

# Distinctions

## Updates in Red

### FIAP

F.I.A.P. is the abbreviation for the Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique.

It is a Worldwide federation to develop relationships amongst photographers (the PAGB is affiliated to the organisation).

There are a number of distinctions that can be earned over a period of time, after having a number of images / photographs accepted in International Photographic Salons and Exhibitions.

Basically the distinctions are:

AFIAP - Artist of FIAP - The first level of award FIAP for photographic merit in international competition.

EFIAP - Excellence of FIAP. There are sub-divisions of this level of distinction.

MFIAP - Master of FIAP - The highest level of FIAP award for photographic merit in international competition.

The main criteria for the award of AFIAP and EFIAP is acceptance in FIAP approved print/slide Exhibitions or AV Festivals over a prescribed period of time. Also the submission of a portfolio of work to FIAP that should be examples of the candidates best exhibition photography.

**These new rules will apply to all applications from now on.**

### AFIAP

The waiting period has been reduced to 12months after the first acceptance in an approved salon and requires at least 30 acceptances from 10 different works in 10 different \* salons in 5 different countries.

PAGB have added the requirement for at least one award.

Different salons = salons with different names, not merely different years of the same salon.

(The previous FIAP ruling that a circuit of exhibitions can only be counted as a single salon may also be applied).

## **EFIAP**

This can be applied for not sooner than one year after the AFIAP, and requires at least a total (including AFIAP) of 150 acceptances and 50 different works in 30 different \* salons in 15 different countries. (See above regarding salon circuits).

The PAGB have added the requirement for at least 5 awards (including AFIAP awards).

See above regarding different salons.

Award = medal , trophy, ribbon, HM, HC etc

## **Further Comments**

1. The details above are just the gist of the changes.  
At the moment all the PAGB has to go on are the minutes of a FIAP meeting that made the changes.  
Full details are to follow and the new dossier forms when translations have been done.
2. England, Wales and Scotland are all counted as different countries.
3. Acceptances now are for acceptances. The original applications gave 2 points for prints and one point for slides/digital. These points have now gone.
4. There are no changes to the EFIAP gold/silver/platinum.
5. Applications can be made using print, slide or digital images.

Applicants for AFIAP and EFIAP are also required to submit to FIAP a portfolio of at least 5 but not more than 10 works, and to donate to PAGB 3 or more works. In both cases these should be reproductions of the applicant's best and preferably award-winning pictures. The portfolio is retained by FIAP and the works donated to PAGB are used to select entries for the various FIAP Biennial events covering Monochrome & Colour Prints, Colour slides, and Nature prints & slides.

Holders of the EFIAP or MFIAP distinctions may wish to continue exhibiting and work towards the EFIAP Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. Details of the requirements for each of these are tabulated below. Since gaining EFIAP, applicants should have received:

LEVEL	MINIMA	PORTFOLIO
EFIAP Bronze	75 Acceptances with at least 25 different works.	3 prints with a total

of at least 4 awards in 4 different countries.

EFIAP Silver 150 Acceptances with at least 50 different works. 4 prints with a total of at least 5 awards in 5 different countries.

EFIAP Gold 300 Acceptances with at least 100 different works. 5 prints with a total of at least 6 awards in 6 different countries.

EFIAP Platinum 600 Acceptances with at least 200 different works. 6 prints with a total of at least 7 awards in 7 different countries.

*AT LEAST 25% OF THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ACCEPTANCES SHOULD BE GAINED OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM.*

Slide exhibitors may apply for the above EFIAP Levels, but their portfolio must consist of prints made from the award-winning slides.

Candidates for MFIAP must be holders of the basic EFIAP or any further EFIAP Level, and can only apply with print or AV work. A separate leaflet is available on request giving further details.

Eligibility. Applications can only be made by members of camera clubs or photographic societies affiliated through their regional area Federations to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, or members of clubs affiliated to the Scottish Photographic Federation and Welsh Photographic Federation, both of whom are independent members of FIAP.

