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e-news

from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

e-news 386. 01 Aug 2025



**Chairman's Award at The Inter-Club PDI Championship 2025
"Tuuletar, Goddess Of Wind" by Angela Kershaw of Preston P.S.**

**[CLICK HERE](#) for e-news 386 extra for an illustrated report
or visit the [PAGB Website](#) for the Full Results**

Hon Editor: Rod Wheelans MPAGB MFIAP FRPS FIPF HonPAGB HonSPF. e-news@thepagb.org.uk

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Awards for Photographic Merit



ONLINE ADVISORY WORKSHOP COMING SOON

Would you like to participate in an Online Workshop with your PDI and Prints being assessed and discussed by a group of PAGB Adjudicators? We already have lots of interest and hope to run this through September. You will need to upload your image files to our Central Management System (CMS) and post prints to us, probably by the end of August. Watch for a more detailed timetable soon.

Although we haven't yet fixed dates but you would like us to look at your work, please provide your name, e-mail and answers to the following questions. Please e-mail to awards@thepagb.org.uk as soon as you can so that we can properly plan the events.

If you are registered with us you will be contacted by e-mail with the details as soon as they are fixed and you will be given priority if there are more applications than we can handle immediately. Please note that this does not affect our [Online Mentoring Service](#) and the PAGB Awards team will continue to support [Federation Workshops](#) when they are invited.

1. What level are you interested in? (BPAGB CPAGB DPAGB EPAGB or MPAGB)
2. Do you hope to apply for Adjudication in 2025 or 2026?
3. If you are intending to apply soon, do you want a full potential entry reviewed or do you want to submit just a few images to determine which level you might be capable of?
4. Will you wish to be advised on a potential PDI or a Print entry?
5. Are you prepared to pay £10 to be advised or £5 to observe?

KLICK

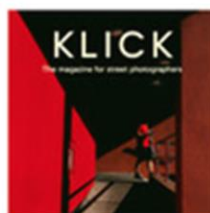
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Street and documentary photography is about telling stories through the lens, offering insights into the lives, cultures, and emotions of people from all walks of life. Often these are not recognised by club judges but don't be discouraged. Don't give the judges what they want, make them want what you give them. If you are looking for another outlet for such work I can thoroughly recommend [Klick Magazine](http://www.klickmagazine.com) now in its 5th quarterly issue.. The content is sourced from people like you, the 'unsung heroes' of street photography - people who have great images to show, or a compelling story to tell. It is open to everyone to send in their contributions. Of course, those chosen by its Editor will be on merit but anything that is street or documentary related will be considered. Klick features work you should maybe see in your Club!

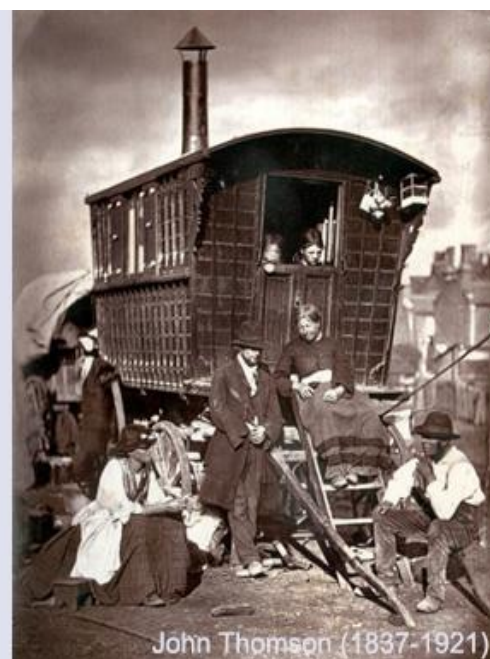
Don't give the judges what they want, make them want what you give them

I have had the opportunity to read through Klick 5 and it has some wonderful images and articles including a fascinating look at the "evolving definition of street photography", dating perhaps from the 1800s. *London Nomades*" >>

I particularly enjoyed the B&W work of Martin Agius (*left*), but there is much more to wonder at, including "The Joy of Benches", "Common Destiny", "Where the Streets have No Shame" and an interview with Dougie Wallace. *Rod. Hon.Ed..*

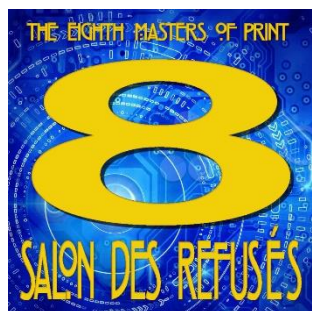


Dougie Wallace



John Thomson (1837-1921)

EIGHTH MASTERS OF PRINT SALON DES REFUSÉS



The Eighth SALON DES REFUSÉS prints are **now** available to book for your Club.

