



## **SALON SCENE**

### **Overview**

Salons are a challenge and they are fun especially when more members from your club enter - it is always exciting to wait for the results and immensely satisfying when your work is chosen i.e. "accepted" for exhibition.

### **Salons - what are they and how do they work?**

A Salon is a competition where photographers enter their photographs for possible selection for exhibition. The exhibition is the actual "salon" and the judging is actually the selection of works for the exhibition. The hosting of salon exhibitions is encouraged by PSSA. Some salons cannot host an exhibition due to practical reasons and therefore publish a CD catalogue with all the accepted works on it. A CD Catalogue can be ordered when entering the salon.

The aim of any exhibition is to select the best works from those submitted and generally between 18 and 23% of the entries are selected for exhibition. For print and AV salons this figure can go higher. At the discretion of the judges, Certificates of Merit may be awarded to the top 10% of acceptances; this figure can be different for AV salons. The winning and runner up images are normally awarded medals.

Any member club of PSSA may apply to host a salon. The salon can be a national or international salon.

In order to gain recognition and receive patronage, the salon must agree to abide by the rules or Exhibition Standards as laid out in the Salon Directors Manual. These are a set of standards designed to provide a set criteria for all exhibitions. The criteria include definitions, entry forms, exhibition schedule, notification, judging, catalogue, return of entries and awards.

### **Who may enter?**

A photographer need not be a PSSA member to enter a salon, but PSSA members can normally enter at a discounted cost. Photographers living in South Africa and members of PSSA living elsewhere may enter a national salon whereas anyone from anywhere may enter an International salon.

### **Why should I enter?**

Many photographers start entering exhibitions to see how their work will stand up against that of other exhibitors. There is also the satisfaction which comes from public recognition of one's work. Exhibitors will also have their accepted images shown as part of the salon's public shows. Many of the photographic clubs affiliated to PSSA require salon acceptances as part of the advancement criteria in the club promotion system. It is a good idea to enter an image in more than one salon to get an additional opinion on your image.

### **How does membership of PSSA benefit me for Salons?**

PSSA members receive a discount when entering salons.

PSSA offers "Diamond Rating" awards which are available to all full members of PSSA. Credits may be claimed from acceptances gained on Salons worldwide recognised by PSSA. Up to 3 acceptances can be claimed per image.



The Diamond rating is related to a stated medium and a stated subject i.e. a person holds a 2 Diamond rating in digital. On achieving a "Diamond Rating" members will receive a lapel badge designating both the rating and the medium.

Whereas the "Diamond Rating" award is a progressive individual challenge, the "Impala Trophy" is an annual competition between all PSSA members who enter salons in South Africa. The most successful entrant over the salon year which runs from July to June will be awarded the "Impala Trophy". There are Impala Trophies available for prints, digital and AV. There have to be a minimum of 3 salons a year in order for the award to be made.

In addition to the Impala Trophy, "Top 10" badges are presented to the Top 10 overall. PSSA also presents an award, the Club Top Points Achiever Award (Best of the Rest), to the top salon worker in each club excluding any members who finished in the Top 10. The criteria being that the winner must be an individual member of PSSA.

**What kind of images, whether digital images or prints, can be entered in a salon?**

Salons choose whatever sections/categories they would like - if they are PSSA's defined categories then they must follow the defined definitions - they can however choose a totally different category and then they must create their own definition. A salon can include both PSSA defined categories and non PSSA defined categories. The salon chooses if a category is for colour OR monochrome images. Manipulation is disallowed in nature and photo journalism categories while an open category will have no limitation on manipulation. The salon brochure will spell out the requirements for each category.

**Can I enter each section? How many images can I enter?**

Yes, you can enter one or all sections in an exhibition. Just make sure your images fit the section definition paying particular attention to any limitations in subject matter and in sizing. Be sure to read the entry form carefully.

Up to four images can be entered in a section or category.

**Salon Acceptances for Promotion - what does that mean?**

PSSA recommends that clubs who have a promotion system include Salon Acceptances as a requirement for advancement within the club. Entering salons around the country and around the world gives you an opportunity to see how you rate in a bigger pool than just your own club. Achieving acceptances on these salons is recognition of your status as a photographer.

**Where do I get more information on salons?**

The PSSA website has a calendar with all the upcoming salons for the next year. Salon brochures will be available 2 months before the salon closing date and the final results within a month after the salon has closed.