SIENA INTERNATIONAL PHOTO AWARDS 2020

2020 CONTEST RULES

by
SIPAContest 2020 Organizing Committee
Siena, October 2019

2020 CONTEST RULES

GENERAL RULES

Siena International Photo Awards is a photographic contest open to professional and non-professional photographers from all around the world. An entry may be excluded from the contest where the Organizing Committee, in its discretion, should consider it not in accordance with the rules and conditions of the competition.

THEMES AND CATEGORIES

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

Photojournalism/Documentary:

Photojournalism is our window to the world around us.

Regardless of whether an image is considered spectacular or not, a photograph is a representation of all the words that we choose to say… or not say. Photography is a medium, unique to perhaps all other mediums, that has the potential to convey thoughts and feelings without saying a word.

It has been said that each photograph is worth a thousand words. Photographs represent ourselves and how we see the world. Seeing, after all, is believing. And nothing makes people see more than a strong photograph.

Image processing is allowed in this category, but it is the responsibility of the photographer to not manipulate or enhance the images in a manner that distorts or changes the reality of the scene.

Journeys & Adventures:

Capture the extraordinary experiences that are an essential part of traveling - the discoveries, and adventures that inspire us and make travel thrilling and astonishing - the differences in the ways other cultures live.

Capture an image that captures everyday life in a public space.

Fascinating Faces and Characters:

We ask you to introduce us to the people you encounter, showing us their lives and expressions 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 at capturing people. Share images of individuals, groups, communities, people at work, leisure, and festivals, for example.

The Beauty of 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 microhabitats of plants and other flora are a way to share one's appreciation for our amazing planet. Images may include water environments such as oceans, lakes, and rivers with images taken above or below water, including waves, tide pools and other water scenes.

Animals in their Environment:

Wildlife is 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 the past while new buildings shape the 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 architecture is a key element of the image.

All manners of editing, digital blending, and layering are allowed in this category. Raw Files will not be requested.

Sport in Action:

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 comaraderie to help bring people closer to the exciting world of action sports.

Street Life (Special theme of the year 2020):

If you are creatively capturing the weird and wonderful moments of life as they unfold around you, we want to see your work! From the pulsing arteries of a bustling metropolis to the quiet solitude of its empty backstreets. Glistening glass and steel, against crumbling brickwork and eroded stone. Chance encounters and random moments. Life exists in the streets. Take us there.

No matter your tools or your location, we want to see your unique perspective from the street, however, you define it. Urbanscapes, observational photography, accidental revelations, street encounters, city scenes… Inspire us with street photography, and the insights it can uncover.

Portfolio Story-Telling:

We want you to show us your skills with visual storytelling by photographing people, nature, wildlife, music,

sport, etc… and to tell a story in a portfolio that includes five to nine images. Think of this as a story in pictures and a way to convey something about the character of your subjects by creating reportage, illustrated without words. The same image may not be entered into more than one section.

Short Documentary Film:

The 5th Siena International Photo Awards contest hosted by Art Photo Travel challenges filmmakers at any stage in their career to create a short documentary film (five minutes or less) featuring PhotoJournalism, Sport, City, Travel, People, Wildlife, and Nature.

Short film videos and multimedia presentations must be hosted on a third-party site, such as Vimeo or You-Tube; entries must include a URL to the work.

The participant(s), or the agent or representative entering on their behalf, must be the copyright holder(s) or have been authorized by the copyright holder(s) to submit the material.

Agents or representatives entering on behalf of a production team must confirm, by entering, that each member of the production team accepts all the entry rules.

All entries must include the contact details of the participant(s) and of the production's contact person.

All entries must include a title, synopsis and complete list of the production team.

All productions must either have English-language audio and/or text or must be subtitled in English.

All videos should be submitted as a file (preferably as ".mov") via a file hosting website like dropbox.com, WeTransfer, Google Drive, etc.

For awarded material, winners must provide high-resolution production files for Short Documentary Film category winners. Copyright holders grant the Siena International Photo Awards unlimited, non-exclusive use of these materials for all activities in all media, including social media, online, in relation to the contest, the exhibition, the public archive, and all promotional and educational activities for and under the auspices of the Art Photo Travel Association, without any remuneration being due.

The copyright holders represent and warrant that submission of the material does not breach any law, and further, that no third party may hold any claims or any objections regarding the rights granted to the Siena International Photo Awards. The copyright holders will hold the Art Photo Travel Association harmless of any claims from third parties related hereto.

DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES

Photojournalism/Documentary: We ask you to capture the people and events that make the news, through single pictures documenting cultural, political, or social issues affecting individuals or societies; reporting on news topics and their aftermath; and documenting the impact of humans on the environment.

Journeys & Adventures: Culture, Daily Life, Trip memories & Adventures, Other.
Photographs of people in their daily life but also images that do 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.
Photos of a person or a small group of people, in which the face and the expression are predominant. Images are also eligible when they are shot in any environment, as long as people are predominant in the scene.

