



# PSA ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP NEWS December 2018



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## MEMBER WEBINARS

PSA has a new benefit for members - monthly webinars. The first webinar was on colour management for photographers. The webinar was recorded and if you log in to the PSA website you can view it from this page <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?webinars> . Roy Killen will be presenting the next webinar at on **7th December**. The topic is “Achieving photographic distinctions from PSA”. Members can register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8120059792234056962> . This webinar will explain the process of obtaining Star Ratings and Recognition of Photographic Achievement (ROPA) distinctions. Questions about Star Ratings and ROPA may be submitted to Roy in advance and he will answer as many of them as possible during the webinar. All the webinars will be listed on this page of the PSA website afterwards.

## PSA LOGO

The logo now has a minute © (copyright) symbol at four o'clock.

## PSA JOURNAL

You should receive an email with a link from which you can download each month's PSA Journal. If you miss it, log in to the PSA website, click on the “Journal” button and then on the “Journal Issues” button. Don't forget to remind members in your area that they can download any Journal issue back to 2007 - one of the many benefits of PSA membership.

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

If you have any problems relating to payment of membership fees or membership details, please to contact John Key at PSA HQ. His email is [membership@psa-photo.org](mailto:membership@psa-photo.org)

## TOP EXHIBITORS

In the last newsletter 3D Exhibitors were left off the UK Who's Who list in error, I apologise for that. Here they are.

3D Print Exhibitors	Jdg	Acc
Duncan, Greg, England	7	18
Samulski, Maciek, Scotland	2	5

3D Digital Exhibitors	Jdg	Acc
Duncan, Greg, England	17	47
Samulski, Maciek, Scotland	9	18
Medhurst, Derek, England	6	14
Askew, Neil, England	3	8
Davis, Brian, England	3	5

## CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Colin Harrison MPSA GPSA, who is the first person in England to get GPSA by portfolio submission.

The following have also achieved ROPA Distinctions: Joan Austin QPSA, Carrie Calvert QPSA, Andrew Hersom QPSA, Barbara Jenkin GMPSA/B, Malcolm Jenkin GMPSA/B.

In the November issue of the Journal it was announced that Tony Potter had been awarded the PSA Kissa Appreciation Award for Teaching, and Greg Duncan has been awarded a PSA Early Appreciation Award. Congratulations to both.

## **HELPING WITH ROPA**

The Stars/ROPA system can be confusing but the Membership Directors are able to help with advice and if they don't know the answer, they usually know someone else who does.

## **PSA ACCEPTANCES DATABASE**

Work on the acceptances databases that Star Ratings Directors use to check Star, Galaxy and Diamond applications has reached the following point:

- Projected Image Division - Almost completely up to date for both PIDC and PIDM.
- Nature Division - Approximately 75% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013 and 2014.
- Photojournalism Division - Approximately 50% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- Photo Travel Division - Approximately 50% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- 3D Division - Completely up to date.
- Pictorial Print Division - Approximately 33% complete. Most of the missing EDAS are from 2013, 2014 and 2015.

There are now more than 5 million acceptance records in these databases. In general, the latest EDAS reports are uploaded to the databases within 2 days of receipt (but receipt from the salon organisers can take well in excess of 1 month). Additional 2013, 2014 and 2015 EDAS will be uploaded as soon as possible; this work is all being done by volunteers.

Country Membership Directors have read access to these DBs and can help if you are not sure about a salon or title acceptance.

## **PSA CONFERENCE REPORT**

I was lucky enough to attend the annual PSA conference held in Salt Lake City in October. There were many interesting speakers and I saw so many inspiring images.

It was great to see a number of English and UK members had been awarded distinctions for their images, these ranged from QPSA up to GMPSA/b. There were also some English members gaining distinctions for their Portfolio submissions and I would suggest visiting the PSA website to see examples of successful portfolios.

I attended various End of Year presentations and again English photographers were featured.

