



# PHOTOGRAPHY

Nicole Bossert-Desotell - Superintendent  
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Competitive Exhibits office 716-649-3900 ext. 6407  
[ceoffice@ecfair.org](mailto:ceoffice@ecfair.org)

**ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Entry Fee:** \$25.00 allows entries throughout the Erie County Fair. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Entry Arrival:** Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> or Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> between NOON and 8PM

**Entry Removal:** Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> or Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> between 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**Prize Checks:** Available Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

## General 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 pre-registered by Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Entries not pre-registered will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page.
3. All photos must have been taken by the exhibitor.
4. Photographs must be 8" x 10" or 8" x 12". Other sizes will be disqualified (except for the professional classes).
5. Photos must be mounted FLUSH on ¼" or 3/16" **FOAM CORE BOARD only. NO BORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**, unless printed on the print itself **EXCEPT** classes #34-35 **DO NOT** Mount.
6. Velcro stickers will be provided for hanging.
7. **THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES IS LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF TWO (2). EACH ENTRY MUST BE IN A DIFFERENT CLASS.** Space may limit works displayed.
8. All artwork will be inspected upon arrival to make sure artwork adheres to all rules (size, mounting, etc.). If artwork does not meet the requirements it will NOT be accepted. Please go the website ([www.ecfair.org](http://www.ecfair.org)) to see tutorials on requirements.
9. Photographer's name will be placed under each photograph after the 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. Dates printed on photos detract from the subject.
11. Exhibitors can only enter in non-professional *or* professional, not both.
12. **Series category: All three photographs must be 8"x10". These need to be mounted on 1(one) piece of foam core board with edges of photos joined together seamlessly.**
13. Professional photographs must be mounted FLUSH on ¼" or 3/16" thick foam core board, ONLY 11"x14" OR 16"x20" size format. Other sizes will be disqualified.
14. Any photos not claimed by 7pm on Tuesday of entry pickup day will be donated to a community cause (names will be removed from photos).
15. **Works shown in former years will not be accepted. All work must have been done by the exhibitor within the last 5 years.**

The Erie County Fair's Photography competition will be judged using the Professional Photographers of America's standards of excellence. The 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!

### 12 Elements of a Merit Image

Professional Photographers of America

- 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 a number of 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 of 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.

**NON-PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY 8" x 10" OR 8" x 12" \*\*UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE\*\* - 1**

**Non-professional:** For the photographer who has little training and does not sell their work.

**Premiums Blue-\$10.00 Red-\$5.00**

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, ex. 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 we will be featuring **"St. Patrick's Day parade"** (Old First Ward or Downtown)
9. Digitally Altered or Enhanced
10. Fair Photos - Enter any photo taken at the Fair. We like to see the Fair through your lens.
11. Flower
12. Food, Cooking & Farmers' Markets
13. Forest Close Up (forest floor, foliage, forest, trees)
14. Ghosts & Graveyards
15. **Hamburg Hot SHOTS!** Celebrate our host town HAMBURG, NY by sharing your best shots of a local treasure, **"Hamburgh Holidays"**
16. Human Interest (tells a story), two or more people
17. Industrial
18. Informal Portrait, one person
19. Insect(s)
20. Landscapes (hills, mountains, rivers, trees, and roads) - Please list location of where image was taken.
21. Night Sky, Stars, Moon and Milky Way
22. Fair Themed Photo (Carnival Fun)
23. Planes, Trains, Automobiles & Boats
24. Rural Scenes, specifically agricultural locations
25. Series, 3 photos (**8" x 10"**, all three photos should be the same size) mounted on one (1) piece of Foam core board with edges of photos adjoined seamlessly together. Those that are not mounted correctly will be rejected. The relationship between images should be obvious and progressive; it should be of an event or a thing changing over time.
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"x6" or 4"x4") \*Mounting not required\*
35. Polaroid Picture (No size Restriction) \*Mounting not required\*

**PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY 11"x 14" OR 16" x 20" - 2**

**Professional:** Who Erie County Fair defines as anyone who sells any of their work, takes photos for commission, lectures on the subject of photography, has a degree of training, or belongs to any professional photographer organization.

