



The 5th Washington International Mobile Photography Awards

Rules and Guidelines

(New Version: Nov. 15, 2025)



Contents

1. PURPOSE	1
2. ORGANIZER.....	1
3. CO-ORGANIZERS	1
4. THEME CATEGORIES.....	1
4.1 Theme 1: Everyday Life	1
4.1.1 Content and Subject Matter Guidelines.....	1
4.1.2 Prohibited Content.....	2
4.1.3 Submission.....	2
4.2 Theme 2: Nature and Landscape	2
4.3 Theme 3: People and Documentary	2
4.4 Post-Processing Guidelines for Themes 1-3.....	2
4.5 Theme 4: Art and Creativity	2
4.6 Post-Processing Guidelines for Theme 4	2
5. AWARDS	3
5.1 Theme 1: Everyday Life	3
5.2 Themes 2, 3, and 4.....	3
6. JUDGING PANEL	4
6.1 Specially Appointed Art Consultant: Yueheng Duan	4
6.2 Chair of the Judging Panel: John Fan	5
6.3 Judges	6
7. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	10
7.1 SUBMISSION DATES	11
7.2 SUBMISSION AND FEES	11
7.3 SUBMISSION METHODS	11
7.3.1 Global (all regions except Mainland China)	11
7.3.2 Mainland China.....	11
7.4 DISCLAIMER.....	11
7.5 INQUIRIES	11
8. SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT	12



9.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	12
9.1	Titled Sponsor	12
9.2	Diamond Sponsor	12
9.3	Platinum Sponsor.....	12
9.4	Gold Sponsors	12
9.5	Charitable Sponsors	13
10.	PAST AWARD-WINNING WORKS	13
11.	ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	13
12.	CONSORTIUM PARTNERS	14

1. PURPOSE

The Washington International Mobile Photography Awards provides mobile photography enthusiasts with a platform to share and showcase their work, to capture and tell stories through their images, and to share personal reflections behind them.

2. ORGANIZER



Washington Cultural Arts Foundation (WCAF)

3. CO-ORGANIZERS



Maryland Photography Alliance



Atlantic Photographers Association



Raving Photography

4. THEME CATEGORIES

There are four theme categories: Everyday Life, Nature and Landscape, People and Documentary, and Art and Creativity.

4.1 Theme 1: Everyday Life

This category is for stories about the human touch of everyday life, capturing its beauty, warmth, diversity, and depth through images.

4.1.1 Content and Subject Matter Guidelines

Images that convey warmth and genuine human emotions; the extraordinary within ordinary life; poetic moments; everyday urban life; scenes from streets and alleys; family life; traditional craftsmanship; festive customs; and other visuals that reflect the truth, goodness, and beauty of daily living.



4.1.2 Prohibited Content

Overly staged photography, commercial advertising, and images involving violence or vulgarity are not accepted.

4.1.3 Submission

- Single Photo: One photo per entry.
- Photo Series (accepted only in the Everyday Life Theme): A set of four–six images (up to three series per entrant).

4.2 Theme 2: Nature and Landscape

- Works featuring natural elements or landscapes as the main subject
- Natural elements can include animals, plants, or natural phenomena

4.3 Theme 3: People and Documentary

- Works showcasing cultural activities and human landscapes
- Portraits, urban architecture, and social events

4.4 Post-Processing Guidelines for Themes 1-3

- Dust spots and noise may be removed.
- No adding, replacing, or moving compositional elements.
- No alterations that change the original scene's structure.
- AI-generated images are not permitted

4.5 Theme 4: Art and Creativity

- Works expressing abstract or creative content through artistic methods and techniques.

4.6 Post-Processing Guidelines for Theme 4

- No restrictions on post-processing or image editing
- Imaginative or conceptual images and visual art through post-processing are allowed



- AI-generated images are NOT accepted

5. AWARDS

5.1 Theme 1: Everyday Life

There are two subcategories under this theme: Single Photo and Photo Series.

