F-STOP PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY KEMPTON PARK

Proudly presents:

PSSA Patronage # B 2027/15
Presentation Medium: Projected Digital Images (PDI)

F-Stop Photographic Society invites all members of the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA) world wide and all photographers resident in South Africa to participate in their National Digital Salon of Photography.

The Salon will be conducted within the requirements and practices as prescribed by PSSA.

SALON DIRECTOR

Belinda Ueckermann APSSA, DPSSA(Vers), DPSSA(Cls), AFIAP
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SALON ADMIN

Deidre Schnetler
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SALON TREASURER

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SALON CALENDAR:

Closing Date:	13 February 2027 at 23h59
Judging completed by:	28 February 2027
Results mailed by:	14 March 2027
Posting of Digital Catalogue by:	16 April 2027
Final Posting of Awards:	01 April 2027

A digital catalogue containing the salon acceptances and awards will be made public on F-stop's website https://fstopphoto.co.za, and the link will be mailed to all entrants.

AWARDS:

The following awards will be presented in each of the Projected Images sections:

- PSSA Silver Medal for the overall winner in each category.
- Club Silver Medal for the runner-up in each category.
- Certificates of Merit will be awarded according to PSSA guidelines.

CATEGORIES:

- Category 1: OPEN COLOUR - Manipulation is allowed
- Category 2: OPEN MONOCHROME - Manipulation is allowed
- Category 3: NATURE NO BIRDS - Manipulation is not allowed - Colour
- Category 4: NATURE BIRDS ONLY - Manipulation is not allowed - Colour
- Category 5: TRAVEL & STREET PHOTOGRAPHY - Manipulation is not allowed - Monochrome
- Category 6: ALTERED REALITY & CREATIVE - Manipulation is allowed - Colour

ADJUDICATION PANEL:

1. **OPEN COLOUR - Manipulation is allowed**

Judge 1:	Robbie Aspeling - APSSA, EPSSA	Independent
Judge 2:	Stephen Kangisser - APSSA, EPSSA, AFIAP	Sandton PS
Judge 3:	Fraser Bryce	F-Stop PS

Judging to take place on 20 February 2027 at 13h00 at NG Church Bonaero Park, Malpensa Avenue, Bonaero Park, Kempton Park

2. **OPEN MONOCHROME - Manipulation is allowed**

Judge 1:	Simon Fletcher - HonPSSA, APSSA, EPSSA(Cls), DPSSA(Vers), EFIAP	Southern Suburbs CC
Judge 2:	Russell James - APSSA, EPSSA(Platinum), DPSSA(Vers), EFIAP	Southern Suburbs CC
Judge 3:	Natasha Bird - APSSA, EPSSA, DPSSA(Vers)	Southern Suburbs CC

Judging to take place on 20 February 2027 at 09h00 at Baker Tilly, 1st Floor, Block C, Infinity Office Park, 2 Robin Close, Meyersdal, Alberton

3. **NATURE NO BIRDS - Manipulation is not allowed - Colour**

Judge 1:	Mariana Kruger - APSSA, EPSSA, DPSSA(Vers), EFIAP	Sandton PS
Judge 2:	Alta Oosthuizen - FPSSA, APSSA(Vers), EPSSA(Diamond), DPSSA(Vers), EFIAP/b	NPC
Judge 3:	David Woolf Stein - APSSA, DPSSA	Sandton PS

Judging to take place on 20 February 2027 at 07h00 at Afrigold Wellness, 24 Saddle Drive, Woodmead Office Park, Woodmead

4. **NATURE BIRDS ONLY - Manipulation is not allowed - Colour**

Judge 1:	Rodney Cory - APSSA(Vers), EPSSA(Premium), DPSSA(Cls-Vers)	Springs PC
Judge 2:	Kelly Clarke - LPSSA, DPSSA	Springs PC
Judge 3:	Barend Lindeque - LPSSA	Springs PC

Judging to take place on 20 February 2027 at 09h00 at Presbyterian Church, 7A Impala Street, Edelweiss, Springs

