

January 2026

The Wisconsin Photographer

2026 WPPA Competition Edition

Featuring the Award winners of the 2025.



2026 Wisconsin's Image Judging & More

Here is your chance not only to get scores, but also you can have the opportunity to have the judging panel discuss your images and more....

How about the opportunity of winning awards and lab credits from our sponsors?????

Judging will be held on **March 8, 2026.**

Registration opens on January 8, 2026.

All registration takes place at: www.printcompetition.com.

The entry Deadline is 5:00 pm Central Time, March 7, 2026

WPPA Image Judging and MORE

2026 WPPA State Image Competition, Getting Ready for PPA MIR and More!

March 8, 2026

Registration Opens Jan. 8, 2026

Meet our Award Sponsors

Everyone is Eligible to win a Sponsored Award.

aci



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...saal

Visit www.wppa-online.com
For Up to Date Information

It is Your Responsibility to Read and Understand all of
the Rules for this Image Judging and More!

Meet our Judges



Dennis Hammon
M. Photog., Cr, CPP, F-ASP
IPC Juror



Kathy Meek
M. Photog., Cr, CPP,
APM, IPC Juror



Dwight Okamoto
M. Photog., M. Wedding, M. Artist, Cr,
CPP, MEL, IPC Juror



Joe Campanelle
M. Photog., Cr, CPP, F-ASP
IPC Juror



Toni Harryman
M. Photog., M. Artist, Cr, CPP,
IPC Juror



Barbara Yoris
M. Photog. Cr, CPP,
IPC Juror

REGISTRATION

Register at Printcompetition.com

Click on the **WPPA WI Logo** to register and for rules and more.



Investment

\$15.00 per Image - **Unlimited** Images

(your case is the total numbers of images you enter)

and MORE

Add \$36.00 per CASE for a DISCUSSION on ALL of
your images in your **CASE**.

(Each Image in your case will be discussed and recorded, No matter how many images are in your case.)

DEADLINE: March 7, 2026 at 5:00p.m. Central Time.

Hosted By WPPA

The Wisconsin Professional Photographers Association is excited to welcome all PHOTOGRAPHERS to Image Judging and More. This is also our State Competition. Our organization has hosted many in person print competitions, state and district. This will be our fourth web based event that you will be able to watch and see the images and scores and listen to the judge's discussion. If you choose not to enter any of your images this time, you can watch and learn.

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WPPA Image Judging and More

The WPPA Image Competition is designed to further your education in the areas of technical excellence and understanding of an exceptional image that may set you apart from other photographers.

Images entered are judged against 12 elements.
Jurors use these elements to deem whether an entry has met or exceeded the level of a high-quality professional image.

Impact
Technical Excellence
Creativity
Style
Composition
Presentation

COLOR BALANCE
CENTER OF INTEREST
LIGHTING
SUBJECT MATTER
TECHNIQUE
STORY TELLING

Scoring Scale

Images entered into the WPPA Image Judging and More can receive scores up to 100 points, dependent on how they meet the Elements of a Merit Image.

100 - 95	Exceptional
94 - 90	Superior
89 - 85	Excellent
84 - 80	Deserving of a Merit
79 - 75	Above Average
74 - 70	Average
69 - 65	Below Exhibition

Impact - Is the immediate emotional response an image evokes in the viewer. It's the wow factor – the first impression that draws someone in and makes them feel something, whether it's awe, joy, sadness, intrigue, or inspiration.

Key Aspects of Impact in a Merit Image:

Emotional Response – A strong image triggers a reaction, making the viewer feel connected to the story or subject.

First Impression – Within seconds, the image should grab attention and make a lasting impression.

Powerful Storytelling – Impactful images often tell a compelling story or convey a strong message.

Creativity & Uniqueness – Uncommon perspectives, bold compositions, or dramatic lighting can enhance impact.

Memorability – The best images



linger in the viewer's mind long after they've seen them.

Technical

Excellence - This element refers to the mastery of the technical aspects of photography, ensuring that every detail is executed with precision and skill. It demonstrates a photographer's command over the camera, lighting, post-processing, and print quality, resulting in an image that is polished and professional.

Key Aspects of Technical Excellence:

Sharpness & Clarity – The image should be in sharp focus where intended, with appropriate depth of field.



Proper Exposure – Highlights and shadows should be well-controlled, preserving details without overexposure or underexposure.

Lighting Control – Effective use of natural or artificial light to enhance the subject, avoid harsh shadows, and add depth.

Color Balance & Tonality – Accurate and pleasing color representation, with well-managed white balance and contrast.

Retouching & Post-Processing – Clean and skillful editing without over-processing or unnatural artifacts.

Print Quality (if applicable) – High-resolution output, correct sharpening for printing, and attention to paper choice and finishing.

Lens Choice & Perspective – The selection of focal length, angle, and composition should support the image’s artistic intent.

Why Technical Excellence Matters:

Even a highly impactful image can lose merit if it has flaws in focus, exposure, or editing. It ensures the image meets professional standards for competition, publication, or client work.

It reflects the photographer’s skill level and attention to detail, reinforcing credibility in the field.

A Merit Image balances technical precision with artistic expression, ensuring that nothing distracts from its storytelling and emotional power.

Creativity - the photographer’s ability to present a subject or concept in a unique, imaginative, and original way. It’s about thinking

beyond the ordinary and using artistic vision to make the image stand out.

Key Aspects of Creativity in a Merit Image:

Originality – A fresh approach to composition, lighting, posing, or post-processing that sets the image apart.

Innovative Use of Techniques

– Experimentation with angles, motion, reflections, or unconventional lighting.

Storytelling & Concept – An image that conveys a message, emotion, or theme in a distinctive way.

Unexpected Elements – A creative twist, whether through props, perspective, juxtaposition, or editing.

Artistic Expression – A demonstration of the photographer's unique style and vision.

Ways to Enhance Creativity in an Image:

Think Outside the Box – Try a



new perspective, composition, or setting.

Use Light Creatively – Experiment with shadows, color gels, or dramatic lighting.

Tell a Unique Story – Use elements that evoke curiosity, emotion, or surprise.

Post-Processing Techniques – Artistic editing, composites, or textures can add a creative edge.

Play with Motion & Perspective – Slow shutter speeds, reflections, or extreme angles can create a fresh look.

Why Creativity Matters:

It engages the viewer and makes the image memorable.

It sets the photographer apart

from others, showcasing a unique artistic voice.

It can elevate a technically sound image into an award-winning masterpiece.

A Merit Image should not only be technically excellent but also inspire, surprise, or challenge expectations – that’s the power of Creativity!

Style - The distinctive way an image is presented, reflecting the photographers’s unique artistic vision and approach. It encompasses elements such as lighting, composition, color reading, and subject portrayal that creates a consistent and recognizable aesthetic.

Key Aspects of Style in a Merit Image:

Personal Artistic Voice – A strong style distinguishes the photographer’s work, making it identifiable and unique.

Consistency – The image should reflect a coherent artistic approach, whether it’s dramatic, classic,



modern, or minimalistic.

Appropriate to Subject Matter

– The style should enhance the message or mood of the image rather than distract from it.

Technical Execution – Choices in lighting, posing, editing, and post-processing should align with the intended style.

Emotional Impact – A well-defined style contributes to how the viewer emotionally connects with the image.

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.

Composition -

the deliberate arrangement of elements within the frame to create a visually compelling and balanced image. It guides the viewer's eye, enhances storytelling, and strengthens the overall impact of the photograph.

Key Aspects of Composition in a Merit Image:

Balance & Harmony – The placement of subjects and elements should feel intentional, avoiding unnecessary distractions.

Rule of Thirds & Leading Lines – Classic compositional techniques that draw attention to key areas and create visual flow.

Framing & Depth – Using natural frames (e.g., doorways, trees) and layering to add dimension and interest.

Negative Space – Strategic use of empty space to emphasize the



subject and create mood.

Point of View & Perspective – Unique angles, such as low or high viewpoints, can add drama and originality.

Symmetry & Patterns – Using repetition, reflections, or symmetrical elements for a strong visual impact.

Tension & Dynamic Energy – Off-center placement, diagonal lines, or intentional imbalance can create excitement and movement.

Why Composition Matters:

It controls the viewer's attention and directs them to the subject. It enhances storytelling, making the image more engaging.

A well-composed image feels intentional and polished,

increasing its merit in competition.

A Merit Image demonstrates thoughtful Composition, where every element contributes to the overall message and aesthetic appeal of the photograph.



Presentation -

the way an image is displayed, ensuring that every aspect – from cropping and borders to printing and digital display – is polished and enhances the overall impact of the photograph. A strong presentation reinforces the image’s storytelling and professionalism.

Key Aspects of Presentation in a Merit Image:

Final Crop & Aspect Ratio –

The image should be cropped thoughtfully to enhance composition and avoid unnecessary distractions.

Borders & Edges – In print or digital competitions, a well-chosen border or vignette can frame the image effectively without overpowering it.

Print Quality & Medium – If printed, the choice of paper,

finish, and mounting should complement the image’s mood and style.

Digital Display Considerations

– For online viewing, resolution, color calibration, and file format must be optimized for clarity and impact.

Color Management – Consistent and accurate colors ensure that the image appears as intended across different mediums.

Consistency with Style & Subject

– Presentation choices should align with the artistic intent rather than distract from the image.

Why Presentation Matters:

A poor presentation can weaken an otherwise strong image.

A polished presentation elevates

professionalism and ensures the image is received as intended.

It demonstrates attention to detail, showing mastery in every aspect of the photographic process.

A Merit Image is not only strong in content and technique but also in how it is presented – whether in print, digital format, or competition display.

Color Balance - the harmonious use of color within an image to enhance mood, composition, and visual impact. It involves proper control of hues, tones, and contrast to ensure the colors work together cohesively, neither overpowering nor distracting from the subject.

Key Aspects of Color Balance in a Merit Image:

Harmony & Cohesion – Colors should complement each other and create a visually pleasing balance.

Mood & Emotion – Different color tones evoke different emotions (e.g., warm tones create a cozy feel, while cool tones convey calmness or isolation).



Accurate White Balance –

Ensuring natural skin tones and true-to-life colors without unnatural color casts.

Contrast & Depth – Proper balance between highlights, shadows, and mid-tones to add depth and dimension.

Selective Color Use – Strategic use of color to emphasize key elements in the image.

Color Theory & Psychology – Understanding complementary and analogous colors to create strong visual appeal.

Consistency Across Mediums – Colors should remain consistent in print and digital formats through proper color management.

Why Color Balance Matters:
Enhances storytelling by setting

the tone and atmosphere of the image.

Creates visual impact, making the image more dynamic and engaging.

Maintains professionalism, ensuring that colors appear as intended across different viewing platforms.

A Merit Image uses Color Balance effectively to unify the composition, strengthen emotional impact, and present a visually striking final product.

Center of

Interest - the focal point of an image – the primary subject or area that immediately draws the viewer’s attention. It ensures clarity in storytelling and composition by guiding the eye toward the most important part of the photograph.

