

# Awards for Photographic Merit

- a Quick Introduction

# Motivation?

- To have your photography assessed by a panel of national standard judges
- Successful applications receive an internationally recognised accreditation
- Awards for Photographic Merit (APM)

# How is Club Photography Organised?

## Level

## Organisation

International



Federation Internationale de l'Arte Photographique (FIAP)

1 of 86 national federations affiliated to...

National



Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB)

1 of 15 federations affiliated to...

Regional



North & East Midlands Photographic Federation (N&EMPF)

1 of 47 clubs affiliated to...

Melbourne Photographic Society

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# What are Awards for Photographic Merit (APM)?

- The **Awards for Photographic Merit (APM)** are open to all members of Clubs affiliated to the PAGB through their Federations and are at three levels
- **Credit** (CPAGB) - Blue badge and certificate
  - Standard: Good Club Photography
- **Distinction** (DPAGB) - Red badge and certificate
  - Standard: Open Exhibition Photography
- **Master** (MPAGB) - Gold badge and certificate
  - Standard: Highest Standard of UK Amateur Photography
- The awards are held for life without any annual fee and holders are entitled to use the designated letters after their name.
  
- **Qualification**
- All applicants must qualify in accordance with their Federation's criteria as an active member of an affiliated club (like Melbourne PS). Minimum of 2 years for CPAGB, 3 years for DPAGB and 5 years for MPAGB.
- **Entrance fees:** CPAGB £60, DPAGB £75, MPAGB £95

# How do I enter?

- **PAGB website**
  - <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/merit.htm>
- **Each APM is hosted by a regional federation**
  - e.g. November 2014 APM was hosted by North & East Midlands Photographic Federation (NE&MPF) in Kegworth
- Contact the PAGB Awards Secretary to find the next events with availability
- **Venues for next two APM events**
  - 25/26 April 2015 - Richard Taunton College, Hill Lane, Southampton
  - 15/16 August 2015 - Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk
- Events are held over a weekend & are open to the participating photographers (and guest)
  - attendance is encouraged but not mandatory
- **Plan ahead** – APMs get booked up a long time in advance
  - Closing dates are on the PAGB website
- **Prints or Projected Digital Images (PDI)** sent on a CD can be submitted

# How are the Images Judged?

- **Six judges**, each marking each image from 2 to 5
  - a 2 is 'no', a 4 is 'yes',
  - a 3 is 'undecided' and a 5 is a 'next level'
  - So each image gets between 12 and 30,
    - e.g. 4 'undecided' + 2 'yes' = 20
- **CPAGB** - 10 Prints or 10 PDI are required and the total score of **200** or more will gain the Award
  - This is an average of 20 per photograph, but you do not need to score 20 for every photograph in your entry
- **DPAGB** - 15 Prints or 15 PDI are required and a total score of **300** or more will gain the Award
- **MPAGB** - 20 Prints or 20 PDI are required and a total score of **450** or more will gain the award. This is an average of 22½ per photograph

# How are the Images Judged?

- Subject matter is open, and your images are not shown as a panel but are distributed randomly within the submission, ~10seconds per image
- Results are read out after each image has been shown, so you can calculate your running total (!)
- The Awards have been running for just over 20 years
  - Typically there's a 60-70% success rate



# What happens next?

- The results for each photographer are calculated during the event
  - Successful entrants' names, photographic society and federation are read out & badges awarded to those in attendance at the close of each day
  - Notification emails & certificates follow on later
  - Successful applicants can then use the designated letters after their name for regional, national and international competitions, exhibitions & salons
- Let me know if you need any advice on how to enter