Barbara Jenkin GMPSA/b SPSA

## **A BRIEF COMPARISON OF PSA AND FIAP DISTINCTIONS**

This document explains some of the basic differences between the photographic distinctions systems of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the International Federation of Photographic Arts (FIAP). Detailed requirements for these distinctions can be downloaded from the PSA and FIAP websites.

The FIAP distinctions up to EFIAP/p can be obtained by gaining acceptances and awards in exhibitions with FIAP patronage. All the PSA distinctions can be obtained by gaining acceptances in exhibitions with PSA recognition.

The PSA distinctions system is different from the FIAP system in several important ways. The PSA distinctions are called Recognition of Photographic Achievement Awards (ROPA) and they consist of QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA, MPSA2, GMPSA, GMPSA/B, GMPSA/S, GMPSA/G and GMPSA/P.

You have to be a member of PSA to apply for PSA distinctions. When applying for distinctions you can use acceptances gained while you are a member and in the year before you joined PSA. If you have acceptances from more than a year before you joined PSA you can take advantage of a Buy Back scheme that allows you to use acceptances from any time in the past by paying a fee for each buy back year.

Only acceptances achieved in PSA recognised International exhibitions can be used for PSA distinctions. However, you can also get 'acceptance credits' for judging or chairing PSA recognised exhibitions. In the Photojournalism Division of PSA you can also get acceptance credits for published images if they meet certain criteria.

For FIAP distinctions the processes of having your acceptances verified and your distinction application processed are combined into a single application. You cannot submit a distinction application until you have proof that you have obtained the required number of exhibition acceptances for the relevant distinction. These applications can be submitted only once per year.

In the PSA system, the verification process and the application for a distinction are separated. Verification takes place through what PSA calls the Star Ratings system. Each Star application requires a specific number of acceptances from a specified minimum number of different images (titles). For example, you can apply for Star 1 with just 18 acceptances from 6 titles. You then need a total of 36 acceptances from 12 titles to qualify for Star 2, and so on up to 288 acceptances from 96 titles for Star 5. If you continue to accumulate acceptances beyond those required for Star 5, your acceptances are verified through the Galaxy Rating system. Once you have accumulated sufficient verified acceptances (through Star or Galaxy ratings) you can apply online for the appropriate ROPA award.

The acceptances and titles required for each Star are summarised here:

Star Rating	Titles		Acceptances
1	6		18
	Additional Titles	Cumulative Titles	Cumulative Acceptances
2	6	12	36
3	12	24	72
4	24	48	144
5	48	96	288

A second, important, difference is that in the FIAP system there is no distinction between acceptances gained in different sections of an exhibition (for example, Colour and Nature sections or Print and Digital sections). However, in the PSA system the verification process through the Star/Galaxy Ratings system is done through different Divisions of PSA (Colour Projected Images, Monochrome Projected Images, Nature, Photojournalism, Photo Travel, Pictorial Prints and 3D). You cannot mix acceptances across Divisions for Star or Galaxy applications. For example, when applying for Star 1 in the Nature Division all your acceptances must have been obtained in PSA recognised Nature sections of exhibitions. However, once acceptances are verified through Star or Galaxy Ratings they can be combined to give the required number of acceptances for ROPA applications. For example, Star 4 in Nature plus Star 4 in Photojournalism would give the required 288 acceptances for the PPSA distinction (refer to later table).

A third important difference is in the timing of distinction applications. FIAP distinction applications have to be submitted by a specific date each year. You can apply for only one distinction each year and you have to achieve each distinction before applying for the next one - AFIAP, then EFIAP, then EFIAP/b, etc. For PSA, Star Ratings applications can be made at any time. When sufficient acceptances have been achieved the relevant ROPA application can be made online *at any time*. There is no mandated waiting period between achieving one ROPA distinction and the next. In fact, if you have sufficient acceptances you can 'skip' lower level distinctions and apply for higher level distinctions. You could, for example, apply for EPSA without having been granted QPSA or PPSA.

