SIENA INTERNATIONAL PHOTO AWARDS 2024

2024 CONTEST RULES

by
SIPAContest 2024 Organizing Committee
Siena, October 2023

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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 disqualified from the contest if the Organizing Committee, at its discretion, determines that it does not comply with the rules and conditions of the competition.

THEMES AND CATEGORIES

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

Documentary and Photojournalism:

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 stands out as a medium that possesses the unique potential to convey thoughts and emotions without saying a word.

It is often said that each photograph is worth a thousand words, as it reflects our perspectives and how we perceive the world. After all, seeing is believing, and nothing captures people's attention quite like a powerful 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 alters the reality of the scene.

The Beauty of Nature:

Capture those vibrant moments and express what nature means to you! Unleash captivating images of untamed landscapes with a distinct perspective, ranging from vast forest, desert, and mountain panoramas to the intricate microhabitats of plants and other flora. This is an opportunity to share your deep admiration for our extraordinary planet.

Animals in their Environment:

Wildlife photography serves as a means to evoke the atmosphere and capture the essence of a specific location, while showcasing the profound connection between animals and their habitats. It provides a platform to celebrate and illustrate the remarkable diversity of life on Earth, inspiring action to protect and conserve our natural world through the power of imagery.

Sports in Action:

From sporting events to personal fitness, we aim to capture the emotions evoked by physical exercise and the spirit of competitiveness. Our goal is to showcase sports photography as a captivating art form that portrays the essence of athletic pursuits. We are looking for defining action shots, capturing decisive moments, and showcasing displays of genuine camaraderie to connect people with the thrilling world of action sports.

Street Life:

If you possess a creative eye for capturing the peculiar and extraordinary moments of life unfolding 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.

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:

Whether it's through portraits or capturing people in the context of their culture, we ask you to introduce us to the fascinating individuals you encounter, offering glimpses into their lives. Photographing people often requires interaction and communication with the subject and it can be intrusive by its very nature. We want you to show us your skill at capturing the essence of people. Share images that depict individuals, groups, communities, people engaged in work, leisure activities, or festive occasions, among others.

Underwater Life:

We are looking for images that unveil the captivating beauty and enigmatic life beneath the surface of water. Through your creativity and expertise in documenting marine animals, their habitats, and their behaviors, we aim to deepen our understanding of these fascinating creatures.

We want to inspire people by showcasing the inherent beauty of rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Storytelling:

This category seeks to recognize the art of captivating storytelling that resonates with audiences and leaves a lasting impact. This section aims to honor exceptional storytellers who have the ability to craft narratives that transport readers or viewers to new worlds, evoke deep emotions, and provoke thought-provoking discussions.

Whether it's through conflicts, environment, nature, daily life, or any other theme, we are interested in stories that captivate, entertain, and provoke reflection on the human experience.

The stories submitted to the STORYTELLING category will be evaluated and awarded in three different sections: "General News," "Daily Life and Contemporary Issues," and "Nature and Conservation Issues."

General news

The "General News" category encompasses a wide range of significant events from around the world. This category may include but is not limited to, news photographs capturing conflicts, social issues, political developments, cultural events, and other noteworthy occurrences that are considered important and relevant to a global audience. Photographs submitted to the "General News" category have to aim to convey a compelling visual narrative and provide insight into the diverse and dynamic nature of news stories worldwide.

Contemporary issues

The "Contemporary Issues" category focuses on pressing and relevant social, political, environmental, and cultural issues affecting our contemporary world. This category includes photographs that shed light on significant challenges, changes, and debates of our time, with the aim of raising awareness, sparking dialogue, and encouraging understanding and action. Topics covered in the "Contemporary Issues" category may include human rights, climate change, migration, inequality, discrimination, health crises, social justice, and other critical issues that impact societies globally. The photographs submitted to this category have to capture the complexity, diversity, and urgency of contemporary challenges, telling powerful visual stories that reflect the world's current state and the human experience within it.

Daily life

The "Daily Life" category captures the ordinary moments, routines, and rituals of people's everyday lives from around the world. This category includes photographs that provide a glimpse into the daily activities, culture, and lifestyle of individuals and communities, showcasing the human experience in various contexts and settings. Topics covered in the "Daily Life" category may include family life, work, leisure, education, religion, celebrations, and other aspects of daily living.

Nature and conservation issues

The "Nature and Conservation Issues" category showcases photographs that highlight various aspects of nature, including the environment, fauna, and ecosystems, as well as the relationship between humans and nature. The images may shed light on pressing conservation issues such as deforestation, climate change, pollution, wildlife poaching, habitat loss, and other environmental challenges that affect the natural world. The photographs submitted to this category may capture the beauty, fragility, and complexity of nature, as well as the efforts to protect and conserve our planet's biodiversity and natural resources. The aim of this category is to raise awareness, promote understanding, and inspire action toward the conservation of our natural environment.

