



INVITATION



FIAP
Patronage
2025/228



HPS
Patronage
2025/11



APB
Patronage
2025/001



Supported
by Plovdiv
Municipality

REGULATIONS

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL PHOTO SALON PLOVDIV

ORGANIZER: Reflexes Ltd., Plovdiv, BULGARIA.

1. **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:** Professionals and amateurs from all over the world can participate in this contest.

Accepted entries in final selection will be eligible for the all FIAP Honors.

Each entrant to this salon must observe the current rules of FIAP. Any entrant, whose image shows anything suspicious in regard to compliance with FIAP regulations or definitions, can be asked by the organiser or by FIAP, to submit the original capture file (file containing the data recorded by the sensor; ie: the RAW or the original unretouched JPEG files) plus the file of the images immediately before and immediately following the questionable image. If the entrant fails to provide what is required, he/she can be sanctioned. The names of sanctioned entrants will be put on a list, known as the FIAP Red List, which will be available to the organizers of FIAP salons via the salon's profile page on the www.myfiap.net platform. A sanctioned person's participation in any event of FIAP will be restricted or banned depending on the case. In addition, they cannot be appointed as a judge in a salon under FIAP patronage, organise a salon with FIAP patronage, nor apply for FIAP distinctions and they lose the right to use any FIAP distinctions they have formerly received. **IMPORTANT:** Concerning entries that originated as digital photographs, authors must preserve intact with no alteration, the original metadata of images. In case of dispute relating to compliance with FIAP regulations, the fact of FIAP not being able to access this important data could result in the author being sanctioned. Any person who is found guilty of using photographic material that was not captured in camera by that person will be excluded for life from FIAP activities. Salon chairmen, persons closely involved in the organization of the salon and persons in charge of the handling of the salon software are not allowed to participate in the salon. **Sanctions:** Each entrant to FIAP salons acknowledges that they will incur sanctions if they breach any FIAP regulations.

Breach of conditions of entry: If at any time, it is determined in the reasonable discretion of the salon organizer or the judges before, during, or after the judging of an salon that an entrant has submitted entries where one or more images may fail to comply with these Conditions of Entry, including the stated definitions, the salon organizers reserve the right to delete the entry from the salon and void any or all acceptances or awards in connection with this photo salon. Fees may be forfeited or refunded in these circumstances. The entrant acknowledges that the decision of the salon organizers or the judges is final. In order to ensure that images comply with the Conditions of Entry and definitions, the salon organizers may carry out reasonable measures to verify that:

a) the images are the original work of the entrant;

b) the images comply with the rules and definitions as set out in these Conditions of Entry;

These steps include, but are not limited to, questioning any entrant, requiring the submission of RAW files or other digital files representing the original capture of the submitted image(s), confronting the entrant with evidence that one or more submitted images fails to comply with the Conditions of Entry (also known as Entry Rules), and offering the entrant a reasonable opportunity to provide counter evidence to refute the salon organizer's evidence by a set deadline by the organizer. Such entries that are not cleared or are still questionable after the entrant has presented evidence may be considered in breach of these Conditions of Entry, and declined. Such entries may be referred to FIAP for further investigation of possible ethics violations. FIAP retains the right to investigate in any way all complaints/suspensions of breaches of entry conditions, impose sanctions if deemed necessary, void the acceptances of any image found to violate the FIAP rules, include the entrant's name on the list of sanctions provided to Salons. Entrants automatically agree to these terms by the act of entering the Salon and agree to cooperate with any investigation.

c) the images (files) are not generated with AI software, applications, plugins or AI web platform. (See Par. 11 on page 3)

The salon does not accept photos that have already participated (included in final selection) in the previous editions.

2. **SECTIONS:** ALL DIGITAL

- 1 **Open MONOCHROME** (Black & white and Monochrome photography) [FIAP definition of black & white photography (monochrome)] _____ (M)
- 2 **Open COLOR** (color photography) _____ (C)
- 3 **NATURE** (color/black & white photography) [FIAP definition of "Nature photography"] _____ (N)
- 4 **PHOTOJOURNALISM (TRAD)** (color/black & white) [FIAP Definitions of "Photojournalism" & "Traditional Photo"] _____ (PJ)
- 5 **PORTRAIT and BODY** (color/black & white photography) _____ (PB)
- 6 **WORLD in FOCUS** (color/black & white photography) [FIAP Definition of "World in focus"] _____ (WF)

The salon accepts up to 4 photography in each section.

An author may not enter identical or similar photographs into different sections of the salon.

