## COMPETITION CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

All competitions encompass the following four categories:

### Open Colour
Any photograph that does not fit into the other categories below and has colour.

### Monochrome
Any photograph containing shades of only one colour. If toning is carried out, it must be over the total photograph. Partial toning or the addition of an extra colour is not acceptable.

### Set Subject
Photographs that fit into the following set subjects:

| | |
|---|---|
| February: | Architecture |
| March: | Food Photography |
| May: | Performance |
| July: | A Pair |
| September: | Pastels |
| November: | Night |

# SET SUBJECT DEFINITIONS

## Architecture
Pictures depicting the interior or exterior of any manmade structure portraying the surface texture, lighting, colour, or geometry and emphasising the character or beauty of the structure and suggesting its purpose or human associations. People, statues, and fountains may be included but not be the dominant point of the image.

## Food Photography
Food photography encompasses images where food is the main or prominent element within the frame. This genre allows for the inclusion of people engaging with the food, provided that their involvement contributes to conveying a narrative.

## Performance
Elements of a performance photograph is being able to capture sharp images, or alternatively enough motion blur to suggest movement rather than camera shake. Think sports performance or dance.

## A Pair
Two similar or related items that show a relationship to each other. Items may be animate (people or animals) or inanimate. Storytelling should be evident in the image and the title.

## Pastels
Pastel colours have enough white mixed into them to take away the saturation and turn them into a pale version of colours. Using pastels often results in more elegance and delicacy, especially if taken in soft diffused light. Images can be flowers, architecture, portraits, animals, or even landscapes.

## Night
City lights, a street photo or perhaps life behind the lighted window.

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# Creative

## What is it?
Creative photography is 'altered reality'. The image must display a change in natural colour, form, shape, or any combination of these three and/or form an abstract image.

## How is It Captured?
The image must be modified during exposure in the camera and/or modified after exposure in post-processing.

## Own Work
The original image must be captured by the author and be of a photographic origin. All elements used to create the image must be of the authors' own work, however it is acceptable to use textures and overlays purchased as long as it's not more than 25% of the final image.

## Post-Processing
All work during post-processing must be done by the author. Currently accepted processes in post-processing software are acceptable, such as content aware fill to remove distractions, and expanding the image borders, however changing backgrounds, or adding elements by **AI generative fill** are not.

Replacing skies is acceptable if the sky you are using is your own work. Software filters, actions and presets are acceptable to be used. Photoshop brushes are acceptable if they are a minor element in the overall image.

## What can be included?
Examples of creative photography may include composites, multiple exposures, light painting, motion blur, intentional camera movement, and extreme up-close abstracts.

## What is not acceptable?
High dynamic range (HDR) without further changes, and non-creative images are not acceptable. Images must not be entirely constructed within a computer i.e. AI.

# ENTRY RULES AND GUIDELINES

- All the Competition Categories are run each competition.

- Each member will be able to enter a **maximum of 4 images in total.**

- Each member may enter a maximum of 4 images per category.

- Images must have been taken within the **previous year or the current year** i.e. anytime in 2023 or 2024 and images taken outside these times will be immediately disqualified.

- Images must have been taken by the member entering the image.

- Currently accepted processes in post-processing software are acceptable, such as content aware fill to remove distractions, and expanding the image borders, however changing backgrounds, or adding elements by AI generative fill are not. Replacing skies is acceptable if the sky you are using is your own work.

- Effects such as backgrounds, textures, actions/presets, overlays etc. can be utilised as long as the image is predominately the member's own work. i.e. 75% or more of their own images. This doesn't apply to the Creative category.

- The same or substantially the same images cannot be entered in this competition regardless of image titles. Colour and monochrome images produced from the same image capture are considered the same image for this rule.

- Images accepted in previous competitions, or images considered by the committee to be substantially the same, are ineligible for entry in any of the sections.

- AI generated images are not allowed.

- All post-processing must have been completed by the entrant, or under their explicit instruction.

- Member must be financial and a member of the Creative Shots Photo Club in My Photo Club to enter competitions.

**Some things to consider before entering your images:**

1. Does the image suit the topic?

2. Does your image have a main subject or elements so there is no doubt what your point of focus is?

3. Is there enough contrast on the main subject/element?

4. Do you have elements in the image that are distracting? Coming in from the outside frame that are not necessary?

5. Does your image have a colour tone that suits the mood of the image? i.e. warm tones for friendly and inviting, cool tones for isolation and loneliness.

6. If you are entering multiple images of the same subject, you really are competing against yourself as the Judge will consider one of the images against the other similar one. Its best to pick the best one in a series of images.

# JUDGING CRITERIA

All club competitions will be sent for external judging.

## Awards and Scores

Awards and scores given by the Judge for each image are described in the table below. The score you receive for each image entered will earn you points towards the annual Club Awards.

| Award | Score | Description |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Champion Image of the Month | 10 | **An exceptional image overall:** The one image that stands out as being a worthy Champion Image of the Month. |
| Honour | 9 | **An exceptional image:** An image that has visual impact, one that compels you to keep coming back to it, an image that may speak to the viewer and hold them.<br>The image may compel a story and or have a strong atmosphere.<br>The image should be of high technical standard and quality unless the story is highly emotive and all empowering. |
| Highly Commended | 8 | **A high quality image:** An image that has high impact, it may tell a story and/or create feeling within the viewer. The image has a centre of interest and is of a high technical standard and quality. |
| Commended | 7 | **A good image:** An image that has a point of interest and or has a story line that connects with the viewer. The image has minimal technical and post-processing issues and has good presentation. |
| Merit | 6 | **A sound image:** An image with interest that may tell a story or have a feeling of presence. The image could have technical issues but be of good presentation. |
| Acceptance | 5 | **An image that meets the requirements of the theme:** An image of minimal impact which may have multiple technical issues and or requires further enhancements to bring it to a higher level. |
| Out of Category | 1 | This is an image that is outside the category/theme, or an image that is a direct copy of another artist's work (copy right breach) without any additional enhancements to make it unique to the member. |

## SUBMISSIONS

- Images must be submitted as a digital file by uploading to My Photo Club by the due date.

- To upload your images click on the gray MEMBERS button and select the green button for the relevant CSPC competition. To access competition upload instructions click on the pink ENTRY HELP button in the upload entry dialog box.

- Images for the competition must be submitted no later than the same date as the preceding month's Information Night. No late entries will be accepted, you can submit them in the next round.

- Name your digital files with the title of your photo, including spaces, and they must not exceed 35 characters:

  Image Title
  i.e.
  Wonder Wheel

- Digital files are to meet the following sizing requirements:
  - File format: JPEG (.jpg)
  - Colour space: sRGB
  - Resolution: No less than 72 pixels per inch
  - Maximum file size: 2 MB
  - Maximum horizontal dimension: 1920 pixels
  - Maximum vertical dimension: 1080 pixels.

- All images will be displayed on the Competition Night and critiques read out.

- The Judge's score is final.

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- As every effort is made to calibrate the computer screen and the projector to get the colours correct, members will need to realise that the digital file may not view the same if their home computer screens are not calibrated.

- By providing your images in digital format, you automatically agree that the Club can share your images on the Club's website, social media, and Newsletter.

# Good luck with your entries 😊