Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Image Creation and Ownership

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

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

Statement on Subject Matter - applicable to all sections

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

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

Images that - in the sole opinion of the judges or the Exhibition Organizers - do not comply, will be disqualified so the entrant may be aware of the problem when considering entry into other exhibitions with PSA recognition. However, in interclub this judgement requires proof.

The Photo Travel Division has produced Guides for Chairs and Judges. These guides must be issued to judges to ensure that all judges have read the guides and understand them.

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

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

**Editing techniques that are not allowed:**
• Removing, adding to, moving, or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
• Adding a vignette during processing.
• Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
• Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
• All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.
• Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color

**Borders**
Entrants may wish to add a thin line around their image to separate it from the background. This should be a single small border of neutral tones *(while size has been eliminated borders should be no greater than 3-5 pixels in width).*

**Photo Travel Definition**
A Photo Travel image is a portrayal of the real world we live in, as it is found naturally. There are no geographic limitations.

**Content guidance:**

1. If the image is predominantly or exclusively a land-, sea- or cityscape, these “scapes” must include characteristic, distinctive, and recognizable physical features, although the image doesn’t need to identify the exact location.
2. Images that predominantly or exclusively depict people and their activities must illustrate a distinctive culture of a country, region, or continent.
3. Images that predominately or exclusively depict animal populations are allowed, if the animals are in their native environment and are characteristic of that country, region, or continent.
4. Portraits or other close-ups of people or objects, in addition to meeting the above paragraphs as applicable, must include elements depicting some of the surrounding environment to make it obvious that the image was not taken in a studio setting.
5. Images from events or activities arranged for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are **NOT allowed**.
6. Time exposures are allowed, if they do not dominate the image as a special effect (star trails, for example, are a dominating effect).
7. Highly distorted images such as those produced by fisheye lenses are **NOT allowed**.
Notes to judges:

- The term DQ for disqualified is not used in Interclub Competitions and an image falling in that category is scored 0 for makeup.
- Use the full scale of scores to rate the images within a group; do not assign just two or three of those numbers to everything.
- DQ/0 is reserved for serious and provable violations and needs to be explained to that entrant. An image with questionable editing or suspected non-compliance regarding arrangement of the content by the maker or anyone on his behalf should be given a low score, not a DQ, without proof.
- Makers should feel that a score of five is possible.

MAKEUP IMAGES

Makeup Images with score of 0: Please note, the Interclub Director often does not have time to view all images for these four (4) oversights below and will score them zero when discovered. If this action reduces the number of allowed images in the Round, the club can submit a makeup image in the next Round as long as the maker of the makeup image does not have an image in the Round it is replacing. If discovered in Round 3 this makeup cannot be honored since there are no more Rounds in the competition. All makeup Images may receive awards as appropriate with regular submitted images.

Score 0:

Please score these four (4) oversights zero when discovered. If this action reduces the number of allowed images in the Round, the club can submit a makeup image in the next Round as long as the maker of the makeup image does not have an image in the Round it is replacing. If discovered in Round 3 this makeup cannot be honored since there are no more Rounds in the competition.

- A maker has several images in the competition. The Director will use the last entered image for the competition. If the Host Club discovers the error, the lowest-scoring image will receive a Zero.
- The image has won an award previously in Travel Interclub.
- The image is too pixelated to be viewed.
- The maker’s name is on the image.

Score 1:

- The image, in your opinion, provides no characteristic features
- The Image does not portray a culture specific to a land or region.
- You may know that the image is a result of a setup.
- It is a close-up of a person or object and provides no information about the location. i.e., there are no features other than what the person is wearing or holding.
- There are obvious editing techniques/ derivations you have noticed that are not allowed in Photo Travel.
- The image does not look natural.
- The image is of a very low standard. It has major flaws, such as parts of the image being out of focus or the image might be cluttered to the point of distraction.
- Is an Infrared Image

Score 2:

- The image, in your opinion, provides very weak characteristic features nor does it provide a culture specific to a land or region.
- You may suspect that the image is a result of a setup.
- If it is a close-up of a person or object it provides very weak information about the location. i.e. there are blurred or indistinguishable features other than what the person is wearing or holding.
There are editing techniques/derivations you have noticed that are not allowed in Photo Travel. OR The image does not look natural.

The image has no significant technical flaws but likewise has no significant strengths. The image shows the technical proficiency that we would expect as a minimum standard.

Score 3:

- Image complies with the Photo Travel Definition.
- The image provides adequate to strong characteristic feature/s and/or a culture you consider to be specific to a land or region.
- You do not suspect or know that the image is a result of a setup.
- If it is a close-up of a person or object, the image provides information about the location. i.e., it provides features other than what the person is wearing or holding.
- You can see no evidence of non-allowable editing techniques/derivations. The image looks natural.
- This is an average but solid image where the elements work well together, and the image is technically correct.
- The image exhibits at least one element for which photographers should be striving. (good lighting, importance of choice of subject, dramatic composition, handling depth of field effectively, eliciting emotional impact, or exhibiting freshness and creativity).
- If there are flaws, they are minor and compensated for by other elements in the image.

Score 4:

- Image complies with the Photo Travel Definition, and you feel it should receive an HM Award i.e., the image provides adequate to strong characteristic feature/s and/or a culture you consider is specific to a land or region.
- You do not suspect or know that the image is a result of a setup.
- If it is a close-up of a person or object, the image provides information about the location. i.e., it provides features other than what the person is wearing or holding.
- You can see no evidence of non-allowable editing techniques/derivations. The image looks natural.
- This is a very strong image. The image is technically correct, and the elements all work well together. Technical excellence is expected.
- Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques would be expected of this score.
- If there are flaws, they are minor and hard to find.

Score 5:

- Image complies with the Photo Travel Definition, and you feel it should be awarded a Merit, i.e., the image provides adequate to strong characteristic feature/s and/or a culture you consider is specific to a land or region.
- You do not suspect or know that the image is a result of a setup.
- If it is a close-up of a person or objects the image provides information about the location, i.e., it provides features other than what the person is wearing or holding.
- You can see no evidence of non-allowable editing techniques/derivations. The image looks natural.
- You feel the author has excelled.
- This is an exceptionally strong image that shows true photographic excellence. There should not be any obvious flaws. Technical excellence is expected.