Each offers the following awards:

- First-Place (Gold) Award: One winner, \$300
- Second-Place (Silver) Award: Three winners, \$200 each
- Third-Place (Bronze) Award: Five winners, \$100 each
- Honorable Mention: Certificates of Recognition

5.2 Themes 2, 3, and 4

For Themes 2, 3, and 4 (Single Photo only, no Photo Series entries), the following awards are given:

- First-Place (Gold) Award: One winner, \$300
- Second-Place (Silver) Award: Two winners, \$200 each
- Third-Place (Bronze) Award: Three winners, \$100 each
- Honorable Mention: Certificates of Recognition



6. JUDGING PANEL

6.1 Specially Appointed Art Consultant: Yueheng Duan

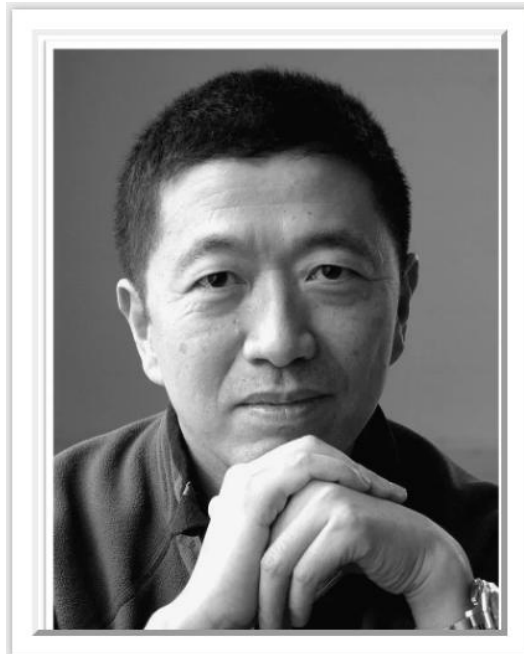


Mr. Yueheng Duan is a two-time recipient of the American Benny Gold Award, earning the honor at the 62nd and 70th ceremonies. His accolades include the Sino-Canadian Cultural Outstanding Contribution Award from the Canadian government (2017), the Lifetime Achievement Award at the first Canadian IPF International Photography Festival (2015), and the Gold Award at the 5th China Printing Awards.

Mr. Duan's photographic works are held in the collections of numerous art institutions and private collectors. He has also served as a judge for international photography exhibitions, directed photography art festivals, and published three photography art albums: Black and White World, Black and White Vision, and Black and White Realm.



6.2 Chair of the Judging Panel: John Fan



Recipient of the CUSPEA (China-U.S. Physics Examination and Application) scholarship in his early years, Dr. John Fan has lived in the United States for over 30 years and has worked across diverse fields including physics, medicine, and photography.

He holds a Ph.D. in Physics, is a specialist in radiological medicine, and a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). At the same time, he is also a curator and the China Ambassador for the world-renowned online photography art gallery 1x.com, as well as one of the founding members of the Four Apertures Photography Team.

His photographic work has won numerous awards in the international photography community, has been frequently published in both domestic and international media, exhibited in many international exhibitions, and collected by multiple image agencies.

All of his photographic work is archived on his personal website:

<http://JohnFanPhotography.com>



6.3 Judges

Ian Plant, Hazel Meredith, Jin Gong, Shicheng Huang, Enpu Yang, Emma Zhao



Ian Plant

Whether hanging over the rim of an active volcano or braving the elements to photograph critically endangered species, Ian Plant has spent the past two decades traveling the globe in his never-ending quest to capture the beauty of our world with his camera. Ian has reached hundreds of thousands of people in his mission to inspire and educate others in the art of photography. Ian is the author of dozens of books and instructional videos, an instructor for KelbyOne and other photography education outlets, and founder of Photo Masters, a site dedicated to photography education and inspiration.

<https://ianplant.com/>
<https://www.photomasters.co>



Hazel Meredith

Hazel Meredith is an award-winning photographer and a sought-after teacher, speaker, and competition judge. She began teaching in 2007, and now does seminars at camera clubs and conferences across the U.S. – both in-person and virtual. She offers her own workshops and webinars, and has done webinars for several software companies. She has written two eBooks on working with textures, and released two creative courses. She and her husband, Dave, produce the “Virtual Creative Photography Conference” with attendees from around the world. Hazel loves the creative aspect of photography and postprocessing, especially the use of textures and software to create unique images. She is actively involved with the photographic community, and has held leadership roles and received honorary distinctions from several organizations. In the Fall of 2020 she was the recipient of the Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction from the Photographic Society of America.

www.MeredithImages.com
www.MeredithImages.wordpress.com
www.Facebook.com/MeredithImages



Jin Gong

Former Senior Advisor to the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, and an avid photographer in his spare time. Currently a contracted photographer with China Tourism Press in Hong Kong. For over 20 years, he has remained dedicated to landscape photography.