3.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

3.1. A filled out On-line entry form on the web site
www.photosalon-plovdiv.com

3.2. Photos requirements: 3.2.1. Digital files - *.jpg/*.jpeg format, 8-bit color, in RGB/sRGB profile or in ICC profile. Required size: entered files should be **3840 px on the long side** of the photos. Resolution of the image - 300 dpi. Shots should be without frames, signatures or watermarks. If you still forget some frame, the organizer will remove it (unless it's artistic). Files larger than 5 MB are not accepted. To fit this limit, it is permissible to set a minimum compression of the jpg file. You can submit your entries via:

3.2.2. Uploaded in the on-line entry form on the web site
www.photosalon-plovdiv.com

3.2.3. Sent by e-mail to info@photosalon-plovdiv.com

3.3. Entry fee can paid by:

3.3.1. On-line transaction via PayPal form on
www.photosalon-plovdiv.com

3.3.2. On-line transaction via PayPal to salon account
info@photosalon-plovdiv.com (Anton Savov)

3.3.3. Bank transfer:
 IBAN: BG43UNCR76301076972424;
 BIC code: UNCRBGSF

Send a copy of the payment doc. by e-mail.

4.

ENTRY IDENTITY: The file name should be a maximum of 35 characters, in 5 groups:

Group 1 - country ISO code listed on www.iso.org/obp/ui/;

Group 2 - the author's name limited to 5 characters

Group 3 - artwork title

Group 4 - sections identifier: M; C; N; PJ; PB; WF

Group 5 - sequential number of the work in section (1, 2, 3, 4);

NOTE: Words such as "Untitled" and "No Title" (or X, XX, XXX and etc.) are not acceptable as part or all of an image's title, nor are camera capture filenames. Permitted characters are ONLY digits, Latin letters and underscore (_) instead pause. All text should be lowercase except for group 4. **Example:** bg_alex_spring_N1

5.

AWARDS (over 150):

Gold, Silver & Bronze medal

+ 6 Honourable Mention ribbons in 6 sections;

Special light blue pin (SLBP) "Best presented author of the salon" by FIAP.

36 JURY diplomas (X 6 in all sections)

Honourable diploma by PLOVDIV Municipality.

Voucher (500 €) for tourist services in section 6 by

Diplom - Honourable prize by Plovdiv 2019 Foundation

Diplomas & awards by: Komitet Rodoliubie, Vi Art foundation, PC Clinic, Travel Tales Award, Incentive Diploma for young author + Award - Petar Abadzhiev book "The Life" & others...



Every entrant will receive (free of charge) a luxury A4 paper album + flash version of final selection.

6.

JURY:

Chairman Mr. Freddy Van Gilbergen, MFIAP, HonEFIAP, (Belgium)

Members: Ms. Sandra Zagolin, EFIAP/g (Italy)
 Mr. Lu Ming, ESFIAP (China)
 Ms. Minko Mihaylov, EFIAP/p (Bulgaria)
 Mr. Dimo Hristev, EFIAP/b (Bulgaria)

Alternate:
 Alexander Ivanov, EFIAP (Bulgaria)

Judging equipment: Images will be judged with TV LED Smart 3D Panasonic, 55" (139 cm), TX-55CX400E, 4K Ultra HD, res. 3840 x 2160 px. The jury team are judging photos in not consecutive (random) order.

7. **CALENDAR:**
- **Closing date** - 06.05.2025; ▪ **Judging** - 24.05.-06*.06.2025 (*05+06.06 - Live session for awards);
 - **Notification of the results** (and personal card with scores by e-mail) - from 21.06.2025;
 - **Exhibition** (opening and awarding) - **August 2025** on Roman Stadium Square in Plovdiv;
 - **Second exhibition** - **September 2025** on Ancient Theatre, Plovdiv;
 - **Mailing** of printed + digital albums (+ awards) to every entrant - after **October 2025**.

8. **ENTRY FEES:** Announced entry fees does not include the taxes of the bank or the payment system!

Individual	1 section	15€	2 sections	20€	3 sections	25€	4 sections	30€	5 sections	35€
Discount for individual entry in the current edition + 1 free sections *										
Group	125 €	up to 5 authors	200 €	up to 10 authors	300 €	up to 20 authors				

Notes: The group entries are 3 types: up to 5, up to 10 and up to 20 authors. They are related to photo-clubs, photo-associations and other groups of photographers. Each participant in the group has an individual choice of number of sections in which to participate. The main requirement for the group entries is an indication of a single mailing address. * **If you pay whatever of choices, you can enter in ONE more section free.** Samples: If you pay for 1 section = you enter in 2 sections / pay for 2 sections = enter in 3; and etc.

- **Free of fee** - from some years ago till now, all young photographers 16-25 years accomplished, could take free part in the salon, in 3 sections (by their personal choice)!

- **Requirements for YOUTH:** To be eligible to enter, you must be 16-25 years of age till closing date - May 6, 2025. Age range - 16 to 25 years old (born between 06.05.2000 to 06.05.2009). The young photographers, have to declare their born date in the entry form. In case of doubt about the declared age, the organizer reserves the right to reject the entry.

