PSA 2025-1835 | 2025/193 | 2025/124 | L250051 | 2025/003 | 2025/003

# 18th INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SALON VARNA 2025

**ORGANISER:Varna Open Art Ltd., Varna, Bulgaria**

Organized with the financial support of the
**Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Република България
Министерство на културата

**FIAP** - Federation Internationale de L'Art Photographique
**PSA** - Photographic Society of America
**IAAP** - International Association of Art Photographers
**GPU** - Global Photographic Union
**APB** - Academy of Photography Yanka Kurkchieva

## CONTACTS

**Chair:** Dimitrina Vasileva
119 Sirma Voyvoda Str.
Varna 9010 BULGARIA
**E-mail:** info@fotosalonvarna.org
**Location of Entry Form:** https://fotosalonvarna.org/ Click on ENTRY FORM
**Website:** https://fotosalonvarna.org/

## SECTIONS

**Six Sections - All Digital:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **OPEN COLOR** | (Color Only) | PIDC |
| **OPEN MONOCHROME** | (Monochrome Only) | PIDM |
| **NATURE GENERAL** | (Color or Greyscale Monochrome) | ND |
| **PORTRAIT & BODY** | (Color Only) | PIDC |
| **LIFE** | (Color Only) | PIDC |
| **LANDSCAPE** | (Color Only) | PIDC |

## FEES

1-2sections – 20 euro
3-4 sections – 24 euro
5-6 sections – 28 euro

**Payment**
PAYPAL (preferred method)
Entry fee can be paid with PayPal through our web site automatically after upload images.
Or manually at Exhibition PayPal ID Address: info@varnaopenart.org
Bank transfer is also possible.

Bank Details:
Bank: FIRST INVESTMENT BANK
IBAN: BG56 FINV 9150 1017 4381 32
Recipient: Varna Open Art Ltd
BIC code: FINVBGSF

Participants should keep in mind that in case of bank transfer, they should add 7 euro to the entry fee to cover bank commission.
Any entry without payment completed will not be judged or returned.
If, for some reason, you cannot pay the fee, please e-mail Exhibition Chairman and we will find a solution: info@fotosalonvarna.org

## CALENDAR

| | |
|---|---|
| **Closing date:** | 29 May 2025 |
| **All judging completed by:** | 26 June 2025 |
| **Score Reports sent by**: | 03 July 2025 |
| **Awards mailed by:** | 1 August 2025 |
| **On-Line Gallery posted by:** | 11 July 2025 |
| **On-Line Catalogs posted by:** | 21 August 2025 |
| **Exhibition:** | See Garden Varna - Grand Outdoor Exhibition and at other locations. 17 July 2025 |
| **Status page and Website available to:** | 26 June 2026 |

## JUDGES

**Umberto D'Eramo -** EFIAP/g MPSA AFI** AICS GPUCR4 VIP4 HIUP EHPS/g ECPE RISF1 EDISF cMoL (Italy)
**Tomasz Okoniewski** - EFIAP/d3, MPSA, BPSA, AFRP, GPU CR4, AMoL (Poland)
**Minko Mihaylov -** EFIAP/p (Bulgaria)

**PSA Rules for the Judging Process**
• The exhibition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the PSA.
• An entrant's images will not be presented to the judges consecutively.
• An entrant's four images will be distributed throughout four rounds of judging in that section.
• Distribution of images will be in the same round order as submitted by the entrant.
• At no stage will a judge be able to view all the entrant's images together.

## AWARDS

**TOTAL 128 HIGH QUALITY MEDALS AND AWARDS**
6 x FIAP Gold medals [1 per section];
6 x PSA Gold medals [1 per section];
6 x IAAP Gold Medals [1 per section];
6 x GPU Gold Medals [1 per section];
6 x APB Gold Medal [1 per section];
6 x Salon Gold Medals [1 per section];
6 x Salon Silver Medals [1 per section];
6 x Salon Bronze Medals [1 per section];
12 x FIAP HM Ribbons [2 per section];

12 x PSA HM Ribbons [2 per section];
12 x GPU HM Ribbons [2 per section];
12 x APB HM Ribbons [2 per section];
6 x IAAP Diplomas [1 per section];
6 x Club Diplomas [1 per section];
18 Judges Choice Award [3 per section];

- FIAP Best Author: FIAP Blue Badge will be awarded to the Best Author who achieved the highest number of total acceptances. In case of a tie, it will be awarded to the entrant with the highest number of points from all the sections in this Salon. In case of a tie, the exhibitor who won the most awards shall be declared the recipient.
- Special CLUB CUP award is given to the photographic club with the most members' acceptances in the final selection.
  To be eligible for Club Award, a minimum of 5 participants from a club must participate and pay their entry individual fees. Club Awards will be sent to a single address as communicated by the identified Group Leader.
- Electronic Certificates will be emailed. Medals and Ribbons will be posted.
- The decision of the Jury is final and irrevocable.
- The organizer is required to adjust the number of awards based on the total number of acceptances.

