

Competition category definitions:

Title:	What:
Open	Any type of photo: Abstract, Creative, Landscapes, Low-Light, Macro, Monochrome, Motion, Nature, Photojournalism, Portraiture, Seascapes, Sports, Still Life, Street life, Super-speed, Travel, Urban, Wildlife, etc.
Abstract:	Colours, textures, lines or patterns are used to create an image, with no true meaning or no clear subject involved. You should not be able to tell what the subject is. The title should not give a clue as to the actual subject.
Creative:	Creative is 'Altered Reality'. The image should noticeably depart from reality and be different from an image as viewed through the camera lens. The image must obviously display a change in natural colour, form, shape, or any combination of these. Creative images are often montages (a blending or composite of multiple images). HDR images without further changes are not considered 'Altered Reality'. All images, including textures, etc., must be taken by the author. Artwork or computer graphics generated by the entrant may be incorporated, provided that the original photographic content predominates: images may not be constructed entirely within a computer. Creative images may be colour or monochrome. Use of Clipart or Fractalius is not allowed for competitions.
Landscape:	Any Landscape photo. (Also see Seascape) Panoramas, wide angle, or the more microscopic scene. Captures the presence of nature, and may include rural or urban settings, industrial areas, and nature photography.
Low Light:	Photos taken in low-level lighting conditions. Can be indoor studio work, or outdoor in the evening/at night. Use of long shutter speeds, light painting, good exposure controls. Includes star trails, light trails, fireworks.
Macro:	Macro photography simply means an extreme close up image. Tiny details need to be visible and sharp. Depth of field tends to be small, so use focus-stacking and good lighting techniques if pos.
Monochrome:	Mono = one, Chrome = colour. <i>(from FIAP definition):</i> A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white), with the various shades of grey in between, is a monochrome work. A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain eligible for the monochrome class. A B+W work modified by <i>partial</i> toning (or addition of 1 or more colours) = colour photo.
Motion:	A photo depiction of motion. Should look like something is moving! Use of motion blur techniques to tell a story: panning, long shutter speeds, etc.
Nature: (Also see 'Wildlife')	<i>(from the FIAP definition 2018):</i> Images used in Nature Photography competitions may be divided in two classes: Nature and Wildlife. Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history (except anthropology and archaeology) in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is allowed. Cloning of image defects and minor distractions, including overlapping elements, are permitted when these do not distort the truth of the photographic statement. Images entered as Nature can have landscape, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food. Access to biological subjects may be restricted. Titles should be the actual name of the animal, etc., and not a made-up title.
Photojournalism:	is a particular form of journalism that employs images in order to tell a news story. It is a reality-based division (like Travel, Nature + Wildlife). The object is to portray and communicate the news story as we find it. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping are not permitted . The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. All permitted adjustments must appear natural.

Portraiture:	Photos of people. Photo should tell us something about the person. Can include their environment/work. Eyes should be sharp! LEGAL NOTE: Where the individual can be easily identified, please make sure you have their permission to publish their photo. If using a model, make sure you have a signed 'Model release' form. In the case of under 18's, please make sure you have the parent or guardians written permission.
Seascapes:	Depicts scenes of the sea or coastline. (Also see Landscapes)
Sports:	Photography that covers all types of sports.
Still Life:	A still life (plural = still lifes) depicts mostly inanimate subject matter. Typically commonplace objects which may be either natural (food, flowers, dead animals, plants, rocks, or shells) or man-made (drinking glasses, books, vases, jewellery, coins, pipes, and so on). The photographer has total control of subjects, arrangement and composition, lighting and all photographic techniques.
Street: (Street life)	Features unmediated chance encounters and random incidents within public places. Street photography does not necessitate the presence of a street or even the urban environment. Though people usually feature directly, street photography might be absent of people and can be of an object or environment where the image projects a decidedly human character in facsimile or aesthetic. Street photography mainly focuses on people and their behaviour in public.
Super-speed:	Motion capture of extremely fast moving subjects, such as lightning, water droplets, bullets, etc.
Travel: (Photo Travel) Definition by PSA (Photographic Society of America) and adopted by FIAP, RPS, PAGB	The object is not just to produce good images, but to portray and communicate the world as we find it. A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristics or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are NOT appropriate. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the environment. <u>Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping are not permitted.</u> The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations including infrared are not permitted. All permitted adjustments must appear natural.
Urban:	Similar to Travel but taken within a town or city. Can include industrial, low light, motion, etc.
Wildlife: (Also see 'Nature')	<i>(from the FIAP definition 2018):</i> Also see Nature above: Images entered in Wildlife sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms <u>free and unrestrained</u> in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of competitions.

Notes:

- This list is not fully inclusive, due to editors faulty memory! Please let me know if some categories are missing.
- Some of the definitions above are Competition Rules as stated by the FIAP.
- Other competition organisers apply their own set of competition definitions and rules. Please make sure you read their Rules and Definitions for each individual competition, as they may be different from the above.

Competition entries:

- May be either as a Print or a resized Digital Image. Check each competition to see if it specifies either one or both categories. The same photo may not be entered in both categories of the same competition.
- May be Monochrome or Colour (a B+W photo with *partial* toning is classed as a colour photo), unless entering a specified 'Monochrome' or 'Colour' competition or category.
- No names or titles within the image/print.
- All photos to have a short title of words, not image numbers. See your competition organisers Rules for their titling requirements.
- The whole photograph must be made by the entrant and must be original. It may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else. Eg: Clipart, Nik Collection borders, etc. (Some competitions also exclude Fractalius).
- The photographer must own the copyright to all elements of the picture.
- Production sets, where the total set-up (lighting, composition, subject, etc) is done by someone else, should be discouraged from being entered in competitions. They do not show originality or any photographic skills.