

Photographic Society of America Divisions



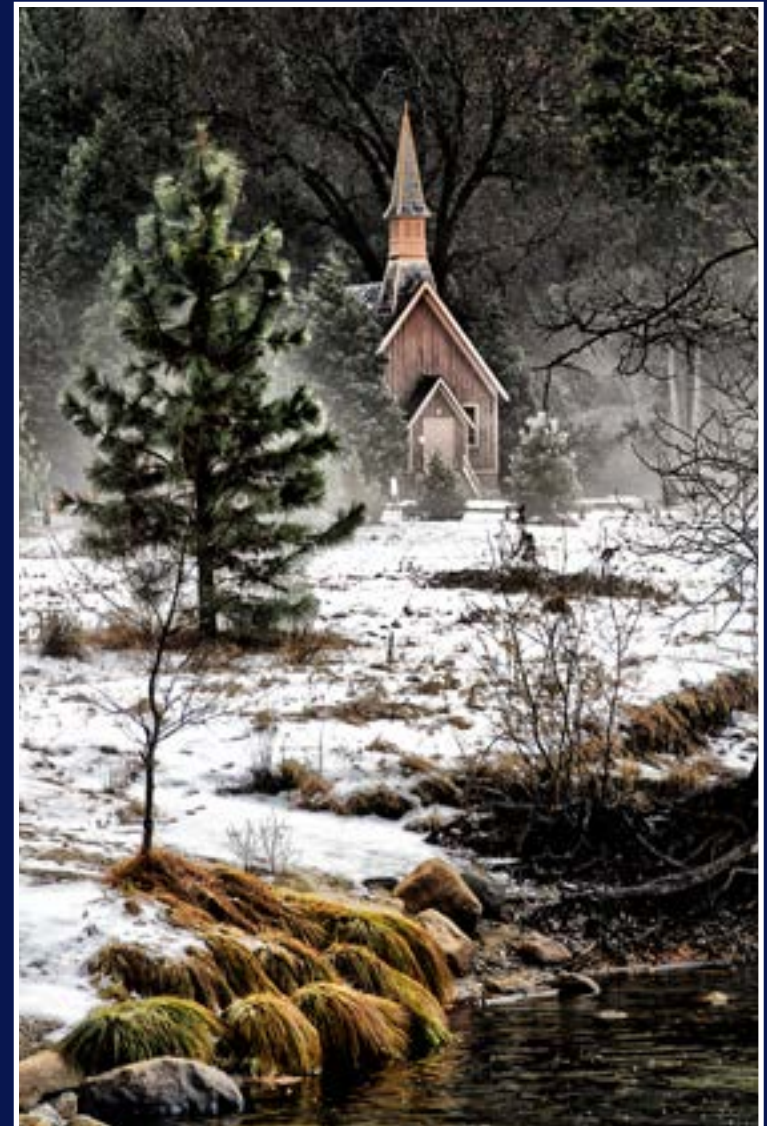
Seed Seller © Leo Palmer, FPSA, MPASA

All PSA members are urged to participate in one or more of the six Divisions to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of photographers with similar interests. The officers and activity directors of each Division may be contacted through the PSA website: www.PSA-photo.org. One may go to the page of a specific Division and click on a name or position to readily send an email to the desired individual.

Volunteers are regularly needed to operate Division activities. To volunteer for helping with a specific activity contact the Chair of the Division. Get involved, and have fun shooting and sharing images!



Visit www.psa-photo.org
for more information



Winter at Yosemite Church © Larry Cowles FPSA GMPASA

The Photographic Society of America is a volunteer organization and its development has followed the photographic interests of its volunteer members throughout the generations. In 1938 PSA by-laws were changed to allow for separate Divisions serving specific interests and establishing the framework for organizational structure. Currently PSA operates activities through six Divisions that focus on special interests. They are *3D*, *Nature*, *Projected Image*, *Photojournalism*, *Photo Travel*, and *Prints*. This is a living structure as Divisions have come and gone through the years.