A fourth difference is that each FIAP distinction requires acceptances to have been obtained from a minimum number of salons in a minimum number of countries (with a circuit being considered as a single salon). For EFIAP and above a specified number of awards must have been obtained. This aspect of the PSA ROPA system is much simpler. There are no special requirements on the number exhibitions or countries in which acceptances must be obtained and there are no requirements for achieving awards.

Some of the FIAP distinctions require a specified number of acceptances for prints to be included in the application. There is no special requirement for prints in the PSA system unless you are applying for Stars or Galaxies in the Print Division. In the Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel divisions, print and digital image acceptances can be combined on Star applications.

A fifth difference is that that all acceptances within "circuits" can be used on PSA Star applications. There is no limit to the number of acceptances that can be used from an exhibition, a circuit or a country.

The number of acceptances required for distinctions in the FIAP and PSA systems are summarised in the table at the end of this article. You will note that for all the PSA distinctions the total number of acceptances is cumulative. However, new images are required for all Galaxy applications.

Each of the systems (FIAP and PSA) has different rules about how many acceptances can be claimed for each image. In the FIAP system images do not have to be retired at any point. However, FIAP does have rules about needing new acceptances and new awards for distinctions above EFIAP. In the PSA Star Ratings system there is no limit to how many acceptances can be claimed for each image. However, once Star 5 is achieved in a Division (Nature for example) the images that were used up to that point have to be retired and acceptances that are claimed for Galaxy ratings have to be from images (titles) that were not used on Star applications in that Division. On Galaxy applications the number of acceptances that can be claimed for each image is limited to three. Beyond the Galaxy system there are Diamond ratings that require new images that have each received six acceptances.

## BASIC ACCEPTANCE AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTINCTIONS

(Note: Additional requirements apply in some cases and the rules change from time to time – refer to the FIAP and PSA websites)

### PSA

QPSA (Qualify)	54 acceptances	No awards needed
PPSA (Proficiency)	288 acceptances	No awards needed
EPSA (Excellence)	700 acceptances	No awards needed
MPSA (Master)	1500 acceptances	No awards needed
MPSA2 (Master 2)	2250 acceptances	No awards needed
GMPSA (Grand Master)	3000 acceptances	No awards needed
GMPSA/B (GM Bronze)	5000 acceptances	No awards needed
GMPSA/S (GM Silver)	7000 acceptances	No awards needed
GMPSA/G (GM Gold)	9000 acceptances	No awards needed
GMPSA/P (GM Platinum)	11000 acceptances	No awards needed

All acceptances must be verified through the Star Ratings system – see the previous table for requirements on the minimum number of titles for each Star. Providing you have sufficient acceptances verified through the Star Ratings system you can apply directly for any distinction without having been granted the lower level distinctions. There is no waiting period between distinction applications.

Note: PSA has a separate system of portfolio distinctions.

### FIAP

AFIAP (Artist)	40 acceptances	4 prints, no awards
EFIAP (Excellence)	250 acceptances	12 prints, 2 awards
EFIAP/b (Ex. Bronze)	200 new acceptances (450 total)	4 new awards
EFIAP/s (Ex. Silver)	100 new acceptances (550 total)	5 new awards
EFIAP/g (Ex. Gold)	200 new acceptances (750 total)	6 new awards
EFIAP/p (Ex. Platinum)	200 new acceptances (950 total)	7 new awards
EFIAP/d1 (Ex. Diamond 1)		50 awards after EFIAP/p
EFIAP/d2 (Ex. Diamond 2)		100 awards after EFIAP/p
EFIAP/d3 (Ex. Diamond 3)		200 awards after EFIAP/p
MFIAP	Requires a print portfolio submission after achieving EFIAP	

Up to EFIAP/d3, you must achieve each FIAP distinction before progressing to the next distinction. There is a one-year waiting period between each application.