## NOTIFICATION

Notification cards will be sent by email, Report Card with individual judge's scores for each participant.
The results, all the images accepted and awards, will be posted on our web site in a gallery.

## CATALOG

An Online PDF Exhibition Catalog will be available for download from our web site.

## DIGITAL ENTRY SUBMISSION

**All entries to be uploaded through our website:** https://fotosalonvarna.org/

- Photos must be in JPEG format, dimensions no more than 1920 pixels horizontal by no more than 1080 pixels vertical side max at 300 dpi, JPEG compression value 7-12. Maximum file size is 4 Mb. Please note, portrait images must be no more than 1080 pixels vertically.
- Exhibitions are not allowed to resize oversized images. In such cases the entrant is required to resubmit their entry with properly sized images.

## ACCEPTANCES AND AWARDS

**Judging Method**

- The judging will be done by remote online judging. An award session will be held on-line by the judges viewing the images together.
- The judges will be using color-calibrated monitors. Images will be displayed at exactly 100% of their resolution. That is - the images will not be enlarged beyond their native resolution

**Target Acceptance Range**

- The acceptance target range will be no more than 30% in each section.
- No image may receive more than one individual award in a section, but in circuits an image may receive an award in different salon sections. Only one award can be given to an entrant in any one section.
- For sections with more than 230 images, no more than 10% of the acceptances can receive medals/awards.

## EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

**Image and Entry Requirements:** This exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the exhibition chair believes the entry does not conform to exhibition rules and these ES-COE. 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. Entry fees are not refundable in these circumstances.

**PSA Star Ratings:** To receive proper 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**: 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 exhibition. This may include low resolution posting on a website. PSA may request specific permission from entrants to reproduce entered images in its educational materials. The terms of that permission will be mutually agreed upon between the entrant and PSA except in the circumstances where the entered image is found to breach the PSA Ethics Policy. In those circumstances, the image may be reproduced by PSA without the entrant's further permission, for educational purposes, or to illustrate serious exhibition rule violations. For those reproductions, the entrant's name will be withheld.
Entries will not be accepted from entrants who indicate that their images may not be reproduced in materials related to the exhibition. The exhibition assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright.

**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, of course, 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 and including four (4) images entered by a single entrant into the same section. The same image can receive no more than a total of twenty (20) acceptances (per star path). Identical or similar Images shall not be allowed in the same section or different sections of the same exhibition as determined by the judges or exhibition chair. Similar images are those which are practically equivalent, as defined on this page: https://psa-services.org/pdf/Practical-Equivalence.pdf. When a group of similar images is uploaded by the entrant, all similar images in all sections **will** be disqualified. Be advised: while similar images may be entered in different exhibitions, these images and acceptances may be disallowed by the separate review process associated with applications for stars, diamonds and galaxies. To avoid disappointment, do not enter images that are practically equivalent.

**Titles**: Each image must have a unique title that relates to the content of the image. That unique title must be used for entry of that image into any and all PSA-recognized exhibitions. Titles must be 35 characters or fewer. No titles may be visible to the judges, and nothing in the image may identify the entrant. Titles may not include file extensions such as .jpg or .jpeg (or any other camera capture file names such as IMG_xxxx). Titles may not consist of personal identifiers possibly augmented by a number; and may not include words such as "untitled" or "no title." Titles may not consist solely of numbers unless those numbers are prominently contained within the image, such as a contestant number in a race. When entering titles, exhibitors may use Latin1 or Latin2 character sets (ISO-8859-1 or ISO-8859-2) which allow diacritical marks (é, ñ, ü, ą, ę, ś, etc). While text written in non-Latin writing systems (Hanzi, Cyrillic, Arabic, Devanagari, etc) might be accepted by exhibition software, this practice is discouraged because it may yield unpredictable results in galleries, catalogs and may be rejected in Star applications.