5. **TRAVEL & STREET PHOTOGRAPHY - Manipulation is not allowed - Monochrome**

Judge 1:	Jill Sneesby - Hon MPSSA, MPSSA, FPSSA(Dux), AV-FPSSA, MFIAP, ESFIAP, PFIAP, Hon PSA, FPSA, Hon CPA	PECC
Judge 2:	Charmaine Joubert - FPSSA, EPSSA, EFIAP	PECC
Judge 3:	Mayra Dold - APSSA	PECC

Judging to take place on 20 February 2027 at 09h00 at 1 Dormy Place, Walmer, Port Elizabeth

6. **ALTERED REALITY & CREATIVE - Manipulation is allowed - Colour**

Judge 1:	Martin Dudley Barber - FPSSA, APSSA(Vers), EPSSA(Diamond), DPSSA(Vers), EFIAP/b	Southern Suburbs CC
Judge 2:	Corine Ross - APSSA(Vers), EPSSA(Cls)	Independent
Judge 3:	Michelle Rademeyer - LPSSA, DPSSA	F-Stop PS

Judging to take place on 20 February 2027 at 08h00 at NG Church Bonaero Park, Malpensa Avenue, Bonaero Park, Kempton Park

JUDGING:

- Presented images will be adjudicated “Live” via "Live Judging”.
- Various categories have been allocated to groups of judges who will judge the allocated category "live" at venues as indicated above under categories.
- Each photo will be judged by 3 judges. The sum of the 3 scores will represent the final score.
- Where 2 or more adjudicators are of the opinion that an image does not conform to the definition of the entered category, the image will be rejected. In the case where 1 adjudicator is of the opinion that an image does not conform to the definition of a specific category, the average point of the remaining 2 adjudicators will represent his final score.
- Disqualifications must be referred to the PSSA Salon Committee who will verify and approve the disqualifications after investigation.
- Any image that the Salon Director considers pornographic or offensive to the public may, on consultation with the judges, be disqualified.

DEFINITIONS:

MONOCHROME

Monochrome is a black and white image. A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with various shades of grey.

A black and white work toned entirely in a single colour will remain a monochrome work able to stand in the black and white category.

A black and white work modified by a partial toning or by the addition of one colour becomes a colour work (polychrome) to stand in the colour category.

1. **Category 1 - OPEN COLOUR - Manipulation is allowed**
   In this category the subject is totally open. Monochrome images will be disqualified.

2. **Category 2 - OPEN MONOCHROME - Manipulation is allowed**
   In this category the subject is totally open. Colour images will be disqualified.

3. **Category 3: NATURE NO BIRDS - Manipulation is not allowed - Colour**
   Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both overwater and underwater. Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism's life or welfare are not allowed.
   The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural.
   • Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.
   • Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
   • Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centers, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.
   • Attracting or controlling subjects using food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animals' control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.
   • Controlling live subjects by chilling, anesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.
   • Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:
   a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post a man-made object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.
   b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.
   c) Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.
   • When photographing at a zoo, sanctuary, or rehabilitation center, it would be construed that the photographer ensured that it is properly accredited and conforms to best practices.
   • If birds are present the birds must be the secondary feature.

4. **Category 4: NATURE BIRDS ONLY - Manipulation is not allowed - Colour**
   Nature images of Birds - subjects may be in controlled conditions. Photographs of feral/domestic/farm birds or mounted specimens are ineligible. Human elements, if present should not detract from or overpower the subject. If other animals are present the bird/s must be the main feature.

5. **Category 5: TRAVEL & STREET PHOTOGRAPHY - Manipulation is not allowed - Monochrome**
   The primary subject is people and/or symbols of people, at rest or in motion, alone or with others, going about their everyday activities. Close up pictures of people or objects should include features that provide information about the environment.

6. **Category 6: ALTERED REALITY & CREATIVE - Manipulation is allowed - Colour**
   An image that clearly goes beyond a straightforward pictorial record of a scene.
   Reality is altered in an obvious manner, or the subject is interpreted in a creative way, so that the image conveys a feeling or a message, or tells a story. The result may be achieved digitally or in camera, for example through composites, multiple exposures, intentional camera movement, distortion, unusual perspectives, abstraction or creative use of colour and light.
   An image does not have to be manipulated to qualify, but the creative intent must be evident. Straightforward photographs without obvious alteration or creative interpretation are better suited to the Open categories.
   All elements of the image must be photographed by the entrant. Textures, overlays, backgrounds, brushes or any other material not created by the entrant, and any AI-generated content, are not allowed. Monochrome images will be disqualified.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

1 **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:**

AI-created images are **NOT ALLOWED** in this salon! Images created or altered by artificial intelligence are banned in PSSA Salons and Competitions. All parts of the image must be photographed by the author, who must hold the copyright and retain the original RAW/Unretouched JPG files with EXIF data intact. RAW files may be requested for any category. DNG files are not accepted as original RAW files.