The MASTERS OF PRINT Exhibition is restricted to just 60 prints from 60 different photographers, and this makes any Acceptance difficult. Many excellent photographers and many excellent prints were unlucky and this Salon Des Refusés, which is now available to Clubs as unmounted A3 prints is of the same quality. Acceptance to this second exhibition doesn't come with our unique badge or election to the MASTERS HALL OF FAME but it has exciting prints.

It will make a great evening for your Club, an opportunity to view great prints close up. The box includes 65 unmounted prints with some suggestions about how your Club might view and chat about them and a voting slip for you to record the "TOP THREE" selected by your members. The previous Salon Des Refusés proved popular and received rave reviews from many clubs!

This lecture is FREE to hire but Clubs are required to pay the postage to its next location and perhaps from its current location unless this is another Club. To book, please e-mail the RLS Secretary, Peter Fry, at lectures@thepagb.org.uk.

[CLICK HERE to see the full list of acceptances](#)

The next issue of e-news will announce of a similar box of Prints, drawn from the 2025 GB Trophy competition, which will be made available to Clubs for the first time from August.



[Richmond & Twickenham Photographic Society](#) is joining forces with the Royal Photographic Society's Visual Art Group to stage their annual exhibitions at the magnificent [Landmark Arts Centre](#) in Teddington from 27 September to 5 October,

Open daily from 10 am to 4 pm, with a £4 entry charge (children free.), the event will also include a photography display from local charity Arts Richmond.

<<< Among the highlights will be two dramatic panels on the UK and US elections from RTPS member [Simon Street](#) who holds a record 10 Fellowships of the RPS


PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION



Saturday 27th Sept. to Sunday 5th Oct. 2025
 Open 10am to 4pm daily
 Admission £4.00 (children free)
 The Landmark Arts Centre
 Ferry Road, Teddington TW11 9NN

Including the
 Royal Photographic Society's
 Visual Art Group Print Exhibition
 &
 Arts Richmond Photographic Exhibition

Richmond & Twickenham Photographic Society
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CLICK HERE for
e-news 386
extra two

all the 2025 PAGB successes profusely illustrated

ONE MFIAP
 FOUR EFIAP Diamond 2
 FIVE EFIAP Diamond 1
 FIVE EFIAP Platinum
 FIVE EFIAP Gold
 SEVEN EFIAP Silver
 NINE EFIAP Bronze
 TWENTY EFIAP
 TWENTY-ONE AFIAP
 ONE AV-AFIAP
 ONE AV-EFIAP

