

How to join the Salon?

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What is Salon?

Salon is an exhibition organized by the photo club where photographers all over the world are invited to share their works. These opportunities allow the photographers to be exposed to the various cultures and also allow them to learn from one another. Good works are commended and awarded medals. 4 pieces of works (prints or slides) are submitted for the exhibition, where a judging panel of about 5 judges will shortlist the top 30% of the works for acceptance and selection of top images for awards. These acceptances can be accumulated for the application of titles from FIAP or The Photographic Society of Singapore as long as the Salon is patronaged by these 2 organisations. Catalogues will be produced at the end of the Salon where the photographer's name and accepted works names will be published in the catalogue alongside with the winning works. It is prestigious that one gets an acceptance and representing their country. The Photographic Society of Singapore is recognized by FIAP as the national body for photography in Singapore and the FIAP titles application for Singaporeans can be made through the Society who has appointed a FIAP Liaison Officer among its Council member. For the list of country's federation representative, pls refer to the link <http://www.fiap.net/paysmembres.php?lang=en>

Where do I get information about the Salons?

The Salon calendar can be obtained from PSS Journal, or from FIAP website <http://webplaza.pt.lu/suyswill/>

What size of works should I submit?

For prints, sizes can range from 8R to 16" by 20". For slides, the slide mount should not be bigger than 5cm by 5cm. For Oversea Salons, the prints should not be mounted, and preferably on glossy paper.

How to join the Salon:

- (1) Have a proper tagging system
- (2) Select the images
- (3) Fill in the template form
- (4) For prints, use postal tube for sending. For slides, use airpockets for protection.
- (5) Exchange for US currency, bank draft/ money order or IRC coupons, put in black paper and pack together with the package.
- (6) Send by registered air mail, labeling "no commercial value. Slides/ prints for exhibition".
- (7) Give yourself three weeks for delivery. Try not to rush.

What should I take note of for documentation?

- (1) FIAP and PSA patronage number
- (2) Closing date
- (3) The Photo club organizing the Salon

- (4) Name of the Salon chairman
- (5) Address
- (6) Title of works submitted
- (7) Fee submitted
- (8) Return of report card, catalogue and slides

Why should I join the Salon?

By joining the Salons, you will be able to see others' works while sharing with them in the exhibition. You may even call it a competition. This will enable you to broaden your scope and may push you to greater heights in your pursuit. At the same time, the acceptances you accumulated over the various Salons can enable you to apply for titles from FIAP or PSA. FIAP titles include AFIAP and EFIAP, while PSA titles include the various Stars and Galaxies titles. Besides this, you may get to know photographers all over the world. Taking part in international Salons will partially solve the "what do I shoot for" syndrome for many photographers who are about to hang up their cameras as they have so many Salons to take part which will result in their thirst and quest in photography. Sometimes, in life, having objectives is a necessity.

What is so great about these titles?

- (1) Respect from other photographers
- (2) Shows you are a competent photographer, as you need to shoot many images to get these titles. As you shoot more, you are more exposed as a photographer.
- (3) Enable yourself to know your level and style
- (4) Some photo club that organize the Salon may recognize the effort and skill of photographers who accumulated more than 9 acceptances in 3 consecutive Salons. They may confer the title of "excellent exhibitor" on the photographer who achieved the feat. It is a prestigious title, and the photographer will get to know more people in these oversea clubs.

What type of pictures are suitable for Salon?

Currently, there are a few categories for Salon: Pictorial open, Nature, Electronic Imaging (Digital), Photo-travel and Photo-Journalism. Mediums used include colour slide, colour print or mono print. The categories and medium to be submitted varies from different Salons. At the same time, one will realize that Salons in different countries have different preferences, so are the judges. One tip is to find out more about that particular Salon style and judges style from previous catalogues if you can get one from your seniors. You might be shocked to find out that the style in Belgium, Austria and France is very different from that in America, or Asia. Find which style suits you better. Usually, photographers send to the various Salons knowing what to submit based on experiences garnered over the years.

Misconception of Salon:

Misconception 1: Salon works are posed armchair shots

Answer: Not true. The best works in the exhibition who are awarded medals are creative shots, not posed armchair ones. A growing trend is that the photographers do manipulation via Photoshop which resulted in creative and refreshing works.

Misconception 2: Salon photography is only for the rich and have loads of time

Answer: Not true. Even though photographers pay a token fee ranging from US\$6 to US\$20 for the Salons, there are more than 150 Salons per year for them to choose from, based on their budgets and preference. Photography is a hobby, and Salon is one place where these busy people, while pursuing photography, can send their works for sharing and gauging of skills.

Tips:

- (1) If you are shooting slides, try to shoot more than 4 frames of a good scene. Reason being, it will take quite a while before the slide will be returned to you. There is no guarantee that the slide will be returned to you in original condition, and there might be a chance if the slide is lost or destroyed in mail, especially after the Sept 11, 2001 case. Having extra frames will enable you to have one original as reference, and three for sending to various Salons.
- (2) Duplicates of the image is another option beside shooting many frames of a scene. However, the output quality of the duplicates will be determined by the skills and equipment of the person doing for you.
- (3) A new trend is photographers do image manipulation by Photoshop and convert the high resolution digital file into colour slide by professional labs. Try to approach RGB Color or Raffles lab.
- (4) For slide users, do take note that some Salon judging use white screen and some use silver screen. Silver screen tends to make the images brighter. Hence, it is always safer to shoot slides a little under-exposed for those daytime bright sunny shots, under by 1/3 or even 1/5 in some case. This will make the slide look good on a silver screen and good enough for a white screen.
- (5) Some photographers prefer to use slide mounts with glass (with anti-newton ring). Some prefer slide mount without glass. The advantage of slide mount with glass is that it serves as protection and prevent the slide from changing "shape" due to heating effect when projected by the projector. The disadvantage is that if it is broken while on transit towards destination or towards home, the slide is gone for good with scratches from the broken glass. The advantage of slide mount without glass is that there is not risk of broken glass, but the disadvantage is that it is open to dust and thumbprints, and has a chance to warp a little when exposed to projector for too long.

