

SUMMER 2023

THE OKLAHOMA

PHOTOGRAPHER

A MAGAZINE OF THE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF OKLAHOMA

Inside

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for PPOK

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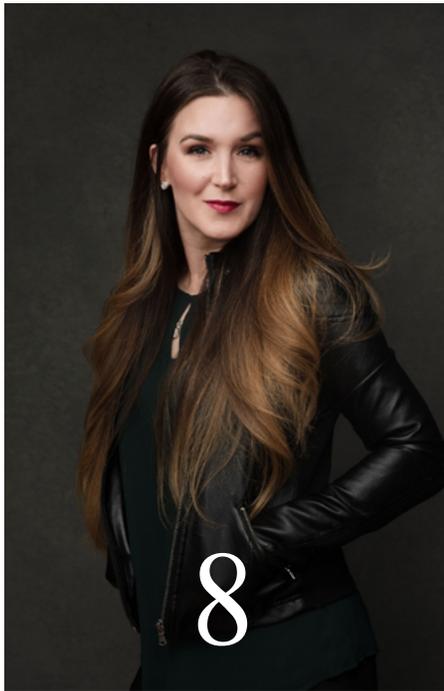


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Elise Breeding, Editor - editor@ppok.org



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I tried something new. I like consistency. I like schedules. I like a good plan. I am comfortable and confident when I am doing something I love, and something that is familiar to me. I have photographed people for 20 years. Families, children, newborns, weddings, high school seniors, events and the like.

I had been craving an opportunity to break out of the monotony in which I had trapped myself. Then such an opportunity revealed itself: a week away from the normal; immersed in nature, photographing, hiking, relaxing, exploring; away from my responsibilities as a mother, wife, and business owner.

I spent a week in the spring on a photography retreat to Yellowstone National Park photographing landscapes, mountains, wildlife and the milky way. It was an adventure for which I am grateful.

I know it's incredibly hard and costly to just drop everything and go out on an adventure. Sheesh, it took me 20 years and some complicated health issues to realize I needed this kind of break away from the ordinary.

However, I would encourage you to do the same. You may not be able to invest in a whole week, or even a whole day. If you dig deep into your calendar though, I bet you could find an afternoon, or early morning to block off some time for a personal project. Something you wouldn't normally put in front of your lens. Pick up a bouquet of flowers from the grocery store and photograph the perfect bud with a poster board backdrop, or try your skills at the night sky. Grab a fellow photographer and plan a day to go do something different together! {I did that too! "Hey Dawn, want to host a Meet Up at the Salt Flats with me??... You do?! Great! I'll get the permit!" It really was that simple.}

EDITOR'S NOTE

Learn with each other and from each other. Try something new.

Elise Breeding,
M.Photos, CPP
editor@ppok.org



On the Cover.....

"Watch Your Back"
- Valarie Clayton



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chris Urias
2023 PPOK President

It's looking like the year is quickly passing us by. I know that for some, summer is somewhat of a break from the T & I images, senior portraits and the activities of school.

For those who primarily shoot weddings, you may not have a time to have a breather. Hopefully, everyone is in a good place with their photography business and their photography skills.

Whether you embrace it or hate it, there is quite a stir on social media about AI and Adobe's Beta version of it. Several photographers have said it's a homerun while others are a tad skeptical and know the program still can improve dramatically. The images I have seen using AI have made me look twice and seem to be modestly good for experimentation purposes. It's like the magic button we all joked about 5 years ago.

Yes, we can take out a truck in a scene or add a horse in front of a barn in a matter of minutes, even seconds. On the other hand, I have also seen some images that are far from perfect. Fast forward a year from now, it's here to stay. We'll be asking, what's photography and what's AI?

The Spring Seminar held in OKC was a successful event. Members heard how to shoot maternities from Tulsa's Kasey Alcott, and how to price destination weddings from Oklahoma's Amanda Watson, as well as how to take everyday items and create a unique surreal portraiture with

Brian DeMint's program.

We also learned about concert photography with Travis Mendoza

and Kaelyn Gray and we had a solid program about sports compositing with John and Cindy LaBarge. And If anyone wanted to know about the latest in photography equipment, Mark Moore is the person to ask. I would like to extend my sincerest 'thank you' to all the speakers that made our seminar a great event and to all the members who were present.

If you haven't noticed yet, we have updated our logo to be used on all our letterheads, social media, and anything we print using our PPOK name. Johnny Holland and Jamie Cobb have done an exceptional job working together on that endeavor.

By the time this magazine prints, we will have had three Meet Ups for our members this summer. Dawn Muncy and Elise Breeding had a meet up on the Great Salt Plains near Jet; Johnny Holland organized a group at the OKC Zoo and Lori Zeller met up with a group in Tulsa. It's a great opportunity to learn and meet some of our members away from a convention or seminar.

Book your calendar now for our Fall Convention. We will have some great speakers lined up throughout the event, plus we'll have our PPA President Kira Derryberry on hand. In addition, we'll have our annual print competition and Club 79. My hope is that everyone has several images entered, and we have a great image competition.





Exciting Changes for PPOK

Elise Breeding, M.Photog. CPP

Have you noticed?

Over the past couple of years, the PPOK board of directors have worked to bring some exciting changes to the organization.

From logos, to free events open to anyone, to more updates on social media, to keeping their print competition fresh and inviting; PPOK strives to inspire and partner with the working photo professional.



Logos should be distinctive and memorable, simple and relevant. The past PPOK logo was designed more than 40 years

ago. An exact creation date of the logo could not be identified, but it is included in publications created in 1980. The camera in the logo was not a common camera style used here in the 2020s; it was definitely time to update. The organization's Mission Statement and Statement of Purpose were established as well.