Generative AI technology consists of:

· In-painting (where AI fills in generated elements not captured by the photographer or removes and replaces elements from a photograph with AI-generated content),
· Out-painting (where AI extends beyond the original boundaries of the photograph using generated elements); and
· Image-to-image AI (where AI transforms an entire photograph based on text prompts or style references)
· Text-to-image (where images are generated from scratch based on text entered into a prompt description)

AI features like clearing, de-noising, masking, sharpening, subject selection, tone adjustments, and upsizing are allowed in our competitions if they follow editing criteria and only include elements captured by the entrant. AI sky replacement is allowed if the entrant captured the new sky.

Taking inspiration from other photographers or artists is acceptable, but copying the original work's colour, composition, elements, perspective, angle, subject, and tone is not. Photographers must not capture screen images or photograph images found online and use them in their composite images for submission to salons, panels, or competitions. All post-processing of submitted images must be done by the entrant, except for scanning negatives and printing. Copying any part of someone else's image or artwork by tracing, sketching, etc., is prohibited.

2 **MANIPULATION:**

Manipulation is **strictly prohibited** in the Nature, Photo Travel, Street, Sport, and Photojournalism categories, as well as in any categories defined accordingly. Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, apart from conversion to grayscale monochrome, which is permitted. Over processed images will be disqualified.

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

· Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
· In Nature and Wildlife, **NO** vignette may be added.
· Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
· Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
· All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.
· Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or oversaturation of color.

Allowed editing techniques:

· Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
· Flipping an image horizontal or vertical.
· Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.
· Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the
· A very subtle vignette is allowed except in Nature and Wildlife.
· Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.
· Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending/HDR or focus stacking).

In the case of Nature exposure blending/HDR and focus stacking will not be considered as manipulation and may be used provided that the end result is a faithful representation of the original scene.

Exposure blending/HDR and Focus stacking are **NOT** allowed in Photojournalism.

· Image stitching - combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).

In Open categories and those where manipulation is permitted, there are no limits on how authors may choose to post-process an image except for the use of brushes, actions, overlays, backgrounds or any other element that is not the original work of the author.

The Salon Director will always request the original RAW/JPG file(s) with the EXIF data intact from those Entrants who have been initially selected for the Medals and COM's in the "NO MANIPULATION" categories. If the PSSA Salon Committee confirms that the image has not been manipulated, then the award will stand for those Entrants. The Salon Director and the judging team for that category will decide on the replacement images for the Medals and COMs in line with the recommended acceptance levels. Entrants will be allowed 4 days to provide the Original RAW/JPG file(s) where after the Entrant will not be eligible for Medals or COM's. Refusal to submit these will result in referral to the PSSA Salon Committee and inclusion on the transgression list.

3 The entrant accepts without exception and with no objection the following terms:
- that PSSA can audit and investigate the submitted images at any time to establish if these adhere to PSSA regulations and definitions even if the entrant is not a member of PSSA,
- Failure to Provide these will result in referral to the PSSA Salon Committee and inclusion on the transgression list.

4 Attach Proof of Payment (POP) in PDF format to your PhotoVault Online Entry. **Entries with insufficient fees or without POP will be rejected.**

5 An image may be used only once in a specific salon, panel, or competition, regardless of the category or whether the image is in colour or monochrome. Similar images are not permitted. If an image appears in more than one category, the second instance of the image will be disqualified. Monochrome and colour variations originating from a single image are considered identical unless there is a substantial difference in artistic treatment. Additionally, similarity may occur when elements are replicated across different composite images.

