Central Okanagan Photographic Society
Evaluation Rules & Procedures
Oct. 1, 2012

Please read before you submit images to a COPS Evaluation

1. Eligibility

COPS members in good standing for the current year may submit images for judging following the submission criteria.

2. General

Submission deadline for prints & digital images is one week before the evaluation night.

Any images submitted for judging which are determined not to meet the criteria laid out here may be disqualified before judging by the appropriate chairperson. No notice need be given to the submitter for exclusion of the submission. Images may also be moved at the discretion of the chair into the appropriate category to avoid image disqualification. Disqualified images may be resubmitted in future competitions.

Throughout the following criteria no distinction will be made between digital and print based photography. Both are encouraged and a final image of the highest quality is what is sought.

Any image which has been submitted for judging is ineligible for future competitions in any other formats.

Images submitted for judging must have been photographed within the last two years.

For all competitions the images should have an appropriate title.

"Untitled" or variations of "Untitled" will not be accepted.

For each competition, any member may submit a **maximum of two (2) digital projected** and **a maximum of two (2) print images** (a maximum total of four (4) images).

3. Categories

The categories for competition are as follows:

Nature
Portrait
Creative
Theme

These categories are defined in more detail below.

3.1 Nature

COPS is a member club of The Canadian Association of Photographic Art (CAPA). Since many of our members submit photographs to CAPA competitions, we use CAPA's Nature category definition as a guide. CAPA has adopted the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) Nature definition as follows:

"Nature photography depicts living, untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a natural habitat, geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena, from insects to icebergs.

Photographs of animals which are domesticated, caged or under any form of restraint, as well as photographs of cultivated plants, are ineligible.

Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for nature subjects, such as barn owls or storks, adapting to an environment modified by humans, or natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves, reclaiming it.
The original image must have been taken by the photographer, whatever photographic medium is used.
Any manipulation or modification to the original image is limited to minor retouching of blemishes and must not alter the content of the original scene.
After satisfying the above requirements, every effort should be made to use the highest level of artistic skill in all nature photographs."

A guide used by COPS in previous years defined the Nature category as anything that was of the Heavens, the Earth, the Sea, or any part thereof, including all forms of Life in their Natural State, unchanged by man, and in which man or his works are not the dominant feature. The images **CANNOT** have frames or borders.

3.2 Portrait

The definition of portrait is: any likeness of a person. The key aspect of this category is a person must be the central element of the picture. All other elements in the picture should direct the attention to the person or persons. Any elements that remove attention from the person must be avoided. The images **CANNOT** have frames or borders.

3.3 Creative

The starting point for the work must be an image captured by the photographer. Creative images are ones that depict a DEPARTURE FROM REALISM, often through the use of multiple exposures, special filters, reshooting the image through glass, montages, motion blur, patterns, selective focus, zoom exposures and other techniques. The purpose of such techniques is to alter reality to the point that the picture is essentially SURREAL or ABSTRACT. The image may be created directly in the camera or in a computer. Anything goes. Borders can be added in the Creative category.
NOTE: Entrants may be required to supply a copy of the original image(s) (Proof prints) recorded by their camera before such images were creatively enhanced.

3.4 Theme

All other images, and those which meet any announced theme, may be submitted into this category. Nature images may also be submitted into the Open (Theme) category. Cropping of the image and natural looking enhancements are permissible. The images **CANNOT** have frames or borders. Astrophotography, if not submitted in Nature or Creative, may be submitted into Theme.

4. Entry Forms

4.1 Print Submissions

Each print must be accompanied with a completed Print Submission Form. These forms are available from the COPS website (HYPERLINK "http://www.copsphoto.ca" www.copsphoto.ca) in the Submissions section. The print entry form will be returned to you after the evaluation with the score and awards notation if applicable. Detailed information follows in section #5.

5. Print Submissions

Complete ONE entry form for each print you submit. Clearly indicating on the form your NAME, MEMBERSHIP #, ENTRY MONTH, TITLE of the print, IMAGE CATEGORY and your SKILL GROUP.

Prints submitted for COPS competitions may be either conventional (chemical based) or digital (thermal or dye sublimation or inkjet) and can be either professionally or personally printed.

Securely mount print onto a firm backing (**DO NOT USE FOAM CORE**). Or tape the print onto a window mat. If taped onto a mat, cover the back of the print with mat board. **DO NOT DOUBLE MAT**. Mat colour is photographer's choice, but judges have previously stated that prints are best displayed behind a white or a black mat. Remember, you're trying to show off your print, not the mat.