You'll notice as you peruse the magazine, that the headers and other standard colors throughout have been modified to match the new colors as well.

It is incredibly hard to be a non-profit

organization (with bills that need to be paid) to host events and bring value to its membership on a very low budget. PPOK has occasionally held low cost meet ups outside their three annual events, but typically a cost is put into place to help with renting a facility or location at which to host the event.

This year they added Meet Ups to the summer agenda. No cost. Anyone is welcome- Members or non-members alike.

The PPOK mission statement declares a desire to inspire and help photographers. Not only the photographers who invest in and find value in the education and discounts that come with being a member, but partner with all photographers!

Three Meet Ups were planned in June of 2023. The only cost for attendance was time and if the location required an admittance fee. The Oklahoma City Zoo and Tulsa Zoo were sites to two of the Meet Ups, with scavenger hunts planned for those who wanted a little more than just a stroll with friends and cameras.

The Great Salt Plains in Jet, OK was the site of the third free event. All commercial, event and portrait photography must be permitted through the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge.

The refuge graciously offered a permit to allow access to the smooth non-digging

areas of the plains which provided a great backdrop for the photographers and models on site. Images from our Meet Ups were not available at the time of magazine publication. *(go check social)*

The social media for PPOK has been refreshed and the committee in charge has made great efforts to keep you updated and informed of all the events for this year! If you missed the opportunity to join any of the Meet Ups or other PPOK events, make sure you're following **@photoxok** on Instagram and the **PPOK...** Facebook page; you'll hopefully be less likely to miss out on their next big event.

All competitions and organizations must be fluid. The paths of giant rivers and small streams alike will ebb and flow through the years simply because water takes the best route- it has to.

PPOK's annual print competition is no different. With the changes to IPC *(see page 12 for a great, informative article on all the changes PPA has made this year)*, PPOK seized the opportunity to bring exciting changes to its own competition too. The categories and awards were updated in 2022 with positive feedback from the membership. The previous categories and awards will remain, with an additional "Top 10" award added!



The 10 highest scoring cases (with one case per photographer) will be awarded recognition as a **Top 10 Photographer in Oklahoma**.

Whether the artist is a first time entrant, a Master photographer, or Certified; entering 6 images or 30+, the six highest scoring images by each maker will be totaled to create their Case Total. The ten photographers with the highest scoring cases will earn the title.

Miller's Professional Imaging has partnered to award prizes to these individuals as well. Plus, the *Oklahoma Photographer of the Year* awards for the highest case for Masters division and Photographic Open division will still remain.

PPOK would love to hear your feedback on the new changes! Head over to their social pages to comment, or you can always email the editor of the magazine who is happy to share your thoughts with the PPOK board.

Mission Statement:

Photographers helping photographers inspire, teach and guide others to achieve professional caliber work at the highest level.

Statement of Purpose:

Professional Photographers of Oklahoma strives to improve and inspire the lives and businesses of photographers through professional seminars, workshops, mentorships, and more. By continually being a part of this network, like-minded people, help each other succeed.

2023 EXPO & Image Competition

Event Registration

Professional Photographers of Oklahoma August 25-28, 2023



- 1) online at www.photoxok.org by Aug 23
- 2) Mail this form to: Michael Scalf Sr, P.O.Box 1779
Blanchard OK 73010 postmarked by Aug 9th
- 3) At the door (Options 1 or 2 saves you \$\$\$)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Name of Business: _____
 Business Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Cell Phone: _____ Bus Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____

\$175.00 Non-Member Full Registration	\$ _____
\$125.00 Best Value Early Full Registration + Banquet	\$ _____
\$105.00 Early Full Registration	\$ _____
\$ 45.00 Awards Banquet Ticket (\$50 On-Site)	\$ _____
\$ 25.00 Social Only.....	\$ _____
\$ 90.00 One Day Only ___ Sat ___ Sun ___ Mon.....	\$ _____
\$ 110.00 One Day (non-member) ___ Sat ___ Sun ___ Mon.....	\$ _____
Total Amount Included With This Registration	\$ _____

Check made out to PPOK enclosed -or- Bill my card

Card number _____
 Expires _____ CVV# _____ Billing Zip _____

Got Questions? Call or Text 405-815-7806
 or email michael.scalf@ppok.org



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PPOK EXPOSITION

Annual Convention

August
25-28

Professional Photographers of Oklahoma's annual Convention and Expo is back, at a fun new location! Don't forget we have our annual image competition that weekend too. Do you have your images ready?? Our Saturday night print auction has become an attendee favorite event. Bring one of your prints (unframed is totally fine!) to donate to our annual fundraiser and purchase tickets to win your favorite images from your talented photography family! This is our biggest event of the year and one you will not want to miss! Along with a great lineup of programs, we also have our awards banquet and several social events, which are prime opportunities for fellowship and networking with other pros from around the state. We hope to see you there!

