2026-1207 2026-286 2026-181

# 6TH ESTEEM CIRCUIT 2026

## EXHIBITION DETAILS (Part A)

**Chair:** **Ruma Ghosh (India)**
Email: circuitesteem@gmail.com
Entries accepted via website: https://esteem.fotoartcontest.com and click on Register

### SECTIONS AND THEMES

Four Sections and Six Salons – All digital.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OPEN COLOUR** | (PIDC) | Color only |
| **OPEN MONOCHROME** | (PIDM) | Monochrome only |
| **NATURE GENERAL** | (ND) | Color or Greyscale Monochrome |
| **PHOTO TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY** | (PTDD) | Color or Greyscale Monochrome |

### FEES AND DISCOUNTS

**International Entrants**

€35 for any 1 section
€4 for additional section

Group Entry

€32 for group of 6 or more entrants in one or all sections entry
€30 for group of 8 or more entrants in one or all sections entry
€28 for group of 12 or more entrants in one or all sections entry

**Indian Entrants**

INR 1800 for any 1 section
INR 250 for additional section

Group Entry

INR 2100 for each member of a group of 6 or more entrants in one or all sections
INR 1900 for each member of a group of 8 or more entrants in one or all sections
INR 1600 for each member of a group of 15 or more entrants in one or all sections

**Early Bird Entry Fee (*to be paid within 26 May 2026*)**
International Entrants: €33 for all sections
Indian Entrants: INR 1700 for all sections

**Payment Details**
PayPal ID: circuitesteem@gmail.com
BANK DETAILS are available to Indian authors once they register for the contest.

Entries for which no fee is received within the closing date will not be judged. Once paid, entry fees will not be refunded

## CALENDAR

| | |
|---|---|
| **Closing date:** | **2026-06-25 UTC−12:00, Baker Island** |
| All judging completed by: | 2026-07-23 |
| Score reports sent by: | 2026-07-30 |
| EDAS submitted by: | 2026-08-24 |
| Online Galleries posted by: | 2026-08-13 |
| Award/Catalog posted by: | 2026-09-23 |
| Status Page and Website availability until: | 2027-06-25 |

## JUDGES

For All Sections

**SALON 1:**

Arvid Nielsen (PPSA, EFIAP) - Denmark
Peter Teuschel (MPSA2) - Germany
Tibor Jakab (MPSA) - Romania

**SALON 2:**

Rabia Basha (EPSA) – Israel
Ruediger Schulz (MPSA) - Germany
Ovidiu Gabor (PPSA) - Romania

**SALON 3:**

Gary Butler, (PPSA) - USA
Hai Nguyen (MPSA, EFIAP, EVNPC) - USA
Jiahong Zeng (GMPSA, EFIAP/b, BPSA, GAPU) - USA

**SALON 4:**

Hein Htet (GMPSA, EFIAP, GPU Zeus) - Myanmar
Diana Chan Wai-Sze (MPSA, BPSA, EFIAP, FHKAPA, FAPU) - Hong Kong
Si Thu Ye Myint, SPSA, PPSA, SPSA, EFIAP - Myanmar

**SALON 5:**

Sadiqur Rahman (AFIAP) - India
Koshal Basu (EPSA) - India
Avik Sett (MPSA) - India

**SALON 6:**

Gillian Steyn (EPSA) - England
Michael Strapec (PPSA) - Ireland
Sonja Vander Meulen (MPSA) - Belgium

## AWARDS

| OPEN COLOUR (PIDC) | OPEN MONOCHROME (PIDM) | NATURE GENERAL (ND) | PHOTO TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY (PTDD) |
|---|---|---|---|
| PSA GOLD MEDAL | PSA GOLD MEDAL | PSA GOLD MEDAL | PSA GOLD MEDAL |
| GPF MEDAL | GPF MEDAL | GPF MEDAL | GPF MEDAL |
| Passion Medal | Passion Medal | Passion Medal | Passion Medal |
| 3 x Jury Choice E-Certificates | 3 x Jury Choice E-Certificates | 3 x Jury Choice E-Certificates | 3 x Jury Choice E-Certificates |
| 3 x Salon Diploma E-Certificates | 3 x Salon Diploma E-Certificates | 3 x Salon Diploma E-Certificates | 3 x Salon Diploma E-Certificates |
| 3 x Honor Mention E-Certificates | 3 x Honor Mention E-Certificates | 3 x Honor Mention E-Certificates | 3 x Honor Mention E-Certificates |

**1 Best Club/Group Award** for the circuit (Minimum 18 entrants)

- To be eligible for Best Club/Group Trophy, minimum 18 participants from a club/group must participate and pay their entry fees. Awards for members from the same group/club will be sent to a single address.

