

# **Decatur Camera Club Salon Competition Rules and Procedures**

Adopted January, 2020

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Decatur Camera Club of Decatur, Illinois (DCC) embraces photography salon competitions to promote photography and encourage photographers to create better images and art. DCC is a member of the Central Illinois Camera Club Association (CICCA) which promotes the photographic interests of member clubs and their members. Decatur Camera Club salon competitions are intended to provide DCC members with a competition very similar to the CICCA salons so they can get feedback from local judges prior to CICCA salons. The DCC salon also provides a fun and informative experience for both competitors and others who want to enjoy viewing photographs. This document explains the rules and procedures for salon competitions. The DCC club also promotes other types of competitions from time to time. These additional competitions are intended to be fun, informative, and help club members increase their photography skills and abilities. Rules for those competitions are set for the specific competition at the time and are not covered specifically by this document.

## **RULES**

1. Competitions are open only to DCC members in good standing. All images must meet the selected category requirements as determined by the chairperson of the competition or, as stated in these written rules. The President selects the chairperson for the salon. In the absence of the chairperson, the President or Vice-president will assume the role.

2. An image, digital or print, previously entered in a DCC competition may be re-entered into any club competition provided it has not earned "Honors" in a prior DCC club competition. This rule includes taking the same or very similar image and either cropping it differently or converting it to grayscale for monochrome competition, or vice versa. If you are concerned that your entry might be mistaken for an image that previously earned Honors, then it is best to enter an alternate image. Also, a particular image can be entered into only one category.

3. In each competition, there shall be a Print Division and Digital Division.

4. There shall be three (3) qualified judges at each competition. A judge may be a club non-member or a club member who preferably has not entered an image into the competition being judged. If it is necessary that a club member(s) act as a judge, then that member(s) shall not compete in the salon.

5. Each judge assigns a point-score in the range from 5 to 9.

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6. Using the 9- point judging system: The points and characteristics that are associated with each rating are as follows:

- a. (5) points - an image with multiple technical and/or compositional flaws
- b (6) points - an average image
- c. (7) points - an above average image
- d. (8) points - a very good image
- e. (9) points - an image that demonstrates excellence in its technical, compositional, and visual impact aspects.

7. Judging criteria are intended to give makers and judges common ground for what constitutes a high-quality photographic image. Factors to consider are grouped into three main categories, 1) Overall Impact, 2) Composition of Elements, and 3) Technical Aspects. Although an image can sometimes defy specific factors, its impact, composition and technical aspects should still work together to create a compelling result. Criteria should be given serious consideration but it is acknowledged that subjectivity will also play a role. Judges' decisions are final.

### a. Overall Impact

The image evokes emotion in the viewer. It compels the viewer to return to the main subject again and again. A mood may be projected and the image may make a statement or tell a story. The impact can also be achieved through an original presentation using unique lighting, use of color, interesting perspective or by featuring an unusual subject.

### b. Composition of Elements

The main subject or subject area is clearly presented by thoughtful placement in the frame. The maker might use the rule of thirds, the golden ratio, or less often, center-placement to achieve his or her intent for the image. Leading lines, interesting lighting, and well-done cropping contribute to a cohesive image that leads the viewer's eye to the main subject. Other elements in the image support the main subject and invite the eye to move around the image and back to the main subject without detracting from the subject. Artful use of these techniques creates dimension and depth in the image.

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### c. Technical Aspects

The image is in focus, although selective focus may be used to create a mood. Exposure, contrast and color balance (white balance) are suited to the subject and inviting to the eye. Color combinations may suggest a color scheme that is exciting or restful, warm or cool. Post-processing succeeds in enhancing the image without unwanted artifacts, such as haloes, noise, etc.

### d. Additional, for Print Competition

Translating an image to print can be a challenging and worthwhile process. The maker might consider calibrating the computer to the printing equipment they are using in order to match the colors and tones accurately. Because a digital image can show more depth and contrast than print paper, the maker might also enhance the image prior to printing or work with the printer in order to achieve the desired results. Minimizing scratches and fingerprints on the print will contribute to the print's overall presentation. Makers can prepare their print with a border and/or a narrow stroke line in post-processing to create a frame if they wish. See print guidelines for preparing prints for competition.

8. An image determined not to follow the rules of competition or the criteria in which it is entered shall be disqualified. Determination for disqualification will be determined by the chairperson or in their absence, the president or vice-president. No score is given and the image removed from the competition. Judges do not determine disqualification.

9. On each competition night, there shall be Honors and Accepted images selected. Approximately one-ninth (1/9th) of a category's highest-scoring entries will earn Honors, and the remaining highest-scoring approximate one-third (1/3rd) of entries will earn Accepted. In the case of one or two ties, all tied entries will be awarded the Honors or Accepted place. In the situation of more than two ties, the salon chair or in their absence, the president or vice-president may decide upon a tie-breaking procedure.

10. Best of Category judging – all images earning Honors in a category are re-judged as a group to select a Best of Category winner.