All of these Divisions:

- **recognize International Exhibitions** around the globe within their subject area.
- **operate a Star/Galaxy program** for recognition of individual exhibitors based on their acceptance records in these exhibitions.
- **identify annually the top exhibitors worldwide** within their respective interest area through the *PSA Who's Who in Photography* publication.

In addition to recognizing International Exhibitions and exhibitors, the Divisions provide activities and services for their members including:

- **Individual and interclub competitions,**
- **Study groups on various topics,**
- **Newsletters** about Division subjects,
- **Image of the Year competitions** from the International Exhibition medal winners, and
- **Sponsorship of sections of the PSA International Exhibition.**

The Divisions stimulate interest in certain areas of photography by sharing educational programs and resources, and, *most importantly*, by promoting friendship and professional fellowship among members.

PSA members may belong to as many divisions as they wish. Membership in Divisions is defined by:

- Having participated in any of the Division's activities,
- Having earned at least one star in Division International Exhibitions, or
- Having served on the Division Board of Directors at some time.

The divisions are managed by officers elected for two year terms at the annual conference in even- numbered years. The various activity directors are appointed by the Division Chair. The Chairs are under the supervision of the PSA Divisions Vice President. Specific descriptions of the six Divisions follow in order of their appearance in PSA.

The Pictorial Print Division (PPD) was PSA's first Division. PPD began in 1939 and focused only on black and white prints. One of its first salons was at the New York World's Fair in 1940. By 1946 there were 63 recognized print

exhibitions; presently that number is over 135 exhibitions. The Division was the first to develop a star rating system for exhibitors to recognize achievement in earning acceptances for their images in International Exhibitions.

There are no limitations on subject matter or techniques used for image capture or post processing within print international exhibitions or division activities. PPD has four star tracks (sections) within international exhibitions: large and small open prints, and large and small monochrome prints. In PPD study groups of 8-10 people are called *Portfolios*. There are general Portfolios and Portrait Portfolios in North America. The *Pictorial Print of the Month* competition is a popular activity which originated as a Society activity but is now managed by the Division. The winning print appears in the monthly *PSA Journal*. PPD runs interclub competitions four times a year, and the division provides judging services for clubs as requested.



My Favorite Outfit © Susan Cowles, EPSA



Feeding Tawny-flanked Prinias © Kuei-I Hsu

The Nature Division (ND) was established in 1940, and by 1952 there were numerous nature study groups for wildflowers, birds, insects and other natural subjects. The Division has long provided identification services to help with technical names of subjects as well as personal evaluation services for all PSA members. The Division recognizes over 170 international exhibitions. The concept of presenting the *Nature Story* in photography has become increasingly important through the years.

All images used in PSA-recognized Nature Exhibitions and Nature Division Competitions are expected to meet a specific, official definition for nature photography. In general this definition requires images to be such that a well informed person can identify the subject in its honest presentation. Human elements (e.g. fence posts, a human hand, roads in the background) are not to be included. Techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements (other than cropping) are not allowed. Generic adjustments must be natural. The “story telling value” that suggests something about the living existence of fauna or flora is an important element in competition.

Some theme sections in exhibitions are for only *wildlife* images. These subjects must be free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. A “Code of Practice” encourages protection of nature subjects and the environment.

The division operates individual image competitions, an essay competition, an image of the year competition and several study groups. In addition there are three club competitions that take place in October, January and April in which clubs may enter six images by separate makers.

The Projected Image Division (PID) originated in 1941 but was reborn in its present form in 2012. The Division conducts and oversees PSA activities regarding projected open or general subject photography (digital or slide); it recognizes over 300 International Exhibitions. There are *no limitations* on subject matter or technique used for image capture or post processing. PID has two star tracks (sections) for PSA recognition in sanctioned Exhibitions—open and monochrome. Presently Division members are experimenting with phone photography and videos.

This Division has a “colorful” and complex history. While the Color Division began in 1941 for slide and print photography, it morphed through the decades to include only color slide images, then for slide and digital images, and now largely digital images. More recently the Electronic Imaging Division, begun in 1997 as an effort to educate PSA about digital photography, and the Color Projected Image Division became the Projected Image Division (PID). The first study groups (then called slide circuits) began in 1943 and included notables such as Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt and Ansel Adams, FPSA. The first salon (exhibition) in the division also occurred in 1943 and was carried out by the Chicago Color Camera Club; there were 3000 entries.

