

On the PSA Website

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PSA Study Groups

PSA study groups have been around for almost as long as PSA has—they are one of the best and most under-utilized benefits of PSA membership. Study groups gather like-minded photographers into a wonderful learning environment. Members submit images for critique while also serving as reviewers for their fellow group members. Most are moderated by a single member who may or may not also offer his/her own image into the review. Study groups operate on different schedules that require monthly or even quarterly participation.

When study groups first started, members, such as Ansel Adams, packed their prints into boxes and shipped it to the next person on the list for review. It was a slow process, but it worked. Today, many study groups make use of digital images to share images online, though some, like the Pictorial Print Division, still utilize the mail.

Members of study groups learn not only from receiving critiques, but also from giving them. Sometimes it's easier to recognize a needed improvement on someone else's photo than your own. Some photographers have been members of PSA study groups for many years and claim it as one of the best benefits of PSA membership.

Every PSA division (except for the 3D Division) offers a study group. To find a study group on the website, first select the division in which your interests may lie and then choose the section on "For Individuals." You'll find that division's study group listed as an option. The only exception is the Pictorial Print Division, which calls its study groups "American Portfolios."

Once you find a study group you'd like to join, contact the director of that division's study group for details on how to join. Be sure to read the requirements of membership before joining and what is expected of each member. A study group requires a commitment of your time and if you are not prepared to make it or don't have the time to review others' works, then it's best not to join. Setting up a new member takes time, so please keep that in mind before asking to join.

Division Study Groups

Projected Image Division

If you enjoy many aspects of photography, a Projected Image Division (PID) study group may be your best bet. PID is the one division with two different study groups: Digital Dialogue and Digital Study Groups. Digital Dialogue offers over 70 different groups which include general, nature, monochrome, HDR, iPhoneography and others. Digital Study Groups follow guidelines of exhibition judges, with emphasis on impact, composition and technical quality.

Nature Division

The nature division is one large group divided into two sections: A and B. Each month, members either critique members of their own section or the other, so that eventually they get a turn at each member. Images are submitted by the 14th of each month and comments are made by the 24th of each month.

Photojournalism Division

This division consists of groups of no more than seven individuals. Images are submitted by the 10th of each month and comments made by the 25th of each month.

Photo Travel Division

Each Round involves the submission and review of two images during a 2-month period. There is no limitation on subject matter, as long as it complies with the PSA Photo Travel definition. Each Group, acting independently, conducts its activities as a series of continuous Rounds, each spanning a two-month period. Groups have five to nine members plus a secretary.

Pictorial Print Division

Print Study Groups are known as "portfolios" because each group mails a package (or portfolio) of prints from member to member for review. American Portfolios is comprised of approximately 20 different Print Study Groups. ■

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Division Study Groups Links

Projected Image Division <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-study-groups>

Nature Division <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-nature-study-groups>

Photojournalism Division <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photojournalism-study-groups>

Photo Travel Division <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photo-travel-study-groups>

Pictorial Print Division <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-pictorial-print-american-portfolios>