

# Photo/Art Contest

## Guidelines

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NER Photocontest reformatting of guidelines October 18, 2008.  
NER Photo/Art contest revised guidelines **March 31, 2011**.

### 1. Categories

- A. Model-Black & White Print
- B. Model-Color Print
- C. Prototype-Black & White Print
- D. Prototype-Color Print
- E. Art Show - (Graphic Art: oil/watercolor paintings, pen/ink/pencil/charcoal/pastel drawings, etc.)
- X. Display Only - (Photos or Graphic Art) - **Not to be judged**
- IP. "Imagined" Photography – **Not to be judged**

### 2. Rules for Entry

- A. Entrant must be an NMRA member in good standing.
- B. Entries must be submitted by the member or an authorized proxy.
- C. The entrant must complete an entry form (Form #901). The form must be completed as accurately as possible including name, NMRA number, category, and entry number.
- D. Each member may submit up to twelve (12) entries with a maximum of two (2) entries in one judged category. Each member may submit up to an additional twelve (12) entries with a maximum of two (2) entries in one 'Display Only - not to be judged' category.
- E. Photographic prints must be mounted on flat, rigid board or matted with similar material - no folders or glass frames are allowed. Photo and mount may not exceed 11" x 14" (28cm x 35cm) in size. Minimum mount size is 8" x 10" (20cm x 25cm) and minimum print size is 5" x 7" (13cm x 18cm).
- F. Entries in the Art Contest/Show shall be mounted and/or framed but may not have glass framing. The minimum size for an entry shall be 5" x 7". The entrant will need to supply an easel for any entry that is larger than 11" x 14". The entrant should also contact the Photo Contest Chairman by email - (ner.photocontest@gmail.com) at least four weeks in advance of the convention to make arrangements for floor/table space availability for pieces that are larger than 11" x 14".
- G. Photographic prints and graphic art must have the entrant's name on the back. Photos and graphic art may be titled on the front. Photos with the entrant's name on the front will not be accepted.
- H. The photographic prints and graphic art must be the work of the entrant. The entry shall not have won a First Place Award in any previous NMRA National Convention Photo or Art Contest.
- I. Any person who derives more than 50% of income from photography or as a graphic artist is excluded from entering the contest.

### 3. Judging Procedures

The following judging system has been used in competitive camera club settings for many years. It is easiest to have a fourth person, the Photo Contest Manager for example, handle the entries, freeing the judges from handling a stack of prints or graphic art.

- A. View all the entries in a category one at a time to get an overview of the field. *There should be no commentary at this point.*

The entries are viewed again, and each judge indicates whether the entry should stay or be eliminated. During this run-through, a positive vote from any one of the judges will keep the entry in the running. Any entry receiving no votes is set aside.

During the third run-through, it requires two positive responses to keep an entry; those failing are removed and set aside.

If the field is still large, perform another run-through. Three judges are now required to give assent, although by this time there are usually no more than a dozen entries left. The purpose of this process is to narrow the field rather than to pick winners, thus it is advisable that little or no commentary should be made until the next step.

With only ten or twelve entries left, the judges now have a reasonably small field to select from. At this point considerable discussion is needed and encouraged as the judges compare the entries. Prints may be arranged on the table in order of finish, and moved about as the judges seek a consensus. ***Entries removed earlier may always be brought back for further consideration***, but it should be noted that this method will generally produce the same final ten entries or so from more than a hundred choices, no matter which team of judges is used. Different teams of judges may likely produce different winners from these finalists, however. This is not surprising, as we are dealing with a subjective medium.

- B. After all the categories have been judged, the judges must select a **Best of Show** from among the First Place winners. The Best of Show will be removed from that category for consideration of first, second and third.

#### **4. Awards**

Plaques or certificates shall be given for First, Second and Third Place in each category, together with as many Honorable Mention Certificates as are deemed necessary by the judges. The decision may be influenced by the size and quality of the field. The Best overall entry will receive BEST IN SHOW.

**NOTE:** Entries which have received a 'First Place' or 'Best in Show' award previously in either a Northeastern Region Regional Convention Photo/Art Contest or an NMRA National Convention Photo or Art Contest are not eligible to receive a certificate or award in the judged contest categories.