10th PHOTO CONTEST BULGARIA 2025

Organized with the financial support of the “Culture” fund of the Municipality of Varna

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

10th PHOTO CONTEST BULGARIA 2025 is open to amateur/professional photographers from all over the world. The Salon will be conducted in accordance with the rules of FIAP, IAAP,GPU and APB Patrons. All Acceptances will count towards FIAP, IAAP and GPU Distinctions. However, an entry may not be accepted by a patron if, in their discretion, it does not conform to these Rules and Regulations. The Salon assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright. The organisers reserve the right to remove any image if the author does not have the permission to publish that image

ORGANISER

Varna Open Art Ltd., Varna, Bulgaria

SECTIONS

6, all digital:
OPEN COLOR - Color C
OPEN MONOCHROME - Black and white, Monochrome (FIAP definition of black & white photography) M
PORTRAIT AND BODY - Color/Black and white, Monochrome PB
LANDSCAPE - Color/Black and white, Monochrome L
NATURE - Color/Black and white, Monochrome (FIAP definition of "Nature photography") N
WORLD IN FOCUS - Color/greyscale monochrome digital (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.

PICTURES CREATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THIS SALON! Pictures created by artificial intelligence are not allowed in salons run under FIAP patronage. It is reminded that 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! FIAP document 040/2023, II.8.E

AWARDS

6x FIAP Gold medals [1 per section];
3x IAAP Gold Medals [1 per section A, B, C];
3x GPU Gold Medals [1 per section A, B, C];
6x APB Gold Medals [1 per section];

6x Salon Gold Medals [1 per section];
3x IAAP Silver Medals [1 per section D, E, F];
6x Salon Silver Medals [1 per section];
6x Salon Bronze Medals [1 per section];
12 x FIAP HM Ribbons [2 per section];
6 x GPU HM Ribbons [2 per section D, E, F];
12 x APB HM Ribbons [2 per section];
6x IAAP Diplomas [1 per section];
6x Club Diplomas [1 per section];
18 Judges Choice Award [3 per section];

SPECIAL AWARDS

The FIAP Award of "BEST AUTHOR" will be awarded to the Entrant who gains the highest number of Acceptances across all 6 categories.
ART PORTRAIT GOLD MEDAL in the PORTRAIT AND BODY section.
Special CLUB CUP award would be given to the photographic club with the most members, accepted in the final selection.

ENTRY FEE

Individual Entries
1-2sections – 20 euro
3-4 sections – 25 euro
5-6 sections – 30 euro
Early Bird Fee (Sept 23th - Oct 2nd 2025)
1-2 sections – 16 euro
3-4 sections – 20 euro
5-6 sections – 24 euro
Orange Friday Weekend 20% Off (Oct 24-26th 2025)

Group Entries
5 -10 authors – 10% discount
10 - 20 authors – 20% discount
Over 20 authors – 25% discount
Note: Group entries refer to photo clubs, associations and other photo organizations. In order to get the special group entry fee offer, the group secretary should send member list to **info@photocontestbg.org** before the registration of each member. Each group member should register individually, and upload images in his personal profile (entering identical postal address for catalog shipping for all group members is mandatory!) The organizer would send a general invoice to the group secretary, which once paid, status would be automatically reflected as 'paid' in all member profiles.
Entry fee payment could be made with credit/debit cards through **PayPal** - **info@varnaopenart.org** (even without registration). Each participant would be redirected to PayPal website for payment during entry registration process. 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.
Once payment received, the payment status in your profile would be updated.
Entries for which no or no complete payment has been received will not be judged. The entry fee is not

refundable.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR

Early bird: **Sept 23th - Oct 2nd 2025**
Orange Friday Weekend: **Oct 24-26th 2025**
Closing date: **Nov 13rd 2025**
All judging completed by: **Nov 23rd 2025**
Notifications sent by: **Nov 25th 2025**
On-Line Gallery posted by **Nov 25th 2025**
PDF Catalogs posted by **Nov 28th 2025**
Exhibition: **June 26th 2026**
Awards mailed by: **March 22nd 2026**

JUDGES

Elina Garipova, EFIAP/b (Russia)
Ryszard Lomnicki, IAAP Master (Ireland)
Dimo Hristev, EFIAP/b (Bulgaria)

NOTIFICATION AND RESULTS

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

PDF catalog for download will be available on our website.

