PSA 2026-1020 FIAP 2026/030 BFF-FBP 2026/02 IAAP 2026/123

FOTOKRING FOCUS GERAARDSBERGEN

FOCUS 2026

ORGANISED BY

PhotoClub: vzw Fotokring FOCUS GERAARDSBERGEN
www.focusgeraardsbergen.be
focusgeraardsbergen@gmail.com

EXHIBITION DETAILS (Part A)

Chair: **Pascal Meerpoel**, E-FIAP/g, GMPSA, I.APS/b, GPU CR4, E.IAAP (Belgium)
Email: pascal.meerpoel@telenet.be
Entries accepted via Website: http://contest.focusgeraardsbergen.be/ Click on "ENTRY FORM"

SECTIONS AND THEME

Five sections and one Salon – all digital:

OPEN COLOR	(color only)	(PSA PIDC)
OPEN MONOCHROME	(monochrome only)	(PSA PIDM)
NATURE GENERAL	(color or greyscale monochrome)	(PSA ND)
PHOTOJOURNALISM GENERAL	(color or greyscale monochrome)	(PSA PJD)
PORTRAIT	(Color only)	(PSA PIDC)

FEES AND DISCOUNTS

For 1 or 2 sections : 15€
Discount for clubs and group of authors: From 10 authors : 12€

For 3,4 or 5 sections : 25€

Discount for clubs and group of authors: From 10 authors : 20€

No other discounts are possible.
IMPORTANT: In case of a club participation of 10 or more authors, please send a list of the participants to the Salon Chairman pascal.meerpoel@telenet.be

Payment Options:

- **For INTERNATIONAL Entrants** : Via Paypal : focusgeraardsbergen@gmail.com
- **For BELGIAN Entrants Only**: Via bankwire to bank account IBAN: BE37 1030 6811 9128 – BIC: NICA BE BB to "vzw Fotokring Focus Geraardsbergen"
  Always mention your name/Club and the number of sections.

CHEQUES will not be accepted.
Entries for which no fee is received by the closing date will not be judged.

CALENDAR.

Closing date:	2026-04-23 UTC−06:00
All judging completed by	2026-05-21
Score reports sent by:	2026-05-28
Online gallery posted by:	2026-06-11
EDAS submitted by:	2026-06-22
Award/Catalog posted by:	2026-07-22
Status page and website available to	2027-04-23
Exhibition Date:	2026-06-12
Awards Ceremony / Projection :	2026-06-12 Address: "de SPIRAAL" Zakkaai 29 9500 Geraardsbergen BELGIUM)

JUDGES

All sections:
Irene Ehrenreich, MPSA 2, EFIAP/s, GPU CR3, GPU Aphrodite, RISF 7, ED-ISF (**Austria**)
Florentino Molero Gutierrez, GMPSA/G, EFIAP/p, GPU CR5_VIP5, EFIP/Gold*, I.APS/B, MCEF/O, MFAF/B, MCAS, FAPU, GAPU, C**MOL, R-ISF10, ED-ISF, EH.ISF, ER.ISF, E.HPS, E.GGC, ESSP, ECPE, R.APG, E.NPS, P.IIAP, IIG/15, SWPU/5HON, F.NOBEL/GRAND MASTER, HON.CPE , HON VEDIC GNG, HON. VEDANTA, HON JSP, HON. WAPAI, HON. MPMP, ROYAL GRAND MASTER SUPREMO GNG, Jury Gold CEF, Jury Gold FAF, Jury Bronze FCF, Jury GNG Club (**Spain**)
Jozef Aerts, HonFPSA, GMPSA/S, MFIAP, EFIAP/p (**Belgium**)

Alternative jury member :
Frank Callens E-FIAP/p (**Belgium**)

AWARDS

113 Awards in total

Blue badge FIAP for Best Author of Salon
Trophy for Best Belgian Author of Salon
Trophy for Best Club of Salon

COLOR	MONOCHROME	NATURE	PHOTOJOURNALISM	PORTRAIT
PSA Gold Medal	PSA Gold Medal	PSA Gold Medal	PSA Gold Medal	PSA Gold Medal
FIAP Gold Medal	FIAP Gold Medal	FIAP Gold Medal	FIAP Gold Medal	FIAP Gold Medal
IAAP Gold Medal	IAAP Gold Medal	IAAP Gold Medal	IAAP Gold Medal	IAAP Gold Medal
BFF-FBP Gold Medal	BFF-FBP Gold Medal	BFF-FBP Gold Medal	BFF-FBP Gold Medal	BFF-FBP Gold Medal
FOCUS Gold Medal	FOCUS Gold Medal	FOCUS Gold Medal	FOCUS Gold Medal	FOCUS Gold Medal
IAAP Silver Medal	IAAP Silver Medal	IAAP Silver Medal	IAAP Silver Medal	IAAP Silver Medal
BFF-FBP Silver Medal	BFF-FBP Silver Medal	BFF-FBP Silver Medal	BFF-FBP Silver Medal	BFF-FBP Silver Medal
FOCUS Silver Medal	FOCUS Silver Medal	FOCUS Silver Medal	FOCUS Silver Medal	FOCUS Silver Medal
IAAP Bronze Medal	IAAP Bronze Medal	IAAP Bronze Medal	IAAP Bronze Medal	IAAP Bronze Medal
BFF-FBP Bronze Medal	BFF-FBP Bronze Medal	BFF-FBP Bronze Medal	BFF-FBP Bronze Medal	BFF-FBP Bronze Medal
FOCUS Bronze Medal	FOCUS Bronze Medal	FOCUS Bronze Medal	FOCUS Bronze Medal	FOCUS Bronze Medal
2 FIAP Ribbon	2 FIAP Ribbon	2 FIAP Ribbon	2 FIAP Ribbon	2 FIAP Ribbon
3 PSA Ribbon	3 PSA Ribbon	3 PSA Ribbon	3 PSA Ribbon	3 PSA Ribbon
3 HM IAAP	3 HM IAAP	3 HM IAAP	3 HM IAAP	3 HM IAAP
3 HM FOCUS	3 HM FOCUS	3 HM FOCUS	3 HM FOCUS	3 HM FOCUS

