

A Guide to Monthly and Annual Competitions

There are seven **Standard** Competitions. Each year two of these are replaced by two **theme** competitions, one chosen by the HPS Committee, the other chosen by the President. In the most cases competition titles are "targeted open" competitions. Whilst in all cases the goal is to create a pictorial image, one that is aesthetically pleasing, in some instances what is required is that the image should be an accurate depiction of the subject ie a **documentary**. This guide gives information of all the standard competitions plus details of the theme competitions. Past Theme Competitions may be viewed on this web page. The Standard competitions are arranged alphabetically, and the current Competitions are highlighted in **yellow**

Standard Competitions

Illustrative 2024-2025

Any **factual** photo which could be classed as **documentary**. Images should not be manipulated in such a way as to alter the truth of the original subject, although minor adjustments are permitted e.g. dust spot removal, correction of horizon etc.

Illustrative includes:

- photojournalism where the story telling aspect is the most important feature.
- records of events such as sports or people involved in activities e.g crafts, skills
- this wide brief, includes street scenes, domestic animals, garden flowers, scientific subjects, industrial scenes,
- re-enactments and performances.

What is important is that a "story" is being told, information is being given. If the image is also aesthetically pleasing it is a bonus, but it is the **factual nature** of the image which is the more important. A beautiful image will not be rewarded, if it does not give factual information! Images depicting an activity are appropriate here - people "doing things". Pure Nature shots should be entered in Nature rather than Illustrative.



Repairing the Boat – Alan Hooker



Singing with the human showers – Lorraine Pinder

Landscape 2024-2025

Land, sea, river, sky or town subjects treated pictorially.

Human figures, or animals, if present, should be of secondary importance



Bow Fiddle Rock John Sixsmith



Upper Yosemite Valley – Mike Waring

Man-Made 2024-2025

This competition used to be called Architecture and Record. The principal aim is the accurate representation of a building, group of buildings or external or internal details of a building; also statues, ceramics, glass, fabrics, furniture, cars, planes, any construct made by man etc. Generally, human figures and other surroundings should be excluded. Pictorialism is desirable but is secondary to the factual representation of the selected subject. The subject of the image should be man-made. Although accurate representation is required, there is no restriction on imaginative ways of viewing the subject.



Handle with care – Ian Chantler



Pier Head from the Side – Judith Dundas

Nature 2025-2026 Hand In -March 14th, Judge Robert Millin

We follow the **PSA/FIAP definition of Nature**

Content Guidelines

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both over water and underwater. Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism's life or welfare are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.

Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story. Human-made elements are permitted under the following circumstances:

- a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post, a manmade object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.
- b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.
- c) Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.

Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.

Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centres, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.

Attracting or controlling subjects through the use of food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animals' control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.

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Wolf – Cynthia Sadler



Shaggy Parasol Fungi – Anthony Clarke

Open 2025-2026 Hand-In September 20th 2025.

Open means anything counts. There are no restrictions on subject matter.



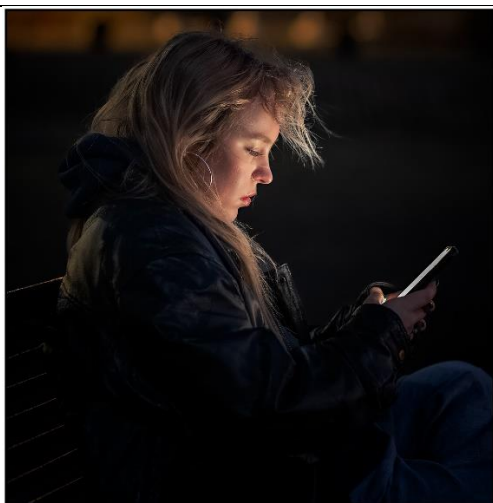
Polygons Café – Susie Freeman



Ballerina – Diana Magor

People 2025-2026 Hand-In January 10th, Judge Keith Richardson

Images may be formal or informal, single or group, human portraits or figure studies taken indoors or outdoors. Animal studies are not eligible. This is wider than just studio portraits, and may show people in all walks of life, doing a variety of things