Key Aspects of Center of Interest in a Merit Image:

Strong Focal Point – The subject should be clearly defined and



stand out from the background.

Effective Use of Composition – Techniques like the rule of thirds, leading lines, and framing help direct attention to the center of interest.

Contrast & Lighting – Proper use of light and shadow enhances the focus on the subject.

Depth of Field – A shallow depth of field (blurred background) or selective focus can isolate the subject.

Color & Tonal Contrast – Differences in brightness, color, or saturation help emphasize the subject.

Minimal Distractions – Unnecessary elements should be removed or minimized to keep the focus on the main subject.

Emotional Connection – The center of interest should contribute to the image’s message, engaging the viewer.

Why Center of Interest Matters:

Ensures the image is visually engaging and easy to interpret. Strengthens storytelling, making the subject clear and impactful.

Creates aesthetic balance, preventing the viewer’s eye from wandering aimlessly.

A Merit Image has a well-defined Center of Interest, where every compositional choice supports the subject, making it the undeniable focus of the photograph.

Lighting - the most critical elements in photography, as it shapes the subject, sets the mood, and enhances depth and dimension. In a Merit Image, lighting is used intentionally to create impact, guide the viewer’s eye, and bring out details that enhance the storytelling.

Key Aspects of Lighting in a Merit Image:



Direction & Quality – The placement of light (front, side, back, or top) affects the subject’s appearance and depth.

Intensity & Contrast – Balancing highlights and shadows adds dimension and drama without losing detail.

Mood & Atmosphere – Soft light creates a gentle, dreamy effect, while harsh light adds intensity and sharpness.

Light Control – Effective use of natural or artificial light sources, including strobes, reflectors, and diffusers.

Color Temperature – Warm vs. cool lighting influences the emotional tone of the image.

Highlighting the Center of Interest – Lighting should naturally draw attention to the focal point of the image.

Avoiding Unwanted Shadows or Overexposure – Proper exposure ensures all important details are visible without distractions.

Why Lighting Matters:

Defines shape and texture, making subjects appear three-dimensional. Enhances storytelling, creating mood and emotional depth. Guides the viewer's eye, directing focus to the most important elements.

Sets a professional standard, ensuring the image looks intentional and polished.

A Merit Image demonstrates mastery of Lighting, using it not just for exposure but as a powerful tool to elevate impact, composition, and storytelling.

Subject Matter - the main theme, story, or focus of the image. In a Merit Image, the subject must be clearly defined,



compelling, and appropriate for the message the photographer intends to convey. A strong subject ensures that the image resonates with the viewer and holds their attention.

Key Aspects of Subject Matter in a Merit Image:

Clarity of Purpose – The subject should be the main focus, with all elements in the image supporting its presence.

Emotional & Visual Impact – The subject should engage the viewer, evoking a reaction or connection.

Relevance & Storytelling – The subject should align with the mood, theme, or intended message of the image.

Uniqueness & Interest – A fresh perspective, unexpected moment,

or creative approach enhances the subject's appeal.

Complementary Background & Environment – The setting should enhance, not distract from, the subject.

Technical Considerations – Proper focus, lighting, and depth of field should highlight the subject effectively.

Composition & Framing – The subject should be well-placed using compositional techniques like the rule of thirds, leading lines, or framing to draw attention.

Why Subject Matter Matters:
It defines the story the image tells.

A strong subject holds the viewer's attention and creates a lasting impression.

It ensures all elements work together cohesively, avoiding confusion or distraction.

A Merit Image features a well-chosen Subject Matter, ensuring that it is engaging, clearly defined, and visually impactful, making



the image both meaningful and memorable.

Technique - the photographer's skill in using camera settings, equipment, and post-processing to execute the image effectively. It demonstrates technical mastery and ensures that the image is sharp, well-exposed, and free of distractions caused by poor execution.

Key Aspects of Technique in a Merit Image:

Camera Control – Proper use of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO to achieve the desired depth of field, motion effect, and exposure.

Focus & Sharpness – The subject should be crisp and well-defined, with appropriate depth of field for storytelling.

Proper Exposure – Highlights and shadows should be well-balanced without losing detail in important areas.

Lighting Control – Whether natural or artificial, lighting should enhance the subject and mood.

Composition Execution – The photographer should apply compositional techniques effectively without technical flaws.

Post-Processing Mastery – Retouching, color grading, and corrections should be skillfully applied without over-processing.

Print & Output Quality – If printed, the image should be sharp, well-calibrated, and free from banding, noise, or artifacts.

Why Technique Matters:

A strong concept can be weakened by poor technique.

Flawless execution enhances the image's professionalism and credibility.

Attention to technical detail ensures that nothing distracts from



the subject and message.

A Merit Image showcases masterful Technique, proving that the photographer has full control over the camera, lighting, and post-processing to create a refined and impactful final result.

Story Telling - the ability of an image to convey a message, emotion, or narrative, drawing the viewer into the scene. A Merit Image should make the audience feel something, inviting them to interpret or connect with the story behind the photograph.

Key Aspects of Storytelling in a Merit Image:

Clear Narrative – The image should suggest a story, whether it's an emotion, action, relationship, or moment in time.

Emotional Connection – A great image evokes a reaction, making the viewer feel joy, sadness, excitement, mystery, or wonder.

Strong Subject & Context – The subject, environment, and supporting elements should work together to tell the story.

Engagement & Interpretation – The image should make the viewer ask questions, spark curiosity, or feel immersed in the scene.

Expression & Gesture – In portrait photography, body language, facial expressions, and interactions enhance storytelling.

Use of Light & Composition – Lighting, angles, and framing should support the mood and message of the story.

Timing & Moment – Capturing the decisive moment can make the difference between a simple image and a powerful narrative.

Why Storytelling Matters:

Engages the audience, making the image more impactful and memorable.



Adds depth and meaning, transforming a beautiful image into a compelling piece of art. Enhances competition appeal, as judges look for images that go beyond technical excellence to emotionally resonate.

A Merit Image doesn't just look good – it tells a story, inviting the viewer to connect, interpret, and feel something profound.

100-95 Exceptional Score

Scoring an image between 95 and 100 in an image competition is considered exceptional and requires the image to possess several key attributes. Some of these attributes are:

- 1. Technical Excellence:** The image should have excellent sharpness, exposure, color balance, and other technical qualities that demonstrate a high level of technical proficiency.
- 2. Composition:** The image should have a well-balanced and aesthetically pleasing composition that draws the viewer's eye and captures their interest.
- 3. Creativity:** The image should showcase the photographer's unique perspective and creative vision. It should be original, thought-provoking, and visually impactful.
- 4. Emotion:** The image should evoke an emotional response from the viewer, whether it be awe, wonder, humor, sadness, or any other emotion.
- 5. Storytelling:** The image should tell a story or convey a message that engages the viewer and adds depth to the image.
- 6. Impact:** The image should have a strong visual impact that makes it stand out from other images and leaves a lasting impression on the viewer.
- 7. Quality of Print:** For print competitions, the quality of the print itself should be excellent, with accurate color, good contrast, and clean whites and blacks.

In summary, an exceptional scoring image should possess a combination of technical excellence, creativity, and emotional impact, and should be well-composed and visually appealing.



100 - The Face of the Weary
Jen Hargrove



95 - Greatings Spring
Valarie Clayton

94-90 Superior Score

Scoring an image between 90 and 94 in an image competition is considered to be a Superior Image.

The scoring of an image in a competition is usually determined by a panel of judges or a set of criteria established by the competition organizers.

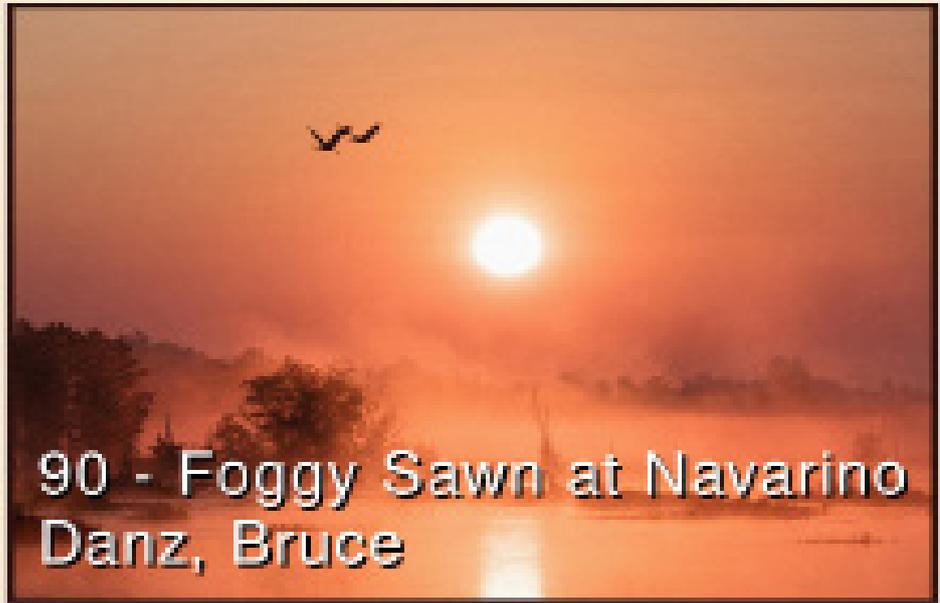
The specific criteria used can vary greatly between competitions, but some common elements include technical excellence, composition, impact, creativity, originality, and overall presentation.

When an image scores between 94 and 90, it means that the judges considered the image to be of high quality, but perhaps not quite reaching the highest level of excellence.

The reasons why the image did not score higher could be many, ranging from minor technical flaws or inconsistencies in composition to a lack of impact or originality compared to other images in the competition.

It is important to keep in mind that scoring in a photography competition is highly subjective and can be influenced by personal preferences and biases of the judges.

The most important thing is to keep learning and improving your craft, and to enter your work in competitions as a way to gain recognition and exposure.



90 - Foggy Sawn at Navarino
Danz, Bruce



92 - Grace
Smith, Kimberly

89-85 Excellent Score

A score between 85 to 89 in an image competition usually indicates that the image has been rated as “excellent” and is of high quality. The exact criteria for scoring in an image competition can vary, but generally, the judges are looking for a combination of technical and aesthetic elements, including:

- **Composition:** How well the elements in the image are arranged and balanced
For example, the image might be slightly overexposed, or the composition may not be as strong as it could be.
- **Exposure:** Whether the image is properly exposed with good contrast and tonal range
Alternatively, the judges may simply have preferred other images in the competition that had a slightly higher level of excellence.
- **Focus:** Whether the image is sharp and in focus
- **Color:** How well the colors in the image complement each other and convey mood and emotion
In conclusion, the score between 85 to 90 is a high score and indicates that the image is of excellent quality, but there are still areas for improvement that could have pushed the score higher.
- **Originality:** How unique and creative the image is
- **Technical skill:** How well the photographer has used their equipment and post-processing techniques to achieve the final result.

If an image scores between 85 to 90, it may not have scored higher due to small imperfections in one or more of these areas.