2023 EXPO Schedule

Friday – August 25, 2023

4:00p Print Room Set up
4:00p - 7:00p Registration Open

Saturday – August 26, 2023

7:00a - 4:30p Registration Open
8:30a - Noon Image Judging
8:30a - Noon Club 79 Hosted by Leslie Hoyt & Tony Corbell
Noon - 1:15p Lunch on your own or with a group
Noon - 1:15p Past Presidents' Luncheon in Hotel Restaurant
1:15p - until ? Judging Resumes
1:15p - 4:00p Club 79 Resumes
4:00p - 5:30p **Program: Kody Kline**
5:30p - 5:45 Welcome All, Introduce New Members
5:45p - 6:00p General Membership Meeting (All members please attend)
6:00p - 7:30p Dinner on your own or with the group
7:30p - ????? Social Party with Silent & Print Auction

Sunday – August 27, 2023

8:00a - 5:00p Registration Open
9:00a - 11:15a **Program: Gary & Kathy Meek** (Spons'rd by Millerslab)
11:15a - 1:00p Lunch on your own or with a group
1:00p - 2:30p **Program: Gary & Kathy Meek** (resume)
2:45p - 4:30p **Program: Kira Derryberry** (Spons'rd by PPA)
6:00p - 7:00p Pre Banquet Reception Social
7:00p - 10:00p Awards Banquet
10:00p - 11:30p Hospitality

Monday – August 28, 2023

9:00a - 11:30p Registration Open
9:00a - 11:30p **Program: Shannon Squires-Toews** (Spons'rd by Millerslab)
11:30 - 1:00p Lunch on your own or with a group
1:00p - 3:30p **Program: Larry Lourcey** (Spons'rd by WhiteHouse Custom Colour)
3:30p Have a Safe Trip Home!



Everyone Needs a Headshot

Kira Derryberry Tallahassee, FL

2023 EXPO speaker

Kira Derryberry keeps a busy studio year round by photographing people to update their headshots.

Her system utilizes a fast and easy system for booking, shooting, and selling something nowadays everyone needs!

In this program, Kira will take you through her process and philosophy around creating headshots for business pros, entrepreneurs, creatives and more. Kira will go over her in person selection and sales and Zoom session process as well as best practices for creating in today's headshot market. In addition, learn Kira's best techniques for creating corporate composites that will generate repeat business again and again.

If you are looking to change things up or add this valuable service to your business, this is a program you won't want to miss!

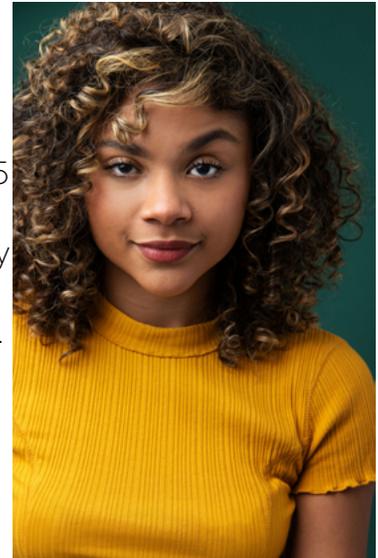
Kira Derryberry is a Tallahassee based photographer focused on Family, Commercial, and Corporate portraiture.



Originally from Huntsville, Alabama, Kira moved to Tallahassee in 2005 after graduating from The University of Alabama with a BA in Photography.

Kira is a proud member of Professional Photographers of America and has earned Master Photographer, Master Craftsman and Certified Professional Photographer, is an approved judge for International Photographic Competition, and as of March 2023, serves as President for PPA's Board of Directors.

Kira is also co-host of the popular photography podcast, Get Your Shoot Together. When not slinging a camera or volunteering for her favorite photography organizations, Kira is a wife and a mom who publicly loves karaoke jams and bad science fiction.



Professional Photographers of America



2023 EXPO speaker

Take your Photography to the MAX Through Image Competition

Gary & Kathy Meek Hot Springs, AR

OK – So you are the best photographer in your Town, your County, your Region, your State!!! What is there to make you a better photographer?

Competition flexes your photography and business muscle. Image competition can do nothing but make you a better, stronger and more accomplished photographer.



Gary and Kathy Meek will teach you the “rules” of image competition and show you how to take these “rules” of photography, not just to image competition, but back home with you to make your saleable images, not just photos, but

photographic art - to raise you head and shoulders above your competition.

This could be a career changing experience for you and your photographic business.

Gary and Kathy are both active in State, Regional and National Associations, and they are both councilors for Professional Photographers of America. They have won numerous imaging and service awards through the years.

The Meeks met as teenagers. Growing up, Gary’s mother baked cakes and



catered weddings. Watching the wedding photographers was always of interest as his father was an avid amateur photographer.

They married in 1970 and opened their studio in 1977, not knowing much about photography. However, they found Arkansas Professional Photography Association and started learning the grass roots that every photographer needs to know to be successful.

Gary and Kathy have photographed families, children, sports, commercial and of course weddings, at times doing over one hundred weddings a year. Being from the small town of Hot Springs, Gary says they primarily photographed two things: “Things that moved and things that didn’t”.





Growing your Creativity

With Personal Projects

2023 EXPO speaker

Larry Lourcey
Plano, TX

Are you stuck in a creative rut? Then help is on the way!

Personal projects are one of the best ways to grow your creative muscles – as well as sharpen your technical skills. In this program, you will learn the ins and outs of personal projects and how to harness their power to take your photography to the next level.

We will cover:

- ~Why would I even want to do personal projects?
- ~How do I come up with a concept?
- ~What are the common pitfalls that derail the process?

By the end of the class, you will leave with several project ideas – and the tools to put them into action!



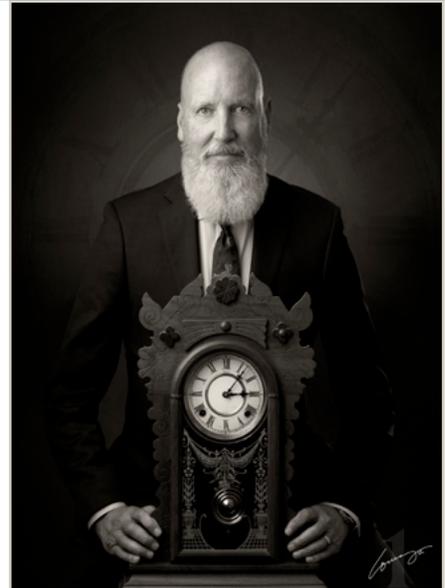
Since earning his Bachelor of Arts in 1992, continuing education has always been a priority for Larry.

