

# HOUSTON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## SCHEDULE "A"

### Print Competition Rules and Guidelines

Effective January 2015

1. Only paid members in good standing may enter prints in any Society competition. Prints must be entered per the Society's current print competition rules and guidelines. Such prints are to be brought to the meeting in which they are competing and logged on to a signup sheet, which will be available for each participation group (see groups below).
2. Monthly Print Competition: The monthly print competitions are divided into four groups: "Platinum" "Gold," "Silver" and "Bronze."
  - (a) A new member will be placed in the "Bronze" group. If a new member believes he/she should be in the "Silver" group, he/she may submit a portfolio of not less than ten prints to the Executive Committee and if they approve, he/she will be placed in the "Silver" group.
  - (b) At the end of each calendar year, the members of the "Bronze" group who have earned 12 points or more (see below) will be placed in the "Silver" group.
  - (c) At the end of each calendar year, the members of the "Silver" group who have earned 14 points or more (see below) will be advanced to the "Gold" group.
  - (d) By the end of two calendar years, the members of the "Gold" group who have earned 32 points or more (see below) will be advanced to the "Platinum" group.
3. Competition Categories: There are three possible competition categories: (a) Black and White, (b) Color, and (c) Special Assignment\*.
  - \* (c) Special Assignment: Photos for this category must be taken during the year of the assignment time period and not from a time preceding the announced assignments. The intent of this category is to be treated as an assignment and not to go digging through ones archives for an appropriate image.
4. Points Criteria:
  - (a) Points for ribbons awarded in Black & White and Color entries count toward competition group advancement (see below). Points for ribbons awarded for Special Assignment entries accumulate toward the year-end Special Assignment trophy ("Excellence in Photography") and gift certificate. Special Assignment print entries do not count toward group advancement.
  - (b) Points Basis: Points are earned according to the following schedule for all groups and categories:  
1st Place ribbon=3, 2nd Place ribbon=2, 3rd Place Ribbon=1, HM=0.
5. Print Criteria:
  - (a) A member may enter up to two prints for any given monthly competition (including one only in special assignment category). By prearrangement with the Print Competition Vice President, exceptions can be made. (Example: In order to retain the integrity of a series - up to three images may count as one image.)

- (b) All images must have originated as a photograph or photographs of the original subject or subjects exposed by the entrant. Multiple exposures of the same subject from the same camera location within a limited time-frame (different aperture, shutter speed, or focus settings; time-lapse; HDR; etc.) are acceptable. Multiple exposures of the same or of different subjects, grouped together as an artistic statement into a single image and produced through in-camera exposure, traditional darkroom printing, computer-based digital post-processing, or other techniques (collages, overlays, texture maps, contact print, etc.) are also acceptable. Multiple, separate prints matted or framed together as an artistic statement and mounted on a single board (diptychs, triptychs, etc.) are also acceptable. A hand-colored print, or a primarily monochrome print with even a single small color element, should be entered in the color category.
  - (c) Print size: Any size is allowed; however, prints and mats larger than 24x30, and requiring special handling and lighting, are the responsibility of the member submitting the print.
  - (d) All prints must be either matted or mounted. Prints are not to be framed. All prints must have some sort of rigid backing.
  - (e) Prints must have the photographer's name, print title, group, print category, and image orientation on the back of the entry.
  - (f) Mats may be any color. White, off-white, or near white are recommended.
  - (g) Prints that place are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. A print may not place but qualify for Honorable Mention, at the judge's discretion. This print is not eligible for the year-end competition but may be reentered in a subsequent monthly competition.
  - (h) A print that did not Place or receive an Honorable Mention in a monthly print competition may be reentered into a monthly competition again. The intent of this provision is to allow the print maker the opportunity to make changes based on the critique with the hope that the print may improve in its standing.
  - (i) Prints that place 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in a given year's competition may not be reentered. Prints that are the result of sequential motor drive or sequential digital images, while they may be technically different images, are considered one image, or a sequence, for competition and are eligible only once.
  - (j) If a print is "Untitled," a description should be put on the entry form, for example "Untitled: Tree in snow." When displayed for critique, "Untitled" will be read out loud, but the description will be recorded for purposes of identifying the print for year-end competition.
6. If there are fewer than four entries in a category of one group, those will be combined with the same category in the next group above or below depending upon the group. For example, if there are only 3 entries in Bronze B&W, they will be combined with Silver B&W for purposes of selection of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and HMs if any. If this occurs in the Platinum Group, they will be combined with the Gold Group. In the case of four entries, one ribbon. If five entries, two ribbons. If six or more entries, three ribbons. In all cases HM ribbons maybe awarded in any numbers at the discretion of the judge.
7. Monthly competitions will be judged and critiqued by an outside professional. In the case that a judge cannot be arranged or cancels, the competition will be judged by ballot by the Society members present at the competition.
8. When print competitions are judged by Society members, the Print Competition VP will place a unique numbered post-it note on each print. A ballot will be handed out to each member present. Thirty minutes will be allotted for the members to vote. Each member will award one vote for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each category (Special Assignment, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum) by putting the number of the print they choose for each place for each category (see sample Ballot). The ballots will be