**Premiums Blue-\$15.00 Red-\$10.00**

1. Pictorial Professional only, see rule # 11 for size requirements
2. Portrait Professional only, see rule # 11 for size requirements
3. Fair Photos- enter any photo taken at the fair. We would like to see the fair through your lens.



# VINTAGE PHOTOGRAPH

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2. All entries must be pre-registered by Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Entries not pre-registered will not be accepted. For more information see the Important Entry Information page.
3. Only one photo per exhibitor.
4. **Exhibitors can participate every other year.** If an exhibitor participated in 2024, they are not eligible to participate again until 2026.
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 15 (fifteen) reservations will be available for this section.
9. Every photo must be submitted with an artist statement of 10 (ten) or less sentences including: When photo was taken, who took the photo, historical event or any interesting story.
10. Photo can be no larger than 8"x10"
11. **NO FRAMES OR MOUNTING NECESSARY.**
12. All 15 photos will be kept in glass case for safety of the photo.
13. Winner will be picked based on People's Choice. Patrons will be able to vote for their favorite photo until Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> when the votes will be counted and winner will be announced on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## VINTAGE PHOTO - 3

### Premiums for Class # 1 Blue-\$10.00

1. Vintage Photograph



# Erie County Fair

## Digital Camera Shootout

Nicole Bossert-Desotell – Superintendent  
[ecfairfinearts@gmail.com](mailto:ecfairfinearts@gmail.com)

Contest Date: Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Exhibitors must pre-register by Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Space is limited to the first 40 exhibitors who register.

**Who:** Adults age 18 and over. Pre-registration is required. All pre-registered exhibitors will have an exhibitor ticket mailed to them prior to the competition (unless other entries were made, then you will receive tickets when those entries are delivered).

**Limit:** One entry per exhibitor (Can only enter 1 class).

**Where:** Check-in at the Creative Arts Exhibit Area, lower grandstand, all day.

**What:** Exhibitors bring your digital cameras to the Fair and check-in at the Creative Arts Exhibit Area (lower grandstand). 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. The exhibitors must e-mail the photo of their choice to the Competitive Exhibits office by 6am Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Any photos not received by 6am will be disqualified. The photo must be e-mailed in jpeg format to [ceoffice@ecfair.org](mailto: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.

**Please 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 property of the Erie County Fair.

**Judging:** Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, winners will be announced by 5pm on a slide show presentation in the Creative Arts Exhibit Area. Photos will be uploaded to the Fair’s website for viewing.

**Prizes:** \$50 Best of Shootout award

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$20, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$15, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$10 per theme class

Available Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Questions?** 716-649-3900 ext. 6407 or [www.ecfair.org](http://www.ecfair.org)

### DIGITAL SHOOTOUT COMPETITION - 4

**Classes**

1. Minimal edits- example: cropped, lightened
2. Highly enhanced- example: Photo-shopped



# TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

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## Graphic Design Competition Rules

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3. All photos must have been taken by exhibitor.
4. Photographs must be emailed to [ecfairtravelpics@gmail.com](mailto:ecfairtravelpics@gmail.com) by July 12, 2024 by 5 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 AND COUNTRY.** (ex. Your Name, Country) without this label you will be disqualified.
6. **THE FAIR WILL PRINT PHOTOGRAPHS.** The photographs will be cropped to 3 x 4 inches (Polaroid size with white border so image will be smaller). The photograph will be cropped to create the best composition. **LANDSCAPE ORIENTATION SUPPLIES THE BEST CROPPING OF THE PHOTOGRAPH.**
7. There will be a limit of 50 entries. The entries will be separated into specific location categories.
8. There is a limit of 1 entry per exhibitor in the Travel Photo Competition.
9. Winners will be picked based on People's Choice. Patrons will be able to vote for their favorite photograph until Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> when the votes will be counted and winners will be announced on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Travel Photography Competition - 5

Premiums for Classes: 1st place \$10, 2nd place \$8, 3rd place \$5

### Classes(categories):

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 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. |