Countless art classes and photography workshops have helped to mold his style and

technique.

His work encompasses a broad range of styles- from fun, whimsical black and whites to elegant, traditional portraiture.

He is also a talented painter, with a rich style inspired by artists like Pina Daeni and John Singer Sargent.



His work has been featured in everything from the "Painter Wow" books to the cover of Professional Photographer Magazine. He has had several images included in the PPA Loan Collection, earning him the Imaging Excellence Award in 2013. He has also been a finalist in the Grand Imaging Awards.

Larry is a past president of the Dallas Professional Photographers Association and currently serves on PPA's Board of Directors.



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Fine Art Portrait Photography

Shannon Squires-Toews
Colorado Springs, CO

2023 EXPO speaker



Join Shannon as she goes over her fine art editing process.

While Shannon is best known for her work with children she also uses the same process when working with maternity, family and senior clients.

During this class you will see Shannon work on an image from start to finish in Photoshop. The process includes skin retouching, eye enhancements, dodge and burn and even lite painting techniques.

Shannon is a nationally recognized award-winning photographer based in Colorado Springs. In 2019 Shannon won her first 1st place GIA (Grand Imaging Award) in the Children's category, and went on to win two more before winning the overall GIA in 2020.

In addition to her GIA wins, Shannon has also been a part of Team U.S.A. in 2022 and 2023 with two images on the team each year.

Shannon started photography in high school with film photography before attending



Art school in Seattle where she earned her Associates degree in Commercial Photography.

Shannon also has earned her Master Photographer degree, Master Artist degree, CPP, Craftsmen degree, and Image Excellence, through Professional Photographers of America.

When Shannon is not teaching around the U.S., working with clients in her studio, or creating educational tutorials for her online academy, she is spending time with her family and 3 young children.





MIR, IPC, PPOK, LMNOP

Making Sense of the New Alphabet Soup

Dawn Muncy, M.Photog., M.Artist. Cr., CPP

Image competition has been a part of the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) since 1937. Talk with anyone who has participated and received their Master of Photography, Master Artist or Master of Wedding Photography degrees and they will all tell you that it has been an incredible tool for learning and pushing yourself to improve your craft. But as with all things that have been around for 86 years, competition has seen some pretty significant changes. As an approved affiliate juror I am asked quite often to demystify the most recent changes that affect the Master Degree Programs and International Photographic Competition (IPC)

Why the big changes?

Up until the end of 2022 the Master Degree Programs lived within International Photographic Competition. Entrants could submit up to 4

images in each Photographic Open, Artist or Wedding degree "cases." Scores deserving of merit or higher sealed a merit towards your degree and if that image were also deemed worthy of the Imaging Excellence designation entrants would receive an additional merit for that image and the image was published in the Imaging Excellence Collection (formerly known as the Loan Book)

In February of 2023 the Board of Directors and Rich Newell, Director of Credentialing, announced the major changes to the Master degree programs and IPC. Based on member feedback the board determined that new members were hesitant to enter images because others would see their images being evaluated and, if challenged, discussed live during judging. Many members expressed that they would prefer this to be an individual achievement instead of a competition. Some also felt that based

on the talent level of the entrants securing the top spots, newer members felt it impossible to compete and therefore abandoned the ideal all together. If you are new to this system you likely have felt the same way at some point. Another factor in this decision comes down to statistics. Of the more than 34,000 PPA members only about 1000 per year were entering images. In short, the association was growing but IPC was not. From all of these factors a new system has been introduced in an attempt to serve all levels of the membership. Which brings us to the brand new MIR (Merit Image Review) and the vastly overhauled International Photographic Competition (IPC)

Who does this affect?

You're probably asking yourself how does this affect me or my participation in the fall Professional Photographers of Oklahoma Fall Image Competition coming up in August? I hope to help you out with that.

On our state level, ie. PPOK, Nothing Changes. Images will still be judged on the 12 elements of a merit image. You can find a list of these elements with detailed explanations on the PPA website or with the 2023 rules printed

in this issue. The PPOK image competition will still be judged by affiliate jurors or jurors in training who have completed the judges workshop and the numbered scoring system will still be used in an effort to help entrants better understand where their images fall on the merit scale. In short, on the Oklahoma state level, nothing is changing.

But lets say you want to try your luck at this whole MIR thing or you are interested in a more competitive arena. Explaining all of this a bit like eating an elephant. We have to do it one bite at a time.

What has changed?

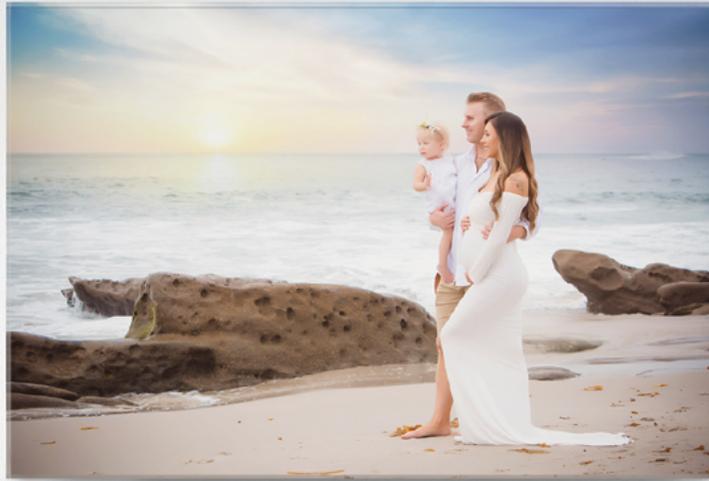
So what's the deal with MIR? (Merit Image Review) How is it different from the IPC of the good ol' days? Basically the system that was once all in one is now split to two different opportunities to either earn your degree or compete for prizes and glory. Or Both.