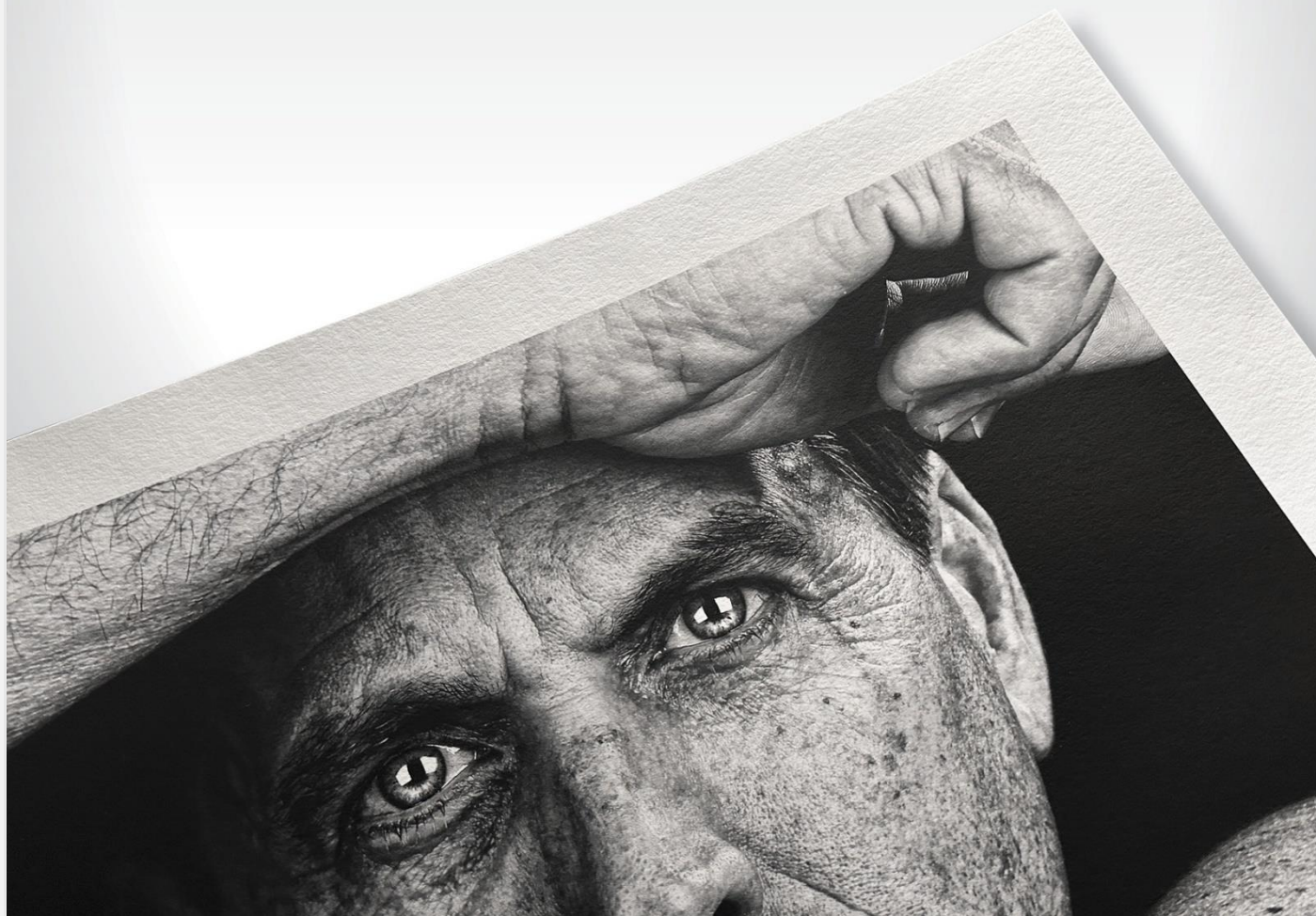
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Results and images from
the 2025 Inter-Club PDI
Championship

Arden Photo Group, Kevin Faulkner



Boy Running by [Vic Attfield](#) – London Salon of Photography Archive.

At the opening of the London Salon by Tim Pile in Birmingham, Tim expressed a view shared by many including your Editor, that there are three UK Exhibitions which EVERYONE should enter. The London Salon of course and the Edinburgh International, both with history dating back more than a Century. Joined now by a relative newcomer, the PAGB MASTERS OF PRINT. They are available to view during August, although it might be a challenge to visit all three.

161st Edinburgh International Photographic Exhibition 2025



The [Exhibition](#) is open from 2 August to 24 August 2025 (10:00-17:00), during the Edinburgh [Festival](#). Visitors may pay by card at the door or purchase tickets via the Edinburgh [Fringe](#) box office. We recommend that you give yourself at least an hour to view the works on display. A full colour A4 catalogue of around 50 pages showing all accepted prints in the international exhibition is provided as part of the entry fee. Photographers who enter the exhibition may visit free of charge.



THE LONDON SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

[London Salon of Photography](#) will be shown in London at the [Camera Club](#) between 11 August and 5 September. This presents a great opportunity to see first-hand those images which have received medals and have been accepted in this year's exhibition. You are cordially invited to attend the Opening View at 7.30pm on hursday 14 August. If you are a medal winner who did not attend the Smethwick Opening please let us know and we will arrange to present your medal in on 14th August. Catalogues will also be available for collection.