Lost in thought – Robert Devenish

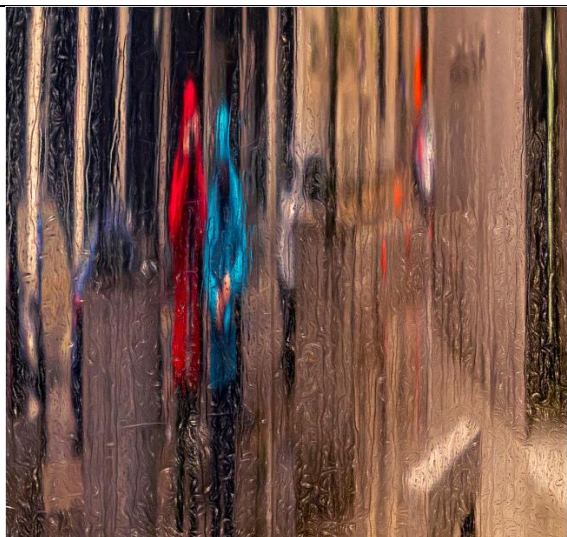


Dazzle Day Out – Susie Freeman

Pictorial 2025-2026 Hand-In October 18th

Some of our competitions are subject specific. Pictorial is an **open** competition. Pictorial is derived from the word – picture – so all images are potentially pictorial. What makes an image **pictorial**, as opposed to **representational**, is its **aesthetic quality**.

Is it well composed and aesthetically pleasing? This is the only competition which is judged **solely** based on an image's **composition** and **attractiveness**, rather than its **subject matter**. **Compositing** is permitted but will be judged **solely** on its **pictorial** nature **not** its creative skills, imagination or humour.



Impressionist selfie in the rain – Brian Magor

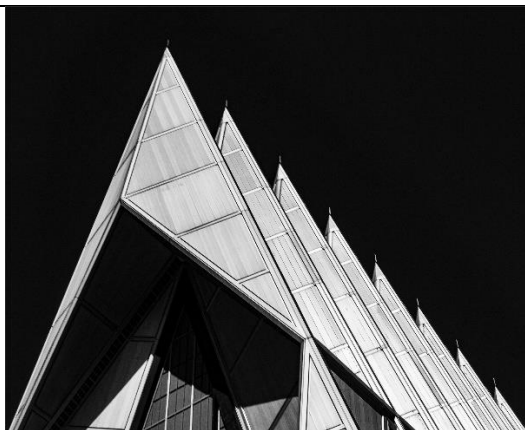


Great White Egret – John Sixsmith

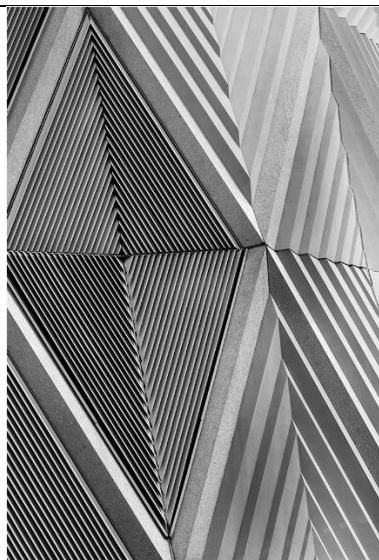
Theme Competitions 2025-2026

President's Choice -Geometric Shapes Hand In November 15th, Judge Steve Hitchen

Geometric Shapes as found in the natural world or in the built environment, and not to be constructed in software alone.



Roof angles Diana Magor



Ian Chantler

ARPS – A Red Patch Somewhere Hand In February 14th, Judge Keith Barber

Any image with a red patch. Must be that - one single red patch, not lots and not the whole image! An exception for the Mono Prints is made – a **Mono** print with one red patch is required



Skiing – Brian Magor



Colourful Cretan House – Lorraine Pinder