SIENA INTERNATIONAL PHOTO AWARDS 2025

2025 CONTEST RULES

by
SIPAContest 2025 Organizing Committee
Siena, October 2024

2025 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:

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 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.

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.

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.

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

Street Life:

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.

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.

Underwater Life:

We are looking for images that show the beauty and mysterious life underwater to learn more about marine animals, their habitat and their behavior thanks to your creativity and ability to document them.

We want to inspire people about the 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 challenges filmmakers at any stage in their career to create a short documentary film (if possible five minutes or less) featuring PhotoJournalism, Sport, Daily Life, Travel, 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

Documentary and Photojournalism: 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.

Sports 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: 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.

Underwater Life: Images that show the beauty and mysterious life underwater to learn more about marine animals, their habitat and their behavior 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 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.
Films should be five minutes or less, but don't let the time limit deter you from telling your story with impact.
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: October 1, 2024
Early Bird deadline: December 1, 2024
Contest deadline: January 9, 2025
Jurors voting session: January 31 - March 14, 2025
Finalists call: February 8, 2025
Call for HD and RAW files upload: February 15, 2025
Contest results release to Awarded participants: March, 2025
Awards Ceremony: September, 2025
Exhibition opening: September, 2025

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 are incomplete will be automatically rejected and not admitted to the contest. Early Bird: all entries registered by December 1st 2024 will favor the possibility to enter each additional image with € 9,00 instead of € 10,00).

Additional photos can also be uploaded after December 1st 2024 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 € 10,00 (€ 9,00 if registered by December 1st 2024)

Storyboard Section:
- € 35,00 per each full storyboard entered

Short Documentary Film
- € 35,00 per entry

Under 20 (born after October 1st 2005)
- 3 images: free to enter
- each additional image € 10,00 (€ 9,00 if registered by December 1st 2024)

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. Photos must be in JPG file format, sRGB or Adobe RGB color profile. The file size of the individual image, if possible, 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 as / : ? * " < > | ' #. 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, video 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, color 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.

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 SIPA contest 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 in the SIPA contest 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 2025" and will receive a prize equivalent to the amount of € 1,500.00 worth of photography equipment. 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.

CATALOGUE

The photos awarded and commended by the jury of the Siena International Photo Awards 2025 will be collected in a precious large-format photographic book with a hardcover.

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 2025. In addition, some of the entries can also be selected to be exhibited in Italy and abroad.

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 the Siena Awards, 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.

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 in March, 2025. We also plan to announce the winners and winning entries on the SIPA contest website (www.sipacontest.com) by October 2025 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 SIPA contest, a Postcard for the SIPA contest, 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.