Applications for any of the above FIAP distinctions can be made through the appropriate Liaison Officer, who is:-

Ian Platt, MFIAP, FRPS, Hon.EFIAP, HonPAGB  
Prospect Cottage, Serrells Mead  
Langton Matravers  
Swanage, BH19 3JB  
Tel: 01929 424496

**The best time to apply is in August by sending a large SAE envelope.**

**FIAP Exhibitions in the UK with entry forms available**

<http://www.lcpu.org/lcpu/externalcompetitions.php>

Other FIAP Exhibitions

<http://webplaza.pt.lu/public/suyswill/mensuel09.htm>

## **BPE**

The BPE exhibitions are typically organised by a single photography club or by a number of clubs in the same geographic area that get together to organise a national exhibition. There is a self help group called the British Photographic Exhibition (BPE) which has 15 member exhibitions. The BPE was setup to encourage photographers to enter exhibitions and the members share ideas, promote each others exhibitions and generally work together to promote competitive photography.

The 15 members of the BPE are:

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Bromsgrove   | 8. Shrewsbury |
| 2. Beyond Group | 9. Solihull   |
| 3. Bebington    | 10. Southport |
| 4. Dingwall     | 11. Wirral    |
| 5. Great Barr   | 12. Evesham   |
| 6. Guernsey     | 13. Cotswold  |
| 7. Rushden      | 14. GDPU      |
|                 | 15. Havant    |

### **Crown awards and distinctions**

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

Those who achieve the top crown award rating BPE5\* are then invited to aggregate acceptances and awards in the member exhibitions and upon reaching the accepted aggregate to apply, without charge, for Associateship ABPE and Fellowship FBPE. The successful applicant will receive a Certificate and Medal and will be able to use the letters acknowledging their award after their name.

A copy of the regulations for BPE Crown Awards may be obtained from (SAE please):

Mr Cliff Thompson  
Hon FRPS EFIAP FBPE  
BPE Crown Awards Officer  
Kintra, 79 Belfry Drive  
Wollaston  
Stourbridge  
DY8 3SE

### **Contact details**

BPE Chairman  
Mr Roy Millett AFIAP BPE3\* APAGB

### **BPE Exhibitions in the UK with entry forms available.**

<http://www.lcpu.org/lcpu/externalcompetitions.php>

Other BPE Exhibitions

<http://www.b-p-e.org.uk>

## **RPS**

### **RPS Distinctions**

There are three levels of distinction: Licentiate, Associate and Fellowship, which are awarded to applicants who can show the appropriate level of skills, at the appropriate level impractical photography, by showing a specific selection of their work to a panel of judges.

The Distinctions Criteria:

Licentiateship: the initial distinction which is awarded for “general photographic competence”. The requirement is for 10 prints, slides or CD images. There is no constraint on subject matter, and a range of subjects can be shown within the same panel, although it is wise to beware of too great a diversity. The principal criteria considered by the judges are:

- Control of the Medium, including camera work, technical quality and appropriateness of technique;
  - Seeing and Thinking, which includes visual awareness and communication;
- Breath of Approach, covering the range of work and its presentation.

Associateship and Fellowship: At these levels a degree of specialisation is required and this is covered by the following categories or disciplines:

- Applied and Professional,
- Contemporary,
- Documentary and Visual Journalism,
- Nature,
- Travel,
- Visual Art,
- Printing,
- Slide-Sound Sequence,
- Film & Video,
- Research and Development.

At these levels a cohesive set of pictures is required which relate to each other and form a unified whole, possibly illustrating a specific theme or activity.

A written statement is also required describing the purpose of the photography.

At Associate level, candidates need to show an advanced stage of ability with a high standard of competence in composition, lighting, communication, and involvement with the subject.

The Fellowship standard is substantially higher, there is to be technical excellence throughout and the panel as a whole has to show distinguished creative ability.

