



Guide for **Judges, Chairs and Entrants** of PSA-recognized Exhibitions with **Photojournalism** sections, and for all other Photojournalism competition and activities in the PJ Division

## Photojournalism Division—effective July 3, 2021

This guide should be reviewed by exhibition chairs, PJ section chairs, directors of PJ activities and all PJ judges before any PJ images are judged.

### Purpose of the Definition

The PSA Photojournalism Division (PJD) is *reality-based*, like the PSA Photo Travel and Nature Divisions. The objective of PSA Photojournalism (PJ) is to capture spontaneous moments in our world to make informative images with impact. The purpose of the PJ definition is to guide photojournalism entrants towards showing life as it is, rather than how they would like it to be, to avoid deceiving the viewer and to produce truthful depictions of their observations. This illustrated guide is intended to help everyone gain a clearer understanding of the definition, and to guide judges to accept appropriate PJ images that succeed without violating the definition.

Below are the individual sections of the PJ *definition (in red)*, illustrated with examples to explain each part of the definition and some examples of images that do not meet the definition.

### *Photojournalism entries are images with informative content*



### *and emotional impact,*



*reflecting the human presence in our world.*



*The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality.*



*Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.*



*The image to the left is an honest depiction of a group of people making photographs. The one below is an attempt to deceive the viewer into believing that it was a found moment that was happening spontaneously.*

(two examples courtesy of Tom Tauber, APSA, MPSA)



*Techniques that add, relocate, replace, remove or change any element in the original scene, except by cropping, are not permitted.*



*The only allowable modifications are removal of dust, scratches or digital noise, and restoration of the appearance of the existing scene or complete conversion to full monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not eligible.*



*When Human Interest is SPECIFIED, those images should depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation,*



*EXCLUDING sports action.*



## **In summary, the entire PJ definition:**

*Photojournalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality. Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.*

*Techniques that add, relocate, replace, remove or change any element in the original scene, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable modifications are removal of dust, scratches or digital noise and restoration of the appearance of the existing scene, or complete conversion to full monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not eligible.*

*When Human Interest is SPECIFIED, those images should depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation, excluding sports action.*

### **Note to Entrants:**

Entrants to a PJ competition should ask themselves if the image is a true representation that was not influenced by them, or by anyone on their behalf, and was not changed in post processing to reflect anything inaccurately. Otherwise, it should be entered only in Projected Image (PID) or Pictorial Print (PPD) exhibitions or competitions, not in PJ.

### **Note to Judges:**

Judges of PJ exhibitions should ask themselves if the image meets every aspect of the definition in their opinion. If not, it should be scored lower, **regardless of the photographic merit**. However, disqualification (DQ) is reserved for a violation that is unambiguous, and **not** based on opinion.

For additional information, contact the PJD Exhibition Standards Director [pjd-esd@psa-photo.org](mailto:pjd-esd@psa-photo.org) or the PJD Image Evaluator [evaluator-photojournalism@psa-photo.org](mailto:evaluator-photojournalism@psa-photo.org)

Print a color copy of the Guide: **8.5x11** paper, margins set to **.75** inch at top, bottom, left and right

*Authorship and unattributed photos: Lynn Troy Maniscalco, HonFPSA, EPSA, MPJ, PJD Image Evaluator  
With contributions, approval and distribution by Photojournalism Division (PJD) and PSA, July 3, 2021*