SIENA INTERNATIONAL PHOTO AWARDS 2018

2018 CONTEST RULES

by
SIPAContest 2018 Organising Committee
Siena, October 31th 2017

2018 CONTEST RULES

GENERAL RULES

Siena International Photo Awards is a photographic contest open to professional and no professional photographers from all around the world. An entry may be excluded from the contest where the Organising Committee, in its discretion, would consider it not in accordance to the rules and conditions of the competition.

THEMES AND CATEGORIES

The photos must be based on the following categories and themes:

General Color:

This category remains as attractive as ever for photographers who have an outstanding eye for photography that doesn't necessarily fall into any of the other categories. Wedding, Still Life, Product/Objects, Nudes, Music & Dance, Food, Fine Art, Fashion, Dinamics & Movement, Conceptual, Beauty, Automotive, Abstract, Science and Research are included in this category. All kind of editing, digital blending, layering are allowed in this category. Raw File is not requested.

General Monochrome:

This category remains as attractive as ever for photographers who have an outstanding eye for photography that doesn't necessarily fall into any of the other categories. Wedding, Still Life, Product/Objects, Nudes, Music & Dance, Food, Fine Art, Fashion, Dinamics & Movement, Conceptual, Beauty, Automotive, Abstract, Science and Research are included in this category. All kind of editing, digital blending, layering are allowed in this category. Raw File is not requested.

Journeys & Adventures:

Capture the extraordinary experiences which are an essential part of travelling, the discoveries, the adventures which inspire us and makes travel thrilling and astonishing, the differences in the way other cultures live.

Fascinating Faces and Characters:

We ask you to introduce us to the people you encountered, showing us their lives and expression from daily life: portraits or people in the context of their culture. Photographing people often requires interaction and communication with the subject and can, by its very nature, be intrusive. We want you to show us your skill to capture people, individuals, groups, community, at work, at leisure and at festivals.

The Beauty of the Nature:

Capture those vibrant moments and express what nature means to you! Captivating images of wild places with a unique perspective, from expansive landscape vistas of forests, deserts and mountains to the micro habitats of plants and other flora. Images may include water environments of oceans, lakes and rivers with images taken above or under water including waves, tide pools and other water scenes.

Animals in their Environment:

Wildlife as a way to evoke the atmosphere and the sense of place and to convey how an animal is an integral part of its environment. Celebrate and illustrate the rich diversity of life on Earth and inspire action to protect and conserve it through the power of imagery.

Architecture & Urban Spaces:

Old buildings define a past while new buildings shape a future, and the spaces around them create the interaction between architecture, inhabitants and environment. Capture the architecture of buildings, urban spaces or both in a single, strong image where they are a key element of the image.

Sports in Actions:

From sporting events to personal fitness, we want to highlight the emotions of physical exercise and competitiveness. We want to showcase the most creative and captivating sports photography as an art form. We're looking for defining action shots, decisive moments and displays of true comradery to help bring people closer the exciting world of action sports.

Splash of Colors (Special theme of the year 2018):

Color is everywhere: in flower gardens, on walls covered in graffiti, in the ocean and at Holi festivals. It brings meaning to national flags, support ribbons and belt levels in karate. Color infuses art, homes and nature with life.
We want you to find the most vibrant colors possible. Look for items and scenes that pop: funky street art, colorful furniture, kids' birthday parties, candy and craft stores. The possibilities are endless, so as always, we encourage you to be as creative as possible with this theme.

Portfolio Story-Telling:

We want you to show us your skills with visual story-telling by photographing people, nature, wildlife, music, sport, etc... and to tell a story in a portfolio from five to nine images. Think of this as a story in pictures and a way to convey something of the character of your subjects and create an article, illustrated without words. The same image can not participate in more than one section.

DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES

General Monochrome: An image is defined monochrome when its shades have no more than one colour (various shades of that colour from very light to very dark) but it may be any single colour. Multi-toned images (various shades of two or more colours) and grayscale images with even a slightly accent of a more colour added are not considered acceptable in the Monochrome category and should be entered in the Colour category.

