

INT. ASSOCIATION OF ART PHOTOGRAPHERS

APA International Photography Awards 2026

ORGANIZED BY: Atlantic Photographers Association (APA) in Toronto Canada

CONTACTS

Chair: Larry Deng

Entry via webpage: www.APASalon.com

Contact e-mail: Info@APASalon.com

SECTIONS

The contest consists of two digital sections:

OPEN PICTORIAL (Color/Monochrome)

NATURE GENERAL (Color/Monochrome)

ENTRY FEE

The entry fee covers up to two sections, with a maximum of two images per section (four images in total).

- **General Entry: CAD 20** per entrant
- **Early Bird: CAD 15** per entrant for entries submitted on or before **August 28, 2026**.

Payment Method

Payment of entry fee can be made through our website. Entry fees will be accepted by PayPal ONLY.

Entries for which no fee is received by the Closing Date will not be judged. Regardless of the results, the fee is non-refundable.

CALENDAR

Early Bird Entry Opens:	August 21, 2026
General Entry Opens:	August 28, 2026
Submission Closing Date:	**September 13, 2026, 11:59 PM (23:59) Eastern Time**
Judging Completed By:	September 19, 2026
Online Results and Catalog:	October 19, 2026

JUDGES

Open Pictorial and Nature General

Larry Deng	Canada
Aidong Ning	USA
Louie Luo	Canada
Lydia Jacobs	USA
Rob Li	USA

AWARDS

Open Pictorial	
1x IAAP Gold	$300 Canadian Dollars
1x IAAP Silver	$200 Canadian Dollars
1x IAAP Bronze	$100 Canadian Dollars
6x IAAP Honorable Mention	
Nature General	
1x IAAP Gold	$300 Canadian Dollars
1x IAAP Silver	$200 Canadian Dollars
1x IAAP Bronze	$100 Canadian Dollars
6x IAAP Honorable Mention	

Total of 18 awards.

CATALOG

PDF downloadable catalog will be posted on our website for all paid participants to download.

DIGITAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

a) Each entrant may submit up to two (2) images in each section, for a maximum of four (4) images in total. Entrants may not enter identical or similar images into the same section or different sections of the same exhibition.

b) Photos must be submitted in JPEG format, with the longer side not exceeding 1,920 pixels. The maximum file size is 4 MB.

c) Title of each image cannot exceed 35 characters. Titles do not need to be translated to English but must be given in English characters.

d) 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

The judging will be conducted by remote online judging. An award review 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.

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. Only one award can be given to an entrant in any one section.

SUBJECT MATTER AND SECTION DEFINITIONS

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 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. Under no circumstances may a living creature be placed in a situation where it will be killed, injured or

stressed 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, drones, helicopters, low flying aircraft. These should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Entrants in 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 recognized exhibitions is conditional on accepting these policies. The content of images must comply with the General Conditions and Section definitions listed in these conditions. Images that, in the sole opinion of the judges or the Exhibition Organizers, do not comply, will be disqualified so the entrant may be aware of the problem when considering entry into other exhibitions

OPEN PICTORIAL (Color/Monochrome)

Subjects:

The subject matter may be anything you like, with the exception of nature-type images that are only acceptable for submission to the "**NATURE GENERAL**" section. Composite images are acceptable, however, all content must be created by the maker. Stock images may **not** be used to create composites. Likewise, backgrounds and textures must be created by the maker and **not** derived from internet downloads.

Editing Guidelines:

Allowed Editing Techniques:

- Any adjustments made directly within the camera during image capture.
- Utilizing on-camera features and settings for image enhancements.
- Editing the image using post-processing software.
- Sky replacement is permitted, but the replacement sky must have been captured by the same photographer submitting the image into the competition.

Editing Techniques Not Allowed:

- **Images without Photographic Origin**: Images that are entirely generated electronically with no photographic origin.
- **Frames, Borders, Pin-lines, and Mats**: Photograph must not contain any decorative elements like frames, borders, pin-lines, or mats. This includes the edges and markings of scanned film. When the frame is integral to the captured image, for instance a window frame or door frame that has been captured by the camera, these elements are permitted.