For more information about the PSA distinctions system send an email to the address below or visit

<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?stars-and-ropa>

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## SOME EXHIBITION ISSUES

In the process of gaining PSA recognition an exhibition must agree to the “PSA Exhibition Standards”. If you want to know what these rules are you can download them from this page <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?exhibition-host-int-l-exhibition>. Unfortunately, some exhibition organisers are not as diligent as they should be in following the PSA Exhibition Standards. If you find that an exhibition has broken the rules please report it to the Exhibition Standards Committee Chair at [esd-chair@psa-photo.org](mailto:esd-chair@psa-photo.org). Serious breaches of the Exhibition Standards can result in the organisers being refused recognition for future exhibitions.

## IMAGE TITLES

Image titles are very important. Once an image has been accepted in a PSA recognised exhibition you cannot change its title, even if you enter it in a different category. For example, if you have an image that meets the Nature definition, you could enter it in all of the following sections (but not in the same exhibition):

- A Nature digital section as a colour image.
- A Nature digital section as a monochrome image.
- A Nature print section as a colour image.
- A Nature print section as a monochrome image.

- A PIDC section.
- A PIDM section.

For ALL of these entries you must use the SAME title for the image. If you accidentally use slightly different titles when entering an image on multiple occasions the acceptances will be recorded in the PSA database as different titles. This may cause issues when you apply for Star Ratings. If you find that you have made an error with a title, you can signal this on your Star application in the following way: Show both titles in the 'Titles' column of your application and write "Equivalent titles" in the 'Notes' column.

Some common errors in titles are illustrated by the following examples:

- Colour symphony = Colour Symphony (spelling error)
- Red car = The red car
- Fisherman at work = Fishermen at work
- Heron with crab = Heron and crab
- Girlfriends = Girl friends
- Dreams in black and white = Dreams in BW

## **DON'T WASTE YOUR ACCEPTANCES**

If you are planning to achieve any PSA distinction (such as PPSA or EPSA) you have to get your acceptances verified through the Star Ratings system. It is important to keep in mind that each Star Rating requires a specified number of acceptances that were achieved with a *minimum* number of titles. For example, Star 3 requires 72 acceptances from at least 24 different titles. If you have some images that gain a lot of acceptances you will have to 'balance' those with other images that have received just a few acceptances because *on average* you need just 3 acceptances per title. If you do not plan ahead you might find that you have gained some acceptances that you cannot use on Star Ratings applications. You also need to remember that once you reach Star 5 in a Division all the titles that you used up to that point have to be retired, you cannot use them on Galaxy applications in that Division or Class.

## **FEES FOR STAR RATINGS AND ROPA DISTINCTIONS**

There is a slight modification to the new fees for Star Ratings and ROPA distinctions coming into effect from January 1, 2019. Members who request a printed certificate for Stars/Galaxies/Diamonds will be charged an additional fee of \$15 for a single certificate and \$3 each for additional certificates when there are several Star Ratings approved on a single application.

## **HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE?**

The unofficial moto of the PSA is "Members helping Members". So, if you have something to share with fellow members (or Membership Directors) please let us know and I will put it in a future newsletter. It might be a favourite spot for photography, or a new piece of software you have discovered, or a special editing tip, or anything else that you think might be useful to others.

## **MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

In the PSA membership database, members who have kept their membership up to date are shown as having a status of "Active". All membership fees are due by the last day of the month in which the member joined. If a member does not pay their fees by the end of that month their status is changed to "Lapsed". A Lapsed member has 3 months in which to pay the overdue fees and if they do their status is changed back to Active with no break in membership. If a Lapsed member does not pay their overdue fees within 3 months their status is changed to "Dropped". If they wish to continue membership they have to rejoin and there will be a gap in their membership unless they contact PSA Headquarters and ask for their membership to be continued from the day when it fell due. This is important because a member who has a gap in their membership cannot use acceptances from that period in Star applications unless they make a bridging payment.

## **GDPR REGULATIONS**

Your contact details are only stored to enable us to send information to you from time to time. If, however, you do not want to be contacted by the Country Membership Director England or the Country Assistant Membership Director England please let me know and I will endeavour to stop the emailings.

Andrew Hersom