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### 11. Judging Etiquette

a. A judge may revise his or her original score for a photograph at any time during the presentation of that photograph.

b. At no time during the competition will any member of the audience make comments to the judge(s). Any questions by the audience will be answered by the Competition Chairman or other Competition Committee member.

c. During the competition, comments by members of the audience to each other must be kept to an absolute minimum.

d. Courtesy must be shown to the judge(s) and members shall avoid influencing them in any way.

e. The judges shall be provided with all instructions and fully informed of the time allotment prior to the competition.

f. A member may challenge any entry if he or she believes the competition rules have not been followed. The challenge must be made in private, after the competition, directly to the Competition Chairperson during the competition. The final decision will rest with the salon chair or in their absence, the president or vice-president. If judging has already occurred, the decision for the challenged image will be applied to future competitions.

### **PRINT DIVISION**

The Print Division has two Categories: a Large Print Category, and a Small Print Category.

#### 1. Small Print Category

Small prints may be any size up to 8 x 12 inches and must be mounted on a backer board or mat which does not exceed 11 x 14 inches.

#### 2. Large Print Category

Large prints are prints with any dimension larger than 8 x 12 but not larger than 16 x 20 and must be mounted on a backer board or mat not to exceed 16 x 20 inches.

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3. The mount or mat may be any color. The material must be stiff enough to prevent damage to the photo when handled with reasonable care but may not be excessively heavy. Wood, metal or other heavy materials are not allowed.

4. Prints must be printed on photographic paper. No frames, glass, or plastic coverings are allowed. Also, no projections that could harm other photos.

5. The back of each mounting board must have a contest label showing the Title, Member's name, and the entry number (provided by the designated person) placed upper right corner. CICCA labels may be used and can be obtained from the CICCA website.

6. All images must be original and may not incorporate elements produced by someone else. Textures and specialty brushes allowed if developed by the photographer.

7. Print entries may not have added text on the photograph or on the front mat.

8. If the presentation does not meet specifications, the print will be disqualified.

9. Print entries should be brought directly to the salon. If the maker is unable to attend, that member should make other arrangements to have the Prints delivered. Additionally, an email with a list of Print entries (Title, Category) shall be provided to the designated person. Prior to the salon, each entrant will be provided an entry number for each Print which shall be noted on the upper right back corner of the entry.

10. A member may enter up to four prints into each category.

### **DIGITAL DIVISION:**

The Digital Division categories are Nature, Photo Realistic, Altered Reality, and a Host Club's Choice category that has been selected for the next CICCA salon.

#### **A. NATURE**

Nature photography embraces the entire physical and natural world and thus encompasses nature in all its forms. There should be no evidence of human influence in

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a nature photograph. Photographs depicting cultivated plants, domestic animals, and mounted museum specimens are not eligible and should not be submitted as nature photographs. Exception: scientific banding visible on wild animals will not be considered a disqualification. In addition, images of zoo and game park animals may be entered, as long as the human influence is not visible in the image.

Global editing is allowed. Global adjustments are those that affect the whole image. Global adjustments include, but are not necessarily limited to: levels, curves, brightness, contrast, saturation, white balance, sharpening, and cropping.

Any post-processing adjustments and removal of distracting elements will be allowed, but no new elements can be added to the image.

Borders, vignettes, and infrared images are not allowed.

The blending of images from different scenes or blending of two versions of the same image is not permitted in the Nature category.

B. CICCA Selected Category  
Host Club's Choice

### C. PHOTO-REALISTIC

The emphasis for this category is on aesthetics and creating a fine image with great impact while maintaining a realistic quality. The subject matter of this category is unrestricted.

A "photo-realistic image" is an image that appears to have been captured by a single exposure from a camera. The use of infrared filters is not allowed since the image would not be realistic.

Multiple images may be used and blended into a single image, including but not limited to High Dynamic Range ("HDR") and extended depth of field/focus images. The source image or images must, however, have been captured by the image-maker.

### D. ALTERED REALITY

The emphasis for this category is on creativity with no restrictions for enhancement of the image(s) used to create the product. An Altered Reality image should depart from reality and be noticeably different from a scene viewed through a camera lens. While the underlying image(s) may seem familiar, its overall look should reflect one or more elements of an altered existence. The image must have a photographic base and all of

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the photographic elements must have been taken by the maker. Borders, vignettes, and infrared images are allowed.

## **GUIDELINES FOR DIGITAL FORMAT, SIZES & MANIPULATION**

### **1. Digital format:**

- a. For digital images, the format in which each image is prepared must be jpeg.
- b. Color space should be sRGB for digital images.

### **2. Image dimensions:**

- a. Digital images must be resized to be no more than 1400 pixels wide and no more than 1050 pixels high.
- b. At least one of the above maximum dimensions shall be met.

### **3. File Size:**

- a. There is no limit on file size.

## **GUIDELINES FOR DIGITAL SUBMISSION**

1. Prior to the competition's entry deadline, digital images should be submitted to the person designated to collect them via email attachments or on storage media.
2. The body of the email must include the image maker's name, the image title, and the image category
3. Up 9 images may be entered in the digital division provided, however, that there are no more than three images in any single category.

Special Note: Black and white images may be entered in any of the above categories, provided that the image meets all other requirements of the category.

## **SPECIAL AND FUN COMPETITIONS:**

Examples of such competitions may include a Macro Competition, a Special Theme such as a "Summer Time" Competition, "Old Architecture" or "Snow or Ice".