Merit Image Review (MIR)

On the second full week of each month from February to November Merit Image Review will be hosted by PPA. PPA members may enter images in

Continued, page 15

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the same categories as previous years.

To earn the Master of Photography Degree the categories are still Portrait, Illustrative, Album and Reportage. The entrant must be the original maker of the base image. The Master Artist Degree recognizes a maker's skill at merging multiple images into one final piece or a significant change to the original image made via electronic imaging methods. Base images do not have to be the original works of the maker. The Master of Wedding Photography has two categories, Wedding Open and Wedding Album. Wedding Open refers to single images created on the wedding day. Wedding Albums are, you guessed it, an album of images from the same wedding created on the wedding day. These are very simplified explanations and I urge you to consult the PPA website for a detailed list of the rules for all things MIR.

In the past, an entrant could only submit 4 images for each of these different degrees, all images were judged one time per year. A merit score earned one merit and that image was then judged for Imaging Excellence. If that image was also accepted

into the Imaging Excellence Collection it received an additional merit for that honor, making it possible to earn a maximum of 8 merits per year per degree. In the new MIR system an entrant can enter as many images as they would like at any of the monthly reviews. Images are judged based on the 12 Elements of a Merit Image and placed into one of four categories. Imaging Excellence, Deserving of Merit, Non Merit with potential or Non Merit with low potential. If the image receives the Imaging Excellence or Deserving of Merit designation that image receives one merit. Once an entrant has achieved 8 merits in one calendar year of MIR they are no longer eligible to enter until the following year. So the short version is that entrants now have 10 opportunities per year to enter where in the past there was only one opportunity per year. So far this change has been well received with an average of 665 images entered in MIR per month as of the date this is being written. The most notable difference in the system is that judging is no longer streamed for members to listen to juror comments. Instead entrants may order a video critique to be completed by an approved affiliate juror to receive feedback on their

Continued, page 16

images. Thus far I have sat on two different monthly MIR panels and I can say with complete honesty and transparency that merit judging standards are the same as they have always been. If a juror disagrees with a score they challenge the same way they always have and discussions are based on the 12 elements of a merit image. If you have been hesitant to start your journey to becoming a degree holder because you do not want all entrants to see your work this retooled system is for you. You can work on it throughout the year and not be limited to just 4 images. And no one will know where you are in your journey unless you tell them yourself. It is truly a self guided personal accomplishment that you can work on all year if you like instead of crossing your fingers that you chose 4 good ones. And please don't think this is just for members who have not attained a degree. Master's are encouraged to enter MIR to keep honing their skills and improving their craft. Affiliate jurors are also required to merit at least every other year so that they are able to recognize and uphold the standard of a merit image.

This is a major change in the system but it does offer new members more timely feedback that they can grow

from monthly instead of annually. Now that we live in a digital, instant feedback/gratification world the old system just was simply too slow and antiquated. Many will argue that this new system makes it easier to get your degrees. I think that's all in how you look at it. Yes, as far as the calendar is concerned you can get it much faster because you have more opportunities to enter but the process is the same. Images still have to be merit worthy and you still need 13 image merits and 12 service merits. Some of us had to walk our 4, printed and lacquered 16x20s up hill in the snow both ways in a year long migration to IPC in Gwinette, Georgia. Then wait weeks for a printed list to be snail mailed to us with our results. So forgive us if we are somewhat jaded.

IPC
Let's say its cash, trophies and bragging rights that get you out of bed in the mornings. If that's the case then the new and improved International Photographic Competition (IPC) is for you! Here's where some very big and very exciting changes have taken place.

In the past there have only been a few categories to shoehorn your entry into to be judged but now there are 16. Yes,

you read that correctly, SIXTEEN different categories with head to head judging over the course of a couple of months with a live finale at Imaging USA in January of 2024. And don't worry about one entrant walking away with a winner in every category. In round one of the judging, images will be scored and the top 32 will move to the next round to be judged head to head. Only one entry per person will be allowed in the final round of judging. So there will be 16 different finalists playing for all the money. And it's not a small amount of money mind you. Winners in each of the 16 categories will win \$1000 each and the grand prize out of the top 16 is \$10,000. PPA has never had a cash award of this size so it's kind of a big deal. Something else to note is that the rules are a bit different in those categories. At IPC there will not be an "Artist Category" as we know it to be for MIR.

Heavily artworked images and composites will be allowed in 2 of the 16 categories which will also allow for a wider range of images in the final 32.

If you have any questions about MIR or IPC I urge you to call PPA directly. These are major changes and I expect there to be some minor tweaks to the system

as we get closer to the IPC deadline. I am happy to help if I can but detailed questions should go straight to the source.



A question that I have been asked several times is, can I enter my MIR entries into IPC. Yes, as long as the image did not merit before January of 2023 it is eligible for entry into the appropriate category in IPC. Makers can enter an unlimited number of images per category but are limited to only one image advancing into the round of 32. The image moving forward will be selected based on the highest score.