88 - Let's Study!
BARANCZYK, TRAVIS



86 - Mountain Tempest
Hammon, Cheri

84-80 Deserving of a Merit

In general, a score of 80 to 84 means that the image is of high quality, but it may have some minor flaws or weaknesses that prevent it from scoring higher. Some common reasons why an image might not score higher despite being deserving of a merit include:

- **Technical Issues:** The image might have some technical imperfections, such as poor focus, incorrect exposure, or noise, that detract from its overall impact. These are some of the reasons why an image might not score higher despite being deserving of a merit. However, it's important to keep in mind that photo competition scores are subjective, and the judges' opinions and preferences can play a role in the final scores.
- **Composition:** The image might have a strong concept, but the composition may be less than optimal, resulting in a lower score.
- **Impact:** The image might be visually appealing, but it might not have the emotional impact or visual impact that the judges are looking for.
- **Originality:** While the image might be well-executed, it may not be sufficiently original or unique, which can prevent it from scoring higher.



83 - Textures of Another Land
BARANCZYK, TRAVIS



80 - Narcissus
Foerster, Trey

79-75 Above Average

The exact criteria for scoring in an image competition can vary depending on the competition rules and the individual judges. However, in general, a score of 75 to 79 indicates that the image is considered to be above average in terms of technical merit and visual impact, but there may be some areas for improvement.

The reason the image did not score higher could be due to various factors such as composition, lighting, color balance, focus, or any other technical aspect of photography that the judge felt needed improvement.

It could also be that the image did not fully meet the criteria for the particular category of the competition, or that it did not stand out compared to other high-scoring images in the competition.

It's important to keep in mind that image competitions are subjective and the opinions of different judges can vary.

A score of 75 to 79 is still a very good score, and it shows that the image has many strengths and is well above average.



Getting Ready for my Close Up



Summer Layers

Senior Folio Competition

Senior photographers we have a different competition that you maybe interested in. It is called our Senior Folio Competiton. WPPA Members have a chance to earn the title of Senior Photographer of the Year.

Please review thoroughly!

1. A Folio is created with at least **8 portraits** of a high school senior. The digital file must be cropped to a 10x20 with a dpi of 4000 for the longest dimension.
2. Folios will be looked at as a body of work. When scoring, judges will use the judging elements as normal but also weigh the sale ability, variant, posing, creativity and consistency across the poses shown.

Senior Folio Competition Categories

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

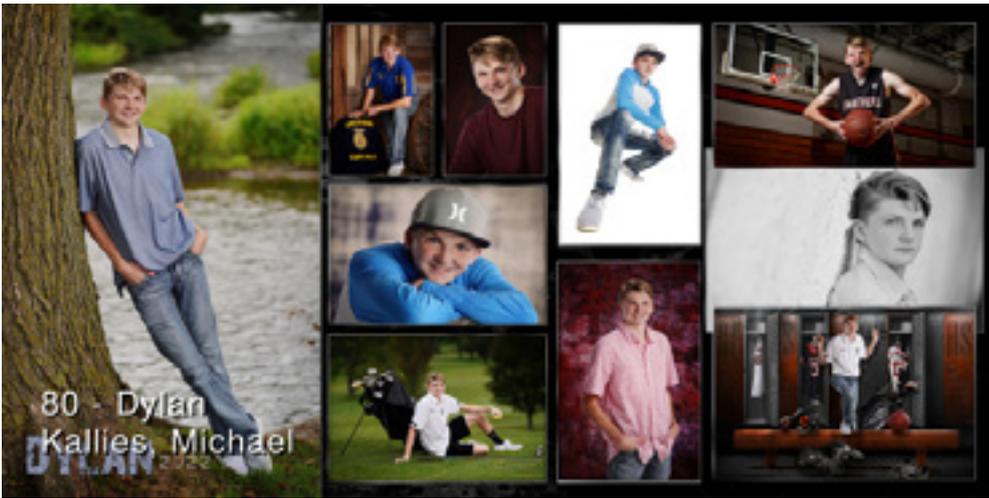
- Senior Boy
- Senior Girl

Senior Photographer of the Year

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

Awarded to the individual photographer who has the highest scoring Case total in the Senior Folio Competition. If there is a tie, the title is awarded to each individual.

Case scores are determined by adding the 4 highest scoring Folios in the Senior Folio Competition. The case total must have a score of **320 or above to be eligible**.



2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules and Guidelines

Judging and Registration Details

Judging for the 2026 WPPA Image Judging and More competition will be held on **Sunday, March 8, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time).**

Registration for the event opens on January 8, 2026, and all registrations are to be completed at www.printcompetition.com.

The entry **deadline** is set for **5:00 p.m. (Central Time) on Saturday, March 7, 2026.**

All participants are required to read and fully understand the 2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules prior to submitting their entries.

Purpose and Educational Goals

The WPPA Image Judging and More competition is designed to provide photographers with the opportunity to submit digital files for evaluation based on a standard of excellence, specifically utilizing the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. For additional information regarding these elements, participants are encouraged to refer to the PPA 12 Elements of a Merit Image. The competition aims to foster educational growth in technical excellence and to enhance understanding of what constitutes an exceptional image, ultimately helping photographers distinguish themselves within the profession.

Scoring Scale

Images submitted to the WPPA Image Judging and More competition are evaluated and can receive scores up to 100 points, reflecting how well they meet the Elements of a Merit Image. The scoring scale is as follows:

- 100–95: Exceptional
- 94–90: Superior
- 89–85: Excellent
- 84–80: Deserving of a Merit
- 79–75: Above Average
- 74–70: Average
- 69–65: Below Exhibition

Discussion

For entrants **who purchase the Discussion Fee**, all of the submitted images by that entrant will be discussed at the time of judging, with the feedback recorded and made available to the entrant on printcompetition.com.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

General Information

The WPPA is hosting three distinct competitions:

- **Photographic Open Competition**
- **Artist Competition**
- **Senior Folio Competition**

Participation is open to everyone, members and also non WPPA Members. Everyone is eligible to win Sponsored Awards, though each individual is limited to one Sponsored Award. (See Specific Rules)

WPPA members are specifically eligible for WPPA State Awards if they have **renewed or obtained WPPA membership for 2026 before entering the competition**.

Further information on membership is available through the membership application process on www.wppa-online.com.

Participants may submit **unlimited entries** in each category.

Entry fee: \$15 for each individual submission.

The Discussion Fee: \$36 which covers discussion and recording of all images entered by that entrant in any of the competitions. These discussions occur on the day of judging, with a juror assigned to discuss each image after the score is announced. If an image is challenged and or discussed, that recording will be uploaded to printcompetition.com.

Being a Premium Member of printcompetition.com allows access to these recordings as well as learning from other image competition entries.

Please allow up to one week after the competition for discussions to be uploaded to the site.

Entries may consist of any mix of digital images and digital albums.

General Rules

The following rules apply to **all three competitions**:

- All entries must be submitted via www.printcompetition.com, and participants are responsible for an additional fee paid to PrintCompetition.com for use of their service.
- Only digital images may be submitted for judging.
- Participants may submit unlimited images in each competition.
- A minimum of four entries may be required to be considered for top awards in each competition. Refer to the Sponsored and WPPA Awards Rules for details.
- No changes or refunds are permitted after the entry deadline or after entry fees are paid.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

Eligible Images

Images eligible for entry include:

- Images that have received a Merit or Imaging Excellence score in PPA's Merit Image Review (MIR).
- Images previously entered in IPC that **did not** receive a TOP 32 designation.
- New images not previously entered in any competition.
- Images that were previously entered in WPPA Image Judging and More, provided they did not receive a score of 80 or higher.
- Images from other image competitions, except those specifically excluded below.

Ineligible Images

Images that are not eligible for entry include:

- Images selected for any World Photographic Cup Competition.
- Images that received a TOP 32 designation in any of PPA's IPC Categories.
- Images that merited in any of PPA's IPC prior to 2023.
- Images that have received a WPPA State Award.
- Images that received an 80 or higher in any WPPA Competition.
- Images that have received an ASP or PPA District Award.
- Images that have received an ASP Medallion Award.
- Images that have received a PPA Grand Imaging Award.

AI Statement

No entry in any category may be created as a whole or in part using text-to-image prompts with Artificial Intelligence (AI) image-generating software designed to produce entire images or backgrounds from programmed sources.

Creative control over the work's expression must remain with the human creator, and all elements must be produced with traditional authorship methods.

However, non-text-to-image prompted features, such as Photoshop's generative expand and photoshop retouching tools, are permitted.

Entries found to violate this AI policy will be disqualified, will not receive a score, and may not be entered in any future WPPA competitions. If disqualification occurs after scoring, the score will be voided and the image will be ineligible for awards or inclusion in WPPA materials.

Physical fabric backgrounds do not apply to the AI Statement; they are purchased by an entrant for use in the photographic creation of an image. The entrant has no control over how a background is created.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

Digital Submission Specifications

All files must be sized so that the **longest dimension is 4000 pixels**.

Each file must include an embedded color profile (either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998) and should be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. Typically, the file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Files should be named using only the image title. If your file size is bigger than 4000 pixels **it will be disqualified**.

Digital Album Entry Guidelines

All album entries must be submitted digitally. For guidance, see the video tutorial at PPA.com/IPC_tutorials. The following requirements apply:

1. Each page or spread file must have its longest dimension at 4000 pixels, include an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998, and be saved as a JPEG at quality setting 10.
2. There is no restriction on the number of images per page or spread file.
3. Albums must contain between 5 and 36 page/spread files.
4. Files must be numbered in viewing order using two digits (e.g., 01.jpg, 02.jpg, 03.jpg, etc.).
5. All files should be compressed into a single ZIP file, named according to the album title (e.g., Summer Wedding.zip).
6. No studio identification or entrant's name may appear on any file within the album entry.
7. When submitting a multi-maker album, all entrants must use the same album title.

Viewing Conditions for Image Review – Calibrate your monitor

- For optimal color management, refer to the video tutorial available at PPA.com/IPC_tutorials or on YouTube.
- The recommended monitor settings are D65, 120 cd/m², and a gamma of 2.20.
- Calibrate your monitor before you start to process your images.

Final Note

The WPPA Image Competition Committee reserves the right to reassign images to a different competition, category, or sub-category if deemed appropriate. All decisions made by the committee are final.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

WPPA Competitions - Rules and Categories

Photographic Open Competition Rules

The Photographic Open Competition is designed to showcase the photographic skill and expertise of each entrant. While entrants may incorporate supporting photographic elements that they did not personally create, these elements must be clearly referenced as guide images on the face of the entry. This rule encompasses all supporting elements, including sky replacements. Importantly, the original photographic capture by the entrant should be of sufficient quality to merit recognition on its own, independent of any external elements used. Any elements created by the entrant must not be included as guide images. These rules also apply to images within an album entry.

This competition is intended for all images and albums in which the entrant is responsible for creating the images of the primary subject(s) in the final entry. For further details, consult the specific rules for categories such as the Wedding Competition Rules and Reportage.