Short Documentary Film:

This category is designed to challenge and inspire filmmakers at any stage in their careers to create compelling short documentary films. We are looking for films that showcase the diversity and beauty of life through various genres, including Photojournalism, Sport, Daily Life, Travel, Wildlife, and Nature.

We invite you to share your unique perspective and storytelling abilities as you explore the world through your lens. Whether you're a seasoned filmmaker or just starting out, we want to see your creativity and passion come alive on the screen. Your film should be a visual and emotional journey that transports viewers to new places, exposes important issues, and captures the essence of life in its many forms.

We encourage you to think outside the box and push the boundaries of traditional documentary filmmaking.

Films should be five minutes or less, but don't let the time limit deter you from telling your story with impact.

DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES

Documentary and Photojournalism: Capture the people and events shaping news through single pictures. Document cultural, political, and social issues affecting societies. Report on news topics and their aftermath. Showcase the impact of human activity on the environment. Inspire with your photography and drive meaningful discussions.

Journeys & Adventures: Culture, Daily Life, Trip memories & Adventures, Other.
Capture the essence of daily life, both with and without people. From iconic landmarks to rural and urban settings, photograph the diverse landscapes and explore the beauty of people in their daily life. Let your images tell the stories of cultures, trips, and memorable adventures.

Fascinating Faces and Characters: Men, Women, Children, Portraits, Human Relations, Other.

Highlight the power of expressions through captivating portraits. Focus on the face and emotions of individuals or small groups. Whether in any environment, ensure people are the central focus in the scene. Tell stories of human connections and relationships through your compelling photographs.

The Beauty of Nature: Aerial, Astrophotography, Environmental, Flowers & Plants, Trees, Mountains, Landscapes, Macro, Nightscape, Panorama, Seascapes/Waterscapes, Star Trail, Underwater (excluding fish), Other.

Explore the beauty of landscapes and nature through various photography genres. Capture the impact of natural elements caused by atmospheric events, such as storms, stunning sunsets, or snowfalls, showcasing the majesty and force of nature. While people or animals can be included, the primary focus of the frame should be the impact of these natural elements. Additionally, images depicting country details, flora, abstract elements, atmospheric and lighting conditions are welcome. Don't forget to include stunning seascapes, featuring the ocean or serene, isolated beaches, in this category.

Animals in their Environment: Animals in Nature, Birds, Fishes, Other.

Capture the beauty of animals in their natural habitats, including mammals, birds, and more. Showcase wildlife pictures and portraits that highlight the diverse range of creatures in their environment. Underwater photography is also welcomed in this category.

Sports in Action: Professional Sports, Non-Professional Sports, Amateurs, Other.

Capture remarkable moments from major sports events and showcase the diverse ways in which sports are practiced worldwide, whether it's professionals, amateurs, or individuals engaging in sports for leisure.

Street Life: Capture everyday life as it happens, on the streets and beyond. Street photography is not limited to busy urban areas—it can occur in any public space. Whether with or without people, the key is to capture candid, unstaged moments that reveal true aspects of society.

Underwater Life: Explore the captivating world beneath the water's surface. Capture the beauty and mystery of marine animals, their habitats, and behaviors in rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans.

Storytelling: The project should be developed with a minimum of 5 images and a maximum of 9 connected together by a logical theme that tells a story about nature, natural environments, conservation issues, daily life, etc. The photographer is free to choose the topic, style, setting, and subjects. Photos can be taken in sequence or at different moments, as long as they are clearly connected to each other.

Short Documentary Film:
We challenge filmmakers at any stage in their career to create a short documentary film (if possible four 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.

CALENDAR
Starting date: 2023, October 2nd
Early Bird deadline: 2023, December 1st
Contest deadline: 2024, January 9th
Jurors voting session: from January 31st to April 14th, 2024
Finalists call: 2024, February 17th
Call for HD files upload: within 2024, February 25th
Contest results release to Awarded participants: 2024, May 2nd
Awards Ceremony: October 2024
Exhibition opening: October 2024

ENTRY FEES

To participate in the photo contest, please follow the payment instructions on your personal registration account page. Entry fees should be paid as directed on the website during the entry form submission. 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 before December 1st 2023 can enter additional images for €9.00 each instead of the regular fee of €10.00.

After December 1st, 2023, you can still upload additional photos provided that the registration fee has been paid prior to that date.

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

Professional photographers and amateurs
- 1 image: Free entry
- 3 images: € 20,00 (free entry included)
- each additional image € 10,00 (€ 9,00 if registered by December 1st 2023)

Storytelling Section:
- € 35,00 per full storytelling entered

Short Documentary Film
- € 35,00 per entry

Under 20 (born after October 2nd 2003)
- 3 images: Free entry
- each additional image € 10,00 (€ 9,00 if registered by December 1st 2023)

Storytelling Section:
- € 35,00 per full storytelling 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. Each image can only be entered in one category, but a storytelling image can also be submitted in a single image category. Photos should be in JPG file format, sRGB or Adobe RGB color profile. Ideally, the file size of each image should not exceed 2MB. The dimensions of the photos should not exceed 1920 pixels, and they should have a resolution of 72dpi. The evaluation of the photos will be conducted by jurors using Full HD screens. Computer-generated works, photomontages, photos with signatures or watermarks are not permitted.

