

## Schenectady Photographic Society Print Competition Rules 2009-2010

The purpose of the competition is to provide a venue for showing prints. The competitive element exists to add interest, and these rules are intended to provide order in the competition and simplify the process of handling prints. Judging is inherently subjective and does not yield a definitive evaluation of the merits of individual images.

### 1. Monthly Competition October – April

- *Only dues-paid members in good standing may enter.*
- There are three categories for each competition:
  - **Monochrome** – Images consisting of one color. Uniformly toned images are acceptable in the monochrome category.
  - **Color**- including partially toned and hand-colored images.
  - **Assigned topic** – negatives or digital files must have been captured after announcement of topics on May 1, 2009.
- Each maker may enter a total of **three prints each month**
- No more than **ONE** print may be entered in any one category. The requirement of entering one image in monochrome has been discontinued as of the 2009-2010 season.
- Prints must be 5x7" or larger. An exception will be made where the process is not conducive to enlargement (eg: Polaroid, contact prints, etc.)
- Prints must be mounted on mat board or foam core. (Over mats are optional).
- Mounts must be a minimum of 8x10" and may not exceed 16x20" with exception of panoramic images, which may not exceed the following mount sizes: 10x26", 11x25" or 12x24" (mount height plus width cannot exceed 36").
- Colored mounts/mats and multiple over mats are not allowed. Mounts and mats must be white or black.
- Prints in frames are not allowed.
- Prints requiring special handling are not allowed.
- Any Print Chair may disqualify prints that in his or her sole judgment might present risk of physical harm to other prints.
- Signed prints are not allowed.
- Prints must be submitted to the registrars on the night of competition. Prints will not be accepted after 7:30pm.
- Each submitted print must have a tag on the back of the mount, in the upper left corner, indicating the maker's name, title (if any), category, and month of entry.
- The digital image, negative, or slide from which the print was made must be the work of the maker.
- Printing and mounting may be done commercially.
- Prints that "place" may not be re-entered in a subsequent monthly competition.
- Prints may not be entered more than two times.

## 2. Judging and Scoring

- An impartial judge will evaluate each print for impact, composition, technical execution, and presentation.
- The judging of the assigned topic category will include the additional factor of how well the image responds to the assignment.
- Prints will be displayed on racks under normal room lighting for judging. The arrangement of prints on the display racks will be at the discretion of the print stewards.
- The judge will not be given titles at the time of judging.
- Judges will be asked to comment on prints that “place”, and if time allows, on other prints that deserve discussion. This discussion is intended to help members and visitors discern the strengths and weaknesses that the judges see in the prints.
- For the purpose of the Printmaker of the Year awards, prints that place in competition will be awarded points as follows:
  - First Place                    10 points
  - Second Place                 7 points
  - Third Place                    4 points
  - Fourth Place                 3 points
  - Fifth Place                    2 points
  - Honorable Mention        1 point
- If the number of entries is limited, the Print Chair may, at his sole discretion, eliminate one or more of the “places” for that month.

## 3. Year End Competitions

- **Print of the Year**
  - Separate Monochrome and Color Print competitions will be held at the May meeting.
  - Only prints that have been entered into a monthly competition during the 2009-2010 season of Schenectady Photographic Society may be entered into the Print of the Year Competition(s).
  - Entries must bear the original entry card on the back of the mount.
  - Presentation and entry rules are the same as for the monthly competitions.
  - Each maker may submit up to **ONE** entry in each of the Print of the Year categories.

- **Printmaker of the Year**

- Recognition for Printmaker of the Year, Second Place Printmaker of the Year, and Third Place Printmaker of the Year will be awarded in the three categories of Monochrome, Color and Assigned Topic.
- Award selection will be based on total points accumulated during the October – April monthly competitions of the respective categories.
- In case of a tie, the person with the most first place scores will be judged the winner. If first place scores are tied, then second place scores will be included, etc. until a clear winner emerges.

---

Please note that there have been three major changes for the 2009-2010 season.

- *Only ONE image per category each month;*
- *The requirement to enter in the monochrome category has been abolished;*
- *And for Print of the Year competition, only ONE entry per category.*

These changes were made to give everyone a fairer chance at having their images selected and reduce the workload on our volunteer judges. With these changes, it is also hoped that there will more be opportunity for comment and critique of other prints entered in the competition.

Print Co-Chairs,

Sean P Sullivan  
Doug Mitchell