For Associateships and Fellowships all of the judges are themselves Fellows of the Society, and all fellowship panels are first seen by a panel of specialist judges and those which they recommend are seen by the Fellowship Review Board which consists of the Chairman of all of the specialist Panels, for confirmation or rejection.

All recommendations for passes at every level have to be approved by the Council.

For all those with even the faintest desire to gain a distinction, it is worth attending a workshop, either with or even at first without your own work. You can also attend a live Assessment Panel; these can be a very useful way of seeing in person the standard of work required of a particular level. A lot can also be learnt not only from seeing panels which are deemed to be up to the mark, but also from panels that fail to make the grade.

### **Contact details**

The Royal Photographic Society  
Fenton House  
122 Wells Road  
Bath BA2 3AH  
United Kingdom

**Email:** [reception@rps.org](mailto:reception@rps.org)

**Website:** [www.rps.org](http://www.rps.org)

**General Enquiries:** 01225 325733

## **PAGB**

**Photographic Alliance of Great Britain**  
Awards for Photographic Merit

Awards

The Awards are open to all members of Clubs affiliated to the PAGB through their Federations and are at three levels,

- o Credit (CPAGB) - Blue badge and certificate
- o Distinction (DPAGB) - Red badge and certificate
- o Master (MPAGB) - Gold badge and certificate

They are held for life without any annual fee and holders are entitled to use the designated letters after

their name. These awards were set up just a few years ago to be the PAGBs answer to the RPS and its awards. It is said by some that the scoring and therefore the awards are not always consistent, which cannot be said of the RPSs awards whatever comments are laid against them.

## Qualification

All applicants must pre-qualify in accordance with their Federation's criteria as having supported Federation photographic events. This support must have been given for a minimum of 2 years for CPAGB, 3 years for DPAGB and 5 years for MPAGB from current active photographers. A retrospective period of 10 years may be considered. Applicants for MPAGB must have held DPAGB for at least 11 months on date of application.

Each slide or print is viewed by a panel of 6 judges selected from the PAGB Judges list. Each picture is scored electronically (2 to 5) but only the total score for each photograph is announced.

**CPAGB** The Standard is that of 'Good Club Photography'. 10 slides or prints, gaining a score of 200 or more. (This means an average score of 3.3 per image per judge.)

**DPAGB** Distinction from the PAGB - Judged from 15 prints, or slides, with a standard of 'Open Exhibition Photography ', gaining a score of 300 or more. (This means an average score of 3.3 per image per judge.)

**MPAGB** Master from the PAGB - Highest level of award from the PAGB - Judged from 20 prints, or slides, with a standard of 'The Highest Standard of Amateur Photography ', scoring 450 or more. (This means an average score of 3.75 per image per judge.)

**APAGB** PAGB award for Meritorious Service. Awarded to persons who have given outstanding service to photographers belonging to member societies of the federations of the PAGB.

For more information click this link and scroll down to  
PAGB Awards for Photographic Merit.

<http://www.lcpu.org/lcpu/downloads.php>

### **Contact details**

Henry Mullarkey

competitions@lcpu.org.uk

## **PSA**

### **PSA Membership and their Star Awards**

The Photographic Society of America (PSA), despite its name is an organisation that spans the globe – although it is concentrated in the US of A. In order to be eligible for their Star awards one has to be a member of the PSA (details below).

The PSA has a number of photographic divisions (of which more later), each of which award PSA stars that members are entitled to apply for, after they have had the requisite number of images accepted in PSA accredited Photo Salons and Exhibitions, within that division across the globe. Receipt of a star award will be noted as, for example PSA 2\*. The maximum is 5\*, although there are awards above that. There are, for historical reasons, different criteria for the awarding of stars in the different divisions, again more later.

It should be noted that unlike F.I.A.P.

- there is no requirement for an applicant to have had images accepted outside of your home country
- there is no time constraint
- there is no requirement for any of the acceptances to have gained any awards
- you do have to be a current member, that having

been said you could be a brand new member and apply for you PSA 1\*, if you have the requisite number of acceptances prior to joining

- all members are treated the same, whichever country you are in.