FILE NAME

Participants are free to choose the file name for their submission, with a maximum limit of 30 characters. Please avoid using invalid characters such as ?/ : ? * " < > | ' #. The online entry system will collect all necessary information, and the name of the image will be automatically displayed alongside the photo.

AUTHOR COPYRIGHT

Each participant retains the copyright of their submitted images. By entering the contest, the participant certifies that the work is their own. Unless explicitly stated otherwise on the registration form, participants grant the contest organizers the right to use the entered images free of charge for promotional purposes related to the photo contest. This includes usage in catalogues, calendars, videos, and the contest website.
It is important to note that no photographs entered for the Siena International Photo Awards will be sold or used by any sponsors of the awards for commercial purposes without the photographer's approval. The photographs will only be used for the marketing of the Siena International Photo Awards, the competition, and/or the exhibition and catalogue.

PUBLICATION OF IMAGES

Participants are personally responsible for the images they submit to the contest and the information declared on the entry form. By participating, participants authorize the publication of their images exclusively for matters related to the exhibition, including the possibility of resizing if required. Additionally, the images may be used for teaching, cultural, or non-profit purposes.

REJECTION

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to reject an entry if it does not adhere to the rules and conditions of the contest.

DIGITAL POST PROCESSING PROCEDURES

Digital post-processing is allowed to optimize an image, including adjustments to brightness, contrast, and color balance. Minor cropping and retouching of dust spots or minor elements are also permitted. Sharpening before printing is acceptable. Post-processing techniques that could realistically be achieved in a darkroom will be accepted. However, the jurors hold the discretion to reject any entry that, in their opinion, has been excessively manipulated, thus compromising the integrity of the original image. Participants who are selected for the final round are required to submit the RAW/original camera files of their photographs during the Nomination stage.

JURY PANEL RULES

A nominated Jury panel will evaluate the entries, judging them category by category. The judging process is anonymous, with judges unaware of participants' names or details. They will assess the images based on visual impact, composition, originality, technique, creativity, and their ability to convey a message, feeling, or emotion.

The SIPAContest Jury panel represents a diverse range of photographers, editors, publishers, art buyers, curators, and photo image experts. Additionally, a lay judge is selected each year to represent the opinions of the photography community. Sponsors are not part of the Jury Panel.

All images submitted to the SIPAContest are judged online by the entire Jury Panel, enabling jurors to independently view the images from anywhere in the world. The best entries in each category are selected based on the total number of scores received. The top entries are then shortlisted for the final judging round. The number of finalists varies across categories depending on the overall quality of the entries.

Before the final judging round, selected finalists are required to upload high-definition (HD) files with full captions by the specified deadline to remain eligible for the Contest. Category winners are determined based on the highest image score within each category. Entries with the highest final score in their respective categories will be declared as winners.

PRIZES

The participant with the highest final score image will be named the "Photographer of the Year SIPA Contest 2024" and will receive a prize equivalent to €1,500.00 as an attendance bonus for the Awards Ceremony. The decision of the Siena International Photo Awards Jurors is final.

The jury has the discretion to award special prizes and may withhold some awards if the quality of the submitted photos is not satisfactory.

Please note that winners are required to collect their prizes in person at the awards ceremony in Siena or designate a representative to do so on their behalf. The Pangea Prize will only be awarded to winners who attend the Awards Ceremony.

NOTIFICATION

Participants will receive a report card via email with their entry scores. Additionally, all results will be published on the competition's website.

CATALOGUE

The photos awarded and commended by the jury of the Siena International Photo Awards 2024 will be featured in a prestigious large-format photographic book with a hardcover.

ACCEPTANCE OF RULES

By submitting an entry, participants indicate their acceptance of all the rules and conditions of the Siena International Photo Awards.

EXHIBITION

The awarded and finalist images will be published on the competition's website and showcased in a collective exhibition during the Siena Awards Festival 2024. Selected entries may also be exhibited in Italy and abroad. At the conclusion of the exhibition, the displayed photo prints will be sold in a public charity auction to support a solidarity project.

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 Organizing 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.

FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Q: I have not received a confirmation email, why is that?
A: Please check your spam or Junk mail folders for any emails from SIPAContest, and make sure to add news@artphototravel.com e news@sienawards.com to your email 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.

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 email inquiry to help@sienawards.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 2nd, 2024. We also plan to announce the winners and winning entries on the SIPAContest website (www.sipacontest.com) by October 2024 after the 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 ("Imagine all the People sharing all the World" 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 "Beyond The Lens" 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.