**Color and Monochrome:**
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.

## DATA PROTECTION

By entering this exhibition, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including physical addresses, email addresses, being held, processed and used by the exhibition organizers for purposes associated with this exhibition. You also explicitly consent to such information being sent to organizations that have accorded official recognition, patronage or accreditation to this exhibition. You acknowledge, agree and accept that by entering this exhibition, your participation status which includes your first and last name, name of the country used during registration at the exhibition, number of sections entered and number of photos entered in those sections will be made public in a published status list and that the results of your entry shall be made public in exhibition gallery, exhibition catalog. You also agree and accept the policy regarding non-compliance to the rules of PSA and FIAP.

## SUBJECT MATTER AND DEFINITIONS

**Image creation and ownership**
In all sections of the exhibition, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant.
They may not incorporate identifiable images produced by anyone else (for example: clip art, replacement skies, or stock images). Images created in whole or in part by image creation software (frequently called 'AI' images) are not allowed. Editing or alteration of images is permitted within the limits specified in the relevant section definitions that are available here https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions Any person submitting or attempting to submit a totally AI generated image that does not begin with a light capture from the maker to any Photographic Society of America exhibition, social media, event, or publication, other than for editorial purposes, shall be prohibited from PSA for a period of from 3 years to Life.

**Statement on Subject Matter – applicable to all sections**
The fundamental rule that must be observed at all times and **applies to all sections** offered in exhibitions with PSA recognition is that the welfare of living creatures is more important than any photograph. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in any exhibition with PSA recognition. Under no circumstances may a living creature be placed in a situation where it will be killed or injured for the purpose of obtaining a photograph. Images that show live creatures being fed to captive animals, birds or reptiles are not permitted under any circumstances.

There are also concerns about the use of aerial photography, using drones, helicopters, or low flying aircraft. These should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupts the way any individual or animal interacts with their environment. Entrants in PSA recognized exhibitions should comply with all relevant laws and regulations associated with aerial photography in the country in which the image was taken.

Entry into PSA recognized exhibitions is conditional on accepting the above policies. The images must comply with the division and section definitions listed on the PSA website and other conditions. Images that do not comply will be disqualified by the judges.

**PSA Color Definition**
The Image category for PID color must be a color image. A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi toning or by the inclusion of spot color on a monochrome image is considered a Color Image.

**PSA Monochrome Definition**
An image is considered to be monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e, contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) or it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image (for example by sepia, red, gold, etc.) A grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a color work.

- **Monochrome images may not be entered in color sections of PPD or PID.**

**FIAP Monochrome Definition**
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 catalogue 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 catalogue of a Salon under FIAP Patronage.

**Pictorial Image Division Definition**
PID includes open or general subject photography. There are no limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post processing other than the restrictions described in the PSA Statements on Artificial Intelligence, Image Creation and Authorship, and Subject Matter, which apply to all divisions. These restrictions include prohibited image elements not authored by the entrant (**for example textures, replacement skies from third party software**, clipart or stock images).
Open sections have unrestricted subject content and may include creative images. PID theme sections have specific definitions which assist both the judges and entrants.

**PSA/FIAP Nature Division Definition**
**Content Guidelines**
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.

- 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 through the use of 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 manmade 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's properly accredited and conforms to best practices.

*Attention is drawn to the PSA Statements on Artificial Intelligence and Subject Matter which apply to all sections.*

**Editing Guidelines**:
Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

**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.

**Portrait And Body Definition PIDC (color only)**
Center of interest is the human face and body in all its forms and manifestations including portrait and fine art nude photography.
Portraits of people of all colors, races, religions, the whole range of human feelings. Live photography, outdoor photography as well as studio portraits. Men, women, children. The human face as a reflection on emotion and life experience.
Fine-art photography, taken outdoors or under studio conditions, full of ideas, creativity, with a touch of erotic mood, which depicts the nude human body with an emphasis on form, composition, emotional content, and other aesthetic qualities.

**Landscape Definition PIDC (color only)**
This category calls for the most beautiful landscapes from all over the world. Best panoramic landscapes. With or without people, at any weather condition and seasons, at the very best light. Sea / water and under waterscapes, desert / arctic / icy mountain and forest landscapes – whatever you like! Show us the beauty

of the world we live in! We expect spectacular and imaginative shots beyond the usual perspective!

