HESWALL
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

GENERAL COMPETITION ENTRY GUIDANCE 2025-2026

Principles

How an individual creates an image for their own use, and what source material is co-opted for image creation, is entirely at the individual's discretion. But, when an image is submitted alongside the images of others into a competition or exhibition, then each participant needs to be assured that the other participants are using only their own original work.

Images must be entirely the work of the Photographer. In composite images, all component images must meet this requirement. For the avoidance of doubt, use of images from any other source including, but not limited to, royalty free image banks and clipart are not permitted.

There is a distinction between the image content and image processing and presentation which is at the photographer's discretion. Processing can utilise techniques such as selection, noise reduction, calculated textures, montage, HDR, focus stacking and many others. Presentation may include keylines, print paper types, print mounting and others.

Image Automation (AI)

There are now many image processing methods available in camera, or in processing software or in plug-ins for such software, which have been refined or trained by their developers using the characteristics of many images. Examples such as face-detection focussing, raw conversion, monochrome conversion, noise reduction, focus stacking, HDR, panorama stitching and many more. To the extent that these processes are applied only to the photographer's original image, or to all the photographer's original images in a composite, then they are permitted.

Image Generation

Banks of individual textures and skies have been available for some time and there are software systems which will overlay an imported texture or substitute a sky.

Increasingly there are image generator systems, plug-in tools and generative tools(e.g. magic eraser and generative fill) which draw on, or have been developed or trained on, content from large image banks to create new images, via a user prompt or specification.

Any importation, whether manual or automated, of all or part of a single image or of a generated image which includes or has been developed from the work of others, means that the resulting image content is not entirely the work of the photographer. The resulting image then does not comply with tour conditions and is not permitted.

Compliance

It is appreciated that the individual photographer may not be fully aware of exactly how individual processing functions act, whether in-camera or in post-processing, However, we would expect members to be aware of when a significant addition has been made to an image which was not part of an original work by the photographer. In this respect, HPS will trust in the integrity and honesty of all who submit competition entries

Photographers who enter competitions with images which do not meet these conditions are liable to have entries excluded from competitions.
The club reserves the right to ask to see the Raw File of the image.

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