**1 Best entrant of the circuit- IIG MEDAL** (most number of acceptances)

- Best Entrant will be judged on total number of acceptances. In case of tie, number of awards shall be counted. Again, in case of tie, Circuit Chairman shall take final decision.
- Note: Jury Choice, Salon Diploma and Honor Mention awards will be in the form of electronic certificates in PDF format can be downloaded from exhibition website on/or before the date of award despatch.
- Awards shall be sent by India post.
- The organizer is required to adjust the number of awards based on the total number of acceptances.

## CATALOG

On-line PDF Exhibition Catalog shall be available for download from exhibition website.

## RESULT

Result can be downloaded from the website and individual scorecards will be emailed. Authors must download digital award, if any, and acceptance certificate, if any, from the exhibition.

## DIGITAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

a) Photos must be submitted in JPEG file format following instructions https://esteem.fotoartcontest.com. Title of each image cannot exceed 35 characters. Titles do not need to be translated to English but must be given in English characters.
b) Maximum Horizontal length is 1920 pixels Maximum Vertical length is 1080 pixels at 300 dpi. Compression 7-12, maximum 2MB.
c) Exhibitions are not allowed to resize oversized images. In such cases the entrant is required to resubmit their entry with properly sized images.

## JUDGING METHOD

- Judging is to take place remotely.
- Equipment to be used will be color-calibrated and images will be displayed at exactly 100% of their resolution.
- Award session will be held with all of the judges together remotely.
- Distribution of images shall be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant, but they shall not appear to the judges' consecutively. Remote judging will take place and all judges shall use their own Color calibrated equipment capable of displaying submitted images at 100% of their resolution.
- At no stage will exhibition software allow a judge to view all the entrant's images together.
- Target Acceptance Range: 24 - 30%

# EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS: (Part B)

**Applicable Rules:** This exhibition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the PSA.

**Entry Requirements:** This exhibition is open to everyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the exhibition chair believes the entry does not conform to PSA exhibition rules and these Conditions of Entry. Membership in any photographic organization is not required. Neither awards nor acceptances will be granted to any entrant who is on the PSA Penalties List for Ethics Violation, and entry fees are not refundable in these circumstances. Throughout this document, entrant, author and photographer are used interchangeably, and each term refers to the person who is the original creator of a submitted image. Entrants are required to submit their own entries with properly sized images.

**PSA Star Ratings:** To receive star ratings credit from PSA, entrants must provide their names and country exactly the same way in each exhibition. Aliases are not permitted. Please contact PSA in the event of a name change or relocation to another country. Using one's name differently in different exhibitions exposes the entrant to the risk that many of their acceptances may not be recognized in PSA Star records.

**Reproduction:** Entrants grant sponsors free reproduction rights for exhibition-related media, including low-resolution web posting. Entries will not be accepted from entrants who restrict

reproduction rights. PSA may request specific permission for educational use under mutually agreed terms. If an image violates PSA's exhibition rules or its Ethics Policy, PSA may reproduce the image without permission for educational purposes or to illustrate rule violations, with the entrant's name withheld. Neither PSA nor the exhibition assumes liability for copyright misuse.

**Re-use of accepted images:** Any image that has been accepted in this exhibition, past or present, may not be entered again in the same division star ratings class in any future instances of this exhibition. It may be entered in any other PSA recognized exhibitions but must always have the same title. Re-titling in another language is not allowed.

**Entry:** An entry consists of up to 4 images per section, with each image limited to 20 total acceptances per star path. Identical or similar images are prohibited within the same exhibition, and if similar images are uploaded, all will be disqualified across all sections. While similar images may be entered in different exhibitions, they may later be disallowed during star/diamond/galaxy application reviews. Similar images are those which are practically equivalent, as defined on the page available at https://psa-services.org/ES/#entrants. To avoid disappointment, do not enter images that are practically equivalent. Watermarks, copyright text or any other visible markings are prohibited.

**Titles:**

- Each image requires a unique name that contains a maximum of 35 characters.
- Each title is to be used consistently across all PSA exhibitions, without variations introduced by typographic errors or punctuation.
- Nothing in the image title can identify the photographer.
- A title should be an interpretive or meaningful title that transforms a visual document into a deliberate artistic statement. Titles entered as file numbers such as IMG_6608, DSC-76499 or in any other camera file format are prohibited.
- Meaningful Titles may be followed by numbers, for example, Ballet Dancer 34.
- Titles may use Latin1 or Latin2 character sets which allow diacritical marks (é, ñ, ü, ą, ę, ś, etc), however non-Latin writing systems (العربية, русский, ελληνικά, 中文, カタカナ, देवनागरी ) may cause problems in Catalogs, Galleries and Star applications.
- Color and Monochrome images from the same capture that share substantial pictorial content in common will be considered the same image and must be given the same title.