**LIFE Definition PIDC (color only)**
The closest definition of Life photos, pictures of everyday life on which depict people, events, phenomena - Life itself. Show us any living creature as people, plants, animals etc. in all situations, such as daily life, traditions, portraits - man, woman, child/children, single or group persons, people at work, people in street, social events, human relations, etc. The main subject in the photo must be one or more human, animal or plant. Relations between animals and people, animal mating, feeding, relations between animals etc.

**Where PSA/FIAP Rules differ, all entries shall conform to the stricter of these definitions for acceptances to be validated by all the International Organizations granting recognition or patronage.**

**FIAP RULES:** In order to have legal authority on those who do not respect the rules of FIAP, the organiser must make sure that all participants of an online event under FIAP Patronage tick a box next to which the following text is stated:

"I hereby expressly agree to FIAP document 040/2023 « Conditions and regulations for FIAP Patronage » and FIAP document 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 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"

**Notice:**
The mention that 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 be 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 the breaches of the rules. It is recommended to leave the EXIF data in the submitted files intact in order to ease eventual investigations. If, at any time, it is determined in the reasonable discretion of the exhibition organizer or the judges before, during, or after the judging of an exhibition 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 exhibition organizers reserve the right to delete the entry from the exhibition and void any or all acceptances or awards in connection with the exhibition. Fees may be forfeited or refunded in these circumstances. The entrant acknowledges that the decision of the exhibition organizers or the judges is final.

## PSA RULES

**Non-compliance**
See the PSA Ethics Policy at https://psa-photo.org/page/ethical-practices.

See the PSA statement on Subject Matter, Statement on Artificial Intelligence, and Image Creation and Authorship at https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions

If an entrant submits an image that appears to be non-compliant, the chair or judges may request the unedited or raw file of the submitted image to verify compliance, including authorship. For composite images all files are required. Such entries may be referred to PSA for further investigation of possible ethics

violations. Entrants who do not respond to this request or who do not cooperate with the investigation team may be penalized.

PSA retains the right to investigate all complaints, impose penalties if deemed necessary, void the acceptances of any image found to violate the PSA rules, and add the entrant's name to the PSA Penalty List which is shared with PSA and FIAP chairs. Entrants automatically agree to these terms by entering the Exhibition.

**Agents and other indirect submissions:**

- **Agencies** and third-party entities who process or submit images on an entrant's behalf must register with Exhibition Services. This is to ensure both the agency and the entrants are aware of the rules prior to submitting images. **Agencies who frequently submit images which incur violations may also be penalized.**
- **Entrants** will be held responsible for adhering to the entry rules **and will be subject to penalties for any violations** to these Conditions of Entry or to PSA's Statement of Ethics, regardless of whether they submit images through a third party or not.

**PSA NOTICE**: When entrants fill in the Entry Form to submit an entry they will see the following feature to affirm they have read these Conditions of Entry

"I hereby confirm that I have *read* and *understood* and *agree to* the Conditions of Entry of this exhibition. I have read and understood the PSA document to be found at https://psa-photo.org/resource/resmgr/pdf/exhibitions_/exhibition-entrants-agreemen.pdf . I am aware that PSA may apply penalties for non-compliance to these Conditions of Entry"

Failure to agree will mean that the application will not proceed.

The sponsors of this International Exhibition of Photography have been awarded Recognition by the Photographic Society of America (PSA), the world's largest patron of international photographic exhibitions. 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 of QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA, MPSA2, GMPSA, GMPSA/B, GMPSA/S, GMPSA/G and GMPSA/P.

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:

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

Ce salon a reçu le Haut Patronage de la FIAP

This salon has received the High Patronage of FIAP

**2025/193**

**Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique**

**International Federation of Photographic Art**

Fédérations et associations nationales, associations régionales et clubs affiliés sur les cinq continents.
National federations and associations, regional associations and clubs affiliated on all five continents.

Distinctions photographiques mondialement reconnues.
World-famed photographic distinctions.

Les acceptations obtenues à ce salon comptent pour l'attribution des distinctions FIAP.

Acceptances obtained in this salon are taken into account for FIAP distinctions.

**Secrétariat général - Secretary general**

70, Kolokotroni Street - GR-18531 Le Pirée (Grèce - Greece)
www.fiap.net