

Where to Start on the Distinctions Trail

WHAT IS AN AWARD FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT?

These are photographic distinctions held by a photographer to show the standards to which they have reached.

APMs as they are known in the PAGB are held for life and the letters can be used after your name.

CPAGB - CREDIT - Good Club Photography

DPAGB - DISTINCTION - Open Exhibition Photography

MPAGB - MASTER - Highest Standard of UK Amateur Photography

The Royal Photographic Society have their own distinctions of similar standards LRPS, ARPS, FRPS but you must be a member of the Society to use the distinction letters behind your name and are only valid whilst you hold membership.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR AWARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC MERIT?

Anyone who is a member of a club or society affiliated to the PAGB can at anytime apply for an Award for Photographic Merit.

You can just pay your money and take your chance or you can take advantage of the help out there and increase your standard of photography giving you a better chance of gaining the award.

For PAGB APMs In the first instance contact :

Awards Officer Stehanie Cook LRPS EFIAP DPAGB stephanie.cook@btinternet.com

For RPS Distinctions please contact them directly : <http://www.rps.org/distinctions>

WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS?

The standard for the CPAGB/LRPS for example is "good club photography".

Perhaps you regularly get pictures chosen in competitions or have won cups and trophies at your club or even made Photographer of the Year. What you have to decide is whether your club is of "good club photography" standard.

For detailed explanations on PAGB standards: <http://www.thepagb.org.uk/awards/apm-awards/>

For detailed explanations on RPS standards: <http://www.rps.org/distinctions>

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHAT MY STANDARD IS?

Before you take the plunge you can attend workshops and get advice as to the level of your photography and receive advice on how to improve images if they don't quite hit the mark.

The Federation hosting the Adjudication will offer a workshop beforehand for prospective candidates or attend one of the YPU workshops or ask to be appraised with a view to applying to be mentored.

For Workshops scheduled check here: <http://www.ypu.org.uk/AdvancePhotography.aspx>

For Mentoring Scheme please apply to:

Advanced Photography Officer Andrea Hargreaves EFIAP DPAGB PSA4 BPE3

Email andrehargreaves2003@yahoo.co.uk

WHAT IS THE YPU MENTOR SCHEME?

The mentor Scheme is a small but dedicated team of very experienced photographers who offer help and advice to others wanting to gain distinctions through the PAGB and RPS

organisations.

Since running our Mentoring Scheme we have developed and improved our systems and have helped many members achieve their goals. We help candidates through those final stages of preparation. But please note, Mentors are NOT a personal tutor to help candidates REACH a particular standard, that is up to the individual candidate to do for themselves.

For more information see here: <http://www.ypu.org.uk/events-mentoring.aspx>

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING A MENTOR?

When applying for a Mentor you will now be asked to provide for an initial assessment 15 images (for CPAGB) 20 images (for DPAGB) 25 – 30 images (for MPAGB)

Mentors will decide if you are at the desired standard for your choice of distinction (10 required for CPAGB/15 for DPAGB/20 for MPAGB)

If your images are the correct standard, we will advise you to apply immediately for an adjudication through PAGB Awards Officer Stephanie Cook

stephanie.cook@btinternet.com These APMs are very popular throughout the UK but you will usually be allocated an adjudication within 12 months of application from the PAGB service.

Once your adjudication date is confirmed you will be allocated a mentor to work with you and you will both sign a Mentor Contract which sets out the process to finalise/improve your images/printing etc and help you select your final submission.

If your images are NOT considered to be of the required standard you will be advised as such and advised to continue to learn and improve your craft before applying for an adjudication date.

PLEASE NOTE - IF AFTER BEING ADVISED TO WAIT BY THE ASSESSOR YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF THE REQUIRED STANDARD, YOU CAN STILL APPLY FOR AN ADJUDICATION DATE BUT WE WILL NOT allocate a mentor to guide you.

WHAT CAN I BE DOING TO HELP MYSELF?

Anyone starting the Distinctions journey should be actively entering and winning competitions within their club or society, and equally important, they should be gaining ACCEPTANCES and AWARDS regularly in the YPU Annual Exhibition.

Here you will find a list of useful events hosted by the YPU to help your journey.

<http://www.ypu.org.uk/events-exhibit2016.aspx>

You should be actively entering Salons and Exhibitions for example British Photographic Exhibitions BPEs or FIAP/PSA Salons and Exhibitions like the Yorkshire International Salon 2017 which is now open for entries (closes 4 December 2017) and regularly getting Acceptances and Awards.

For the Yorkshire International Salon look here:

<http://www.yorkshiresalon.co.uk/live2017/entry.php>

For a list of British Photographic Exhibitions :

<http://www.britishphotographicexhibitions.org.uk/index.php/list-of-exhibitions>

For a list of FIAP/PSA Salons and Exhibitions: <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html>

For those on Face Book there are some great advice groups run by successful PAGB judges at our disposal.

Become a member of the YPU facebook page <http://www.ypu.org.uk/events-facebook.aspx>

An invaluable tool is the Distinctions CD which your Club syllabus secretary can order from Awards Officer Stephanie Cook stephanie.cook@btinternet.com

One of the best ways to be in the "know about everything" is to sign up the this newsletter <http://www.pagbnews.co.uk>

These are all positive ways to test your images. If you are unsure of your standard you should be doing some or all of these things!