



PHOTOGRAPHY

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025		
ENTRY FEE	AGES	SKILL LEVEL
One-Time \$25 per Exhibitor	18 & Up	Amateur & Professional
Exhibitors will be allowed entries throughout all the Erie County Fair Competitions. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Monday, July 28, 2025.		
Tri-Color is an honorary award chosen by the judge for the outstanding article among those entered into competition in each of our sections. \$25 & BOTH PROFESSIONAL & NON-PROFESSIONAL ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE BEST OF TRI-COLOR AWARD.		
NON-PROFESSIONAL PREMIUMS:		
1 ST PLACE BLUE - \$10	2 ND PLACE RED - \$5	
PROFESSIONAL PREMIUMS:		
1 ST PLACE BLUE - \$15	2 ND PLACE RED - \$10	
Entry Arrival: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 or Wednesday, July 23, 2025 between Noon and 8:00 PM.		
Entry Removal: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 between Noon - 8:00 PM or Thursday, August 21, 2025 between 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM.		
Prize Checks: Available Tuesday, August 12, 2025 between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the Creative Arts Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks remaining after this time will be mailed.		

Please call the Competitive Exhibits office at 716-649-3900 ext. 6407 or email ceoffice@ecfair.org with all questions.

Photography Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair and Creative Arts Department rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Friday, July 11, 2025.** Entries not registered will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. An exhibitor can only participate in **ONE (1) DIVISION ONLY**. You must identify non-professional or professional. All photos must have been taken by the exhibitor.
4. Exhibitors are **limited to a total of two (2) entries in Photography. There is a limit of one (1) entry per class in all fair competitions.**
5. Non-Professional photographs must be 8" x 10" or 8" x 12". Other sizes will be disqualified.
6. Professional photographs must be 11" x 14" or 16 x 20". Other sizes will be disqualified.
7. Photos must be mounted FLUSH on 1/4" or 3/16" **FOAM CORE BOARD ONLY. NO BORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**, unless printed on the print itself **EXCEPT** Class # 34.
8. All Artwork will be inspected upon arrival to make sure the artwork adheres to all rules & requirements (size, framing, etc.) If any artwork does not meet the requirements, it will not be accepted. Please go to the website: www.ecfair.org to see tutorials on requirements.
9. The photographer's name will be placed under each photograph after judging. Write your name and phone number in ink on the back of each photo, in case the tag is separated from the photo. In addition, please write the location of where the photo was taken.
10. **Series category: All three (3) photographs must be 8" x 10". These need to be mounted on one (1) piece of foam core board with the edges of photos joined together seamlessly. The relationship between images should be obvious and progressive.**
11. Any work not picked up in a timely fashion will be donated to a community cause (names will be removed from photos).
12. **Works shown in former years will not be accepted. All work must have been completed by the exhibitor in the last five (5) years.**
13. The judge may withhold or give additional prize awards.
14. **NOTE:** The Fair accepts artwork from all individuals, regardless of ability. The category of 'Exceptional Artist' no longer exists. The Fair is an integrated and all-inclusive event, and the fine art exhibit exemplifies this.



CLASSES

NON-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION - 1

Non-Professional: For those with very little training and those who do not sell their work.

1. Abstract
2. Animal Portrait, one (1) – Domestic (Pet)
3. Animal Portrait, one (1) – Wildlife (Various forms of wildlife in their natural habitat)
4. Animal Portrait, one (1) – Other (Does not fit in classes 2 or 3, e.g. Zoo, farm animal, and other man-made settings)
5. Animal Story, two (2) or more
6. Architectural (Cities, Buildings, Factories)
7. Black & White (Any Subject)
8. **Capturing the Community** – A community outreach class that features a different WNY spot or event each year. This year will be “Ride for Roswell”
9. Digitally Altered or Enhanced
10. Fair Photos – Enter any photo taken at the fair. We want to see the fair through your lens.
11. Flower (s)
12. Food, Cooking & Farmers’ Market
13. Forest Close-Up (Forest Floor, Foliage, Trees, etc.)
14. Ghosts & Graveyards
15. **Hamburg Hot Shots!** Celebrate our host town, Hamburg, NY, by sharing your best shots of local treasure, “**Woodlawn Beach**”
16. Human Interest (tells a story), two (2) or more people
17. Industrial
18. Informal Portrait, one (1) person
19. Insect(s)
20. Landscapes (hills, mountains, rivers, trees, and roads) – Please list the location of where the image was taken.
21. Night Sky, Stars, Moon & Milky Way
22. Patriotic Photo
23. Planes, Trains, Automobiles & Boats
24. Rural Scenes, specifically agricultural locations
25. Series, three (3) Photos – See Rule #10
26. Snow, Ice, Frost
27. Sports, Physical Activities
28. Still Life (Indoor/Outdoor)
29. Sunrise, Sunset, Clouds
30. Things in Motion
31. Water, Underwater, Seascape
32. Urban Scene, Street Life
33. Photo Taken with a Drone.
34. Best Instagram Photo (4”x 6” or 4”x 4”)

