



PAA News and Updates

Photographic Alliance of America (PAA)

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PAA Website: paausa.org

Thirty-six 2026 PAA FIAP Distinction Applications Approved

2026 is the eighth year that the Photographic Alliance of America (PAA), the FIAP Operational Member for the USA, has submitted FIAP Distinction applications. Twelve applications were approved in 2019, nineteen applications were approved in 2020, thirty-three were approved in 2021, forty-two were approved in 2022, thirty-four were approved in 2023, twenty were approved in 2024, twenty-three were approved in 2025, and thirty-six were approved this year.

The deletion of the requirement for acceptances from print for the AFIAP and EFIAP, and the introduction of the new NFIAP and EFIAP/d4 through EFIAP/d8 increased the number of Americans who applied for FIAP Distinctions. Additionally, the new automated application spreadsheet, and new standard requirement for five images to be included with every application has made the application submission more easily understood.

The formal celebration and presentation of the 2026 FIAP distinctions will be on Saturday, September 19, at the PAA Annual Meeting during the PSA Photo Festival at the Rio Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV, beginning at 9:00am. The certificates, pins, and updated FIAP Life Cards will be formally presented to those attending by FIAP

President, **Riccardo Busi**; and mailed from PSA Headquarters after the Festival to those not attending.

One PAA Member Received New NFIAP

One PAA member has received the Novice FIAP (NFIAP) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, she needed: 25 acceptances, from ten different images (titles), earned in FIAP-Patronage salons held in five different countries. She needed to submit five different digital images that each had two acceptances including one acceptance from one of three different countries and were included in the application acceptance list. These digital images could not resemble each other.

Nine PAA Members Received AFIAP

Nine PAA members have received the Artist FIAP (AFIAP) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, they each needed: 75 acceptances, from 20 different images (titles), earned in FIAP-Patronage salons held in at least 15 different countries. They needed to submit five different digital images that each had three acceptances including one acceptance from one of five different countries and were included in the application acceptance list. These digital images could not resemble each other.

Eight PAA Members Received EFIAP

After at least one year since receiving the AFIAP, eight PAA members have received

the Excellence FIAP (EFIAP) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, they each needed: 200 acceptances (including the 40 from their AFIAP), from 40 different images (titles), earned in FIAP-Patronage salons held in at least 20 different countries. They also needed to submit five different digital images that each had three acceptances including one acceptance from one of five different countries and were included in the application acceptance list. These digital images could not resemble each other, or the digital images submitted with their AFIAP application.

Four PAA Members Received EFIAP/b

After at least one year since receiving the EFIAP, four PAA members have been awarded the Excellence FIAP Bronze (EFIAP/b) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, they each needed 400 acceptances (including those in their EFIAP application), from 80 different images (titles), in FIAP-Patronage salons in 25 different countries. They also needed to submit five digital images that each had an Award in five different countries and were included in the application acceptance list. These digital images could not resemble each other, or the digital images submitted with their previous FIAP distinction applications.

Four PAA Members Received EFIAP/s

After at least one year since receiving the Excellence FIAP Bronze (EFIAP/b), four PAA members have been awarded the Excellence

FIAP Silver (EFIAP/s) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, they each needed 600 acceptances (including the acceptances from their previous applications) with at least 130 different images (titles), in FIAP-Patronage salons in at least 30 different countries. They also needed to submit five digital images that did not resemble each other or previously submitted images, that each had an Award in five different countries and were included in the application acceptance list.

Five PAA Members Received EFIAP/g

After at least one year since receiving the Excellence FIAP Silver (EFIAP/s), five PAA members have been awarded the Excellence FIAP Gold (EFIAP/g) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, they needed a total of 900 acceptances, with at least 200 different

images (titles), in FIAP-Patronage salons in at least 35 different countries. They also needed to submit five digital images that did not resemble each other or previously submitted images, that each had an Award in five different countries and were included in the application acceptance list.

One PAA Member Received EFIAP/p

After at least one year since receiving the Excellence FIAP Gold (EFIAP/g), one PAA member has been awarded the Excellence FIAP Platinum (EFIAP/p) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, he needed 1200 cumulative acceptances, with at least 300 different images (titles), in FIAP-Patronage salons in at least 40 different countries. He also needed to submit five digital images that did not resemble each other

or previously submitted images, that each had an Award in five different countries and were included in the application acceptance list.

Two PAA Members Received EFIAP/d1

After at least one year since receiving the Excellence FIAP Platinum (EFIAP/p), two PAA members have been awarded the Excellence FIAP Diamond 1 (EFIAP/d1) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, they needed 50 new (received since the EFIAP/p) acceptances that each had received two Awards (Medal or HM), with at least 15 different images (titles), in FIAP-Patronage salons in at least ten different countries. They also needed to submit five digital images that did not resemble each other or previously submitted images, that each were included in the application acceptance list.

Two PAA Members Received EFIAP/d4

After at least one year since receiving the Excellence FIAP Diamond 3 (EFIAP/d3), two PAA members have been awarded the Excellence FIAP Diamond 4 (EFIAP/d4) Photography Distinction. To achieve this Distinction, they needed 350 (received since the EFIAP/p) acceptances that each had received two Awards (Medal or HM), with at least 100 different images (titles), in FIAP-Patronage salons in at least 25 different countries. They also needed to submit five digital images that did not resemble each other or previously submitted images, that each were included in the application acceptance list.

For information regarding how to apply for a FIAP Distinction if you are a PAA member and live in the USA, check out: paausa.org/nfiap-to-efiapd8. Registration for 2027 PAA FIAP Distinctions opens November 1, 2026.



John Andrew Hughes, FPSA, PPSA, EFIAP



Tam Minh Le, EPSA, EFIAP



Lisa Schnelzer, APSA, EPSA, EFIAP



NgocAn To, PPSA, EFIAP



Ward Conaway, MPSA2, EFIAP/b



Henry Jang, MPSA, EFIAP/b



Hai Nguyen, MPSA2, EFIAP/b



JR Schnelzer, HonPSA, GMPSA, EFIAP/b, PFIAP, ESFIAP



Gulshan Nandinee Salim, NFIAP



Kevin Bacher, EPSA, AFIAP



KimAh Bui, AFIAP



Thu Bui, AFIAP



Kimber Lee Hughes, QPSA, AFIAP



Lai Wah Kong, AFIAP



Sang Le, QPSA, AFIAP



Jingru Luo, MPSA2, EFIAP/s



MinhDung Tran, PPSA, EFIAP/s



Inge Vautrin, EPSA, EFIAP/s



Joahong Zeng, GMPSA, BPSA, FIAP/s



Larry Tho Dao, PPSA, EFIAP/g



Donald DeDonato, GMPSA/S, SPSA, EFIAP/g, PFIAP



Cristian Donos, EPSA, EFIAP/g



Hanna Nevreva, AFIAP



Kieu Ngo, AFIAP



Paul Speaker, APSA, PPSA, GPSA, AFIAP



Richard Bailey, EPSA, EFIAP



Jennifer Chan, MPSA, EFIAP



PhuongMai Ho, QPSA, EFIAP



Donna Hom, MPSA, EFIAP



Ji Fischer, GMPSA/B, BPSA, EFIAP/g



Lillian Roberts, APSA, GMPSA/S, EFIAP/g, PFIAP



Minh Nguyen, MPSA, EFIAP/p



Bob Chiu, GMPSA/P, GPSA, EFIAP/d1, PFIAP



Angela Poggioni, APSA, GMPSA/B, EFIAP/d1



Larry Cowles, HonPSA, GMPSA/P, SPSA, EFIAP/d4, PFIAP



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