All aspects of processing, manipulation, printing, or rendering must be completed by the entrant or under their direct supervision. Entrants are required to have obtained and maintain access to all necessary releases, whether model or property releases, and agree to hold WPPA harmless against any claims and liabilities resulting from WPPA's use, display, publication, or promotion of each submitted image.

Entrants are prohibited from including their name, initials, business logo, watermark, or any identifying features anywhere on the entry.

Entries are ineligible if created under the supervision of an instructor or as part of a class assignment. Only self-directed images are permitted. Images produced in an educational setting under direct instructor supervision are not allowed.

Any entry derived from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic, or artwork created by another individual is not permitted and will be disqualified from judging, acceptance, or display. Should an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the WPPA Image Competition Committee, violate copyright, trademark, or any applicable law, it will be disqualified, not displayed or published, and will not receive awards or points toward the WPPA Fellowship Degree.

Entries featuring the same subject in multiple images are acceptable if the images present entirely different concepts. If not, only one image will be accepted, with the other(s) disqualified.

The WPPA Image Competition Committee will strive to inform entrants of such duplicates prior to the registration deadline. If not identified before the deadline, the first listed image on printcompetition.com will be accepted, and others will be disqualified. Disqualifications post-scoring result in voided scores and ineligibility for awards or inclusion in WPPA materials.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

The Folio Competition is an exception; refer to the Folio Competition Rules for clarification.

The WPPA Image Competition Chair retains the right to disqualify images under this provision.

Images not meeting WPPA exhibition content standards may be judged but not displayed. Acceptable content is determined based on the standards set by the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., at the discretion of the WPPA Image Competition Committee.

Photographic Open Categories & Sub-Categories

Each entry must be assigned to one of the following categories or sub-categories in the Photographic Open Competition:

Portrait

Portrait images utilize structured lighting in a studio or outdoor environment and should capture the character of one or more subjects from any walk of life.

- General Portrait: Includes families, groups, adults, couples, fashion, and boudoir.
- Children/Baby: Ages 0 to 16 years.
- Couple: Non-wedding couples.
- High School Senior: Actual client work.
- Animal: Animal portraits using structured lighting, with the owner or photographer controlling the animal and lighting.

Illustrative

This category includes pictorials, abstracts, composites, digital paintings, flowers, plants, trees, macro, zoo animals, and similar subjects.

- Composite
- Digital Painting
- Nature
- Illustrative Portrait: Images using creative styling, techniques, extensive makeup, or props. Postproduction is encouraged and may be essential to the final image.
- Illustrative Open: Composited landscapes, wildlife, astrophotography, or any image not fitting other sub-categories.
- Album: Non-wedding social event albums (e.g., bar mitzvahs) or storytelling portrait albums.

Landscape

This category is for images portraying natural scenes, including landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes, aerials, and astrophotography. Techniques such as image stitching, focus stacking, and image stacking are allowed.

- Drone/Aerial
- Astrophotography
- Landscapes

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

Wildlife

Wildlife images must depict animals in their natural habitats and cannot be composites.

- Birds
- Animals
- Reptiles
- Insects

Commercial

Commercial images are intended for clients to promote or brand products or companies. This includes advertising, fashion, beauty, still life, food, architecture, and corporate photography. Both composite and non-composite images, as well as light-painted and heavily manipulated images, are allowed.

- Food
- Fashion/Beauty
- Architecture
- Commercial Open

Reportage

Reportage images document actual events—public or private, news stories, or human-interest features—with significant impact or emotional response. Sports events are included. Only basic adjustments (color, brightness, cropping, dodging, burning) are allowed; only single-capture images are accepted. Composites and multiple exposures are not permitted. The committee may request the original RAW or JPEG file.

- Reportage Open

Wedding

The Wedding Category is for images and albums captured during the actual wedding event. Jurors recognize the constraints of weddings, such as limited control over subjects, environment, and timing. Images must include clear wedding references, and all elements must be created during the event. Engagement or bridal portraits are not permitted in this category.

- Wedding Day Open: Images created during the actual wedding event.
- Wedding Day Album: All album images must be captured during the event. Entries may be single or multi-maker (at least two photographers, minimum twenty images each from the same wedding). Non-compliance may result in disqualification.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

Artist Competition Rules

The Artist Competition provides entrants with the opportunity to demonstrate their artistic skills and expertise in creating images from one or more sources. Entrants are not required to have photographed any source images themselves. Entries in this competition are judged on digital, artistic, and technical proficiency.

Entries can be created using various artistic mediums. Use of photographs is optional, and artwork may feature freehand drawing or painting in traditional or digital formats. Stock photographs, images, or artwork from other artists may be included with written consent from those sources. WPPA may request documentation of permissions before, during, or after the competition.

Guide images must be included on the face of the entry. For restorations, it is recommended to include the guide image for the restored photograph as well as two progress images.

All processing, manipulation, artwork, or rendering must be performed by the entrant. Entrant identifying information (name, initials, logo, watermark) must not appear anywhere on the entry.

Entries produced under instructor supervision or as class assignments are not eligible. All images must be self-directed and not created in an educational environment under direct instructor supervision.

Multiple entries of the same subject are allowed only if each entry represents an entirely different concept; otherwise, only one will be accepted, and the rest disqualified.

The committee will attempt to inform makers of duplicate entries before the deadline; if not, the first listed image on printcompetition.com will be accepted. Disqualified entries after scoring will have their scores voided and be ineligible for awards or publication.

If, in the committee's opinion, an entry violates copyright, trademark, or any applicable law and cannot be proven otherwise, it will not be displayed or published, will be disqualified from awards, and will not receive points toward the WPPA Fellowship Degree.

The WPPA Image Competition Chair may disqualify images under this rule.

Artist Competition Categories

- Creative Open (Artist)
- Restoration

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules



2026 WPPA Image Judging & More – Competition Rules

Senior Folio Competition Rules

- A Senior Folio must be composed of **at least eight portraits** of a high school senior.
- The digital file must be cropped to a 10x20 format,
- Longest dimension of 4000 dpi.

Folios are judged as a cohesive body of work. Judges consider standard criteria as well as salability, variety, posing, creativity, and consistency across all poses. The Senior Folio Competition is intended to highlight the maker's photographic knowledge and skill.

All images must come from actual senior customer or client work. Images used in the High School Senior Sub-Category of the WPPA Photographic Open Competition may also be entered, as the Folio is judged differently.

All aspects of processing, manipulation, printing, or rendering must be performed by the entrant. Entrants must have all necessary model or property releases and agree to hold WPPA harmless from any claims or liabilities arising from WPPA's use of the images.

No identifying marks (name, initials, logo, watermark) are allowed on any entry.

Entries made under instructor supervision or as class assignments are ineligible. All submitted images must be self-directed and not created in an educational setting under direct instructor supervision.

Any entry originating from an existing photograph, portrait, graphic, or artwork produced by another individual will be disqualified.

If, in the committee's good-faith opinion, an entry violates copyright, trademark, or any applicable law, it will not be displayed or published and will not be eligible for awards or points toward the WPPA Fellowship Degree.

Multiple entries of the same subject in different folios are not allowed. If duplicate folios are identified, the first listed folio on printcompetition.com will be accepted, and the others will be disqualified. Disqualifications after scoring result in voided scores and ineligibility for awards or publication. The WPPA Image Competition Chair is authorized to disqualify entries under this provision.

Senior Folio Competition Categories

- Senior Boy
- Senior Girl

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

Judging and Registration Details

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More

Judging and Registration Details

Will be held on **Sunday, March 8, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Central Time)**.

Registration opens: **January 8, 2026**

Register at: www.printcompetition.com.

Deadline: **5:00 p.m. (Central Time) on Saturday, March 7, 2026.**

Fees:

\$15.00 per image - Members and Non-Members

\$36.00 Additional Discussion Fee – All your images you upload will be included and will be discussed.

All participants are required to read and fully understand the 2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Competition Rules prior to submitting their entries.

Purpose and Educational Goals

The WPPA Image Judging and More competition is designed to provide photographers with the opportunity to submit digital files for evaluation based on a standard of excellence, specifically utilizing the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. For additional information regarding these elements, participants are encouraged to refer to the PPA 12 Elements of a Merit Image. The competition aims to foster educational growth in technical excellence and to enhance understanding of what constitutes an exceptional image, ultimately helping photographers distinguish themselves within the profession.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

State Awards



WPPA Image Competition Awards 2026

2026 WPPA Image Judging & More Competition Awards

2026 WPPA Competition Summary

The Wisconsin Professional Photographers Association (WPPA) is proud to announce the 2026 Image Judging & More event, featuring three major competitions:

- Photographic Open Competition
- Artist Competition
- Senior Folio Competition

Participation and Eligibility

All photographers are encouraged to enter the competitions. Every participant has the opportunity to win one of the Sponsored Awards; however, only one Sponsored Award is permitted per entrant.

WPPA State Awards Eligibility

WPPA Members are eligible to compete for the prestigious WPPA State Awards. To qualify, you must have renewed your WPPA membership for 2026 or joined as a new member before entering the 2026 Image Judging & More event.

If you reside in Wisconsin or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and are not a current WPPA member, you must join WPPA before entering in order to be eligible for the WPPA State Awards.

If you live outside Wisconsin, you may join WPPA, but if you are already a member of your state or local affiliate, you will not be eligible to win WPPA State Awards until two years after your WPPA membership begins. During this period, you will still enjoy the benefits of discounted member event pricing.

Important Notice

Please ensure that you have thoroughly read and understood the 2026 WPPA Image Judging and More – Competition Rules before submitting your entry. Adherence to the rules is essential for participation and eligibility.

2026 WPPA State Awards – WPPA Members Only

Photographer of the Year – Photographic Open

Photographer of the Year is awarded to the individual with the highest cumulative case total in the Photographic Open Competition.

Recognition is awarded to the individuals ranked first, second, and third. In the event of a tie, all tied entrants shall receive the corresponding title.

The case total is determined by the sum of the four highest scoring images submitted in the Photographic Open Competition. To qualify, participants must achieve a minimum case score of 320.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

State Awards



WPPA Image Competition Awards 2026

Artist of the Year

The Artist of the Year is awarded to the individual with the highest cumulative case total in the Artist Competition.

Recognition is awarded to the individuals ranked first, second, and third. In the event of a tie, all tied entrants shall receive the corresponding title.

The case total is determined by the sum of the four highest scoring images submitted in the Artist Competition. To qualify, participants must achieve a minimum case score of 320.

Senior Photographer of the Year

The Senior Photographer of the Year awarded to the individual with the highest cumulative case total in the Senior Folio Competition,

Recognition is awarded to the individuals ranked first, second, and third. In the event of a tie, all tied entrants shall receive the corresponding title.

The case total is determined by the sum of the four highest scoring folios in the Senior Folio Competition. To qualify, participants must achieve a minimum case score of 320.

Wisconsin's Top Ten

The Wisconsin's Top Ten designation is awarded to the ten WPPA Members whose case totals are the highest across all competitions.

Each participant's case total is calculated by summing their four highest scoring images in each competition.

If a participant has entries in multiple competitions, only their highest scoring case will be considered for this recognition.

