



PSA 2021-1681

SAPPHIRE
INDIA
Artists Forum of Kolkata

ORGANIZER

Artists Forum of Kolkata

This circuit will be conducted in accordance with the requirements and practices of The Photographic Society of America (PSA).

Acceptances received in approved sections of this exhibition are eligible for PSA Star Ratings, listing in the worldwide PSA Who's Who of photography, and credited toward the PSA Distinctions.

Exhibition Website: <https://www.afkcircuits.com>

Exhibition E-Mail: afksapphire@gmail.com

SECTIONS (all digital):

- A) Open Color - PSA PID Color
- B) Open Monochrome - PSA PID Monochrome
- C) Nature - PSA ND
- D) Photo Travel - PSA PTD

Monochrome images may be entered in PID Color sections but if accepted will only be eligible towards PID Color Star Ratings.

CALENDAR

CLOSING DATE: 17/12/2021
START JUDGING: 27/12/2021
END JUDGING DATE: 06/01/2022
NOTIFICATION: 20/01/2022
SUBMIT EDAS: 05/02/2022
DELIVERY CATALOG: 24/03/2022
DELIVERY AWARDS: 24/03/2022
ONLINE GALLERY: 07/03/2022

ENTRY FEE

US \$ 30 for 1 section, US \$40 for all sections

Early Bird Discount: US \$30 for participation in all sections till 31st October 2021. Upload/change of photos possible till closing date.

Discount: US \$35 for participation in all sections till 20th November 2021. Upload/change of photos possible till closing date.

Group/Club Discount:

US \$20 for all sections for 15 or more entrants' club/group

Payment via PayPal to afksapphire@gmail.com for overseas authors AND by NEFT/IMPS by Indian entrants (equivalent of USD). Indian bank account details shall be available after entrant login.

Submitted works of the authors who did not pay entry fee would not be taken into consideration.

JURY MEMBERS:

Judging1:

Nan Carder, FPSA, GMPSA, EFIAP (USA) – *all sections*

Margaret Boike, APSA, MPSA (USA) – *all sections*

James D. Smith, MPSA, GPU Cr 3 (USA) – *all sections*

Judging2:

Gunther Riehle, APSA, GMPSA/P (Germany) – *all sections*

Herdis Halvas-Nielsen, MPSA, Cr 3 (Germany) – *all sections*

Jerry-Louis Ruff, PPSA, AFIAP (Germany) – *all sections*

Judging3:

Barbara Jenkin, GMPSA/G, EFIAP/d2, SPSA, ARPS (England) – *all sections*

Jennifer Margaret Webster, EPSA, EFIAP, BPE 3, DPAGB, LRPS (England) – *all sections*

Dr. Wendy Allard, FRPS, PPSA, EFIAP/s (England) – *all sections*

Judging4:

Lewis K.Y. Choi, GMPSA, EFIAP/S, GPU Cr 4 (Hong Kong) – *all sections*

Rajdeep Biswas, GMPSA, EFIAP (India) – *all sections*

Avik Sett, EPSA, EFIAP (India) – *all sections*

IMAGE SPECIFICATION:

Photos must be in JPEG file format; Max. Horizontal length is 1920 pix. Max. Vertical length is 1080 pix. in 300 dpi. Compression 7-12, max 2Mb. Oversized images shall be rejected by the system.

FILE NAMING

No requirements for file names, file name should be as you would want it to appear in the catalogue (same as title name). Words such as "Untitled" and "No Title" are not acceptable as part or all of an image's title, nor are camera capture filenames or titles consisting of only numbers.

Each image must have a unique title. Once an image has been accepted in a PSA Recognized exhibition, that same image, or a like "in camera" or a "reproduction" duplicate of that image:

- i. May not be re-entered in any section of the same Division Star Ratings class in that exhibition regardless of media, format, or title.
- ii. May not be re-titled for entry in any other PSA Recognized exhibition.

Title of each image cannot exceed 35 characters.

PHOTO SUBMISSION:

Images must be submitted following the instructions on: <https://www.afkcircuits.com>

Maximum number of photographs per section is 4. No title or identification of the maker shall be written anywhere on the face of an image. The exhibition is not allowed to resize the pictures sent by the entrants.

JUDGING PROCESS:

Judging is to take place **remotely (online)** by each jury member. Distribution of images shall be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant but they shall not appear to the judges' consecutively. Remote judging will take place and all judges shall use equipment capable of displaying submitted images at 100% as per PSA Exhibition Standards 2021.

There will be 3 judges in each section for total of 3 rounds of judging. The process will start with Round 1 where each of the 3 judges will mark each photograph based on their merit following the standards set by PSA on a scale of 1 to 5. The second round is conducted on a scale of 25 following which the award round or the third round is conducted. Each image is judged based on the score of the second round and then each award is declared based on the decision of the jury. Score card sent to entrants shall reflect number of first round judging only.

