

Closed-up Images Explained

by Nadia Filiaggi MPSA
PT Exhibitions Standards Director
Email: ptd-esd@psa-photo.org

December 2020

Close-up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the location.

The purpose of this sentence is to exclude images that could have been made in a studio setting. Therefore there should be some feature/s provided in the image that provides the judge with some information about the location.

The following two images do not meet the requirement. Although the people portrayed in them wear clothing that identifies them as being members of a particular culture, the backgrounds do not tell us anything about where these photographs were taken, i.e. there are no features that provide information about the location.



Images supplied by Nadia Filiaggi MPSA

By contrast, the following two photographs meet that requirement to a much better degree:



Images supplied by Tom Tauber APSA, MPSA

In each of these images, the background provides location information. It is not necessary that the information is so specific that we know where this image was taken. It is only necessary that there is such information in the photograph.

The Basics:

- The essential rule applies regarding the content requirement of the Photo Travel image, i.e. the image must either show characteristic features and/ or a culture specific to a land or region.
- If the image is a close-up shot, there is an extra requirement of including feature/s about the location, i.e. feature/s should be provided other than what the person is wearing or holding. (A sky is not considered a feature)
- These feature/s should not be too blurred or indistinguishable.
- The location where the close-up shot was taken does not need to be recognizable.