NATURE GENERAL (Color/Monochrome)

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both overwater 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.

Subjects:

- 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.
- Photographs of un-domesticated birds, reptiles or animals that show signs of captivity are acceptable.
- Photographs of geographical elements including landscapes, seascapes, geological subjects
- Photographs of natural phenomena

Content:

The presence of the “hand of man” (i.e. people, parts of people or evidence of human activity) is allowed as long as it is not a primary or significant aspect of the image.

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 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

EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

Applicable Rules:

This exhibition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the APA.

Entry Requirements

This exhibition is open to anyone; however, an entry may be rejected when the Sponsor or the Exhibition Organizers, in their reasonable discretion, believes the entry does not conform to exhibition rules.

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. 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.

Titles

Each image must have a unique title. That unique title must be used for entry of that image or of an identical Image into any and all 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 filenames such as IMG 471). Titles may not consist of personal identifiers possibly augmented by a number; or include words such as “untitled” or “no title”.

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 or stock images).

AI-Generated Images

The following rules apply to AI-generated images:

- Images that are generated or by artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms are **not** eligible for submission. This includes images created through text prompts or related methods. The scope of this restriction includes whole images as well as portions of images.

- The use of AI for post-processing of images is permitted in our competitions with some restrictions. AI is allowed in the normal editing process, such as content-aware cloning, de-noise, masking, sharpening, subject selection, tone adjustments, and/or up-sizing. AI-assisted sky replacement is allowed if the new sky was captured by the entrant and only for Pictorial and Assigned categories and Print competitions.

- The use of AI for cloning or removing distractions in images is only allowed when the AI process uses portions of the image that pre-exist in the original image. This includes Content-Aware cloning provided by Photoshop or other software. AI-assisted replacements that involve adding externally generated elements to the image, such as done by the Generative Fill in Adobe Photoshop or Generative Expand tools in Adobe Camera Raw are **not** allowed. Similarly, the use of the Generative Remove option in **Lightroom**, is **not** allowed. In general, any software that inserts new content into a maker's image that comes from external sources is not allowed. This includes even minor insertions.

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.

Image Creation and Authorship

Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. All parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted.

Portrait photographs that have been or are intended to be used for commercial purposes will not be accepted. For any entry featuring an identifiable individual, the entrant must obtain the subject's prior consent and ensure that the work does not infringe upon anyone's privacy or portrait rights. The entrant shall bear full responsibility for any legal claims or liabilities arising from the submission, and the Competition Organizing Committee shall assume no responsibility.

Image Verification

The Exhibition Committee reserves the right to request the original image file (RAW or original JEPEG/HEIC), as well as additional images from the same capture sequence, to verify compliance with the exhibition rules. Failure to provide the requested files within the specified time may result in disqualification.

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 policies regarding Breaches of Rules of the APA.

中文版 | CHINESE VERSION

2026 APA 国际摄影大奖赛

主办单位：大西洋摄影家协会 **Atlantic Photographers Association (APA)** 加拿大

联系方式

主席： **Larry Deng**

在线投稿： **www.APASalon.com**

电子邮箱： **Info@APASalon.com**

参赛组别（SECTIONS）

本届赛事设有两个数码摄影组别：

- 艺术类（**OPEN PICTORIAL**）（彩色 / 黑白）
- 自然类（**NATURE GENERAL**）（彩色 / 黑白）

参赛费用（ENTRY FEE）

- 早鸟优惠：每位参赛者 15 加元（CAD 15） 适用于 2026 年 8 月 28 日或之前提交的作品
- 正常投稿：每位参赛者 20 加元（CAD 20）