9. **Declaration of authorship:**

By virtue of submitting an entry, the entrant certifies the work as his own (aliases are not permitted). He also declare that his final images are not generated using Artificial intelligence software. The entrant permits the sponsors to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to the salon. This may include low resolution posting on a web site. The photo salon (and it's exhibitions) assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright. The organizer can use the exhibited works for reproduction in the album, classical printed exhibition (inside & outside) and for any non-commercial aims to promote the IPSP without any further paying of author's fee.

10. **FIAP Important** (FIAP document 040/2023, II.8.F): "By the sole act of submitting his/her images or files to a salon under FIAP Patronage, the entrant accepts without exception and with no objection the following terms:

- that the submitted images can be investigated by FIAP to establish if these obey to FIAP regulations and definitions even if the entrant is not a member of FIAP,
 - that FIAP will use any means at its disposal for this undertaking,
 - that any refusal to cooperate with FIAP or any refusal to submit the original files as captured by the camera, or failure to provide sufficient evidence, will result in them being sanctioned by FIAP,
 - that in case of sanctions following the non compliance with FIAP regulations, the name of the entrant will be released in any form useful to inform other parties of the entrant's breaches of the rules.
- As mentioned in II.2) it is recommended to leave the EXIF data in the submitted files intact in order to ease eventual investigations."

"I hereby expressly agree to FIAP document 018/2017 (040/2023) «Conditions and regulations for FIAP Patronage» and FIAP document 033/2021 (038/2023) «Sanctions for breaching FIAP regulations and the red list». I am particularly aware of chapter II «Regulations for International photographic events under FIAP patronage» of FIAP document 018/2017 (040/2023), dealing under Section II.2 and II.3 with the FIAP participation rules, the sanctions for breaching FIAP regulations and the red list."

11. **Artificial intelligence (AI)**, FIAP document 040/2023, II.8.E:

Pictures created by artificial intelligence are not allowed in this salon! All parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted. Offenders will be sanctioned for life!

D E F I N I T I O N S

- FIAP Definition of the black and white photography (monochrome):**

A black and white work fitting from the very dark grey (black) to the very clear grey (white) is a monochrome work with the 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; such a work can be reproduced in black and white in the album of a salon under FIAP Patronage. On the other hand 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; such a work requires colour reproduction in the album of a salon under FIAP Patronage.

FIAP Definition of Photojournalism: Photojournalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. **Content Guidelines:**

- The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality.
- Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
- When Human Interest is specified, those images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation, excluding sports action.

Editing Guidelines: Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible.

Allowed editing techniques: ▪ Cropping, straightening and perspective correction. ▪ 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 appearance of the original scene. ▪ 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 or focus stacking); ▪ Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas); **Editing techniques that are not allowed:** ▪ Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening. ▪ Adding a vignette during processing. ▪ 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 over-saturation of color.

FIAP Definition of TRAD “Traditional Photo”:

A traditional photograph maintains the original single capture image content with minimal adjustments which should not alter the reality of the scene and should appear natural. Rearranging, replacing, adding to or removing any part of the original image except by cropping is strictly forbidden. HDR (High Dynamic Range) and focus-stacking techniques, whether done in camera or post-capture, are strictly forbidden.

FIAP Definition of Nature Photography:

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning. Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to grayscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct- captures or derivations, are not allowed. Images entered in Nature sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Clarification from the organizer:

This contest accepts images from both the definition of "Nature photography" above, as well as images taken in the wild nature and meet some sentences of FIAP definition of "Wildlife Photography". Wild animals are defined as **"one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Wildlife is not limited to mammals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species."** So all these are suitable wildlife objects and are acceptable in the Nature section of this salon.

FIAP Definition of “World in focus”:

Just as travel and tourism pictures, this section englobes the full range of photographic genres from architecture, culture, events, food, landscape, portraits, etc. A “WORLD IN FOCUS” image expresses the spirit of an era, the essence of a place or of a culture whether it is shown in an authentic scene or whether it is arranged. Digital manipulation to optimise an image in terms of finetuning of levels and colors is allowed as long as the image is looking natural. The same counts for removal of dust or digital noise. Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted.

DATA PROTECTION:

By entering this photo salon, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including email addresses, being held, processed and used by the salon organizers for purposes associated with this salon. You also explicitly consent to such information being sent to organizations which have accorded official recognition, patronage or accreditation to this salon. You acknowledge and accept that entering this salon means that the status and results of your entry may be made public.

The salon (or selections of it) could be exhibited (and/or projected) in other forums. The organizers reserve the right to use the accepted works for non-commercial usage for a promotion of the photo salon.

Note: About all photographs in this contest, neither FIAP, HPS, APB, nor the salon sponsors can assume any responsibility for misuse of copyright by anyone! Salon chairman: Anton Savov, EFIAP, ESFIAP (CEO of Reflexes Ltd.)