Journeys & Adventures: Culture, Daily Life, Documentary & Photojournalism, Street Photography, Trip memories & Adventures, Other.
Photographs of people in their daily life but also images which not include people within the frame. Pictures taken catching landmarks and rural and urban settings but also people in everyday life.

Fascinating Faces and Characters: Men, Women, Children, Portraits, Human Relations, Other.
Photo of a person or a small group of people, in which the face and the expression are predominant. Images are also eligible when are shot in any environment as long as people are predominant in the scene.

The Beauty of the Nature: Aerial, Astrophotography, Environmental, Flowers & Plants, Trees, Mountains, Landscapes, Macro, Nightscape, Panorama, Seascapes/Waterscapes, Star Trail, Underwater (except fishes), Other.
It includes landscapes (not urban) and nature photography. It is required to show the impact of the world natural elements caused by an atmospheric event as a storm, a magnificent sunset or a snowfall to capture the majesty and the force of nature. People or animals can be included in the images as long as the main objective of the whole frame remains the impact caused by natural elements. Images representing country details, including flora or abstract elements as also atmospheric and lighting condition, can also be submitted in this category. Seascape photography is also accepted with pictures featuring the ocean or a beautiful isolated beach.

Animals in their Environment: Animals in nature (not domestic animal), Birds, Fishes, Other.
Images that feature every kind of animals (mammals, birds, etc...) within a natural environment; wildlife pictures or portraits. Underwater photography is also included.

Architecture & Urban Spaces: Bridges, Buildings, Cityscapes, Industrial, Interior, Panorama, Other.
Architecture and cityscape photography considering any buildings including skyscrapers, old edifice and monuments. Modern glass buildings where the image highlights the angles and geometrical shapes of the building can also be submitted in this category.

Sports in Actions: Any kind of professional and no professional sports, amateurs, other.
Shots capturing particular moments during major sport events as also the variety of ways sport is practiced worldwide, on a non-professional or professional level, competitively or for recreation.

Portfolio Story-Telling: Architecture, Documentary & Photojournalism, Music & Dance, Nature & Environmental, People, Sport, Wildlife, Other.
Sequence of images (min. 5 max 9) that tell a story. A set of photos with a free subject: thematic portfolios, photojournalism and storyboards (sequences of images that tell a story about nature, wildlife, ethology, natural environments and territory, etc.). The photographer is free to choose the topic, style, setting and subjects. It refers to five or more images linked together by a logical sequence. The project should be developed with a minimum of 5 images and a maximum of 9 connected together by a logical. Photos can be taken in sequence or in different moments as long as they result strictly connected with each other.

CALENDAR

Starting date:	2017, November 12th
Early Bird deadline:	2017, December 31st
Contest deadline:	2018, January 31st
Jurors voting session:	from March 1st to May 15th, 2017
Finalists call:	2018, April 1st
Call for HD files upload:	within 2018, April 15th
Contest results release to Awarded participants:	2018, June 10th
Awards Ceremony:	2018, October 27th
Beyond the Lens Exhibition opening:	2018, October 28th

ENTRY FEES

The payment of your Fee to allow you to participate to the photo contest can be made following the instructions given on your personal registration account page. The entry fees are to be paid following the instructions on the website when filling the entry form. Payment should be in accordance with the entry fees stated there. Cheques are not accepted. Entries for which payment results uncompleted will be automatically rejected and not admitted to the contest. Early Bird: all entries registered by December 31st 2018 will favour of the possibility to enter more photos (total 4 entries instead of 3, 12 entries instead of 10, 25 entries instead of 20). Additional photos can also be uploaded after December 31st 2018, provided that the payment of the registration fee had been processed before that date.
Total of entries is intended to be distributed freely across the different categories.

