

Photographic Alliance of America (PAA)

By Joanne Stolte, HonPSA, MPSA, EFIAP
President, Photographic Alliance of America
FIAP Liaison Officer for the United States of America

The Photographic Alliance of America (PAA) provides specific services for PSA-member clubs, and the members of those clubs who are individual PSA members, in the United States of America (USA). Applying for Distinctions for photographic art from the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) is one of these services and a benefit of PSA membership for PSA members and PSA-member clubs in the USA.

There are ten Distinctions for photographic merit available from FIAP: nine in ascending grades, and a separate Master (MFIAP) distinction. Except for the MFIAP, each distinction must be obtained in sequence and, at a minimum, on an annual basis.

The First Two FIAP Photography Distinctions

Photographers in the USA have not had the opportunity to directly apply for FIAP Distinctions via a USA FIAP Operational Member; therefore, very few USA photographers have FIAP Distinctions and, most photographers who will be applying now that PAA is the FIAP Operational Member for the USA, will be beginning with the first FIAP Distinction. Hopefully, these USA photographers will be applying for the second FIAP Distinction next year.

The first two FIAP Distinctions are the **AFIAP: Artist FIAP** and the **EFIAP: Excellence FIAP**. The criteria for these two involve achieving specified levels of success (acceptances) in both Prints and Projected Images in FIAP-Patronized Exhibitions (Salons) that have been held in various countries. There are many other detailed requirements, including the need for different images (titles) and the submission of some of the applicant's more successful work.

Requirements for the AFIAP: Artist FIAP

A FIAP Photographers Card must be

obtained before making an application. All acceptances, images (titles), salons, countries in an application for the AFIAP must be from FIAP-Patronage salons.

The requirements include:

- At least **one year since first acceptance** in FIAP-Patronage Salon (Exhibition)
- **Forty (40) acceptances**
- Acceptances received in at least **fifteen (15) different FIAP-Patronage Salons** (Exhibitions)
- Acceptances received in at least **eight (8) different countries**
- Acceptances received for at least **fifteen (15) different images** (titles)
- At least **four (4) acceptances for prints** (included in the number of images)
- **Five digital files of images** that each have three acceptances in different Salons (Exhibitions)



If you have a PSA Recognition of Photographic Achievement (ROPA) Distinction (e.g., QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA) however,

you do not meet all of the requirements for the AFIAP now, plan to achieve those additional criteria during this year so that you can apply for the AFIAP at this time next year. It may be that you need to enter a few FIAP-Patronage Print Salons (Exhibitions), or you may need to enter FIAP-Patronage Salons in a couple of additional countries.

For information regarding the Photographic Alliance of America (PAA): <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?paa>, and follow PAA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Photographic-Alliance-of-America-1986883941590941/>.