Target Acceptance Percentage: 29% to 35%

AWARDS

PSA Gold medal in each section (16 altogether)

3 Certificate of Merit Award in each section (48 altogether)

3 Jury Choice in each section (48 altogether)

1 Best Club Trophy for the Circuit

REPORT CARD & CATALOG NOTIFICATIONS

All participants will receive report card notification via e-mail. Score card sent to entrants shall reflect number of first round judging only. Awards and Acceptances lists of the exhibition and circuit catalog will also be published on the website <https://www.afkcircuits.com> for downloading.

Awards details:

Medal awards shall be sent by India Post, Certificate of merit and Jury Choice awards shall be mailed electronically only. To be eligible for Best Club Trophy, minimum 15 participants from a club must participate and pay their entry fees. Group Participation will not be considered for Best Club Trophy.

Rules from the organizer:

- Barred entrants by PSA will not be allowed in this exhibition.
- Color images may not be entered in PID Monochrome section(s).
- DQs are for breaches of PSA rules and breaches of definitions – e.g., cruelty to animals DQd, clear manipulation in ND, PT and PJ should be disqualified.
- Submitted images in Nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism may have border within 5 pixels.
- In case raw file is requested by organizer, non-compliance within stipulated time may result in disqualification of submitted image.
- If two judges DQ then the DQ stands. If only one judge DQs then it must be discussed
- If an image is DQd in one judging of a circuit, then it must be DQd in all judgings.
- Preferably on the score card DQ should be stated with a reason for the DQ

PSA Photo Travel staged images under the photo travel definitions to help your entrants and your jury as some of whom may not be aware of the latest changes - <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?staged-travel>

Nature Guide: <https://psa-photo.org/useruploads/files/nature/Nature-Photography-Judges-Guide.pdf>

PT Guide: https://psa-photo.org/useruploads/files/ptd_-_photo_travel/guide-for-photo-travel-judges-and-chairs.pdf

Aerial photography images may be entered if submission conforms to PSA By-Laws -Aerial Photography, including Drones - legal and ethical use by Exhibitions and Divisions available at this [LINK](#)

Exhibition will not be responsible for any damage/delay of Award during Postal Delivery. Under current COVID scenario, award dispatch may be delayed.

Authors are requested to read circuit rules, PSA definitions and restrictions and disqualification norms before submitting entry.

Conditions of Entry:

IMAGE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS This exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the Sponsor or the Exhibition Organizers, in their reasonable discretion, believes the entry does not conform to exhibition rules and these Conditions of Entry. Membership in any photographic organization is not required.

Sanctions: Entries will not be accepted from any entrant who is currently sanctioned by PSA.

PSA Star Ratings

To receive proper Star ratings credit from PSA, entrants must provide their names and country exactly the same in each exhibition. Aliases are not permitted. Please contact PSA in the event of name changes or relocating to another country

Image

Creation

Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. .

Certification:

By virtue of submitting an image, the entrant certifies the work as his or her own (.Images may not incorporate elements produced by anyone else (for example: clip art, images or art by others downloaded from the Internet). Aliases are not allowed. The entrant permits the sponsors to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to the exhibition. This may include low resolution posting on a website. Note: Entrants who indicate that their images may not be reproduced or used "will not be eligible for awards" or inclusion in audio-visuals of the exhibition "and could be subject to disqualification" by the exhibition sponsors. The exhibition assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright

Alteration and Computer Generation Subject to Divisional restrictions (particularly Nature, Photo Travel, and Photojournalism) images may be altered, either electronically or otherwise, by the maker. Adjustments to enhance images or creatively modify images are allowed providing the underlying photograph is retained in a way that is obvious to the viewer. Images may not be constructed entirely with a computer, and must be the sole work of the author

Re-use of accepted images: Once an image has been accepted in a PSA Recognized exhibition, any identical image, or near identical image, may not, in future, be entered or re-entered in any section of the same Division Star Ratings class in that exhibition regardless of media, format, or title; may not be re-titled for entry into any other PSA Recognized exhibition, including translation into another language.

Entry: An Entry consists of, up to and including, four (4) images entered by a single Entrant into the same Section. An entrant may only enter a specific Section once.

Titles:

Each image must have a unique title. That unique title must be used for entry of that image or of an Identical Image into any and all PSA-Recognized exhibitions. Titles must be 35 characters or fewer. No titles may be visible to the judges, and nothing in the image may identify the maker. Titles must not include file extensions such as .jpg or .jpeg (or any other camera capture filenames), or words such as "untitled" or "no title". Titles may not consist solely of numbers.

Color and Monochrome:

Color and Monochrome images from the same capture that share substantial pictorial content in common will be considered the same image and must be given the same title.

However, PSA members working on Galaxy and Diamond Star Ratings are allowed to continue using different titles of monochrome versions and color versions of the same capture that have already been accepted until the required number of acceptances for those titles has been completed.