参赛费包含最多两个组别的投稿资格， 每个组别最多可提交 2 幅作品， 共计 4 幅作品

付款方式

参赛费可通过官方网站支付，仅接受 **PayPal** 付款。

截至截稿日期仍未收到参赛费的作品，将不予评审。

无论比赛结果如何，参赛费概不退还。

日程安排（CALENDAR）

早鸟投稿开始日期	2026 年 8 月 21 日
正常投稿开始日期	2026 年 8 月 28 日
截稿日期	2026 年 9 月 13 日（美国东部时间 23:59）
完成裁判	2026 年 9 月 19 日
在线比赛结果作品集发布	2026 年 10 月 19 日

评委（JUDGES）

艺术类（Open Pictorial）及自然类（Nature General）

- **Larry Deng** （加拿大）
- **Aidong Ning** （美国）
- **Louie Luo** （加拿大）
- **Lydia Jacobs** （美国）
- **Rob Li** （美国）

奖项设置（AWARDS）

艺术类（**Open Pictorial**）

- IAAP 金牌 × 1（奖金 300 加元）
- IAAP 银牌 × 1（奖金 200 加元）
- IAAP 铜牌 × 1（奖金 100 加元）
- IAAP 荣誉奖 × 6

自然类（**Nature General**）

- IAAP 金牌 × 1（奖金 300 加元）
- IAAP 银牌 × 1（奖金 200 加元）
- IAAP 铜牌 × 1（奖金 100 加元）
- IAAP 荣誉奖 × 6

共计 18 个奖项。

作品集（CATALOG）

所有已缴费参赛者均可在官方网站免费下载 PDF 电子作品集。

数码作品规格（DIGITAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS）

a）投稿数量

- 每位参赛者每个组别最多可提交 2 幅作品。
- 两个组别合计最多可提交 4 幅作品。
- 不得在同一组别或不同组别中提交相同或高度相似的作品。

b）文件规格

作品须符合以下要求：

- JPEG 格式
- 长边不得超过 1920 像素
- 单张文件大小不得超过 4 MB

c）作品标题

- 每幅作品标题不得超过 35 个字符。
- 标题无需翻译成英文，但必须使用英文字母（English characters）输入，不可使用中文或其他非拉丁文字。

d）图像尺寸

大赛不会替参赛者调整超出规定尺寸的图片。

若提交的图片尺寸不符合要求，参赛者必须重新提交符合规格的作品，否则将无法参赛。

评审方式（JUDGING METHOD）

本届赛事采用远程线上评审

所有评委将在网络平台共同进行获奖作品复审。

评审时：

- 所有评委均使用经过色彩校准（Color-Calibrated）的显示器；

- 所有作品均以 100% 原始分辨率进行展示和评审，以确保公平、公正。

入选率

每个组别的目标入选率不超过 30%。

- 同一幅作品在同一组别中不得获得多个个人奖项。
- 每位参赛者在每个组别最多只能获得一个奖项。

题材规定及组别定义（SUBJECT MATTER AND SECTION DEFINITIONS）

所有组别适用的题材声明

所有获得认可的摄影赛事均须遵守以下基本原则：

尊重生命， 高于任何摄影作品。任何摄影作品都不应以伤害生命为代价。

因此，以下行为均被视为违反摄影伦理，不允许参赛：

- 使用活体动物作为诱饵拍摄野生动物；
- 为拍摄而将鸟类从鸟巢中取出；
- 为拍摄目的故意使任何生物面临死亡、受伤或压力；
- 展示将活体动物喂食给圈养动物、鸟类或爬行动物的照片。

此外，对于航拍摄影也有明确要求：

包括无人机、直升机及低空飞行器在内的航拍设备，不得干扰人类或野生动物的正常活动，也不得影响其自然行为或生态环境。

参赛者应遵守照片拍摄所在地有关航拍摄影的所有法律法规。

参加本赛事即表示参赛者接受上述所有规定。

所有作品必须符合本规则中的总则及各组别定义。若评委或主办单位认定作品不符合规定，该作品将被取消资格，并通知作者，以避免其在今后其他赛事中再次出现类似问题。

艺术类（OPEN PICTORIAL，彩色 / 黑白）

拍摄题材

题材不限，但自然类作品仅可投稿至自然类，不得投稿本组。

允许创意合成（**Composite Images**），但须符合以下要求：

- 合成中的所有素材必须由作者本人拍摄；
- 不得使用任何图库（**Stock Images**）素材；
- 背景、纹理等素材也必须由作者自行创作，不得下载互联网素材。