There are two large networks of study groups in PID both of which host several groups of 6-7 members studying a topic: *Digital Study Groups* and *Digital Dialogue Groups*. In the first network group members submit images and provide useful feedback to one another; each group is password protected to encourage candid interaction within the group. The Digital Dialogue Groups involve online sharing and learning where each month members post an image for comment by the rest of the group.

For individuals the Division conducts creative and portrait competitions, a photo essay competition, as well as the Image of the Year competition. Two digital-only Interclub competitions are held four times each year—one open to all



Husky Racer 29. Photo © Phillip Kwan, GMPSA

subject matter, one for only creative images. In creative images reality has been altered during post processing.

The Photojournalism Division (PJD) began in 1944 as the “Press Division;” the name was changed in 1947. PJD’s purpose has been to help photographers learn to capture events effectively whether family activities, historical happenings, or images for special publication. The Division recognizes over 40 International Exhibitions. In 1957 the Division established the *International Understanding through Photography Award* (which has been awarded to notables such as Walt Disney, Gordon Parks, and Barry Goldwater). In 2004 this award became an award made by the Society. By the 21st century human interest had become a theme section in many Division International Exhibitions. The special guideline for human interest indicates “*depicting a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation (excluding sports action).*”

PJD is devoted to recording current events or situations to preserve them for the future and to sharing such images with other people including fellow photographers. Photojournalism images are pictures or sequences of pictures with informative content and emotional impact, including human interest, documentary and spot news. In judging, the journalistic value of the photograph is to be considered over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, images which misrepresent the truth, by having been manipulated in ways that alter the subject matter, or that have been “set up” for the purpose of the shot, are unacceptable in Photojournalism.

PJD conducts several digital image study groups, the quarterly competition, photo story competition, a thematic exhibition, and a photojournalist of the year competition—all for individuals. It also conducts Interclub competitions four times each year.



Foot to Face © Carl Soerens, FPSA, MPSA



Yellow Caterpillar © Bob Venezia

The 3D Division (3DD) was formerly the Stereo Division officially begun in 1951. The name was changed in 2010. Stereo photography involves making two similar images (left and right) from horizontally separated camera locations, and became popular early in the 1800s. The Division recognizes over 25 International Exhibitions. 3DD has operated study groups, personal image evaluation, and instructive programs since its beginning.

Presently the Division is small but members know each other well and are active with other 3D enthusiasts worldwide. In 1998 over 500 PSA members indicated stereo as one of their major photographic interests. Now, of course, electronic imaging techniques have been added to stereo photography, and interest is expanding again. 3DD conducts several competitions for individual members, including the non-star competition, the traveling competition and the photo of the year competition. The PSA Stereo Sequence Competition has operated over 50 years. Interclub competitions are also held three times each year.

Although sometimes exhibitions have themes specified, generally the content or subject matter of an image submitted to a 3DD program or activity is not restricted.

The Photo Travel Division (PTD) was established in 1969 to give photographers who love to travel opportunities to build their skills as travel photographers and to promote fellowship and understanding among traveling photographers worldwide. This division contributed greatly to PSA’s growth in membership in the 1970s. Over 1200 members signed on to the Division its first year. Today PTD recognizes over 50 International Exhibitions.

PTD is responsible for conducting and overseeing all PSA activities regarding photo travel photography. The specific guidelines for photo travel images within International Exhibitions are determined by the particular exhibition. However, the Photo Travel Division urges that travel images express the feeling of a time and place and portray the distinctive features of a land or a culture. There are no geographic limitations so images may be made near one’s home. Unless close-up images of people or objects include some distinguishable environment, they are less appropriate. Techniques that add to, relocate, replace or remove any part of the original image (except by cropping) are not allowed.

The Division provides several study groups of 3-7 members interacting with one another as they review and comment upon their shared digital images. It also operates a club competition, a travel essay competition, an image evaluation service, and a travel program lending library.