Clearly label the title, your name and membership number on the upper right corner of the backing of the print.

Print the word **'TOP'** on the back and top of the print mount.

Please lightly tape just one end of the evaluation form onto the back of the print mount (for easy removal).

No glass or frames are permitted

To be eligible for COPS competitions & evaluations, the size of a print, whether made by the photographer or 'commercially made' **must be at least 80 square inches** and no larger than 16 inches by 20 inches.

EXCEPTION: GROUP 'B' (Beginner photographers) may submit 4 by 6 inch prints.

NOTE: The maximum acceptable size for a mat or mounting board is 16 inches by 20 inches.

A digital file of the photo must then be sent to the website.

6. Digital Image Submissions

To submit digital image files please use the following directions. Submission deadline is midnight, one week before the Tuesday evaluations night. Submission deadline dates and detailed instructions for resizing images (Sizing Digital Images for Submission) are found in the Submissions section of the COPS website (HYPERLINK "http://www.copsphoto.ca" www.copsphoto.ca).

Image Quality

High quality JPEG (quality setting to 100%)

Resolution

Landscape Orientation (Horizontal) – no larger than 1024 pixels on the **horizontal** side
Portrait Orientation (Vertical) – no larger than 768 pixels on the **vertical** side
Note: Your software will automatically calculate the other dimension

Saving Images

Please save the image in the following format:

Image Category,Skill Level,Your Name, Image Title.JPG

Image Categories

C – Creative
P – Portrait
N – Nature
T –Theme

Skill Levels

A – Advanced
B – Beginner

Example

TB,John Smith,Wheat Field.jpg

Please note there can be a space in the name. Also you must use ***commas*** in the demarcation, as the files will be sorted automatically using the commas as delimiters.
Any deviation from this format will cause errors and possible disqualification.
Images are submitted by uploading your file on the COPS website
(HYPERLINK "http://www.copsphoto.ca" www.copsphoto.ca) in the Submissions section.
NOTE: Please save a version of the image at maximum size and quality so a print can be made as large as possible.

7. Skill Levels

COPS has two separate groups for regular club evaluations:
GROUP B – is for Beginner photographers.
After winning 1 Award of Merit or 5 Honourable mentions or winning a Year End Trophy in a GROUP B category, the photographer must then move into GROUP A **in that particular category,**
GROUP A – is for experienced photographers.
New members (Group B) may enter Group A at any time they feel comfortable in so doing.

8. Evaluation Procedure

Each entry will be evaluated out of 30 points (10 points per judge) using a silent scoring procedure via machine or scorecards. The evaluation of all images will be carried out by a panel of three judges as follows:

Image titles will not be given prior to judging as not to influence the scoring.

One Guest Judge (preferably an Artist, Art Educator, Designer or Professional Photographer)

Two COPS member Judges

Note: A constructive critique will be requested and is usually supplied, particularly from the 'guest' judge. Although entries will be judged and evaluated during a regular COPS club meeting night, all entries will remain anonymous, except those photographs receiving an Honourable Mention or Award of Merit.

Evaluation Directors are responsible to disallow any image that could be deemed derogatory or obscene.

9. Monthly Awards

Entries with a score of 24 points or more will be given an Award of Merit

Group A entries will receive an Honourable Mention for a score of 21 to 23 points.

Group B entries will receive an Honourable Mention for a score of 18 to 23 points

10. Annual Awards

All monthly Awards of Merit and Honourable Mention photos will be eligible for the annual Year End Competition. The trophies and Certificates for the Year End Competition will be presented at the Annual Awards Night.

The Awards to be given at the end of the year will consist of:

Digital

Nature	Pat Reiter Eagle Trophy
Portrait	Sails Trophy
Theme	Kelowna Trophy
Creative	COPS Trophy
Monochrome	Creative Trophies and Gifts Trophy

Printed

Nature	Kelowna Flightcraft Trophy
Portraits	Conquest Trophy
Theme	Gordon Hartley Trophy
Creative	Barry Jeffries Trophy
Monochrome	Creative Trophies and Gifts Trophy

Most Cumulative Points	Persistence Trophy
Most Cumulative Points - Beginner	Inspirational Trophy

Certificates will also be awarded as follows:
1 Winner
1 Runner-up
2 Honourable Mentions

Prints will be created of all the "Digital" category winners.
These prints, along with the winners from the "Print" category, will be eligible for public display for one year.