Organisation:

The Exhibition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the PSA

An entrant's images will not be presented to the judges consecutively. An entrant's four images will be distributed throughout four rounds of judging in that section. Distribution of images will be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant.

An image may be entered in only one section where acceptances of that image in multiple sections would be eligible for the same star path.

PSA Breach of Rules 2021:

If, at any time, it is determined in the reasonable discretion of the exhibition organizer or the judges before, during, or after the judging of an exhibition that an entrant has submitted entries where one or more images may fail to comply with these Conditions of Entry, including the stated definitions, the exhibition organizers reserve the right to delete the

entry from the exhibition and void any or all acceptances or awards in connection with the exhibition. Fees may be forfeited or refunded in these circumstances. The entrant acknowledges that the decision of the exhibition organizers or the judges is final

In order to ensure that images comply with the Conditions of Entry and definitions, the exhibition organizers may carry out reasonable measures to verify that:

- a) the images are the original work of the entrant and
- b) the images comply with the rules and definitions as set out in these Conditions of Entry

These steps include, but are not limited to, questioning any entrant, requiring the submission of RAW files or other digital files representing the original capture of the submitted image(s), confronting the entrant with evidence that one or more submitted images fails to comply with the Conditions of Entry (also known as Entry Rules), and offering the entrant a reasonable opportunity to provide counter evidence to refute the exhibition organizer's evidence by a set deadline. Such entries that are not cleared or are still questionable after the entrant has presented evidence may be considered in breach of these Conditions of Entry, and declined. Such entries may be referred to PSA for further investigation of possible ethics violations

PSA retains the right to investigate in any way all complaints/suspensions of breaches of entry conditions, impose sanctions if deemed necessary, void the acceptances of any image found to violate the PSA rules, include the entrant's name on the list of sanctions provided to Exhibitions, and share such investigations with FIAP. Entrants automatically agree to these terms by the act of entering the Exhibition and agree to cooperate with any investigation.

If another party is submitting images on the entrant's behalf, the entrant will still be held responsible for adhering to these Conditions of Entry (Entry Rules) **and will be subject to sanction for any violations** to these Conditions of Entry and PSA's Statement of Ethics that may result.

PSA Statement on Subject Matter

There is one hard and fast rule, whose spirit must be observed at all times and **applies to all sections** offered in PSA recognized exhibitions.

The welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph.

This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in any PSA exhibitions.

There is also a PSA policy on the use of aerial photography - aircraft, helicopters and drones. This policy can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?psa-policies#drone>.

The purpose of this policy is to prevent any interference with other individuals or animals which will or may cause a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Entry in this exhibition requires exhibitors to agree to this and other PSA policies

The content of images must comply with these General Conditions and with the Division and Section definitions listed in these conditions. Images that - in the sole opinion of the judges or the Exhibition Organizers - do not comply are likely to be disqualified so the entrant may be aware of the problem when considering entry into other PSA recognized exhibitions.

DATA PROTECTION

By entering this exhibition, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including email addresses, being held, processed and used by the exhibition organizers for purposes associated with this exhibition. You also explicitly consent to such information being sent to organizations that have accorded official recognition, patronage or accreditation to this exhibition. You acknowledge and accept that entering this exhibition means that the status and results of your entry may be made public.

Notice to Entrants:

NOTICE: When an entrant fills in the Entry Form to submit an entry the entrant will see a feature to affirm he or she has read these Conditions of Entry when he or she fills out the entry form. If the entrant does not so affirm the entry will not be submitted

Definitions:

Monochrome:

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of grey which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a greyscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example by Sepia, red, gold, etc.) A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work.

Monochrome images may be entered in PID Color sections but if accepted will only be eligible towards PID Color Star Ratings.

Nature:

PSA/FIAP Nature Definition

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation.

The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality

Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves.

Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement.

No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted.

Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.

Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed.

Stitched images are not permitted.

Color images can be converted to greyscale monochrome.

Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

*Attention is drawn to the PSA Statement on Subject Matter which applies to **all** sections*

Toned images are not permitted for Nature division.

Photo Travel:

A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographical limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not permitted. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the location.

Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All images must look natural.

*Attention is drawn to the PSA Statement on Subject Matter which applies to **all** sections*

Toned images are not permitted for Photo Travel division.

Exhibition Chairman:

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The sponsors of this International Exhibition of Photography have been awarded Recognition by PSA, the world's largest patron of international photographic exhibitions. PSA, although it has provided recognition, is neither a sponsor nor directly involved in the operation of this exhibition.



Valid acceptances received by PSA Members in recognized sections of this exhibition are eligible for PSA Star Ratings, listing in the world-wide PSA Who's Who of Photography and credited towards the PSA Distinctions of QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA, MPSA2, GMPSA, GMPSA/B, GMPSA/S, GMPSA/G, and GMPSA/P.

PSA is a non-profit organization promoting the advancement of photography in all its forms to novice, amateur and professional photographers worldwide.

For information on membership and the many services and activities of PSA, contact:

psa

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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