Professional photographers and amateurs
- € 20,00:   3 images (4 images if registered by December 31st 2018)
- € 25,00:   10 images (12 images if registered by December 31st 2018)
- € 35,00:   20 images (25 images if registered by December 31st 2018)
Storyboard Section:
- € 30,00   per each full storyboard entered

Under 20 (born after December 15th 1996)
- free: 3 images (4 images if registered by December 31st 2018)
- € 15,00:   20 images (25 images if registered by December 31st 2018)
Storyboard Section:
- € 30,00   per ciascuna storyboard

PAYMENT
- PayPal transfer to paypal@sipacontest.com (Preferred method)
- Credit Card
- Wire transfer: Account Name: Art Photo Travel, IBAN: IT 90 C 01030 14206 000000376166, Monte dei Paschi di Siena Bank - Ag. 6 Siena (Italy). SWIFT: PASCITMMSIEXXX - BIC CODE: PASCITM1SI6

PHOTOS SUBMISSION
All entries must be submitted online only. An image can not be entered in more than one category, but a Storyboard image may also be entered in a single image category. Photos must be in JPG file format, sRGB colour profile. File size of individual image should not exceed 2MB. The dimensions of photos must not exceed 1920 pixels and have 72dpi resolution. The evaluation of the photos will be made by jurors in Full HD screens. Works entirely created by computer, photomontages, photos with signatures or watermarks are not allowed.

FILE NAME
Free participant's choice. Maximum 30 characters allowed. Please do not use invalid characters such us?/ : ? * " < > | ' #. All information will be collected from the online entry system and the name of the image will be automatically displayed with the photo.

AUTHOR COPYRIGHT
Each participant owns the copyright of the submitted images. The participant certifies the work as its own. The entrant allows the contest organizers to use, free of charge, the entered images for promotional purposes related to the photo contest, as catalogue, calendar and website, unless specifically stated otherwise on the registration form by the participant. No photographs entered for Siena International Photo Awards will be offered for sale or used by any of the Siena International Photo Awards sponsors for any commercial or other purpose other than for the marketing of Siena International Photo Awards, the competition and/or the exhibition and catalogue without the approval of the photographer.

PUBLICATION OF IMAGES
Each participant is personally responsible for the images submitted to the contest and what it has been declared on the entry form. Participant also authorizes the publication and the images, in different size too if necessary, exclusively for matters related to the exhibition, for teaching, cultural or no-profit purposes.

REJECTION
An entry may be rejected by the Organising Committee if it does not conform to Contest rules and conditions.

DIGITAL POST PROCESSING PROCEDURES
You may use digital post processing to optimise an image, and you may crop a little an image but you are not permitted to add or remove key elements of the composition. Brightness, contrast, colour balance can all be adjusted. Dust spots, minor elements, etc. can be retouched. Images can be sharpened before printing. Post processing which could realistically be achieved in a darkroom will be accepted but jurors have the discretion to reject any entry which has been, in their opinion, over-manipulated, removing the integrity of the original image. Participants who will be listed in the final round are requested to submit the RAW/original camera files of their photographs in Nomination. All kind of editing, digital blending, layering are allowed only in the Open Color and Open Monochrome categories.

JURY PANEL RULES
Entries will be evaluated by a nominated Jury panel. Images will be judged category by category. The judging is anonymous. Judges are not aware of participants' names or details. The juror will assess the images for visual impact, composition, originality, technique, creativity, the ability to communicate a message, a feeling, or an

emotion. The selected SIPAContest Jury panel represents a broad spectrum of photographers and of editors. It is an international Jury Panel and it consists of respected photographers, editors, publishers, art buyers, curators and photo image experts. Each year a lay judge is also selected to represent the audience opinions of the large photography community. Sponsors are not included on the Jury Panel. All images participating to the SIPAContest are judged online by the entire Jury Panel, thus allowing all jurors to view the images independently, regardless of where in the world they are. The best entries of each category are chosen based on the total number of scores received. Top entries are shortlisted for the final judging round. The number of finalists varies from category to category and it depends on the overall standard of entries received. Before the final judging round all selected finalists are called to upload HD files with full captions by the deadline date to not be eliminated from the Contest. Category winners will arise from the highest image score per each individual category. Entries with the highest final score within each category will be declared as category's winner.