Several Photo Salons & Exhibitions are accredited to both FIAP & the PSA along with the National Photographic organisation, so it is perfectly possible for entrants to accumulate points from acceptances in the same Salon for both FIAP & PSA distinctions at the same time. However be warned, you will need to keep thorough and detailed records from the beginning, and it can become almost addictive and therefore expensive.

#### Divisions

There are different criteria for the different divisions and the historical reason for this is there are more Salons & Exhibitions that are accredited in some divisions than others. Therefore, it was deemed easier or more difficult to accumulate the requisite number of acceptances depending on the division one was working in. The basic requirements for Star ratings are indicated below in the form 30/6, that means that at least 30 acceptances in PSA accredited Salons & Exhibitions, with at least 6 different images. So you could have 32 acceptances with 9 different images and be entitled to a Star.

#### Colo(u)r Projected Image (CPID)

1\* - 30/6

2\* - 80/16

3\* - 160/32

4\* - 320/64

5\* - 640/128

This used to be known as the Colour Image Division (CID) and with the introduction of Digital; there was

an amount of antipathy towards this interloper. Accordingly, the Electronic Imaging Division was formed, however over time this division has modified its stance towards Digital Imaging and Projection and so the change of name, but there remains a difference in the number of acceptances required for the two divisions.

#### Electronic Imaging (EID)

Acceptances in this division can be accumulated in Colour & Monochrome Stills, but they are dealt with separately, so a member could have a PSA 3\* in Colour and PSA 1\* in Mono within this division if they so desired. However, the requirements are the same for each, being:

1\* - 18/6

2\* - 36/12

3\* - 72/24

4\* - 144/48

5\* - 288/96

Members may also apply for EID Video Star ratings, but I will not deal with them here.

#### Nature (ND)

1\* - 18/6

2\* - 36/12

3\* - 72/24

4\* - 144/48

5\* - 288/96

#### Photojournalism (PJD) & Photo Travel (PTD)

1\* - 30/6

2\* - 60/12

3\* - 120/24

4\* - 240/48

5\* - 480/96

### Pictorial Print (PPD)

PSA stars are awarded in 4 sections within this division, being Colour & Monochrome and these are split between Large (Class A) & Small Prints (Class B).

### Mono

Large Prints (Class A) (Class B)	Small Prints
1* - 30/6	1* - 18/6
2* - 80/16	2* - 36/12
3* - 160/32	3* - 72/24
4* - 320/64	4* - 144/48
5* - 640/128	5* - 288/96

### Colour

Large Prints (Class A) (Class B)	Small Prints
1* - 30/6	1* - 18/6
2* - 80/16	2* - 36/12
3* - 160/32	3* - 72/24
4* - 320/64	4* - 144/48

5\* - 640/128

5\* - 288/96

## Stereo

This Division provides information and activities for all those interested in 3D Photography. I have no information on any Star ratings in this division.

## Services to members of the PSA

The different divisions offer more than one hundred specific services and activities, including courses in photography, technical information services; instructional slide sets, DVDs and videos; critique and evaluation services; group workshops; national, regional and local photo seminars; print, slide, digital essay competitions and more.

At the time of writing membership costs \$53 for individuals outside of North America. Different rates apply for couples, youths, and those aged 72 and over. Membership also includes 12 issues of the PSA Journal magazine, and you can have up to 20 of your images posted on their web site at no charge. The PSA states that every issue of the Journal includes articles with outstanding photography, "how to" information, data on the latest equipment, book reviews, and news about PSA members and their activities and accomplishments. To find out more go to <http://www.psa-photo.org/>

## **PSA Exhibitions in the UK with entry forms available.**

<http://www.lcpu.org/lcpu/externalcompetitions.php>

## **Other PSA Exhibitions**

<http://www.psa-photo.org/assets/pdffiles/exhibitions.pdf>

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