

Competition Guidelines and explanation of Categories

- Monthly competitions will alternate the type of medium used for the competition- Digital Projected (see digital rules), Prints B&W, and Prints Color. Unless the Assigned topic is Creative, there is no Creative category in Print Competition- please enter a creative image in the digital competition. High Dynamic Range (HDR) prints that reflect that of a true photo may be submitted in Open Categories.
- One can enter up to 4 images per month with no more than 2 images in one category.
 - **Black & White Print** has the following categories:
 - a. Assigned Black & White
 - b. Open Black & White
 - c. Open Color
 - d. Nature
 - **Color Print** has the following categories:
 - a. Assigned Color
 - b. Open Color
 - c. Open Black & White
 - d. Nature

Explanation of Categories: Digital manipulation of prints prior to printing should be constrained by what could be accomplished in a traditional darkroom- burn (darken), dodge (lighten), sharpen, cropping, vignette & minor color corrections.

1. **Assigned-** depicts the topic of the month. Modifications to the image should be limited to traditional darkroom techniques. Images may be cropped, spotted, burned, dodged, contrast corrected, color corrected/enhanced, or sharpened. Minor elements such as telephone wires, small rocks, birds in the sky, etc. may only be removed if their omission does not materially affect the image composition. Elements may not be cloned, moved, or added from other images. Stitching two or more images together to create a panorama or wide angle effect is permitted. *Excessive manipulation of an image may merit the image being more properly submitted in the Creative category.*
 - **Black & White** images include toned (sepia, etc.) B&W images that have any color i.e. a single element of the photo is in color should be submitted as a color image.
 - i. Black & White Assigned- depicts the assigned topic for the month in B&W.
 - ii. Black & White Open- depicts any subject in B&W
 - **Color Images** include hand-tinted B&W images.
 - i. Color Assigned- depicts the assigned topic for the month in color
 - ii. Color Open- depicts any subject in color
 - **Nature images** - see nature rule
 - **Photo Journalism** – see photo journalism rule
 - **Creative (highly manipulated)** – See creative rule