PRIZES

The participant with the highest final score image will be proclaimed with the title of Photographer of the Year SIPA Contest 2018 and will receive a prize equivalent to the amount of € 1,500.00 as attendance bonus to the Awards Ceremony. The decision of Siena International Photo Awards Jurors is final. The jury reserves the right to assign special prizes and the right to withhold some awards if the quality of submitted photos is not satisfactory. Prizes must be collected in person by the winner at the awards ceremony in Siena or by a person representing them. The Pangea Prize will be only delivered to the winners who will attend at the Awards Ceremony.

NOTIFICATION

All participants will receive a report card via e-mail with entries scores. All results will also be published on the website of the competition.

CATALOGUE

Each entrant will receive free of charge a best quality digital catalogue of all awarded works. On request you can also receive the printed catalogue.

ACCEPTANCE OF RULES

Submission of an entry implies the acceptance of all Siena International Photo Awards rules and conditions.

EXHIBITION

The awarded and finalist images will be published on the competition's website and showcased in a collective exhibition during Siena International Photo Awards Festival 2018. In addition some of the entries can also be selected to be exhibited in Italy and abroad. At the end of the exhibition cycle photo prints on display will be sold in a charity public auction in aid of a project of solidarity.

PRIVACY LEGAL INFORMATION

By filling the entry form, all authors automatically accept what is established by Italian Privacy law D.lgs 196/2003 and the following updates (D.lgs 69/2012). Participants allow the use of their personal data that the Organising Committee necessitate for the contest or for legal and associative reasons. Personal data will also be used by the Organising Committee to diffuse contest results and information about future contests.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Luca Venturi
Tel.:   +39 335-6816777
E-mail: info@sipacontest.com
Web site: http://www.sipacontest.com

FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Q: I have not received a confirmation e-mail, why is that?
A: Please check your spam or Junk mail folders for any emails from SIPAContest, and make sure to add info@sipacontest.com, noreply@sipacontest.com or sipa.noreply@gmail.com to your e-mail safe list.

Q: Are the RAW/original camera files requested?
A: Participants who will be listed in the final round are requested to submit the RAW/original camera files of their photographs in Nomination. All kind of editing, digital blending, layering are allowed in the Open Color and Open Monochrome categories.

Q: Should all images be entered in the same category?
A: No, you can also enter your images in several categories without any restriction.

Q: How should I submit my photographs for the competition?
A: Once you have completed the online submission form and filled in the details of your entry, you will be redirected to the upload page where you can upload your photos.

Q: Can I enter an image that has already been published or entered in other contests?
A: Yes, both published and unpublished work is accepted.

Q: Can I enter an image that won other competitions?
A: Yes, images that have won prizes in other competitions or that have been submitted to other competitions currently underway are eligible.

Q: Is there a time limit on when the photograph was taken?
A: No, there are no restrictions on the date of a photograph.

Q: I'm having problems uploading data.
A: Please, try to read the instructions on the entry form again. If you are unable to resolve the problem after reading the instructions, send an e-mail inquiry to info@sipacontest.com.

Q: When and how are the results announced?
A: SIPAContest will contact the winners via e-mail at their registered e-mail addresses by June 10th, 2018. We also plan to announce the winners and winning entries on the SIPAContest website (www.sipacontest.com) by October 27th, 2018 after Awards Ceremony.

Q: How will my images be used?
A: Your images are NEVER used for any purpose other than the promotion of the Siena International Photo Awards. All photographers thus far have been extremely grateful and happy with the manner in which their images have been used and promoted globally.

Q: Where will my image(s) be used/shown?
A: One of the greatest things about this competition is its global reach. Depending on what your image is chosen for (Beyond The Lens Exhibition, a poster for the SIPAContest, a Postcard for the SIPAContest, social, etc.), your image will be viewed with your full credit all around the world. The destination and promotion of your work is endless. By placing in the competition, you are agreeing to be included in the annual SIPA publication that showcases the full collection of winning images.

Q: Can I participate with a photograph that has been shared on a social media channel such as Facebook, Instagram, etc.?
A: Yes, that is possible.

Q: Are panoramic photograph(s) accepted?
A: Yes, they are.

Q: Is the judging anonymous?
A: Yes, judging is anonymous. Judges are not aware of participants' names or details.