

# A Salon is a Photographic Exhibiton

There are two ways of gaining Photographic distinctions. The first is submitting a set of images to an awarding body who will judge if they qualify.

The PAGB distinctions ( Awards for Photographic Merit) ie CPAGB DPAGB MPAGB have to be strong impact stand alone Images as they are judged by 6 judges and marked within 5 seconds. Anything too subtle will not have the same initial wow factor and it won't impact the judges. Once you have paid your entry fee and received the award you pay nothing further.

These images are said to be good club photography but that's good club photography from the best clubs in the UK.

The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) is very different to all others as it is all about creating a panel of images which sit together. These images aren't necessarily stand alones and In fact probably as individual images aren't that strong. The panel is judged by a panel of judges who will deliberate together. You must be a member of the RPS and pay yearly subscriptions to keep this distinction.

Where an RPS panel have to be related, APM's have to be stand alones and completely different from each other and cannot rely on its neighbour to tell a story.

The RPS and APM's are different disciplines and this is where candidates get confused. Although both require good club photography standards, often one image will suit either / or disciplines but will be rarely suitable for both.

The second method is acquiring a distinction from entering National and International Photographic Salons & Exhibitions and collecting Acceptance points.

British Photographic Exhibitions (BPE's) are National Exhibitions and Salons. There are about 20 of them now. You enter competitions online or through the post with digital or printed images and you aim to get them accepted. You collect a point for every acceptance gained and when you complete the criteria you are awarded the BPE crown distinctions. Awards such as medals and ribbons are given to the top images.

By entering these you will find out what standard is required for the CPAGB & DPAGB distinctions and possibly you have a better chance of passing APM's as your images will improve no end seeing the best images the UK has to offer.

Yes there are trends in UK photography no one denies this. If you want to succeed in the UK you don't have to follow suit but you are competing against the best in the UK.

Some of the award winning images are created images but many aren't. Believe me when I say a GOOD image WILL win whether it is photoshopped or not. Popular belief is that landscapes don't do well but a GOOD landscape will win every time, the same for any genre.

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FIAP distinctions are the International equivalent to BPE's. You are competing world Wide so your images are less likely to be known by the judges, some would say giving a fairer chance to succeed.

By entering these competitions you will learn what type of image is preferred in different countries and if you are clever it needn't cost a fortune! Here there are medals for top images but there are also cash prizes, cameras, trips abroad etc You collect points towards AFIAP EFIAP EFIAP levels etc There is a complex criteria to satisfy ie you need so many images, in so many countries, a number of salons and for levels you need to collect awards but it is good fun and it's very addictive. You should study the criteria recording before beginning.

Photographic Society of America (PSA) also gives patronage to some sections in International Exhibitions. To collect those distinctions you need to be a member of the PSA - which is very reasonably priced and worth investigating.

The Wath Salon award medals for winning images but it doesn't have patronage to FIAP or the PAGB so you cannot claim an acceptance for it towards a distinction. It is run every December by Dearne Valley camera club.

The London Salon is an Art Salon. Weight is given to artistic images either photographic or created and is quite prestigious. It gives out a maximum of 10 salon medals per year and there are only 4 YPU members in Yorkshire to have won one. Andrea Hargreaves, Richard Spurdens (2) Les Forester and Larry Walker (correct at 2016). It was a spin off Salon from the RPS in the olden days!

From my own experience I have found that Images which will be accepted Internationally may not necessarily get you your CPAGB and images submitted for your LRPS on the whole wouldn't get you it either. When starting on this trail you should be aware of the difference disciplines within each organization and plan your route carefully so as not to waste time, effort and money!

However, doing salons and exhibitions WILL help your own images improve. You will see amazing images from all over the world. To continually improve you have to frequently see what is being produced as in turn these images will inspire and help you with your own work.

For further help or information please email me at [andreaHargreaves2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andreaHargreaves2003@yahoo.co.uk)

Good Luck

Andrea Hargreaves

EFIAP DPAGB BPE2 PSA4



<http://www.thepagb.org.uk>

CPAGB DPAGB MPAGB

AWARDS > APM Awards

Leaflet 1

Leaflet 2

COMPETITIONS > these are National PAGB comps > look at the Galleries

FIAP > fiap distinctions for Photographic Merit

- starting out on the exhibition trail
- criteria for FIAP Awards (dec 2015 new rules)
- frequently asked questions
- programme for 2016 submissions

SUCSESSESS

GALLERIES



<http://www.rps.org>

<http://www.rps.org/distinctions>

LRPS ARPS FRPS

About Distinctions   Step by Step   Assessment Dates   Successes   Downloads   Advice



<http://www.fiap.net>

AFIAP EFIAP EFIAP levels MFIAP

Information and background to FIAP

<http://patronages.fiap.net/2016-by-months.html>

shows all the Salons under FIAP patronage for 2016 in month order

Click on the salon website shown at the bottom of each box to find out all details of that salon.



<http://www.psa-photo.org/index.php/about-psa-overview>

Many distinctions to attain

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is a worldwide organization providing a wide range of services that promote photography and benefits to its members. Individual members can participate in competitions, study groups and on-line **education programs** designed to advance their photographic knowledge and skills. Competitions are held for clubs, councils, federations and chapters, also.



<http://www.britishphotographicexhibitions.org.uk>

BPE CROWNS 1 to 5 FBPE

## AWARDS

The National Exhibitions which are members of the British Photographic Exhibitions offer a Crown Award system designed to enable successful exhibition photographers to gain additional recognition. Exhibitors are invited to aggregate their acceptances in the affiliated exhibitions and, upon reaching the accepted aggregate, to apply without charge for a Crown Rating Award. Each successful applicant for an award will receive a Certificate and a Ribbon and will be able to use the letters acknowledging their award after their name.

BPE1 Crown Award - 25 points   BPE2 Crown Award - 50 points   BPE3 Crown Award - 100 points   BPE4 Crown Award - 200 points   BPE5 Crown Award - 300 points