**Protection of Entrants' Personal information:** By entering this exhibition, you agree to comply with PSA rules and policies, and consent to the exhibition chair and recognized organizations holding and processing your personal details for exhibition purposes, and accept that your participation status (name, country, sections/photos entered) and results will be made public in status lists, galleries, and catalogs.

**Target Acceptance Range:**

- The acceptance target range will be no more than 30% in each section except 3D, which cannot be more than 45%.
- No image may receive more than one individual award in a section of any salon.
- In circuits, an image may receive an award in different salon sections.
- The organizer is required to adjust the number of awards based on the total number of acceptances.
- For sections with more than 250 images, no more than 10% of the acceptances can receive awards.
- For sections with 250 images or less, the chair will allow a maximum of 7 awards.

## SUBJECT MATTER AND SECTION DEFINITIONS:

While the following section provides summaries of PSA definitions, entrants must refer to the PSA website for the authoritative definitions for each Division:
https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/exhibitions

**Image Creation and Authorship**
**Summary:** All submitted images must be entirely the photographer's original work, including post-processing, with every pictorial element captured by the submitting photographer. Images must not incorporate or present other artists' work as the photographer's own, in whole or in part (clip art, stock images, replacement skies, photos of others' artwork, AI-generated content, etc). The term author refers to the person who is the original creator of a submitted image; photographers may own the rights to use purchased content, however authorship requires that all visual elements in the submitted photograph be personally created by the photographer. Photographers must retain copyright ownership of all visual elements contained within any submitted image, including composites. A violation of this rule constitutes plagiarism, a serious PSA ethics offense.

**Artificial Intelligence**
**Summary:** Recognizing the rapid evolution of AI software, this rule is subject to change. For the latest rules, consult the AI Statement on PSA's website. AI photo editing tools which enhance, adjust, or intelligently modify what was already captured in your photograph are permitted, provided they use only visual information already present in your photograph. Outpainting tools (generative fill) which allow you to expand a cropped image using a context-aware extension of the original photo are permitted, unless restricted by the Division's definition. Other generative AI tools that generate new synthetic visual content based on external image data not originally present in the author's photograph are prohibited, regardless of how small the edited area. Any person who violates this AI rule shall be banned from PSA exhibitions for a period ranging from 3 years to permanent exclusion. See additional AI notes in the editing matrix below.

**Subject Matter**
**Summary:** PSA's fundamental rule prioritizes animal welfare over photography, prohibiting baiting with live creatures, nest disturbance, endangering subjects, or depicting feeding of live prey to captive animals. Aerial photography must not disturb individuals or animals and must comply with local regulations. The images must comply with the division and section definitions listed on the PSA website; images that do not comply will be disqualified by the judges. Participation in PSA exhibitions is conditional on entrants accepting these policies.

**Color versus Monochrome (Black and White)**
Within photography an image is either monochrome or color; there is no third option.

- A **color image** is defined by the presence of more than a single color or hue. If an image is treated with two or more colors in any manner or any amount (spot coloring, duotone, etc), it is a color image.
- A **monochrome image** is defined by the presence of exactly one color or hue; it can display unlimited variations in that single color's intensity, tints, and shades but may not include additional colors (partial toning, split-toning, spot coloring, etc). Black and white images (also referred to as grayscale) are considered monochrome, though technically they are achromatic images which may span the full tonal range from black to white. **Monochrome images may not be entered in color sections of PPD or PID.**

**Pictorial Image Division (PID) Definition**
https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#pid
**Summary:** PID allows open photography with no subject or editing technique restrictions, other than those listed in the PSA guidelines that apply to all Divisions (i.e. authorship, AI, etc). The division includes both unrestricted open sections and themed sections with specific definitions to guide judges and participants. PID includes 2 Star paths: color and mono.

**Nature Division (ND) Definition**
https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#nd
**Summary:** Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both over water 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.