In the event that a tie leads to more than ten individuals, the tie will be resolved by examining the highest scoring image in the case from the respective competition. In all instances, precisely ten individuals will be recognized as Wisconsin's Top Ten each year.

Clean Sweep (4 for 4 Pin)

This honor is bestowed upon participants who achieve a score of 80 or higher on four images in a single competition.

Should a participant enter multiple competitions, they may receive multiple Clean Sweep recognitions, provided they meet the criteria in each case.

Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented to the non-master image case with the highest total score.

In the event of a tie, each individual will be recognized.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

State Awards



WPPA Image Competition Awards 2026

Elite Collection

Images selected for the Elite Collection are those that rank among the top 40 to 50 highest scores. The threshold for inclusion is no less than 80 points; however, in recent years, the cutoff has ranged from 82 to 84 points.

Recipients of this distinction are awarded Purple Ribbons.

Creative Genius Award

This award is reserved for images displaying exceptional creativity or presenting a novel concept never before seen in the competition.

The Creative Genius Award may not be presented every year, as recipients are selected by the panel of judges from all entries, irrespective of score.

Best of Show Awards

The Best of Show Awards are determined by the panel of judges, each of whom nominates their top one or two images.

The final recipients are selected collectively from those images earning a score of 80 or above.

Awards are presented in the following categories: Portrait, Illustrative, Wedding, Commercial, Artist, Reportage, Landscape, Wildlife, and Senior Folio. (1st Place)

Recipients are honored with a Purple Rosette.

Court of Honor Awards

The Court of Honor Awards are determined by the judges, who each nominate their preferred images.

Awards are presented in the following categories: Portrait, Illustrative, Wedding, Commercial, Artist, Reportage, Landscape, Wildlife, and Senior Folio. (2nd and 3rd Place)

Recipients are honored with Rosette Ribbons.

Judges Choice

Each judge and the jury chair are allotted a Judges Choice selection, awarded to their personal favorite image regardless of score.

Recipients receive a Pink Rosette Ribbon, which is preferably signed by the judge.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

State Awards



WPPA Image Competition Awards 2026

WPPA Members State Awards – Awards Presented by Other Organizations

The ASP (American Society of Photographers) State Elite Award

This accolade is bestowed upon the ASP member in good standing who achieves the highest scoring entry at their State Image Competition.

To qualify, the winning entry must achieve a minimum score of 80, signifying that it merits recognition.

To be eligible, the recipient must fulfill the requirements as a WPPA member, as stipulated in the association's Bylaws, and must maintain current ASP dues prior to the competition.

In the event of a tie, the total case score shall serve as the initial tiebreaker; should a tie persist, the second highest scoring entry in the case will be considered, followed by the third highest scoring entry if necessary. If a tie remains after applying these criteria, co-winners will be declared, and each will receive a trophy. Both individuals shall be formally recognized during the awards ceremony.

ASP members are eligible for this award only in the state of residence or their primary listed affiliation.

The ASP State Representative will present both the ASP Best of the Best video and the ASP State Elite Award.

CPP Award from PPA

This award is presented to a current Certified Professional Photographer (CPP) WPPA member whose image achieves the highest score in the competition.

In the event of a tie, the next highest scoring image in the case will determine the recipient.

To qualify, the winning entry must achieve a minimum score of 80, signifying that it merits recognition.

Certification as a CPP must be current prior to entering the 2026 Image Judging and More event.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition Sponsor's Awards



WPPA Image Competition Sponsored Awards 2026

Meet our Sponsor's Awards

All Entrants are Eligible for the Awards from the WPPA Sponsors!

Only 1 Sponsor Award is allowed per Entrant.

If a Entrant has already won a Sponsored award the award will go to the next eligible Entrant.



\$250.00 Lab Credit and Award

American Color Imaging

Highest Scoring CASE from the Senior FOLIO COMPETITION

(Your highest 4 image scores in Senior FOLIO Competition.)



\$299.00 Value – 8×10 Fleece Backdrop

Baby Dream Backdrops

Highest Scoring CASE in the PORTRAIT Category of the Photographic Open Competition.

(Your highest 4 image scores in PORTRAIT Category.)



\$250.00 Lab Credit and Award

bayphoto

Highest Scoring CASE in the LANDSCAPE Category of the Photographic Open Competition.

(Your highest 4 image scores in LANDSCAPE Category.)

2026 WPPA State Image Competition Sponsor's Awards



WPPA Image Competition Sponsored Awards 2026

Meet our Sponsor's Awards



\$250.00 Lab Credit and Award

Miller's Professional Imaging

Award for the Highest Scoring CASE from the ARTIST Competition.

(Your highest 4 image scores in the ARTIST Competition.)



\$300.00 Lab Credit and Award

Saal Digital

Highest Scoring CASE in the ILLISTRATIVE Category of the Photographic Open Competition.

(Your highest 4 image scores in ILLISTRATIVE Category.)

...saal will also be giving a 30% discount voucher to each of the participants, valid for one year and not combinable with other offers.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

PrintCompetition.com

How to Enter!

Please visit our hosting site to upload your images in the
WPPA Image Judging and More!

PRINTCOMPETITION.COM

- Log in or register yourself as a new artist if you do not have an account at printcompetition.com.
- Look for the WPPA (WI) Logo.



- Click on the WPPA Logo to register and pay for the image judging and upload your images.

WPPA Members – renew your 2026 WPPA membership before your upload any images.

To be eligible for WPPA Awards your 2026 WPPA membership has to be current before you upload any images for this competition.

Make sure you follow the rules for Image Size!

Digital Submission Specifications

All files must be sized so that the longest dimension is 4000 pixels.

Each file must include an embedded color profile (either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998) and should be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. Typically, the file size should not exceed 3.5 MB. Files should be named using only the image title. If your file size is bigger than 4000 pixels it will be disqualified.

Digital Album Entry Guidelines

All album entries must be submitted digitally. For guidance, see the video tutorial at PPA.com/IPC_tutorials. The following requirements apply:

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

PrintCompetition.com

1. Each page or spread file must have its longest dimension at 4000 pixels, include an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998, and be saved as a JPEG at quality setting 10.
2. There is no restriction on the number of images per page or spread file.
3. Albums must contain between 5 and 36 page/spread files.
4. Files must be numbered in viewing order using two digits (e.g., 01.jpg, 02.jpg, 03.jpg, etc.).
5. All files should be compressed into a single ZIP file, named according to the album title (e.g., Summer Wedding.zip).
6. No studio identification or entrant's name may appear on any file within the album entry.
7. When submitting a multi-maker album, all entrants must use the same album title.

Entry Fees and Discussion Fee

You have to Pay your Entry Fees before the cut off on March 7, 2026 in order to have your images accepted into the competition.

When you pay for all of your images make sure you tally them up and then add in the additional Discussion Fee of \$36.00.

Use this site as a learning tool:

- As a Premium Member of Printcompetition.com you have access to:
 - Game Day Apps
 - Game Day
 - This app lets you see the actual judging on Game day. You will see the images as they are being scored by the judges and watch the results come in.
 - Audio maybe available for most events so you can actually here challenges and discussions.
 -
 - Pre-Game
 - Before or after any image competition that is held on this site you can Preview the images in the event, Like images in a event, Guess Scores, Build a Fantasy Case
 - Post Game
 - This app lets you see all results and sort by score, Sort by category, Sort by maker, Run slide show.
 - Archive Results
 - Browse through over 134,303 archived images, see individual judges scores and listen to yours and others audio clips of judges discussion and challenges.
 - Search by year, by association, score, or by maker.
- Use this for inspiration and learning to become better at your craft.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Meet Our IPC Judges



Dennis Hammon

MPhotog., Cr, F-ASP, IPC Juror

With over 45 years of experience Dennis Hammon, is still excited about getting up every day to work. With a following of family, senior, commercial and boudoir clients he still services his clients of over 4 decades. In recent years, Dennis has developed a following for his Fine art/scenic photography.

Years of experience behind him, and years ahead for the learning Dennis loves to share with fellow photographers his style of lighting and photography for portraits or you can find him in the field instructing the art of composition, finding the scene and enjoying the out of doors.

Dennis is a PPA Master Photographer, Photographic Craftsman, PPA Certified. He has been twice named Photographer of the year by Intermountain Professional Photographers and Master of the year in Idaho eight times, and continually in the top 10. Dennis also has been awarded over a dozen Kodak Gallery awards and numerous Fuji Masterpiece awards. The more than 100 + images accepted by the PPA and numerous Loan images attest to his love of print competition and is also a PPA Affiliated print juror. Dennis has also earned the PPA Excellence in Imaging Award and 2 bars for loan images. Most recently Dennis was award Fellow of Photography from the American Society of Photographers. He is one of only 123 photographers in the world with this honor.

He has also been recognized by his peers by receiving the National Award for

his service to professional photography by several state Photographic organizations.

In his work, Dennis strives to express not merely a picture but a reflection of thoughts, feelings and dreams, using his ability to seek both the inner and outer beauty to create a lasting memory. It hasn't always been easy but after 45 years in business Dennis strives to inspire and motivate photographers to find their artistic side as well as their business side.

Dennis knows what it is like to dream and succeed! Always believing in the saying "If you are not the lead dog the scenery never changes".

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Meet Our IPC Judges



Joe Campanellie

M.Photog.Cr., CPP, F-ASP, IPC Juror

Joe Campanellie is a Master Photographer, Photographic Craftsman, Certified Professional Photographer, and an Approved Affiliate Juror with the Professional Photographers of America (PPA). He also has the distinction of being 1 of only 130 individuals worldwide to hold the prestigious Fellowship Degree from the American Society of Photographers (ASP).

Before relocating to Florida, Joe and his wife owned a high-end portrait studio in Maryland for nearly 30 years specializing in children, families, and high school seniors.

Moving to Florida in 2012 gave Joe the opportunity to pursue his love of avian and nature photography on a full-time basis. Joe maintains an active speaking and judging schedule, addressing professional photography organizations, schools, and seminars. His work has been accepted into a number of local juried shows where he has been awarded some of the top honors.

Joe has been involved in local and international photographic competitions for over 31 years.

During that time span, he has garnered some of the most prestigious awards in the industry from Kodak, Fuji, PPA, and ASP. He has multiple Grand Imaging Awards, 165 PPA Merit Images, and at Imaging USA this year he was awarded his 6th Diamond Photographer of the Year Award and his 3rd Imaging Excellence Bar for 54 Imaging Excellence (loan) images.

In 2022 he was selected to represent Team USA in the World Photographic Cup Competition in which the USA won the World Photographic Cup.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Meet Our IPC Judges



Toni Harryman

M.Photog., M.Artist, Cr., CPP, IPC Juror

Toni has owned and operated Johnson Photography since 1982. She holds the prestigious Master of Photography, Photographic Craftsman, Master Artist degrees and Image Excellence medal from the Professional Photographers of America. She is also a Certified Professional Photographer having passed an extensive written test of her photographic knowledge and a review of her photography. She also holds the distinguished Fellow of Photography

degree from the Professional Photographers of Iowa for her service to that group and was awarded the National Service Award from PPA for Iowa.

