee is \$5 per entry and is a donation to a designated VPPA cause, each competition. (See Section 11x)

**Addendum B. Deadlines:**

- a. Image Critique will open on **07/01/2023** and close on **08/13/2023**. Entries may be accepted after **08/13/2023** with prior approval from the image competition chair.
- b. A Registration is defined as creating the entry (place marker) at [www.printcompetiton.com](http://www.printcompetiton.com) and paying for the entry. Registration of all entries for the Image Contest will close on **08/13/2023**. All entries to be judged in the Image Contest must be registered by paying the entry fee on [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com) by **08/13/2023**. All entries can be changed, adjusted, or updated including titles, size, etc. at any time until **10 p.m. on 08/13/2023**.
- c. All entries must be uploaded to [www.printcompetition.com](http://www.printcompetition.com) no later than **10 p.m. on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, (one week before the competition). Image Contest will begin in person at the 2023 PhotoConnect Summer Seminar **Saturday August 19, 2023** 6pm, est.
- d. All access to and handling of entries will be limited to the Image Competition Committee members.
- e. Failure to comply with the image rules will result in rejection of your entries by the Image Competition Chairmen.