All trophy, medals, ribbons and HMs will be sent by post.
Best Club/group trophy is awarded to the best club (with a minimum of 10 participants).
The total number of awards can be adjusted based on the total number of acceptances.

CATALOGUE

A pdf illustrated catalogue will be available online for downloading on the website http://contest.focusgeraardsbergen.be/

RESULT

Result can be downloaded from the website and individual scorecards will be emailed.

DIGITAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Authors must fill out the **entry form** and submit their photos online at http://contest.focusgeraardsbergen.be/. Title of each image cannot exceed 35 characters. Titles do not need to be translated to English but must be given in English characters

Maximum 4 entries per entrant/section are allowed. Photos must be in JPG format, color profile sRGB. **Maximum image horizontal width is 1920px. Maximum image vertical height is 1080px in 300 dpi and maximum file size is 2 Mb.** Please check before submission.

- Smaller image are accepted but will not fill the available screen size.
- 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 (online) by each jury member. An award session will be held on-line by the judges viewing the images together.
- All judges shall use their own Color calibrated equipment capable of displaying submitted images at 100% of their resolution. That is - the images will not be enlarged - at no point zoomed in - beyond their native resolution.
- 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: 25 - 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, and for sections with 250 images or less the chair will allow a maximum of 7 awards.

SUBJECT MATTER AND 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.

PSA/FIAP Nature Division (ND) Guidelines
https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#nd
Summary: Nature photography truthfully documents nature stories, both over water and underwater, while maintaining high ethical and technical standards. The 2024 rule allowing human-made elements when "necessary to the nature story" has been replaced with three specific categories: integral story elements, small unavoidable background features, and scientific equipment on animals. Attracting subjects with food or sound is prohibited (unaddressed prior to 2025), though incidental photography during hardship feeding remains acceptable. Zoo photography must now be at accredited facilities following best practices, and includes rescue centers and ethical farms. Images eligible for a Wildlife Award or entered in a ND Wildlife theme must follow all Nature rules with additional restrictions: all animals must be living freely in their natural habitat without human control or captivity, botanical subjects cannot be removed from their environment, and no staging is permitted for photography purposes. Readers are reminded that Wildlife photography is restricted to

natural habitats only, removing the 2024 allowance for adopted habitats. Nature photography does not include anthropology and archaeology.

Photojournalism Division (PJD) Definition
https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/division-definitions#pjd
Summary: Photojournalism prioritizes storytelling value over pictorial quality, featuring images with informative content and emotional impact that reflect authentic human presence in the world. Images that misrepresent truth through staged events or directed subjects are prohibited. When a Human Interest theme is specified or if this award is offered, typical sports photographs are excluded and instead the focus is on people in interactive, emotional, or unusual situations.

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.

Portrait Definition (PIDC) Color Only)
Portraits are intended to capture the expression or personality of a person or group of people either from the waist up or as a full length shot. It may include lighting, poses, accessories and backgrounds in character with the subject which may add to the intended story. The image may be taken in a formal studio setting or in the community at large. A portrait is generally not a snapshot, but a composed image of a person in a still position.

MATRIX OF EDITING TECHNIQUES (2026) 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.

FIAP REGULATIONS

FIAP Statement regarding pictures generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)
PICTURES CREATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THIS SALON! 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 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.

FIAP Breaches of rules:
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.

As mentioned in II.2 of the FIAP document 048/2025 participants must leave the EXIF data in the submitted files in tact 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.

FIAP - CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
Each entrant to FIAP salons must observe the rules of FIAP and conform to the regulations of document 048/2025 and document 038/2023 E.
Each entrant to FIAP salons must observe the rules of FIAP whether or not he is a member of FIAP.

FIAP NOTICE: During the entry process all entrants will be required to tick a box to agree to the following statement.
“I hereby expressly agree to FIAP Document 048/2025 Conditions and regulations for FIAP Patronage and FIAP document 038/2023 E . 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 048/2025 dealing under Section II.2 and II.3 with the FIAP participation rules, the sanctions for breaching FIAP regulations and the red list. 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

2026/030

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

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www.fiap.net