She has served on the PPI board of directors for 13 years and is a Past President of that organization. She currently serves on the ASP Board of Directors. She also served on her town Chamber of Commerce and was Chamber President. Other volunteer positions were held with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and church groups.

Toni was a Diamond photographer of the year at IPC 2020 and 2021 and is a past GIA nominee.

Toni has taught and been on jury panels in more than 20 states and loves to share her passion for photography and art with fellow artists. She feels truly blessed to get to know so many inspiring and caring people in our industry through her travels.

Beyond all that I have been blessed to be the mother of 4 wonderful children who are now grown with families of their own and being a Nana is the best. I have a strong faith and love nature, art in all forms and spending time with family and friends.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Meet Our IPC Judges



Dwight Okumoto

M.Photog., M.Wed.Photog, M.Artist, Cr., MEI,
CPP, API, IPC Juror

Dwight's interest in photography started at a very young age of 6, receiving his first Kodak Brownie Box Film camera.

From the beginning, Dwight has always participated in the PPA photographic competition.

Through those decades, he was awarded with 64 Kodak Gallery Awards, with 4 prestigious Eastman Kodak Elite Galleries, 8 years of exhibition at Walt Disney World's EPCOT Center Gallery in Florida.

While continuing with his education, Dwight obtained all five photographic Degrees. Dwight has been professionally judging for PPA's Photographic Merit Image Reviews since 1996.

Dwight is approved for all judging categories including wedding and event albums.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Meet Our IPC Judges



Kathy Meek

M. Photog., Cr., CPP, API, IPC Juror

Kathy Meek is co-owner of Gary's Studio of Photography in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Kathy has received her Master of Photography and Photographic Craftsman degrees from PPA and is a Certified Professional Photographer. She is also an Approved Photographic Instructor (API) and is a PPA International Juror.

She has received the Image Excellence Award from PPA. She has received the Associate Fellowship, Fellowship and Senior Fellowship Degrees from Arkansas Professional Photographers Association and

the Associate Fellowship and Fellowship and Senior Fellowship from SWPPA.

Kathy is active in State, Regional and National Associations. She is a Past President of Arkansas Professional Photographers Association.

She is a Past President of Southwestern Professional Photographers Association and the American Society of Photographers. She has served on the Professional Photographers of America Board of Directors.

She has received numerous image awards on the State, Regional and International levels.

She has received the Distinguished Service Award from Arkansas Professional Photographers Association and the PPA National Award from Arkansas Professional Photographers Association, Southwestern Professional Photographers Association and the American Society of Photographers.

Kathy has received the Tom McDonald Award (formally the Gerhard Bakker Award). The Tom McDonald Award is presented by PPA to an individual, school, company or organization that best epitomizes outstanding service through education in the field of photography and visual communications.

Kathy is a recognized speaker and has given numerous programs at the state, regional and international levels.

2026 WPPA Image Judging and More Meet Our IPC Judges



Barbara Yonts

M.Photog.Cr., CPP, IPC Juror

Barbara began her professional photography journey in 1991.

Operating out of a home based studio, she specializes in portraiture, schools, sports and events.

The studio maintains memberships in the Professional Photographers of America and the American Society of Photographers.

Barbara has achieved several PPA degrees including her Master Photographers Degree, Craftsman Degree, and CPP.

She has earned state and national awards for her images.

Barbara has spoken nationally and internationally on the subject of Children's Photography and Composition.

Barbara is also a PPA Affiliated International Juror.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

Helpful Sites

Helpful Sites

Creating a Digital Frame or Mat For Print Competition

By: Scott Detweiler

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaoYJuM7qas>

Image presentation is one of the 12 points used in print competition. In this tutorial, I show you how to easily add one to your images. Later in the video, I also show you how you can add some creative flair to an otherwise a typical mat.

Adding A Digital Mat to Images in Photoshop

By: Cris Duncan

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEOF7XB5uao>

Photography Masterclass - 10 More Things You Didn't Know Were In Photoshop

By: Terry Lee White

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3myJ-DwSScY>

One way to create a digital frame in Photoshop, follow these steps:

1. Open Photoshop and create a new document with the desired size and resolution.
2. Use the rectangular shape tool to draw a frame. You can change the shape's color by clicking on the „Paint Bucket“ tool in the toolbar, selecting the desired color and then clicking on the frame.
3. If you want to add a stroke (outline) to the frame, go to the Layers panel, right-click on the layer with the frame, and select „Layer Style.“ In the Layer Style dialog box, click on „Stroke“ and choose the desired size, color, and position of the stroke.
4. To add a drop shadow to the frame, repeat step 3, but this time choose „Drop Shadow“ instead of „Stroke.“
5. To add a photo inside the frame, drag an image into the document and position it within the frame. You can adjust the size of the photo by selecting the „Transform“ tool (press Ctrl + T) and dragging one of the corners.

2026 WPPA State Image Competition

Meet the Crew



Image Competition Chair

Jamie Steeno M.Photog, Cr., CPP, F-WPPA,
H.Fellow-WPPA

www.wppajamie.com



Image Competition Crew

Stephanie Smith M.Photog.



Image Competition Crew

Whitney Minten M.Photog., CPP,



Image Competition Crew

Kyrstal Stankowski CPP



Image Competition Crew

Travis Baranczyk M.Photog

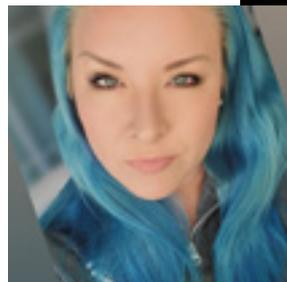


Image Competition Crew

Julie Collins M.Photog., CPP

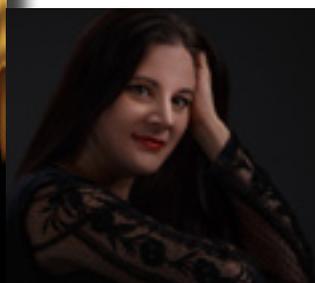
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Photographic Open Competition



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Folio Competition



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Artist Competition



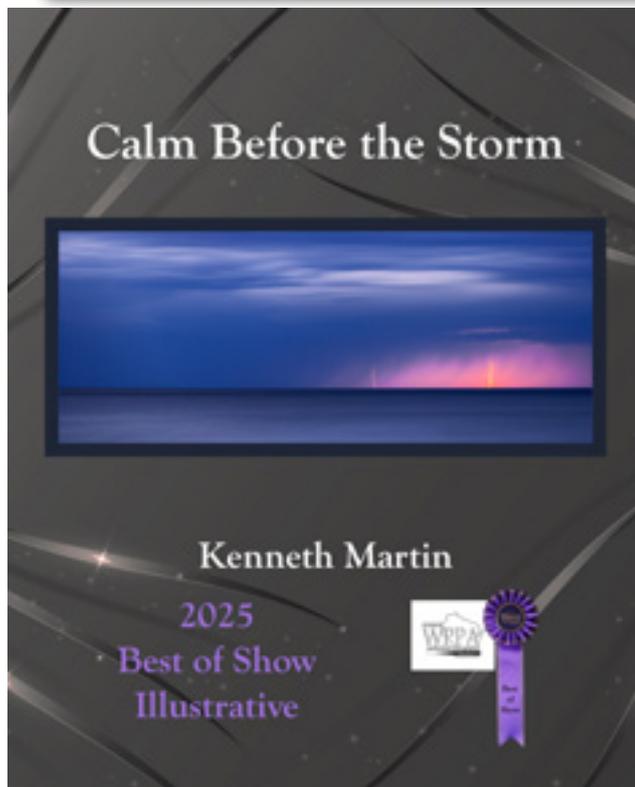
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Outstanding Achievement of a Non-Master



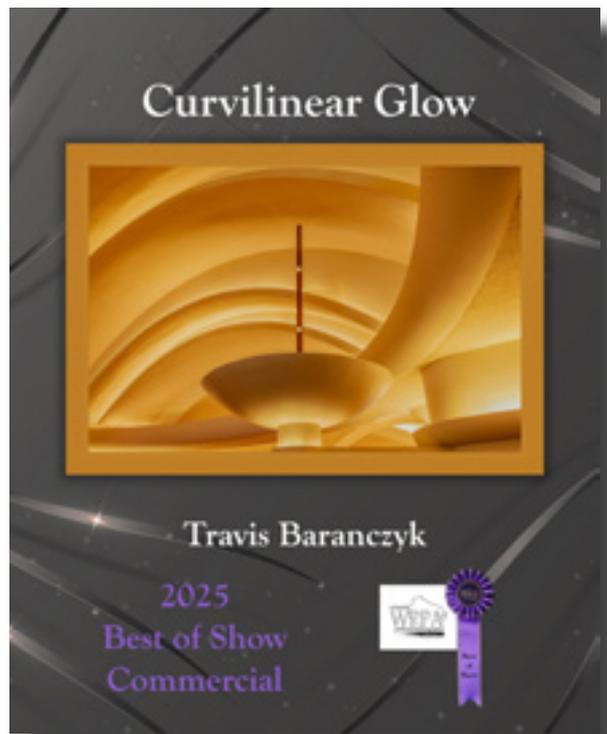
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Best of Show



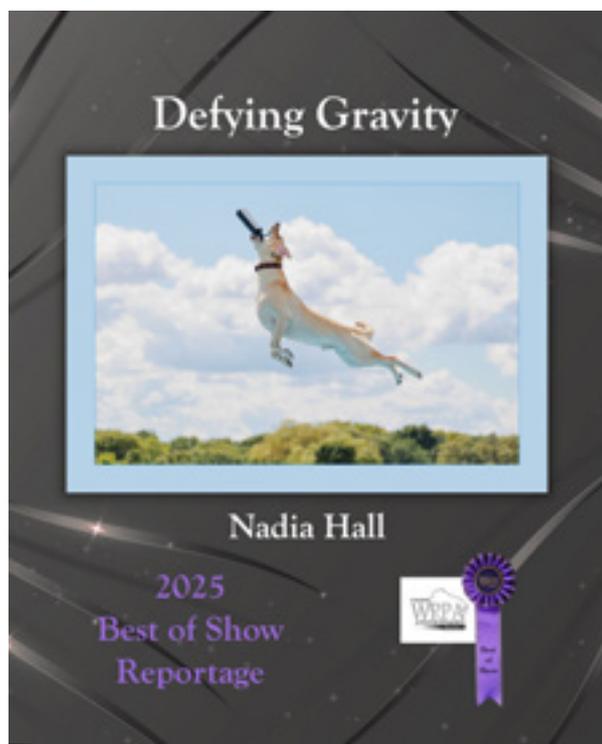
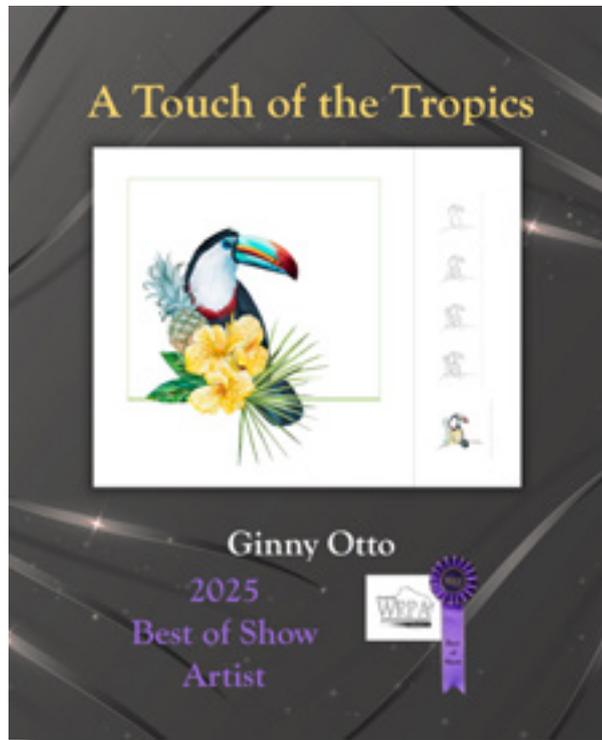
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Best of Show