**Photo Travel Division (PTD) Definition**
https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#ptd
**Summary:** A Photo Travel image is a portrayal of the world we live in, without geographic limitations. New for 2026, PTD is divided into 2 Star Paths: PTD Documentary (PTDD) and PTD World in Focus (PTDW). PTD Documentary remains as a reality-based PTD definition, portraying the world as it is found naturally, through images of distinctive places or through images of people who show distinct cultural characteristics or activities. In PTD Documentary images must avoid studio-like settings and setup or arranged photography. In contrast, PTD World in Focus is aligned with the FIAP World in Focus definition. PTD World in Focus allows for images of places or people found naturally, as well as a more diverse range of content such as food and studio portraits. In PTD World in Focus, images that are setup or arranged are allowed.

| **MATRIX OF EDITING TECHNIQUES (2026)**<br>**permitted [✓] prohibited [X] no restrictions [NR]** | reality divisions | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **ND** | **PTD** | **PJD** | **3DD** | **PID/PPD** |
| a) Cropping, straightening and perspective correction. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NR | NR |
| b) Removing or correcting elements added by the camera or lens (dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration, lens distortion). | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NR | NR |
| c) Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NR | NR |
| d) Complete conversion of color images to monochrome grayscale. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NR | NR |
| e) Using **permitted AI-enhanced editing** (see Note 1 below). | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NR | NR |
| f) Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas). | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NR | NR |
| g) Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking). | ✓ | ✓ | X | NR | NR |
| h) Combining images (2-4), each with a small white border on a single image that depicts a progression of events or related activity. | X | X | ✓ | NR | NR |
| i) Adding, deleting or moving pictorial elements of which you **ARE** the author. | X | X | X | NR | NR |
| j) Removing, adding, or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening. | X | X | X | NR | NR |
| k) Blurring or darkening parts of the image to hide pictorial elements, or adding a noticeable (dark or light) vignette during editing. | X | X | X | NR | NR |
| l) All color conversions other than to monochrome grayscale. | X | X | X | NR | NR |
| m) Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color. | X | X | X | NR | NR |
| n) Using **prohibited AI-enhanced editing** (see note 2 below). | X | X | X | X | X |
| o) Adding pictorial elements of which you **ARE NOT** the author, such as sky, background, people, animals, etc. Refer to the PSA statement on Image Creation and Authorship. | X | X | X | X | X |
| p) Adding a watermark, copyright or any similar visible markings. | X | X | X | X | X |

**Notes:** Understanding which techniques are prohibited is crucial to avoiding low scores, disqualification and potential penalties. Always refer to the PSA website for the complete and current rules and definitions governing exhibitions: https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/exhibitions

1. **Permitted AI-enhanced editing:** includes editing tools that perform transformations, enhancements, or corrections based exclusively on the existing pixel data captured in the author's original photograph without introducing externally-sourced content.
2. **Prohibited AI editing:** includes any AI-assisted processes for synthetic image generation that incorporate external image data, visual elements, textures, objects, or scenes not originally present in the author's photograph are prohibited.

**Non-compliance:**
PSA reserves the right to investigate complaints, void acceptances, impose penalties, and add violators to the shared Penalty List.

- Chairs or judges may request raw/unedited files to verify compliance and authorship; for composite images, all component files are required;
- Non-cooperation with investigations results in penalties.

Participating in this exhibition constitutes automatic agreement to these terms. Entrants are requested to read the PSA's Ethics Policy and statements on Subject Matter and AI for compliance guidelines: https://psa-services.org/ES/#entrants

## EXHIBITION SPECIFIC RULES-

Promotional emails of the exhibition will be sent only from the exhibition domain email address. Entrants must only communicate to the exhibition email address mentioned in the conditions of entry. We take no responsibility regarding any email sent to any unrecognized email address.

Ensure that the postal address you provide to the exhibition is correct in all respects. The Exhibition is not responsible for Customs Duties or Fees additional to postal costs for Award Medals and Ribbons. Once dispatched if the package is undeliverable or refused by the entrant, it will not will not be reposted.

**RECOGNITION STATEMENT**

The sponsors of this International Exhibition of Photography have been awarded Recognition by the Photographic Society of America (PSA). PSA, although it has provided recognition, is neither a sponsor nor directly involved in the operation of this exhibition.

Valid acceptances received by PSA Members in recognized sections of this exhibition are eligible for PSA Star Ratings, listing in the world-wide PSA *Who's Who of Photography* and credited towards the PSA Distinctions.

PSA is a non-profit organization promoting the advancement of photography in all its forms to novice, amateur and professional photographers worldwide. For information on membership and the many services and activities of PSA, contact:

PSA Photographic Society of America WORLDWIDE

**Photographic Society of America**
706 N. Broadway Avenue | Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-843-1437 | Toll Free (US) 855-772-4636
E-mail: headquarters@psaphotoworldwide.org
Website: psaphotoworldwide.org

Award from this Exhibition will be credited towards IIG Distinction
www.IndiaInternationalGroup.com