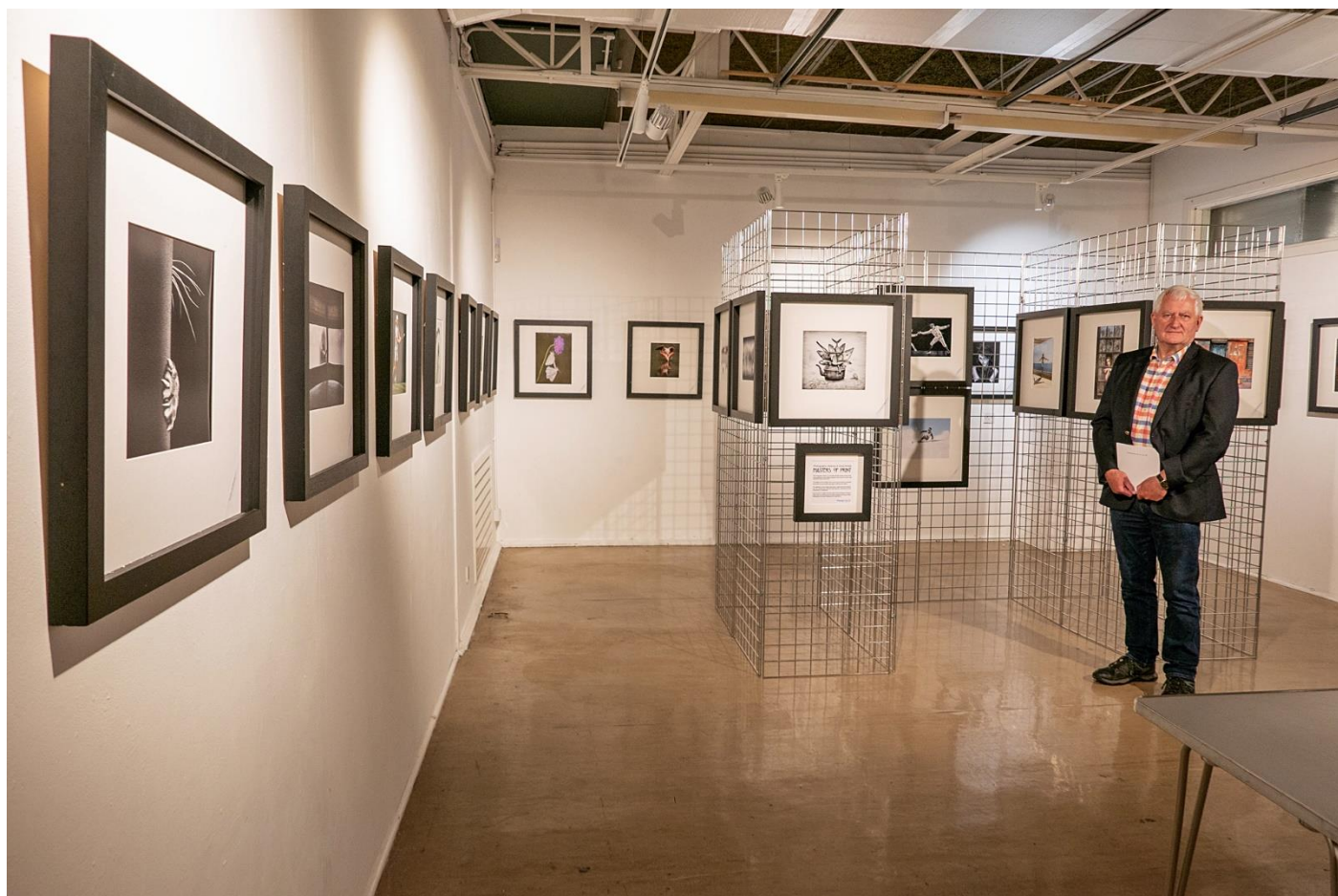
The [Camera Club](#) is at 16 Bowden Street, London SE11 4DS with the nearest underground station Kennington on the Northern Line. There is nearby weekend street parking.

MASTERS OF PRINT

sponsored by CEWE and Online Paper

The EIGHTH MASTERS OF PRINT EXHIBITION will once again visit Wales
2 August – 30 August 2025 at [Bedwelty House](#), Tredegar, NP22 3XN.