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Best of Show



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Best of Show



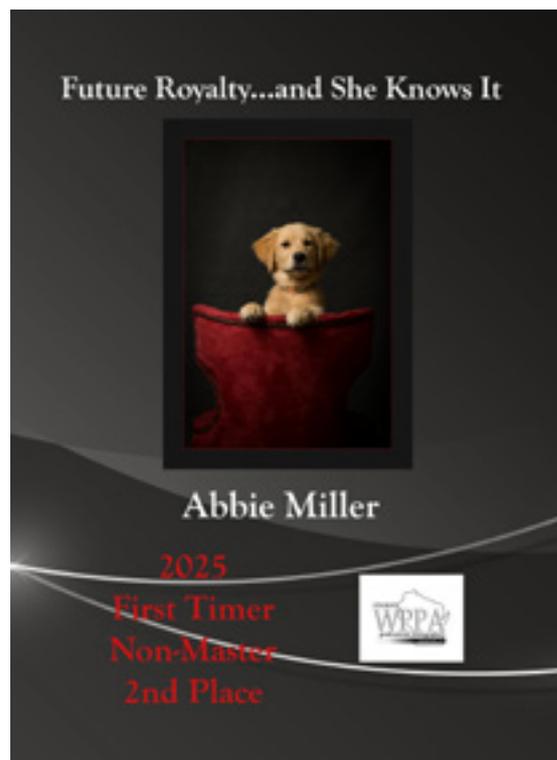
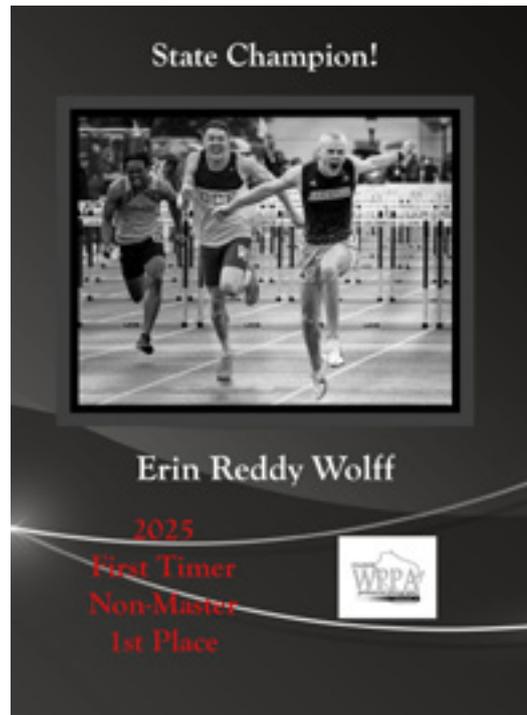
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Best of Show



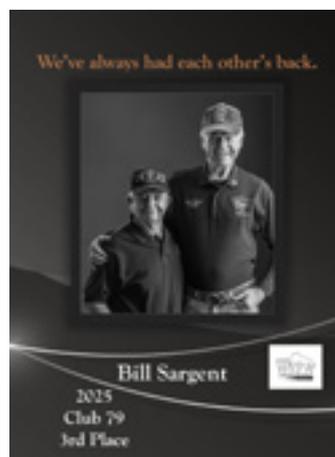
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Best of First-Timer...Non-Master



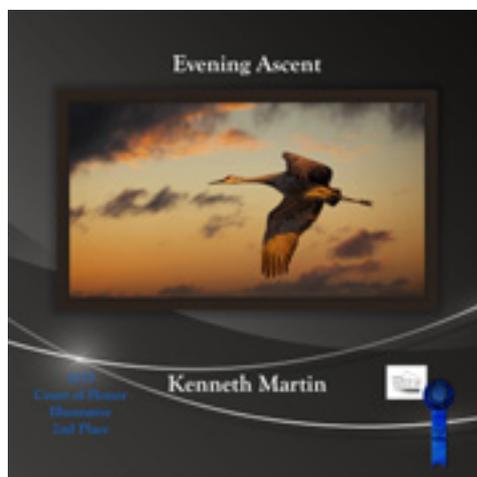
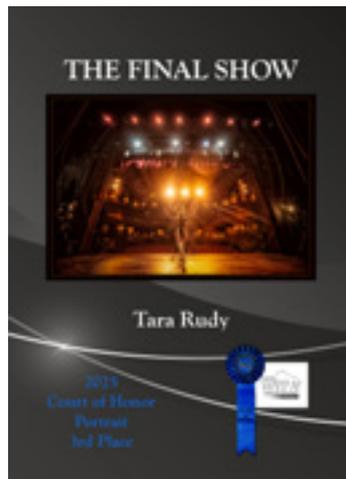
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Club 79



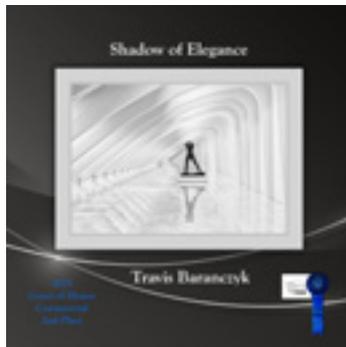
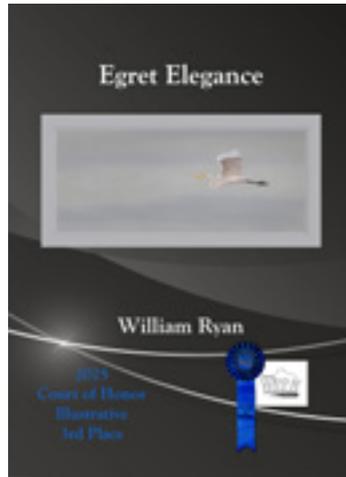
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Court of Honor



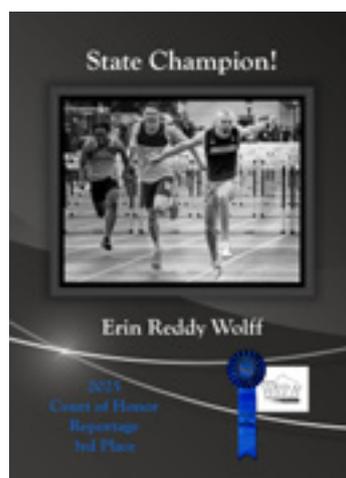
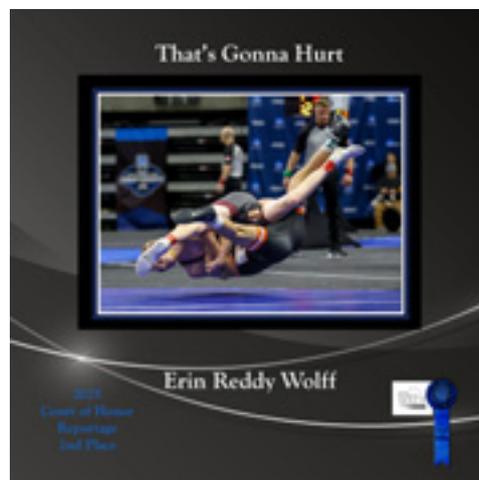
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Court of Honor



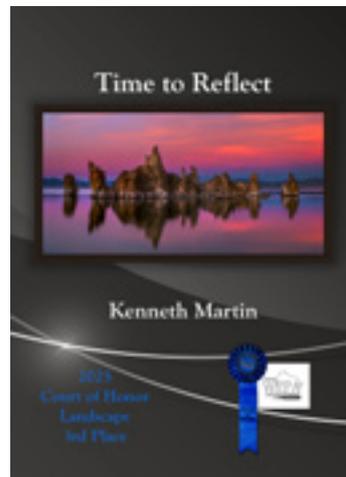
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Court of Honor



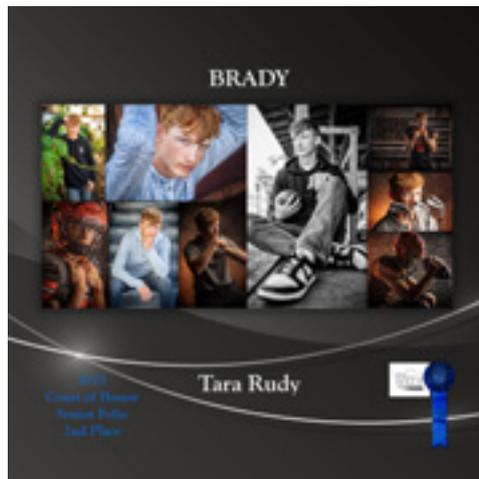
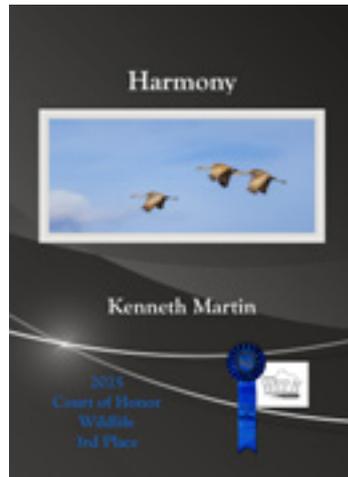
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Court of Honor