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION - 2

Professional: For the artist who sells his/her work, takes photos for commission, lectures about photography, has a degree of training or belongs to any professional photographer organization.

1. Pictorial Professional Only
2. Portrait Professional Only
3. Fair Photos – enter any photo taken at the Fair. We would like to see the Fair through your lens.



JUDGING CRITERIA

The Erie County Fair's Photography competition will be judged using the Professional Photographers of America's standards of excellence. The twelve (12) Elements of a Merit Image include impact, technical excellence, creativity, composition, presentation, color balance, center of interest, subject matter, technique, and storytelling. Good luck!

- 1.) Impact** is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time. Compelling images evoke laughter, sadness, anger, pride, wonder or another intense emotion. There can be impact in any of these twelve elements.
- 2.) Technical excellence** is the print quality of the image itself as it is presented for viewing. Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, printing, mounting, and correct color are some items that speak to the qualities of the physical print.
- 3.) Creativity** is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker by using the medium to convey an idea, message or thought.
- 4.) Style** is defined in several ways as it applies to a creative image. It might be defined by a specific genre or simply be recognizable as the characteristics of how a specific artist applies light to a subject. It can impact an image in a positive manner when the subject matter and the style are appropriate for each other, or it can have a negative effect when they are at odds.
- 5.) Composition** is important to the design of an image, bringing all the visual elements together in concert to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends. Effective composition can be pleasing or disturbing, depending on the intent of the image maker.
- 6.) Presentation** affects an image by giving it a finished look. The mats and borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.
- 7.) Color Balance** supplies harmony to an image. An image in which the tones work together, effectively supporting the image, can enhance its emotional appeal. Color balance is not always harmonious and can be used to evoke diverse feelings for effect.
- 8.) Center of Interest** is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.
- 9.) Lighting** —the use and control of light—refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Whether the light applied to an image is manmade or natural, proper use of it should enhance an image.
- 10.) Subject Matter** should always be appropriate to the story being told in an image.
- 11.) Technique** is the approach used to create the image. Printing, lighting, posing, capture, presentation media, and more are part of the technique applied to an image.
- 12.) Storytelling** refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination. One beautiful thing about art is that each viewer might collect his own message or read her own story in an image.



VINTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

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1 ST PLACE BLUE - \$10		
Entry Arrival: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 or Wednesday, July 23, 2025 between Noon and 8:00 PM.		
Entry Removal: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 between Noon - 8:00 PM or Thursday, August 21, 2025 between 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM.		
Prize Checks: Available Tuesday, August 12 th , 2025 between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the Creative Arts Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks remaining after this time will be mailed.		

Please call the Competitive Exhibits office at 716-649-3900 ext. 6407 or email ceoffice@ecfair.org with all questions.

Vintage Photography Rules:

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2. **All entries must be registered by Friday, July 11, 2025.** Entries that are not registered will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. Only one photo per exhibitor.
4. **Exhibitors can participate every other year.** If an exhibitor participated in 2025, they are not eligible to participate again until 2027.
5. Photos Must be from 1960 or older.
6. Original photo is to be submitted.
7. Photos must be taken by the exhibitor or exhibitor’s family.
8. **LIMITED SPACE** Only fifteen (15) reservations will be available for this section.
9. Every photo must be submitted with an artist statement of ten (10) or fewer sentences including: When the photo was taken, who took the photo, historical event, or any interesting story.
10. Photos cannot be larger than 8” x 10”.
11. **NO FRAMES OR MOUNTING NECESSARY**
12. All fifteen (15) photos will be kept in a glass case for the safety of the photo.
13. The winner will be picked based on People’s Choice. Patrons will be able to vote for their favorite photo up until Wednesday, August 13, 2025 when the votes will be counted and winners will be announced Thursday, August 14, 2025.