Major achievements include:

2010: “Qilu International Photography Award” at the 3rd Jinan International Photography Biennale

2013: Bronze Award at the “Embrace China – World Overseas Chinese Photography Exhibition”

2016: Work selected for the “U.S.-China Tourism Year” Photography Exhibition

2018: Monthly Gold Award at the 2nd Global Chinese Travel Photography Competition

2020: Honorable Mention at the UN Arts Foundation's *2020 Travel Landscape Photography Competition*

Over 100 of his photographs have been collected by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board.



**Qi Shi Bu Yuan
(Huang Shicheng)**

Holds dual degrees in arts and sciences from Tsinghua University. He is Vice President of the Atlantic Photographers Association, former Vice Chairman and Art Mentor of the North American Mobile Photography Association, and a member of several photography associations across North America. He also serves as a photojournalist for *Maple Voice Canada*.

His work has won numerous awards in various photography competitions. He is a certified senior landscape photographer on the platform TuChong. He has frequently served as a judge and head judge for photography competitions.

In 2021, he was one of the lecturers at the television photography forum *"Poetry and the Distance, Connected by Heart and Hand."*



Enpu Yang

Retired Professor at Beijing Film Academy, Honorary Dean of Huaguang Photography College, and Advisor to the China Overseas Chinese Photography Association.

He graduated from Beijing Film Academy in 1961 and has devoted his career to film and television production, creating a large number of documentaries and educational films. Representative works include *The Maritime Silk Road* and *Photography Guide*.

Since the 1990s, he has also been involved in screenwriting and directing television dramas. A notable work is *The Years of Studying with Zhou Enlai*, which won the Second Prize of the Flying Apsaras Awards (Feitian Awards) and the Excellent Short TV Drama Award at the Golden Eagle Awards.

He previously served as Chair of the Theoretical Committee of the China Photographers Association and has frequently been a judge for both national and international photography competitions.

He has authored several influential books, including *Fundamentals of Photographic Aesthetics* and *Introduction to Photographic Appreciation*.

He has published over a million words of articles and hundreds of photographs in newspapers and magazines both domestically and internationally. His academic papers, such as *An Analysis of Chinese Academic-Style Cinema*, have won awards at home and abroad.

In 2006, he was honored by the China Photographers Association as one of the “Outstanding Photographers of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of New China.”



Emma Zhao

Independent Photographer and Instructor of Practical Mobile Photography Courses, currently based in Toronto, Canada.

Former Vice President of the Atlantic Photographers Association and former Art Mentor of the North American Mobile Photography Association. Her photography works have received multiple awards in both domestic and international photography competitions.

Awards include:

2020 RHCC Black & White Macro – First Prize

2019 TIPF Best Folklore Award

2019 TIPF Pioneer Photography Medal

2019 Canadian Dream Cabinet Cup University Photography Competition – Silver Award

2018 North American Mobile Photography Competition – Gold Award in the Art Category

2018 TIPF Pioneer Photography Medal

2017 TIPF International Photography Festival – Excellence Award

2017 Canadian Chinese Photographic Association Masterpiece Competition – Autumn Gold Award

124 Toronto Photography Salon – Excellence Award

2017 PSA (Photographic Society of America) – Excellence Award in the Art Category

2017 CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art) – Excellence Award in the Art Category

Some of her works are featured in the renowned photographic art gallery: 1x.com/emmazhao

Judges' biographies can be viewed on the official website: <https://www.gwmpa.org>



7. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All submissions must be original work taken by the participant using a mobile phone, tablet, or iPad.
- Each entry must be titled, and a brief description is encouraged.
- Color and black-and-white works are accepted.
- No watermarks, signatures, or borders are allowed.
- Participants must retain the original files and complete photo information. The organizers reserve the right to request original works for verification.
- No restrictions on the date and time a photo was taken.
- Entries should be in JPEG format.
- The long side of the photo should be no less than 1,024 pixels. The file size should not exceed 5MB.
- No entries will be returned.
- By entering the competition, participants agree to authorize the use of their submitted works for promotion and display by the Awards and the organizing committee.
- Members of the competition organizing committee and judging panel are not eligible to participate.
- Commercially purposed portraits, whether already used or intended for future use, are not accepted. If a work includes a personal portrait, participants must be able to prove that they have permission from the subject or model, do not infringe on privacy or portrait rights, and agree to the entry requirements outlined above.
- Works from commercial photography agencies are not accepted.
- Participants under 18 years of age must have submissions made by a parent or adult guardian.
- **AI Technology Usage Regulations:** Images that are fully or partially generated by artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms are prohibited. Except for documentary portraits, the