The Beauty of Nature: Aerial, Astrophotography, Environmental, Flowers & Plants, Trees, Mountains, Landscapes, Macro, Nightscape, Panorama, Seascapes/Waterscapes, Star Trail, Underwater (except fish), Other.
It includes landscapes (not urban) and nature photography. It is required to show the impact of the world's 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 is the impact caused by natural elements. Images representing country details, including flora or abstract elements, as well as atmospheric and lighting conditions, 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 animals), 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 including any buildings such as 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.

Sport in Action: Any kind of professional and non-professional sports, amateurs, other.
Shots capturing particular moments during major sports events as well as the variety of ways in which sport is practiced worldwide, on a non-professional or professional level, competitively or for recreation.

Street Life (Special theme of the year 2020): photography that portrays everyday life as it happens, on the streets and elsewhere; not only limited to bustling city streets, narrow alleyways, and busy urban centers. Street photography can happen in any public space, with people or without. The only rule of street photography is that it must capture a truly candid, unstaged moment that reveals some true aspect of society.

Portfolio Story-Telling: Architecture, Documentary & Photojournalism, Music & Dance, Nature & Environmental, People, Sport, Wildlife, Other.
A sequence of images (min. 5, max 9) that tell a story. A set of photos with an open 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 theme. Photos can be taken in sequence or in different moments as long as they are obviously connected with each other.

Short Documentary Film:
When life gets dull, it's time to see the world from a brand new perspective. Go off the beaten path on your walk, rediscover the beauty of the city, and take on new challenges to push your limits. A new world will appear when you look at it from different angles. Explore the world from a whole new perspective.
Videos from any platform are welcome.
Each entry must be less than five minutes long and include clips lasting at least 30 seconds.
Entrants may submit content to several categories featuring PhotoJournalism, Sport, City, Travel, People, Wildlife, and Nature.
A single submission may only qualify for a single category. One submission does not qualify for two or three categories.
Entrants must ensure submitted information is authentic and all content is original. Watermarks may influence the evaluation results. Submitting false information will result in disqualification.

CALENDAR

Starting date: 2019, October 27th
Early Bird deadline: 2019, December 1st
Contest deadline: 2020, January 5th
Jurors voting session: from February 1st to April 15th, 2020
Finalists call: 2020, February 18th
Call for HD files upload: within 2020, February 27th
Contest results release to Awarded participants: 2020, May 1st
Awards Ceremony: 2020, October 25th
Exhibition opening: 2020, October 26th

ENTRY FEES

The payment of your Fee to allow you to participate in 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. Checks 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 1st 2019 will favour of the possibility to enter each additional image with € 6,00 instead of € 8,00).

Additional photos can also be uploaded after December 1st 2019, provided that the payment of the registration fee had been processed before that date.

The total number of entries is intended to be distributed freely across the different categories.

Professional photographers and amateurs
- 1 image: -   free to enter
- 3 images: € 20,00 (free image included)
- each additional image   € 8,00 (€ 6,00 if registered by December 1st 2019)
Storyboard Section:
- € 35,00   per each full storyboard entered

Short Documentary Film
- € 35,00 per entry

Under 20 (born after October 27th 1999)
- 3 images: free to enter
- each additional image   € 8,00 (€ 6,00 if registered by December 1st 2019)
Storyboard Section:
- € 35,00   per each full storyboard entered

PAYMENT
- Credit Card (Preferred method)
- PayPal transfer
- 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 cannot 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. The file size of the 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 his or her own. The entrant allows the contest organizers to use, free of charge, the entered images for promotional purposes related to the photo contest, as a 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 purposes 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 has been declared on the entry form. The participant also authorizes the publication and the images, in a different size if necessary, exclusively for matters related to the exhibition, and for teaching, cultural, or non-profit purposes.

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

DIGITAL POST PROCESSING PROCEDURES
You may use digital post-processing to optimize an image, and you may crop images slightly, 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 and therefore 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 kinds of editing, digital blending, and layering are allowed only in the "Architecture & Urban Spaces" category.

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, and creativity and 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 "Photographer of the Year SIPA Contest 2020" and will receive a prize equivalent to the amount of € 1,500.00 as an 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 attend the Awards Ceremony.

NOTIFICATION
All participants will receive a report card via e-mail with entry 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 catalog of all awarded works. On request, entrants 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 Awards Festival 2020. 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 public charity auction in support of a project of solidarity.

PRIVACY LEGAL INFORMATION
By filling out the entry form, all authors automatically accept what is established by Italian Privacy law D.lgs

196/2003 and the following updates and by European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Participants allow the use of their personal data that the Organising Committee necessitates for the contest or for legal and associative reasons. Personal data will also be used by the Organizing Committee to diffuse contest results and information about future contests.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Luca Venturi
Phone: +39 350 5859151
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 upon Nomination. All kinds of editing, digital blending, layering are allowed in the "Architecture & Urban Spaces" categories. In these and only these categories, no RAW/original camera files will be requested.

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 has 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 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 May 1st, 2020. We also plan to announce the winners and winning entries on the SIPAContest website (www.sipacontest.com) by October 25th, 2020 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 promotion of your work is ongoing and on an international scale. By entering 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 acceptable.

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.