You are cordially invited to an informal opening by PAGB Vice President, Peter Young, 2pm on 2 August



George Taylor, SPF President, photographed by Ronnie Galloway after he had opened the Masters of Print in Dumfries



Brian Cathie receiving his Masters of Print Badge in Dumfries for his superb Scottish Landscape acceptance.

The exhibition which was well attended during its short run is now closed in Dumfries and is opening now in Tredegar.

AI Judging - will it replace Humans? Christine Widdall

As a frequent judge of photography, from club level to national level, I am rarely lost for words or an opinion! However, later this year I will be pitching my judging experience against AI judging, and I very much expect to come up short, because I find AI judging so thorough and knowledgeable about art in particular. What can I, as a mere human, possibly come up with to rival the vast human experience that has been used to train AI models? I simply can't! I pondered this idea for a while, but not for very long, because it soon occurred to me that I could ask AI.

So, I opened Microsoft Copilot and asked:

"Will AI judging of photography replace human judging?"

This was Copilot's reply:

"It's unlikely that AI will fully replace human judging in photography—at least not in the realms that value emotional nuance, cultural context, and artistic interpretation."

What AI Can Do Well

Speed & Consistency: AI can rapidly assess technical aspects like sharpness, exposure, and composition with consistent criteria.

Aesthetic Scoring: Tools like RateMyPhoto and Excire Foto use algorithms to rate images based on perceived human preferences.

Blind Judging: Some contests now use AI to judge without knowing if an image is human-made or AI-generated, aiming for fairness.

What Humans Still Do Better

Emotional Resonance: Humans can interpret subtle symbolism, cultural references, and emotional storytelling—areas where AI still struggles.

Contextual Judgement: A photo's impact often depends on its historical, social, or personal context, which AI can't fully grasp.

Creative Intuition: Judges often reward originality, risk-taking, and narrative depth that go beyond technical perfection.

The Middle Ground

Some competitions now feature both AI and human judges, or pit AI-generated images against real ones to explore the boundaries of creativity. And in one notable case, a real photo won an AI category—only to be disqualified, sparking debate about authenticity and artistic value.

So, while AI is becoming a powerful tool for scoring and sorting, **human judgment remains irreplaceable** in domains where meaning, emotion, and cultural nuance matter most."

So, that's quite comforting!

Or it would be if all human judging were consistent...because so many club judges, in my experience, rely almost entirely on technical considerations and largely ignore the artistic qualities (or vice versa) and particularly ignore any symbolism lurking within images. Many simply explain the image's content without attempting to understand the narrative.

Fortunately, though, there are judges whose appraisal I thoroughly enjoy and from whom I can learn. So, it is the inconsistencies in human judging that I see as a problem. But to be fair, I haven't tested

out different AI judging programmes to see if there is consistency between programmes as well as within them.

My limited experience with AI Judging

I've tried out AI judging, on my own images, a couple of times in the past and found it to be generally positive and very thorough. Sometimes it will come up with useful suggestions on how to improve the work. However, I did notice that Copilot actually knows me and my work, so it bases its critique on being "an image by Christine Widdall". That's wild in itself!

Last night I didn't give myself time to eat properly before going out to a club to judge their competition...because during the afternoon I had an idea and was working on a composite image.

The idea was based on my own family history. In the high medieval period, many young women of title, possibly heiresses in their own right, were married off to older men with wealth, perhaps acquired in commerce, which was advantageous to both families. Brides could be as young as 12 and the men...well, they could be quite advanced in age. Therefore, my image would feature such a mismatched partnership.



This morning, I gave my new image to Copilot AI and asked for an appraisal and a mark out of 20.

Here is the image
<<<

(I'll consider it still to be a work in progress as I have had no human feedback on it yet)...

Christine

Christine Widdall FBPE MPAGB EFIAP APAGB HonLCPU



Christine recommends
Permajet products

I was brought up taking pictures and learned how to process them in the darkroom from the age of about 5, but embraced digital technology in the 1990s. My aim is very simple – to try to capture places, people and moments in time and make them as beautiful and interesting as possible. Some of my images are “competition” pictures, others just an expression of my enjoyment of a day, an area or a subject.