后期处理规定

允许的后期处理方式

包括但不限于：

- 相机拍摄时的任何机内调整；
- 使用相机内建功能进行优化；
- 使用后期软件进行图像处理；
- 允许更换天空，但替换天空必须由同一作者本人拍摄。

不允许的后期处理方式

1. 非摄影来源作品

完全由电脑或 AI 生成、没有摄影原始素材的作品不得参赛。

2. 装饰元素

作品不得包含：

- 边框（Frame）
- 边线（Border）
- 装饰线（Pin-line）
- 卡纸边（Mat）

扫描胶片边缘及胶片标记同样不允许。

但如果画面中的窗框、门框等元素本身就是摄影对象，则允许保留。

自然类（**NATURE GENERAL**，彩色 / 黑白）

自然摄影包括除人类学（**Anthropology**）和考古学（**Archaeology)** 之外的一切自然历史题材，包括：

- 地球自然景观
- 水下世界

- 动植物
- 地质
- 自然现象等

自然摄影必须真实反映现场情况。

观看者应能够准确识别拍摄对象，并相信：

- 场景真实；
- 没有人为操控拍摄对象；
- 未采用违反摄影伦理的方法完成拍摄。

任何直接或间接展示危害生物生命或福利的人类行为的照片均不得参赛。

优秀自然摄影应：

- 讲述自然故事；
- 具有较高技术质量；
- 保持自然真实的视觉效果。

拍摄对象规定

以下题材不得参赛：

- 人工培育杂交植物
- 栽培植物
- 野化家养动物（Feral Animals）
- 家养动物
- 人工杂交动物
- 动物标本

以下情况允许：

- 动物园
- 野生动物救助中心
- 合乎伦理管理的自然农场

前提是：

- 场景自然；
- 动物没有受到伤害。

此外允许：

- 圈养痕迹明显的野生鸟类、爬行动物及野生动物；
- 自然风光、海景、地质景观；
- 各类自然现象。

关于人为元素

照片中可以出现：

- 人物
- 人体局部
- 人类活动痕迹

但必须满足：这些元素不能成为画面的主要或重要组成部分。

后期处理规定

所有处理应仅限于使照片尽可能还原拍摄现场。

唯一允许的艺术转换是：

彩色转换为黑白（**Grayscale Monochrome**）。

允许的后期处理方式

包括：

- 裁剪
- 拉直
- 透视校正
- 去除灰尘点
- 降噪
- 色差修正
- 镜头畸变校正
- 明暗、色相、饱和度、对比度调整
- 彩色转换为完整黑白
- 同一主体曝光合成（**Exposure Blending**）
- 焦点堆栈（**Focus Stacking**）
- 全景拼接（**Panorama Stitching**）

不允许的后期处理方式

包括：

- 删除画面元素
- 添加画面元素
- 移动画面元素
- 修改主体内容

（裁剪及拉直除外。）

此外禁止：

- 后期添加暗角（Vignette）
- 后期局部模糊以遮挡画面内容
- 后期局部压暗以隐藏元素
- 除完整黑白外的任何颜色转换
- 局部黑白
- 局部调色
- 去饱和
- 过度增加饱和度