Even with all of the changes to MIR and IPC I still believe in the educational value of having your work evaluated by your peers. Whether you choose to do that quietly with MIR or you are bold enough to enter your work head to head with the best of the best, you are going to learn and learn fast. The lessons learned

Continued, page 18

on your journey to becoming a Master Photographer shape your style and turn your weaknesses into strengths. You'll gain knowledge and confidence that you will use throughout your career. Just because the system changed doesn't make the process less valuable; just more accessible and less intimidating.

IPC will now be a true photographic competition and a way to test your skills against world renowned photographers. Sure you may get knocked out in round one but having the confidence and courage to enter will push you to try things you have never tried before. And with a different judging criteria and a plethora of categories, you just might surprise yourself.

On a local and state level I highly recommend entering competitions that are available to you via



printcompetition.com. A lot of states are still using the live streamed scoring system so you can hear feedback from jurors and have an idea of where you would fall in the scoring range. Plus you'll see all of the images being judged and hear feedback about more than just your own image which I personally feel is a huge benefit to the states and the makers.

No system is perfect but PPA does make changes regularly when they see a need, so try not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Enter and see how it goes. Then decide what best motivates you personally. In the meantime get your images ready for PPOK in August! And may the odds be ever in your favor. ;)

You can find more information on the PPA website.

IPC Print Competition Rules

<https://www.ppa.com/events-members/photo-competitions-mem/competition-rules-mem>

MIR

[ppa.com/credentials-mem/merit-image-review](https://www.ppa.com/credentials-mem/merit-image-review)

PPA Degrees

<https://www.ppa.com/credentials-mem/degrees>

Drone Photography

Kody Kline Broken Arrow, OK

Kody Kline will be sharing information on the capabilities of today's advanced consumer drones and the photo and video capabilities of the cameras on these drones.

Kody started Flying drones and capturing drone photographs and video since DJI released the DJI Phantom 1 in 2013. He has kept up with the evolving drone and drone camera technology which requires you to purchase new drones to keep up with the flight and camera technologies just like in the DSLR world.

Much like DSLR cameras, today's drones have price and quality levels from low, medium, and high ends plus a couple different tracks or types of drones for the extremely high end markets and uses— he will be covering, in general, these levels of drones, prices and capabilities. Plus cover the resources and processes he goes through as a drone pilot / photographer in planning a drone photoshoot.

Of course there is government regulation of these advanced remote controlled

2023 EXPO
speaker



flying aircraft, especially in today's world. In general, I will be covering what drones are legally required be registered or not and what the details are to fly a drone as recreational or commercial per the FAA. Certification requirements, costs, aircraft pilot knowledge requirements, equipment requirements and drone pilot responsibilities before and during flights will be discussed.

Kody and his wife are both photographers who own a small photography business with their own sublimation printers, heat presses and molding machines. This gives them great opportunities to print their own artwork for clients such as realtors and farm fly-over inspections.

However, Kody admits he mainly just flies for himself to get spectacular drone photos of cityscapes, landscapes, farms, with an emphasis on special effects like long exposure panoramic light trail drone photos, and even the Milkyway.



2023 Competition

PPOK ANNUAL IMAGE COMP!

COMPETITION RULES - READ CAREFULLY!

**ALL ENTRIES MUST
BE SUBMITTED AND
REGISTERED AT
WWW.PRINTCOMPETITION.COM**

The Professional Photographers of Oklahoma (PPOK) annual photographic competition offers two separate divisions for entries. The divisions are Photographic Open and Artist. Participants, also referred to as makers or entrants, can enter cases in one or both divisions. The term "case" consists of the combined 6 top scoring entries entered by that maker for each division. Only digital entries will be judged.

GENERAL INFO AND RULES ELIGIBILITY

1. All members of the Professional Photographers of Oklahoma, Inc. (PPOK) are eligible to enter the Photographic Competition. PPOK members who meet the requirements defined below may enter the General Exhibition or, if qualified, the Masters Exhibition.
2. Non-resident (out of state) members of the association can compete in the Photographic Competition and are eligible to win any award, under which category they might qualify, as long they have paid registration fees and physically attend the event.
3. Participants who are not PPOK members, and who live outside of Oklahoma may enter the Out-of-State Exhibition.

DEADLINE

1. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE UPLOADED ONLINE at www.printcompetition.com BY 11 PM (CST) THURSDAY, August 24, 2023.

No exceptions will be made except by the Print Chairman, and only in extreme circumstances.

2. No changes to your entries are permitted once the entry deadline has passed. No refunds will be issued after the entry fee is paid.

FEES

1. \$10.00 per image/album for PPOK members, including PPOK out of state members.
2. \$15.00 per image/album for non-members of PPOK. Non-member residents of Oklahoma are NOT eligible for awards, but will receive print scores. Non-member out of state entrants are only eligible for the Out of State trophy.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR DIGITAL ENTRIES

1. Files must be sized so the longest dimension is 4000 pixels. Each file must contain an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and be saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10. In most cases, total file size should not exceed 3.5 MP. Larger files will be accepted when necessary so long as they are JPEG/10.
2. Files are to be spelled and capitalized the way you want it printed and the title announced.
3. There is not a limit to the number of entries submitted by each maker.

VIEWING CONDITIONS FOR JUDGING

Monitor Settings: D65, 120 cd/m², 2.20 gamma

SCORING ENTRIES:

Juries will judge in open session and follow the PPA affiliated association judging procedures. The point system is used with scores ranging from 100 to 65 as follows:

- Exceptional 100-95
- Superior 94-90
- Excellent 89-85
- Deserving of Merit 84-80
- Above Average 79-75
- Average 74-70
- Below Exhibition Standards 69-65

The final score shall be the official score on these and on any challenged entry.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPEN SPECIFIC RULES

The purpose of this competition is to allow photographers to enter digital images and/or digital albums to be judged against a standard of excellence using the 12 Elements of a Merit Image.