I love to capture my beautiful local area of Saddleworth, especially its hills and waterways and, in recent years, I have added wildlife photography to my interests. In my creative work, I try to go beyond the objective recording of fact and to use self-expression to provide an interpretation of my subjects. I love experimenting to see what I can achieve with blends of images from different times and different places.



Christine, photo by John Widdall Sept 2019

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Brian Magor.

HOYLAKÉ
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



Julia Wainwright receiving her **MASTERS OF PRINT** Gold Medal and Silver Badge for acceptances in seven **MOP** exhibitions from the PAGB President, Dave Gibbins.



Exhibitions showing Class, Closing Date (Month), and Contact details

It is perhaps a little disappointing to many that only four accept Print entries. *Hon Ed.*

Clay Cross National Projected Image Exhibition Digital Projection 5 www.claycrossps.co.uk Queries susiew.dpagb@btinternet.com 01623 411407	January
Southport National Open Exhibition of Photography Prints 3, Digital Projection 3 www.southportphotographic.co.uk exhibition@southportphotographic.co.uk	January
Vale of Evesham National Photographic Exhibition Digital Projection 4 www.eveshamphoto.net exhibition@eveshamcameraclub.co.uk Queries 01386 556746	February
Basingstoke Camera Club Exhibition Digital Projection 6 exhib@basingstokecameraclub.co.uk www.basingstokecameraclub.co.uk	March
South Birmingham Open Digital Exhibition Digital Projection 4 www.southbirminghamphotographicsociety.co.uk/exhibition/ grahamproffitt@blueyonder.co.uk	March
Robin Hood Open Digital Exhibition Digital Projection 6 www.robinhoodexhibition.co.uk info@robinhoodexhibition.co.uk	April
Neath & District PS Salon Digital Projection 4 http://www.neathphotographicsociety.org Queries colin.kelly3@ntlworld.com	April
Rushden Open Photography Exhibition Digital Projection 5 info@rushdenopen.co.uk www.rushdenopen.co.uk	April
Winchester National Exhibition Digital Projection 5 www.winphotosoc.uk winchesternational@winphotosoc.uk Queries: 07796 442847	June
Beyond Group Prints 1, Digital Projection 4 http://www.beyondgroup.org.uk	July
Dingwall National Projected Image Exhibition Digital Projection 4 www.dingwallcameraclub.com	September
Shrewsbury Open Photography Exhibition Digital Projection 4 www.shropshire-photographic.org.uk sope@shropshire-photographic.org.uk	September
Midland Monochrome Prints 4 https://www.midland-mono.com	September
Frome Salon of Photography Digital Projection 6 www.fromewessexphotographic.com fsopmail@yahoo.com	October
The Great Western Exhibition Prints 3, Digital Projection 3 www.greatwesternphoto.co.uk chairman@greatwesternphoto.co.uk	October

Many of these exhibitions enjoy the Patronage of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

THE NEW FIAP DISTINCTIONS REQUIREMENTS 2026

I have little doubt that those of you who actively pursue FIAP Distinctions will already be aware of the new requirements recently announced by FIAP. The new requirements are listed in the below.

Distinction	Acceptances *	Countries **	Works ***
NFIAP	25	5	10
AFIAP	75	15	20
EFIAP	200	20	40
EFIAP/b	400	25	80
EFIAP/s	600	30	130
EFIAP/g	900	35	200
EFIAP/p	1200	40	300
At this stage (after EFIAP/p), all previously received awards will be reset except for those awards obtained one year before having received the EFIAP/p (date of certificate). Those can be used unless they have already been utilized for the EFIAP/p distinction. Starting from EFIAP/d1 authors are obliged to use new photographs.			
	Awards *	Countries **	Works ***
EFIAP/d1	50	10	15
EFIAP/d2	100	15	30
EFIAP/d3	200	20	60
EFIAP/d4	350	25	100
EFIAP/d5	500	30	150
EFIAP/d6	650	35	200
EFIAP/d7	800	40	250
EFIAP/d8	950	45	300

Starting from 2026 a photo/work cannot have more than 10 acceptances/awards listed on the application form. Acceptances/awards for salons with patronage numbers earlier than 2026 can have more than 10 acceptances listed.

As you will see, there are 6 new distinctions which will please many, but the revised requirements will no doubt have many spitting feathers. I would like to point out that the PAGB were not consulted in any way when these new requirements were drawn up and we only became aware of the new requirements once they were issued.