大赛规则（EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS）

本赛事依据大西洋摄影家协会的相关规则举办。

参赛资格

赛事向所有摄影爱好者开放。但若主办单位认为作品不符合比赛规则，有权拒绝参赛。

作品使用授权

参赛者同意授权主办方无偿复制、使用全部或部分参赛作品，用于与本届大赛相关的出版物、宣传展示及其他媒体传播。

若作者不同意作品用于上述用途，则其作品将不被接受参赛。

主办单位对第三方侵犯版权行为不承担责任。

作品标题

每幅作品必须拥有唯一标题。

同一幅作品（包括内容完全相同的作品）在参加任何摄影赛事时，均须使用相同的标题。

标题要求：

- 不超过 35 个字符；
- 使用英文字母、数字及常用符号；
- 不得包含作者姓名或其他身份信息；
- 不得包含文件扩展名（如 .jpg、.jpeg）；
- 不得使用相机默认文件名（如 IMG_471）；
- 不得使用 ″Untitled″（无标题）、″No Title″ 等名称；
- 不得仅由姓名加数字组成。

评委在评审过程中不得看到任何标题信息。

图像创作与版权（IMAGE CREATION AND OWNERSHIP）

所有组别均要求：

- 作品必须由参赛者本人拍摄；
- 不得包含他人创作的可识别素材，例如：
  - 剪贴画（Clip Art）
  - 素材图库（Stock Images）

AI 图像规定（AI-Generated Images)

以下作品不得参赛：

- 完全由 AI 生成的图像；
- 使用文字提示（Prompt）生成的图像；
- 图像中的任何局部内容由 AI 新生成。

无论整张图片还是局部区域，只要属于 AI 生成内容，均不符合参赛资格。

允许使用 AI 的情况

允许 AI 作为传统后期编辑辅助工具，例如：

- 内容识别修补（Content-Aware Clone）
- 降噪（Denoise）

- 蒙版（**Masking**）
- 锐化（**Sharpening**）
- 主体选择（**Subject Selection**）
- 色调调整（**Tone Adjustments**）
- 图像放大（**Upsizing**）

艺术类允许 AI 辅助天空替换，但新天空必须为参赛者本人拍摄。

不允许的 AI 编辑

禁止使用 AI：

- 添加新的画面元素；
- AI 生成替换内容；
- **Photoshop** 的 **Generative Fill**（生成式填充）；
- **Adobe Camera Raw** 的 **Generative Expand**（生成式扩展）；
- **Lightroom** 的 **Generative Remove**（生成式移除）；
- 任何从外部来源生成并插入新内容的软件。

允许使用 **Photoshop** 的内容识别修补 （**Content-Aware Clone**），但只能利用原图中已有的像素进行修补，不得引入外部内容。

彩色与黑白版本

如果彩色版和黑白版来自同一次拍摄，且主要画面内容基本相同，则视为同一幅作品，必须使用相同标题。

图像创作及作者身份

所有参赛作品必须：

- 由作者本人利用光学摄影方式拍摄（胶片或数码均可）；
- 图像中的所有组成部分均须由作者本人拍摄；
- 作者必须拥有作品完整版权。
- 不接受已经或拟用于商业用途的人像作品。凡参赛作品涉及可识别的个人肖像，作者须事先取得被摄者的授权，并确保作品不侵犯任何个人的隐私权和肖像权。由此产生的任何法律责任均由参赛者自行承担，大赛组委会不承担任何责任。

原始文件核查（Image Verification）

展览委员会有权要求参赛者提交：

- RAW 原始文件；
- 原始 JPEG/HEIC 文件；
- 同一次拍摄的其他连续照片。

上述资料用于核实作品是否符合比赛规则。如未能在规定时间内提交所要求文件，作品可能被取消参赛资格。

数据保护（Data Protection）

提交作品即表示参赛者明确同意：

- 主办单位保存、处理及使用所提供的个人信息（包括通信地址、电子邮箱等），仅用于本次赛事相关事务；
- 主办单位可将相关信息提供给对本赛事给予官方认可、赞助或认证的组织。

参赛者同意：

- 姓名，国家
- 参赛组别数量，投稿作品数量

将公布于赛事参赛名单中。此外，比赛成绩也将公开发布于：大赛网站， 大赛画廊 ，大赛作品集。