



Photographer of the Year (POTY)

Spirit of the Competition.

No more than TWO submitted images should represent similar genres.

The spirit of the club's *Photographer of the Year* competition is to **Challenge, Develop, and Enhance** your photographic skills across a wide range of genres.

This competition is governed by stricter rules than any other club event. If the Competition Secretary determines that a member has submitted similar images in multiple categories, they will be required to provide alternative image(s).

Competition Information & Format

- Each image will be scored out of 20 by the judge.
- You may submit up to five images, each representing a different subject category from the list below.
- If submitting five images, one of them must be marked as 'NC' (Non-Critique). This ensures the event can stay within the judge's allocated time on the night. (NC) images will still be projected and scored, but may not receive verbal critique from the judge.
- File format for a Non-Critique Image: e.g. (L) The Tree (NC)-M21.jpg

Categories & Guidance

Sport (Sp):

Capturing people sport action is all about conveying a sense of energy or movement or excitement. Techniques such as intentional blur, panning, or using flash can help freeze the moment while still expressing the energy or achievement of the scene. Photographing sport in all its forms from amateur to professional venues can be technically challenging and may involve an element of luck—but that's all part of the enjoyment.

Landscape (L):

Any image depicting the physical environment — land, sea, urban, rural, or sky — is acceptable. Submissions may range from sweeping scenic views to intimate compositions and fine details, encompassing everything from wild landscapes to inner-city scenes. Both daytime and nighttime images are permitted in this category. People and animals may be included, provided they are incidental to the main subject of the image. Entries can be from a 'single exposure image, or from multiple exposures taken at the same time and merged. Specifically, HDR, focus stacking, and stitched panorama techniques are allowed, however, replacement of a sky, sea or urban environment from another time and place is not permissible.

Note: Minor distractions may be removed, but your image should not mislead or significantly alter the reality of the image(s) taken by the camera.

Architecture (Ar)

Architecture photography captures the beauty and functionality of the human-made world around us. These images aim to present their subjects in a striking and engaging way, often celebrating light, form, and the environment with powerful visual storytelling. Whether it's the sweeping curves of a modern skyscraper, the intricate details of historical facades, or the innovative designs of sustainable living spaces, we seek images that tell a story of place, design, and architectural vision. This category celebrates the diversity of architectural achievements and the photographers who skilfully reveal the character and soul of these spaces. People and animals may be included in the scene, provided they are incidental to the main image.

Note: An urban cityscape containing numerous buildings, with or without sky, sea, or waterfront vista, should be considered as a Landscape image.

Flora and Fauna (FF):

Flora: - Images of cultivated or wild plants, including fungi.

Fauna: Any nature images featuring animals, or insects, or pets or farm animals.

A **flora image** is a picture that shows plant life in either natural or a creative made settings. It may show a single plant—such as a flower, tree, shrub, grass, fern or moss—with or without details like leaves, roots or blossoms. It can also show plants in places such as gardens, forests, meadows, wetlands or deserts.

Fauna image are where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Nature includes images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on humans for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.

Photographing Pets is second nature to many animal lovers—but getting that perfect shot can be a real challenge. Unlike humans, pets don't always pose on command (unless they're showing off!). Patience, quick reflexes, and perhaps a few treats can go a long way in capturing the unique character of our furry, feathered, or hooved companions.

Processing of the captured image, by cropping, exposure adjustment, colour correction, noise minimisation, dodging/burning, HDR, focus stacking and sharpening, is permitted, as is cloning of image defects and minor distractions including overlapping elements.

Note 1: Replacing a background on a Flora and Fauna image is not allowed.

Note 2: A Macro image should not be included within this category. Access to some biological subjects may be restricted. Where that is relevant, then the Photographer must ensure that they have followed relevant codes of practices and hold any necessary licences. The club cannot be held responsible if the photographer fails to follow the necessary codes or licence requirements.

Creative (Cr):

Creative or abstract photography offers a unique perspective on the world around us. If a camera could not have captured the scene as presented — for example, because the scene never actually existed — or if elements of the image have been created by the photographer, it will be considered 'Creative' or 'Altered Reality'. There are no strict rules defining what makes a compelling creative or altered reality image. However, elements such as form, colour, texture, and the use of composite techniques are often central to the composition. This genre is all about experimentation —using your imagination to produce visually intriguing results. Techniques such as intentional camera movement, light painting, double or multiple exposures, smoke art, optical illusions, and composite elements can all add an element of mystery, encouraging viewers to look more closely and interpret the image in their own way. The original image or elements of the image must have been captured by the photographer using any available photographic process. Images must not include elements created by anyone else or generated by AI or any cloud-based systems. Any textures, overlays, or specially created brushes used in the image must have been originally photographed and produced by the photographer.

Note 1: A High Dynamic Range (HDR) image or/both where a filter has been used, without any further changes within the images is not considered creative.

Note 2: The **Members Creative Ideas Document** available on our web page, does not apply when submitting images into the Photographer of the Year event.

People Portrait (PP)

A good portrait captures more than just a likeness—it should reveal something of the subject's identity, personality or spirit. Portrait photography is about capturing the soul, of a single or group of individuals, not just a smile on the face(s). Whether an organised event, studio-lit or taken in a natural setting, posed or candid, a portrait should try and tell the story behind the face(s).

Note: Candid images taken in a street environment should be submitted in the Street Photography category, and should not be considered as a portrait image.

Still Life (SL):

Still life photography focuses on inanimate objects, often arranged in a controlled setting. Careful composition and attention to detail setting and light, whether natural or artificial, play a major role in the success of the image. This genre allows for creativity and precision in showcasing objects in a visually striking way.

Long Exposure (LE)

Long exposure photography involves using a shutter speed longer than two seconds to intentionally capture the movement of light, subjects, or scenery over time. This technique is often used to create effects such as smooth water, light trails, or motion blur, and typically requires the use of a tripod to avoid camera shake.

Street (St):

Street Photography is about capturing candid, spontaneous moments of people (one or more) in everyday life, in public areas. This genre reflects the beauty, humour, and raw emotion found in ordinary scenes, often creating powerful, storytelling images. The open environment allows for spontaneous, unposed images that highlight the beauty, humour, or poignancy in the ordinary. It's a genre that celebrates real people and real moments, often telling powerful visual storytelling images.

Macro/Close-Up (MC):

Macro photography is about celebrating the smaller details of life. By placing tiny or often overlooked subjects under the spotlight, it allows us to appreciate intricate textures and patterns on a larger-than-life scale. These close-up views reveal the hidden beauty of both the natural and man-made world in extraordinary detail.

Note: For clarity - a close up of an Elephant, is not a close-up image! A close up of the Elephants eye is!