1. Entrant must have captured and created the original exposure or exposures.
2. All processing, manipulation and rendering, must be done by the entrant.
3. The entrant has obtained and has access to all necessary releases (model or property) and agrees to hold PPOK harmless against all claims and liabilities arising out of PPOK's display, publication and promotion or other use of each image submitted to PPOK.
4. The entrant's name shall not appear anywhere in or on the face of the entry.
5. Makers may enter any number of entries. Their "case" will consist of their top six images they entered in Photographic Open. An album entry counts as one entry in the Photographic Open case.
6. No entry will be eligible if it has been made under the supervision of an instructor or as a class assignment. All images submitted must be self-directed. Images created in an educational environment under direct supervision from an instructor are ineligible.
7. Any entry that has been created from a photograph, portrait, graphic or any other

artwork produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be judged, accepted or displayed. If an entry, in the good faith opinion of the PPOK, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law, that entry shall not be displayed or published.

8. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts.

9. Entries previously entered in a PPOK Photographic Competition will be disqualified. An image that has been awarded a merit in PPA or a PPA District will be disqualified, including any image from a merited album.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

A maker may enter unlimited entries in the exhibition for which he or she qualifies. The entrant may also enter a case in the Artist Exhibition/Division.

1. **GENERAL EXHIBITION-** This exhibition is open to all members who do not hold the PPA Master of Photography and/ or Master Artist degree. Entries may be made in any of the print categories (see below).
 - a) **FIRST TIME ENTRANT-** (special subset of the GENERAL EXHIBITION) Any member who is entering 1st time in any State, Regional, or National photographic competition which is affiliated with PPA is eligible for this category. First time entrants in this division are eligible for a special trophy and entry forms should be marked accordingly.
2. **MASTERS EXHIBITION-** This exhibition is open to members who hold the PPA Master of Photography and/or Master Artist degree. Entries may be made in any of the print categories.
3. **OUT OF STATE EXHIBITION-** This exhibition is open to entrants living outside of Oklahoma. Out of State entries are eligible only for the "Out of State" plaque unless the entrant is a PPOK member, has paid registration fees and physically attends the event, in which case they will be eligible for all state awards.
4. **NON-MEMBER EXHIBITION-** This exhibition is open to Oklahoma residents who are not members of PPOK. These entries will be

Continued

judged for scores only; they are not eligible for awards.

5. **ARTIST EXHIBITION**- This exhibition is open to general or master members and is a separate entry case. Note: a maker may enter a case for the Artist Exhibition (Artist Division) in addition to (or instead of) their case for Photographic Open. See Artist Exhibit Rules for details.

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. **MP** - Man's Portrait - one male subject only
2. **WP** - Woman's Portrait - one female subject only
3. **CP** - Child's Portrait- one subject only
4. **HS** - High School Senior Portrait - Portrait of a High School Senior
5. **AP** - Animal Portrait - Portrait of an animal
6. **GP** - Group Portrait - two or more subjects, including pets
7. **CL** - Classical Portraiture - Portrait presented with minimal post processing work.
8. **WED** - Weddings - pertaining to brides or candid wedding images
9. **RAW** - Images displayed as they were captured, with no alterations other than presentation (mat and stroke around image). Maker will be required to submit RAW file for verification to Print Chairman after uploading JPEG file to printcompetition.com.
10. **L** - Landscape - Images include landscapes, outdoor scenic, sunsets/sunrises, urban landscapes, seascapes, and cityscapes.
11. **N** - Nature - Images include nature images, animals in their natural environment, flowers, and insects.
12. **C** - Commercial - An image that is designed to help sell, advertise or market a product, service, person or persons. Industrial images are included in the category.
13. **I** - Illustrative - An image that is designed to illustrate a story. This category would include any images that do not fall into the Portrait, Landscape, Nature, Commercial or Artist categories.
14. **ART** - Artist - Images displaying technique proficiency and artistic skill. These images typically include painted and composited images to convey a story, theme or message. In this category the maker may use images that are not created by the themselves. These entries must

display guide image(s) of original work(s).

15. **ALB** - A photographic album, is a collection of photographs. Subject matter could be any event, milestone, wedding or any other subject. The album is judged as a whole but every image within the album is evaluated using the 12 Elements of a Merit Print.

DIGITAL ALBUM ENTRY RULES

See Video Tutorial: www.ppa.com/ipc_tutorials

1. All page/spread files must have the longest file dimension at 4000 pixels, have an embedded color profile of either sRGB or Adobe RGB1998 and saved at a JPEG quality setting of 10.
2. Each page/spread file may contain as many images as you desire.
3. An entry shall contain a minimum of 5 page/spread files up to 36 page/spread files.
4. Files are to be numbered in viewing order using two digits, i.e. 01jpg, 02 jpg, 03 jpg, etc.
5. All individual files must be compressed into a single ZIP file. ZIP file are to be spelled and capitalized the way you want it printed.
6. Entries will be disqualified if the photographer's name, studio name or title appears on the front of the entry.
7. Albums are only allowed in the Photographic Open division.

ARTIST SPECIFIC RULES

The purpose of this competition is to allow the entrant to demonstrate their art skills and expertise. Entries will be judged for digital, artistic and technical proficiency. Entries can be created using digital compositing or computer graphic (such as digital painting or both) techniques or a combination of both. Entries will also be judged on the presentation of the final artwork, as defined in the 12 Elements of a Merit Image. All entries must be "original work."