collected and tallied by the VP Print Competition with the assistance of other executive board members present. Fifteen to thirty minutes will be allotted for tallying and recording votes.

- For each 1<sup>st</sup> place vote, 3 points will be counted.
- For each 2<sup>nd</sup> place vote, 2 points will be awarded.
- For each 3<sup>rd</sup> place vote, 1 point will be awarded.
- The print in each category with the highest number of points will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place.
- The print in each category with the second highest number of points will be awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- The print in each category with the third highest number of points will be awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- In the case of a tie, the executive committee members will select the winner.

The remainder of the print competition meeting will be allotted to awarding ribbons and comments.

### **\*Definitions**

**Impact:** The image should hold the viewer's interest, stop the eye, and make the viewer say, "Why didn't I see or think of that." It should set a mood, exhibit creativity and conceptualism, and have a sense of style.

**Composition:** Composition is the tool that the photographer uses to handle the subject matter at his disposal in the photograph's space so as to best express his purpose. Basic rules of composition apply – the organization of the physical elements, the arrangement of shapes, forms, masses, etc., the rhythm of the piece and its (harmonious) proportions all come into play.

**Lighting:** This will show the ability and technique used by the photographer to control the lighting to enhance the image. The light must be appropriate for the subject and the mood that the image-maker was trying to express.

**Mechanics:** This exhibits the photographer's ability to execute an image that has high impact and is well composed and lit with the photographic tools at his disposal. He will utilize such tools as lens selection, focus, depth of field control, white balance, ISO, time of day, perspective control, selection of film and paper, darkroom techniques and appropriate print presentation.

9. Prints are anonymous. In order to avoid favorable or prejudicial treatment by a judge to a known photographer's work, prints when placed for critique will only have titles announced and not the photographer's name. Exception to this anonymity rule applies only if the judge wishes to ask a question of the photographer, at which point the photographer is permitted to answer the question--but not elaborate or present additional information.
10. The print chairman may reject prints entered in any competition if the print submission guidelines are not followed. However, the photographer may appeal to the Executive Committee for reconsideration. The Committee's decision will be final.
11. There will be a print of the year competition held in December. Only prints that placed first, second or third during the year will be eligible. Awards will be presented in January at an awards ceremony. Year-end 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, as well as HM ribbons will be awarded for Color and Black & White prints. Prints that won ribbons in Special Assignment are eligible for year-end competition in either color or black & white. The print of the year (Best of Show) will be selected from the combined "Platinum," "Gold," "Silver," "Bronze" and Special Assignment color and black & white groups. In addition, a trophy/plaque will be awarded ("Excellence in Photography") to the person with high points for Special Assignment competitions during the year.

- 12.** The prints of the year competition will be judged by individuals not connected with the Houston Photographic Society and who have credentials in the photographic arena, which qualifies them to judge photographic work.
- 13.** The Print Vice President or President may contact the Houston Public Library, main branch - downtown or other designated venue to reserve space during the month of January (or other available time) for the Society's Annual Exhibit. This is optionally at the Print VP's discretion and with counsel of the Executive Committee. See the Operations Manual - Exhibits & Shows for details.
- 14.** The Print Vice President will be responsible for storing and maintaining the materials necessary to exhibit the Society's images at the Annual Library Exhibition in January as well as for other exhibitions. He shall also coordinate or appoint a Coordinator to organize and set up such exhibits. See details in the Society's Operations Manual.

# Houston Photographic Society

## Print Competition Member Ballot

Month \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Place the number of the image in the space next to your award choice.

Bronze Color		Bronze Monochrome	
1 <sup>st</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Silver Color		Silver Monochrome	
1 <sup>st</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Gold Color		Gold Monochrome	
1 <sup>st</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Platinum Color		Platinum Monochrome	
1 <sup>st</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Special Category			
1 <sup>st</sup>			
2 <sup>nd</sup>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>			