CLASSES

VINTAGE PHOTO - 3

1. Vintage Photograph.



TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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1 ST PLACE BLUE - \$10	2 ND PLACE RED - \$8	3 RD PLACE YELLOW - \$5
Entry Arrival: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 or Wednesday, July 23, 2025 between Noon - 8:00 PM.		
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Travel Photography Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair and Creative Arts Department rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Friday, July 11, 2025.** Entries that are not registered will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. Only one (1) photo per exhibitor. There is a limit of fifty (50) photos in the entire competition.
4. Photographs must be emailed to ceoffice@ecfair.org by July 11, 2025, no later than 5:00 PM. Photos not emailed by this time will be disqualified and not displayed.
5. **PLEASE NAME YOUR FILE ENTRY WITH YOUR NAME, LOCATION AND COUNTRY OR CITY & COUNTRY.** (e.g. Your Name/Country). Without this label, your entry will be disqualified.
6. **THE FAIR WILL PRINT THE PHOTOGRAPHS.** The photographs will be cropped to 3" x 4" (Polaroid size with a white border so the image will be smaller). The photograph will be cropped to create the best composition. **LANDSCAPE ORIENTATION SUPPLIES THE BEST CROPPING OF THE PHOTOGRAPH.**
7. The winner will be picked based on People's Choice. Patrons will be able to vote for their favorite photo by Wednesday, August 13, 2025, when the votes will be counted and winners will be announced Thursday, August 14, 2025.
8. You cannot enter your travel photograph in any other categories in photography.

CLASSES

TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION - 4

1. United States, Canada, Mexico & Greenland	8 Entries in the Class
2. Africa	5 Entries in the Class
3. Asia	5 Entries in the Class
4. Europe	8 Entries in the Class
5. Oceania	5 Entries in the Class
6. Antarctica	2 Entries in the Class
7. Caribbean	6 Entries in the Class
8. South America	6 Entries in the Class
9. Central America	5 Entries in the Class



DIGITAL SHOOTOUT CONTEST

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BEST OF SHOOTOUT AWARD ROSETTE - \$50		
1 ST PLACE BLUE - \$10	2 ND PLACE RED - \$10	3 RD PLACE YELLOW - \$10
Entry Removal: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 between Noon - 8:00 PM or Thursday, August 21, 2025 between 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM.		
Prize Checks: Available Tuesday, August 12, 2025 between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the Creative Arts Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks remaining after this time will be mailed.		
Contest Date:	Sunday, August 10, 2025. Check-in will take place in the Creative Arts Building in the Fine Arts & Photography Room. All photos must be emailed by 6:00 AM Monday, August 11, 2025.	

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Digital Shootout Contest Rules:

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2. **All entries must be registered by Friday, July 11, 2025.** Entries that are not registered will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. This section is open to exhibitors 18 & UP only.
4. A digital shootout contestant is limited to a total of one (1) entry into the Digital Shootout Competition.
5. **Check-in:** Exhibitors bring their digital cameras to the Fair and check in at the Creative Arts building. At that time exhibitors will receive a theme, instructions will be given, and exhibitors will be given the remainder of the day to capture their theme on camera.
6. **PLEASE NAME YOUR FILE WITH YOUR LAST NAME AND THE THEME.**
7. **Judging:** The exhibitors must e-mail the photo of their choice to the Competitive Exhibits office by 6:00 AM Monday, August 11, 2025. Any photos not received by then will be disqualified. The photo must be e-mailed in jpeg format to ceoffice@ecfair.org. (minimum of 72 dpi preferred for best judging) with "Digital Camera Shootout Photo" in the subject line. Alterations and edits **ARE** allowed. Winners will be announced by 5:00 PM with a slide show presentation in the Creative Arts Exhibit Area. Photos will be uploaded to the Fair's website for viewing.
8. **NOTE: NO TRIPODS** will be allowed. Tripods can be a trip hazard so we will not permit their use for this contest. Monopods are allowed. All photos will become the property of the Erie County Fair.

CLASSES

DIGITAL SHOOTOUT CONTEST- 5

1. Minimal Edits – Example: Cropped, Lightened
2. Highly Enhanced – Example: Photo-Shopped