1. Entries may be reproduced from existing photographs, portraits, graphics or any other artwork so long as the entrant is prepared to provide appropriate written documentation indicating permission for usage. This documentation may be requested by PPOK before, during or after the competition. If an entry, in the good-faith opinion of the Professional Photographers of Oklahoma Second Vice President, violates copyright, trademark or any other applicable law and cannot be proven

- otherwise, that entry shall be disqualified.
2. All processing, manipulation, artwork or rendering must be done by the entrant.
 3. Entries will be disqualified if the photographer's name, studio name or title appears on the entry.
 4. Entries previously merited in a PPOK Exhibition will be disqualified. Any image that has been awarded an exhibition or MIR merit in PPA prior to the past 2 months will be disqualified.
 5. There is no limit to the number of entries submitted per entrant. The 6 top scoring Artist images by the maker will define the Artist "print case".
 6. No entry will be eligible that has been made under the supervision of an instructor, during class time or as a class assignment.
 7. Entries of the same subject in multiple images will be allowed, as long as the images are entirely different concepts.
 8. Entries in the Artist category can include any type of subject. There are no subcategories in this division.
 9. All Artist entries must include at least one guide or reference image to show the work performed on the resulting entry. The guide images must be included on the submitted digital canvas.

AWARDS FOR EXHIBITING

1. Selection of entries to be exhibited will be made by the 2nd Vice President and the print committee when judging is completed. The number of points necessary for viewing is determined at that time.
2. The best accepted entry in each the General and Masters category within the Photographic Open division will be awarded a First Place plaque. The best accepted entry in the Artist division will be awarded a First Place plaque. Awards will be given to the best entries of the various categories and divisions by the majority vote of the judges in closed session.
3. The judges may also, at their discretion, give as many as two Distinguished Print ribbons and as many as two Honorable Mention ribbons in each division.

4. Plaques will be given for the most outstanding body of work submitted. Plaques awarded for total points are determined by adding together the top 6 scoring images of all entries by each entrant in his or her case with the highest print case total winning. In case of a tie, the majority vote of the judges decides the winner.
 - a) Past Presidents' Plaque for the best entry in the General Exhibition.
 - b) The Directors' Plaque for the best entry in the Masters Exhibition.
 - c) Two Presidents Plaques for the persons with the most total points from all his/her entries in the General and Masters Exhibitions. These awards will be designated as the "Oklahoma Photographer of the Year"-General Division, and "Oklahoma Photographer of the Year"-Masters Division.

5. Oklahoma Certified Professional Photographer

Trophy will be awarded to the PPA Certified entrant with the highest scoring entry.

6. The Out of State Trophy will be awarded to the person living outside Oklahoma with the most total points from his or her case in the Out of State Division, unless that entrant is a PPOK Member who has paid the convention registration fees and is in attendance at the convention, in which case they

are eligible for any member awards.

7. Nelson-Helt Memorial Scholarship for total case points for the First time entry in General Division.
8. Members' Choice plaque for the print with the most votes by registered convention attendees.
9. Judges may give "Judges' Choice" ribbons for prints selected by individual judges at their discretion.
10. Classic Portraiture plaque will be awarded for the best classic entry.
11. "Top 10 Oklahoma Photographer" ribbon will be awarded to the 10 photographers that have the highest total points, determined by adding together the top 6 scoring images of each entrant, regardless of degree or case type. In case of a tie, the majority vote of the judges decides the winner.
12. PPOK will not give awards other than those already stated without prior approval of the Board of Directors.

NEW THIS YEAR
TO PPOK IMAGE
COMPETITION:
THE TOP 10
CASES FROM ALL
ENTRANTS WILL BE
AWARDED TITLE
AND PRIZE FROM
MILLERS!



The Eye of the Beholder

Clem Wehner Lawton, OK

"Did you enter some prints?, he said. "Oh no, I'm not good enough for competition", she said.

I thought back to when someone asked me for advice on entering print competition. They were concerned about not being "good enough", and the rejection that comes from pouring your heart into something only to have it dismissed without comment by the judges.

The advice I gave the person who asked me, is to: understand the purpose of print competition. It's not to get high points (though it must feel really good judging by the giggling when someone gets them).

It's not about the points, it's about the process. Get involved in the shooting, tweaking, learning, tweaking some more, and getting ready to enter, because of what you learn in the process. It's how you grow as a photographer, how your eye becomes more educated, how you learn to critique your own work, what you learn about the elements of good photography and how to apply them. You'll learn to really "see" like never before.

The more you go through the process of preparing for competition, the better you'll become as a photographer and the more your business will benefit. Keep your eye on the prize—it's learning, not points.

We've all had the experience of looking back at some of our earlier photography and thinking how horrible it looked. The same will be true one day of your print competition entries. If you enter often, you'll see yourself improving steadily, regardless of the points.

Remember, points are fickle lovers. We've all seen prints that scored low at one competition hit the jackpot at another. The best approach is to force yourself to not get overly concerned with the points, but to realize the real objective is the learning process that comes with competing. There is a reason the best photographers seem to get all the points. But, they didn't start out that good, and neither can you.

Remember, the true value of competition is NOT in the eye of the beholder of your images, but what happens inside of you.

Editor's note:

Clem Wehner has written several articles for The Oklahoma Photographer through the years. He recently sent me several such articles and said "take it or leave it" on whether or not I reused some of them. Occasionally I have a single page to fill and I am thankful for articles like this one, that are always good reminders to enjoy the process, create art for yourself, and THEN share it with others. Image competitions don't have to be for the judges or the accolades, they can also be your creative outlet as an artist.

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