6 Each image must have a unique name; the name of the image may not be altered as acceptance records are based on the image name. Titles such as “Untitled” and “No Title” are not acceptable, nor are titles consisting solely of camera filenames or numbers. Sanctions will be imposed if an accepted image or print is re-titled, or if different titles are used for Colour and Monochrome versions or Print and Projected Digital Image versions of the same image. Both images will be disqualified.

In addition, so-called “sister images” — where there is very little discernible difference between two images — will be regarded as the same or substantially similar image. Such images may not be entered under different titles unless there is a clear and significant difference in composition and/or artistic treatment between them.

7 Entrants may submit up to four images in each PDI category and six in each print category of a national salon.

8 Images that were accepted previously in a National Salon by the hosting club or society cannot be entered again into their National Salon but may be submitted to an International Salon hosted by the same club or society. This rule also applies to International Salons.

9 Images that do not meet the category's definition or criteria will be disqualified by the judges.

10 The image must not display any title, watermark, or identification of the creator.

11 The salon does not assume responsibility for any copyright violations by the entrant.

12 Judges are **not** allowed to enter categories in which they are judging. If a judge enters any category they are responsible for, the images will be disqualified.

13 Family members (spouse, partner, parents, grandparents, siblings, children and grandchildren) can enter categories judged by relatives but cannot win medals (winner or runner-up).

14 Members of the judging club are not eligible for top awards (winner and runner-up medals), but can receive certificates of merit and/or special club awards for categories judged by their club. A club is classified as a judging club if its members make up most of the judging panel for the category in question.

15 The Salon Director and anyone involved in processing or accessing images may **NOT** serve as judges for the salon.

16 Entrant's images will be randomly distributed among categories for judging.

17 **NO** late entries will be accepted.

18 **DATA PROTECTION:**
By entering this salon, you consent to the personal details you have provided, including email addresses, being held, processed, and used by the salon organisers for purposes related to this salon. You also consent to such information being sent to organisations that have granted official recognition, patronage, or accreditation to this salon. You acknowledge and accept that the status and results of your entry may be made public.

19 **BREACH OF CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:**
The Salon Director can disqualify entries that do not meet the Conditions of Entry, including Definitions, before, during, or after judging and void any acceptance or awards. Fees will be forfeited. Entries violating ethics will be investigated by the PSSA Salon Committee who may impose sanctions, list the entrant on a sanction registry, and share findings with FIAP and PSA. The final decision to disqualify an image lies with the PSSA Salon Committee. Entrants agree to these terms.

20 You are entitled to appeal against a disqualification within 14 days after receiving your results. Appeals must be sent to the Salon Administrator at admin@pssa.co.za.

21 Submission of entries signifies acceptance of these Conditions of Entry.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES:

Entries must be submitted online to **www.photovaultonline.com**

- A maximum of four images may be entered in each category;
- JPEG file format;
- File size may not exceed 2MB;
- Images must be resized to a maximum of 1920 pixels on the horizontal axis OR a maximum of 1080 pixels on the vertical axis;
- It is recommended that the image is converted to the sRGB colour profile to ensure correct colour rendition during display and adjudication;
- Borders are optional, but within the size restraints as described.
- No title, watermark or identification of the maker of the image shall be visible anywhere on the image;
- An acknowledgement of receipt of such an entry will be sent to the entrant automatically via Photovault Online once the entrant has finalised his/her entry on Photovault Online. If no entry confirmation is received within three working days, the entrant should contact the salon director.

FEES:

The entry fee will be R9 per image for PSSA members and R14 per image for non-PSSA members for each category entered.

Only electronic payments via EFT will be accepted.

No CASH or CHEQUE deposits will be accepted.

BANKING DETAILS:

Account Name:	F-Stop Photographic Society
Bank Name:	First National Bank (FNB)
Branch Code:	210835
Account Type:	Cheque Account
Account Number:	6316 818 4976

Please use the word "Salon" and your name and surname as reference. (Example: "Salon Jack Black") when doing the EFT payment.

Please take note: OUR BANKING DETAILS HAVE CHANGED from Capitec to FNB!

Proof of Payment (POP) MUST accompany your entry in PDF format and attached in the Photovault Online entry. Entries received with insufficient fees or without the POP will be rejected.

Thank you for sharing your vision with us!
Every image you enter tells a story, and we can't wait to see yours.
Good luck from all of us at F-Stop Photographic Society.