

## EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ENTERING A PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

1. **FINDING GCA SHOWS AND SCHEDULES:** Access the GCA website at [www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org) . Click on **Member Area** in upper right-hand corner. Log-in using your personal Username and Password. Click on **GCA Committee Pages** drop down menu. Select **Photography** from drop down. Click on **Entering Flower Shows** from right-hand menu. Select **Upcoming Shows with Photography**. List will contain both upcoming and past flower shows. If printing, be sure to define which pages you want, otherwise you will get many useless pages of past shows. In the list of upcoming shows, the word **Schedule** will appear on any show whose schedule is complete and available for your use by clicking on the word. After accessing a schedule, look carefully at the Guidelines. Some shows are not available to clubs outside of the specific Zone, or even other clubs at all. Pay attention to deadlines for submissions, whether it is a juried show, or otherwise, and all specific instructions. Have fun and enter!
2. **REGISTRATION:** Read the schedule carefully before registering. If you don't like to do B&W or monochrome, don't sign up for a B&W class. If you don't like to do landscapes, don't sign up for a landscape class, etc. If you have ANY questions about a class, contact the consultant for that class BEFORE you register. Of course, you are welcome to contact them at ANY time. If the show is out of town, you probably won't be able to get out of a commitment. Some shows have a waiting list but you cannot count on that. You cannot make any changes to your image after the emailed version has been accepted.
3. **PRINTING THE PHOTO:** Your own printer is the best choice. If you choose to have someone else do it, have them print it well ahead of the time you need it because you may have to have them print it over (and over) to get it just the way you want it. Panda Labs in back of the Seattle Center is terrific! They help you select just the right paper. Most schedules will require matte finish as opposed to glossy. Read the information carefully on this.

4. **FRAMING:** Read the schedule carefully again. Take the schedule with you to the frame shop, don't trust your memory about the size, etc. Some photos are to be mounted flush, some matted, some mounted and over matted. Your photo won't be passed if you do not do this correctly. If the finished product needs to be no larger than 50", this means that you have to add up the total of the dimensions of all four sides of the finished product to reach this size. Be aware that some shows prohibit the use of foam core. HINT: If entering a black and white photos, it is a good idea to match the color of the over matting with the color of the photo paper.
5. **MAILING:** Wrap your mounted or matted image between 2 suitable pieces of foam core or non-bendable cardboard, with at least a half inch border around your image. Place this package into a bubble wrapped envelope. Place this envelope into a or larger bubble wrapped envelope . Be sure you have placed your entry card form on your image as well as placing a second entry card with your image. Add a second envelope folded in half and a check for \$12 if you want your photograph to be returned.

## **Tips**

- Many of us use an Epson Stylus Photo Printer, R2880. Atlex (online) is a good source for ink cartridges – they usually arrive within a day or two.
- We also use Ilford Prestige Paper, Smooth Pearl that can be purchased at Glazer's or online. Neither this paper nor this particular printer are a requirement, just FYI.
- Mary uses the little postal place on Republican off of 15<sup>th</sup> on Capitol Hill to mail my photos. Park Postal in Madison Park is good also. At both places, they usually don't have a line, have everything you need and sometimes will tape up your packages for you after you have inserted the envelope.
- We also use Four Corners Frame on University Way. Allison, the owner is familiar with our requirements and is very pleasant and helpful. You can park for free in back of the UW bookstore. Other framers that have been used are: Central Framing at the corner of Broadway and Pike – you can park at the QFC across the street. Lake City Framing and U Frame It in back of the U Village were also suggested.

**ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANY OF THE PHOTO JUDGES WITH QUESTIONS!**

This document was originally created by Mary Turner (2014) and was revised in 2016 by Mary Turner, Suzette deTurenne, JoAnne Rosen and Suzy Titcomb.