First thing to take note of is that there is no longer a requirement to count the number of salons one has gained acceptances in and the onus is now solely upon the number of countries. You will also notice that there is no longer a requirement for print acceptances at AFIAP and EFIAP for reasons that can only be guessed at. The PAGB were consulted on this aspect lobbied strongly for print requirements to be maintained at the higher levels but not the early levels.

A new distinction, Novice FIAP (NFIAP), has been introduced. Had I been consulted I would have proposed a title that did not infer a distinction for those with lower abilities.

Changes to the requirements for AFIAP have made this level harder to achieve as **75 acceptances from 20 works** are now required compared to the previous requirement

for 40 acceptances from 15 works. This is in contrast to EFIAP where the requirements have been eased from 250 acceptances from 50 works to **200 acceptances from 40 works** and there is no longer a requirement for any awards. You should also note that between EFIAP and EFIAP/b you can continue notching up acceptances and awards without restrictions.

The requirements for Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum have all changed, generally to be more difficult. However, please note that the acceptances required for these levels also include the acceptances used for AFIAP and EFIAP which did not previously count towards acceptances at these levels. This results in the following increases in acceptances as below:

Bronze – no change.
Silver – an increase of 100.
Gold – an increase of 200.
Platinum – an increase of 300

In addition, you cannot list on your applications more than 10 acceptances/awards unless achieved in salons earlier than 2026. This has been done to avoid one very successful work clocking up hundreds of acceptances while an applicant's other works receive few acceptances.

Please note that if you have already achieved a distinction you cannot just add the additional requirement for the next level (which to me would have been the logical approach), you must meet the new full requirements for the next level you apply for.

Five further Diamond levels have been added and, although there is no change to the number of awards required for the levels d1 to d3, there are changes to the number of countries and works which are required.

Previously, you could apply for MFIAP once you had achieved EFIAP but this has now changed so that you must achieve EFIAP/p before you can apply for MFIAP. However, if you have EFIAP and wish to apply for MFIAP before the end of 2025, that can be accommodated. If you wish to do so, please contact me at [**fiap@btinternet.com**](mailto:fiap@btinternet.com). MFIAP application number around the mid 20's each year and only one or two are generally granted.

The full FIAP document covering the new FIAP Distinctions requirements can be found and downloaded from:

http://thepagb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/fiap_criteria_for_distinctions.pdf

New portfolio distinctions have been introduced, Portfolio FIAP – PFIAP, PFIAP/b, s, g and MPFIAP and you can see the full details in the document. Additionally, if you achieve MFIAP and MPFIAP you are automatically awarded the distinction Grandmaster FIAP – GMFIAP, the top FIAP distinction.

Should you have any specific questions about these new requirements please e-mail me at [fiap@btinternet.com**](mailto:fiap@btinternet.com). However, please check first if the answer can be found [**HERE**](#).**

Howard G Tate MA ARPS AFIAP HonPAGB. FIAP Liaison Officer - PAGB

BAD NEWS

AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT

The Adjudication scheduled for 22/23 November 2025 in Kingston on Thames is now cancelled.

Bearing in mind that we need 5 applicants to run any section, it is obvious that we don't even have sufficient applicants to justify a one day event, which is itself an expensive option as the income is obviously less but the costs are almost as great

There seems little prospect of this improving and it was felt that an early decision was required before anyone wishing to attend as an entrant or an observer committed to travel or hotel costs.

Applications at 29/7/2025		NUMBER OF IMAGES		
Distinction	No. of Entrants	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Badge Prints	3	21		21
Credit Prints	23	230		230
Credit PDI	17	170		170
Distinction Prints	14		210	210
Distinction PDI	3	-	45	45
Excellence Prints	4		60	60
Master Prints	3		60	60
Master PDI	-		-	-
TOTAL	67	421	375	796

We normally look to assess, and receive the income from, 850+ images each day and you can see that we are far short of that number.

All of the entrants have been offered the option to transfer to either of the next two Adjudications or to withdraw completely with a full refund of fees paid. We are confident of sufficient demand for these Adjudications to run as normal.

25/26 April 2026 Adjudication hosted by the NCPF in Cumbria
28/29 November 2026 Adjudication hosted by the EAF in Colchester.