SUBMISSION

Photographs must be in JPEG format, with dimensions horizontal 1920 x vertical 1080 pixels at 300 DPI, JPEG compression (if Photoshop used for export): 9-12, file size maximum 5 Mb. No file naming is needed. Digital images cannot be altered, including resizing in either direction, by the exhibition or by the exhibition's equipment before or during judging.
ONLINE ENTRY FORM
Authors must fill out an Online Entry Form on the official website and submit entries online:
https://www.photocontestbg.org/
You will be receiving emails from info@photocontestbg.org
Please ensure your SPAM filter will always accept emails from this address
NOTICE: When entrants fills in the Entry Form to submit an entry they will see a feature to affirm they have read these Conditions of Entry.

FILE NAMING

No requirements for file names, file names should be as you would want it to appear in the catalogue (same as title name). Our program will later add the necessary data. Only English letters (a-z) are allowed. Words such as "Untitled" and "No Title" are not acceptable as part or all of an image's title, nor are camera capture filenames or titles consisting of only numbers.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Each entrant to FIAP salons must observe the rules of FIAP and conform to the regulations of the document FIAP DOC 040/2023 FIAP Patronage Regulations document and document 038/2023.
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 organisers of FIAP salons via the salon's profile page on the 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 organisation of the salon and persons in charge of the handling of the salon software are not allowed to participate in the salon.

FIAP NOTE: (FIAP document 040/2023, II.8.F):
"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 result in them being sanctioned by FIAP,
- that in case of sanctions following the noncompliance 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 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."

BREACH OF RULES FIAP: 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 and
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. 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/suspicions 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 (or AI web platform).

JUDGING METHOD

The judging will be done by remote online judging. All judges will be using equipment capable of displaying images at 100% of the image resolution and the images will be displayed at exactly 100% of their resolution. The judges will be using color-calibrated monitors.
Award session will be done at the videoconference by a jury viewing the images together.
FIAP does not allow acceptance rates higher than 30%.

DATA PROTECTION

By entering this exhibition, you are explicitly consenting to the personal details you have supplied, including 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 which have accorded official recognition, patronage or accreditation to this exhibition. You acknowledge and accept that entering this exhibition means that the status and results of your entry may be made public. **Your email address and contact information will not be made public.**
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 assumes no liability of any misuse of copyright. The organizer can use the exhibited works for reproduction in the catalog, presentations, printed exhibition (inside & outside) and for any non-commercial aims to promote the salon without any further paying of author's fee. The organizers reserve the right to use the accepted photographs for non-commercial purposes to promote the photo salon.

DEFINITIONS

OPEN Color Definition

Any image that satisfies the general rules may be submitted in the Open section. Any subject, theme or technique is eligible. Images that have been manipulated extensively should be submitted in the Experimental section.

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 color 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 color becomes a color work (polychrome) to stand in the color category; such a work requires color reproduction in the catalogue of a salon under FIAP Patronage.

PORTRAIT AND BODY Definition

Center of interest is the human face and body in all its forms and manifestations. 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 idea, 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

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, cityscapes – whatever you like! Show us the beauty of the world we live in! We expect spectacular and imaginative shots beyond the usual perspective!

FIAP NATURE 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.

Wildlife Photography

In addition to the restrictions on nature photography, to be eligible for any Wildlife award and acceptance,
images must meet the following conditions:

- Zoological organisms must be living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat of their
- own choosing.
- Images of zoological organisms that have been removed from their natural habitat, are in any form
- of captivity or are being controlled by humans for the purpose of photography are not allowed.
- Botanical organisms may not be removed from their natural environment for the purpose of
- photography.
- Images that have been staged for the purpose of photography are not allowed.

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.

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.

CONTACTS

PHOTO CONTEST BULGARIA
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Salon Chairman: Dimitrina Vasileva

Национален патронаж за провеждане на на международно фотографско събитие на на територията на Р. България от български организатор 10th Photo Contest Bulgaria 2025 /под патронажа на FIAP/

Счетоводно обслужване. Разходът е по проект Десети международен фотографски салон „PHOTO CONTEST BULGARIA 2025",
финансиран от Фонд „Култура" на Община Варна, договор Рег.№ Д25001024ВН

Сума с ДДС -220 лв