use of AI tools (auxiliary only) in post-production is permitted in other categories. Within a normal image-editing workflow, AI-assisted tools may be used for edits that do **not** alter the original scene composition. AI may not be used to add, replace, or reshape visual elements in the image, nor may it be used to change the structure of the original photographed scene.

7.1 SUBMISSION DATES

November 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 (Eastern Time)

7.2 SUBMISSION AND FEES

- Each participant may submit up to six images, including up to three series under Theme 1. Each series counts as one image.
- The first two images: Free submission (no entry fee).
- Images three - six: \$10.00 (USD) per image (participants outside the United States may pay in equivalent currencies).

7.3 SUBMISSION METHODS

7.3.1 Global (all regions except Mainland China)

Submit via the official competition website: <https://www.gwmpa.org> or scan the QR code to enter the website.

7.3.2 Mainland China

- Register and submit through the WeChat mini-program.
- A WeChat QR code will be provided before November 1, 2025.

7.4 DISCLAIMER

The organizing committee reserves the final interpretation rights for all matters related to this competition.

7.5 INQUIRIES

For questions or more information, please email: info.wcaf@gmail.com



8. SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

For sponsorship, please contact:

- Email: info.wcaf@gmail.com
- Phone: 240-805-8095

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

9.1 Titled Sponsor

OSTEOSYN

- www.osteosyn.com

9.2 Diamond Sponsor

Jon Zhang

- JZ Structure Consulting, Inc.
- Phone: 703-327-9912
- Website: <https://www.jzstructure.com>

9.3 Platinum Sponsor

Dong Xiao, Home Renovation Expert

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9.4 Gold Sponsors

Hanna He

- Roofing and Siding Specialist, BNK Home. LLC



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Washington International Mobile Photography Awards**

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- <https://usbnkhome.com>

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- Contact: sales@achemtek.com
- Phone: +1 508-471-4121

TopOne mortgage Inc

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Global Community Learning Center

- <https://mygloballearning.org>
- Phone: +1 703-371-3414

9.5 Charitable Sponsors

Jiayu Zhong, Claims Lawyer, Jezic & Moyse LLC

- Phone: 1+ 646-496-7108

10. PAST AWARD-WINNING WORKS

Previous winning works of the Washington Mobile Photography Awards can be viewed on the official website: <https://www.gwmpa.org>

11. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair	Jiang Xu
Executive Director	Ruiqing Yang
Artistic Director	Jin Gong
PR Director	Diantao Sun
Technical Director	Yanyun Liu
IT Director	Yueyang Jiang



Committee Members	Wei Liao, Qian Ning, Hong Sun, Fei Li, Jing Zhang, Jianxi Mu, Jianhua Yan, Jianping Yang, Chenggang Wang, Yuxin Kang
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12. CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

- Australian Horizon Photographic Club
- Bay Area Photo Association
- Boston Chinese Photography Association
- California Orange County Photography Association
- Canada China Photography Institute
- Canadian International Photographers Association
- CCACC Photograph Club
- Chicago Fenghua Photography Association
- Chinese Culture and Community Service Center
- Chinese-American Photography Academy
- Coordination Council of Chinese American Associations
- DC_VA_MD Mobilephone Photo Club
- Dongbei Association of Greater Washington
- DTTS Photo Club
- Houston Chinese Photographers
- Jiahua Elite Photography Association
- New York Life Network
- North Carolina Chinese Photography Association
- North Texas Asian Photographer's Association



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- Northwest Chinese Photographers' Club of Great Washington DC
- Panda Photographic Society of North America
- Photographic Society of New Jersey
- San Francisco Chinatown Photographic Society
- San Francisco Photographers Alliance
- Spanish Chinese Photographers Association
- The Photographic Society of New York
- The Popular Photographic Exchange Association of America
- Time-Light Art Association
- VA Photo Club
- Wide Angle Photographic Club
- Wonderful Expeditions Photography Salon