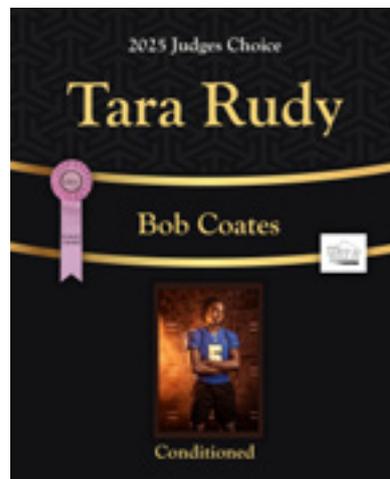
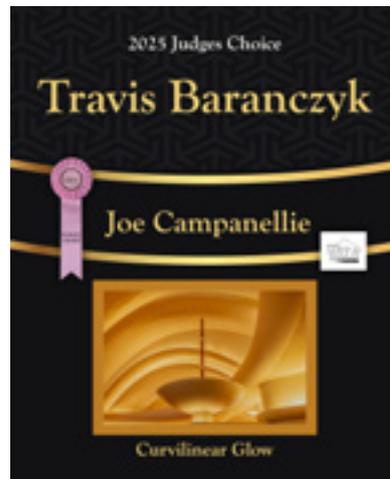
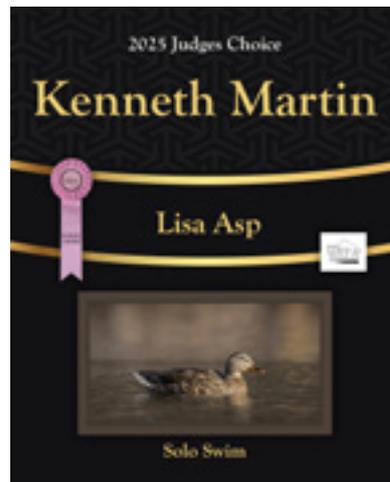
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Court of Honor



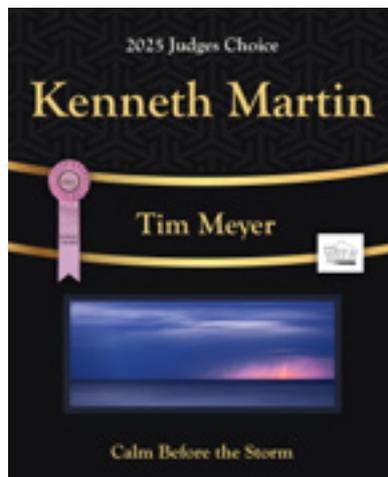
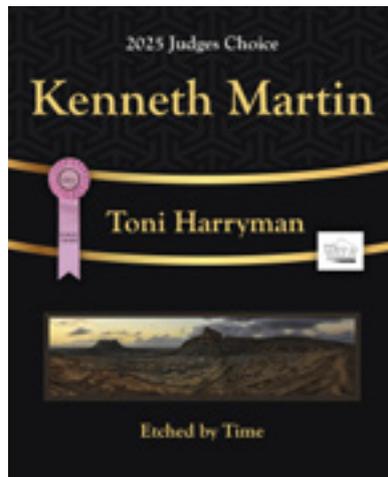
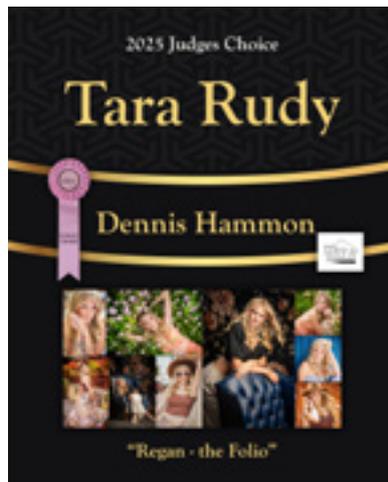
WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Judges Choice



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Judges Choice



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Creative Genius



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Clean Sweep

Clean Sweep



Kenneth Martin

Clean Sweep B



Double Sweeper

Tara Rudy

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Clean Sweep

Clean Sweep C



TRAVIS BARANCZYK

Clean Sweep D



Stephanie Smith

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Clean Sweep

Clean Sweep E



Nadia Hall

Clean Sweep F



Denise Watrous

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Clean Sweep

Clean Sweep G



Timothy Koll

Clean Sweep H



Ginny Otto

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Top Ten Photographers

Wisconsin Top 10- 1



Kenneth Martin

Wisconsin Top 10- 2



Tara Rudy

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Top Ten Photographers

Wisconsin Top 10- 3



TRAVIS BARANCZYK



Wisconsin Top 10- 4



Stephanie Smith



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Top Ten Photographers

Wisconsin Top 10- 5



Nadia Hall

Wisconsin Top 10- 6



Denise Watrous

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Top Ten Photographers

Wisconsin Top 10- 7



Timothy Koll

Wisconsin Top 10- 8



Whitney Minten

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

Top Ten Photographers

Wisconsin Top 10- 9



Bill Sargent

Wisconsin Top 10- 10



Erin Reddy Wolff

WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

CPP Award

Best Of Show- Portrait



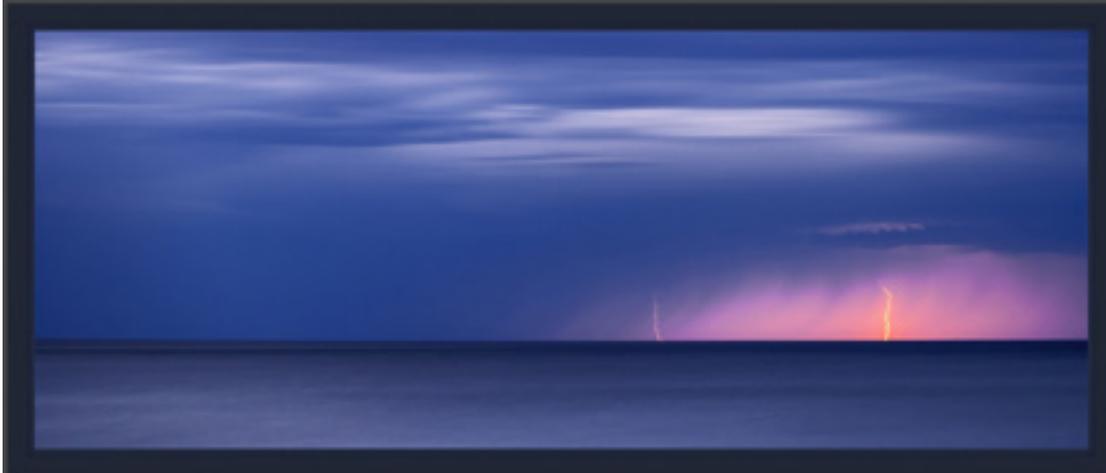
Bill Sargent
Brothers since 'nam - 85



WPPA State Image Competition 2025 Award Winners

ASP Award

Best Of Show- Illustrative



Kenneth Martin
Calm Before the Storm - 90

Image Judging and More 2025 Award Winners

Lab Sponsored Awards

Landscape Category - Sponsored Award
2025



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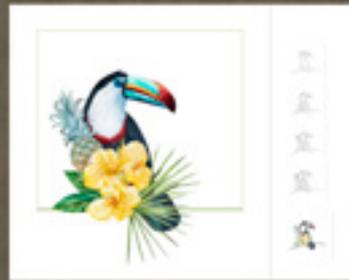
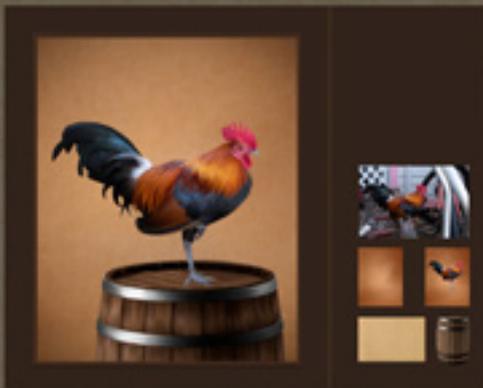
Kenneth Martin
Case Score - 350

Image Judging and More 2025 Award Winners

Lab Sponsored Awards

Artist Competition - Sponsored Award
2025

bayphoto



WPPA

Ginny Otto
Case Score - 322

Image Judging and More 2025 Award Winners

Lab Sponsored Awards

Folio Competition - Sponsored Award
2025



Tara Rudy
Case Score - 339

Image Judging and More 2025 Award Winners

Lab Sponsored Awards

Wildlife Category - Sponsored Award
2025



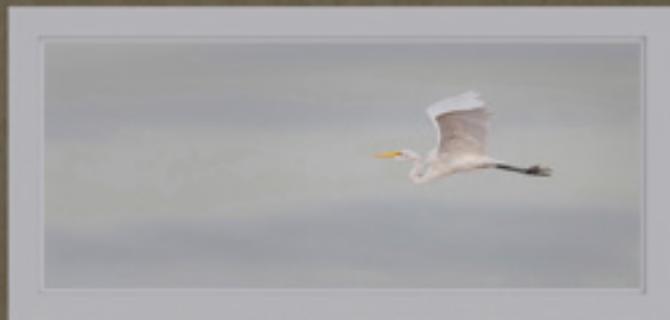
Timothy Koll
Case Score - 317

**Image Judging and More
2025 Award Winners**

Lab Sponsored Awards

Illustrative Category - Sponsored Award
2025

ProPrints



WPPA

William Ryan
Case Score - 239

Image Judging and More 2025 Award Winners

Lab Sponsored Awards

Portrait Category - Sponsored Award
2025

...saal



...saal PHOTO PORTAL



Stephanie Smith
Case Score - 327

Save the Date WPPA Convention

April 11 and 12th
Focus and Flow/Photographic Growth

Speaker: Rachel Owen



Rachel Owen is a photographer living and working with her husband and son in the Chicagoland area.

As an Adobe Certified Photoshop Expert she often merges photos of her subjects in the studio on greenscreen into miniature objects or even combines multiple photographs to create a new setting that does not exist in the real world.

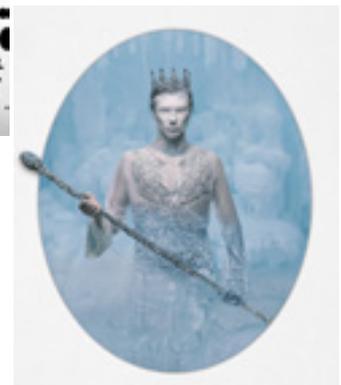
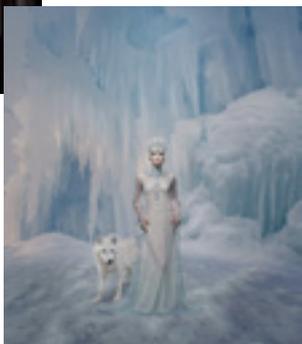
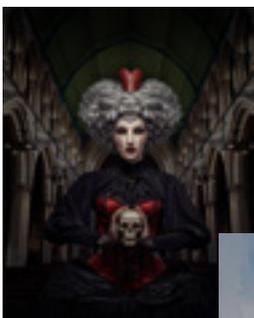
Rachel is a Portraits Masters Fellow, ICON Triple Master, PPA Master Photographer, consecutive Diamond Photographer of The Year, and has represented the United States multiple times in the World Photographic Cup.

Rachel was ranked the world's number one portrait photographer in 2022 by One Eyeland, 2024's Digital Artist of the Year by IIC, and has numerous

first place awards in international professional photography competitions.

Rachel's primary goal when photographing anyone is to make the person in front of her lens feel empowered, and to have that empowerment show up and provoke the viewer.

Her images are often described as surreal and whimsical, and they take the viewer into a fantasy to blur the lines of reality and fiction. Rachel describes her own passion for creating as, "A fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. I grow weary of holding it back, until I cannot."



EDITOR:
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WPPAJAMIE@GMAIL.COM