



(Version 6, January 2017)

Level	Description
Level 8 Gold distinction	<p style="text-align: center;">All judging criteria are strong.</p> Combined elements have produced a supreme example of art photography. The image displays the highest level of excellence in art photography.
Level 7 Gold	<p style="text-align: center;">Most judging criteria are expertly handled.</p> A very strong image displaying a high level of excellence in art photography. Technical standard is very high.
Level 6 Silver	<p style="text-align: center;">Some elements are very good and the technical standard is high.</p> A strong image with good evidence for classification as art photography. Successful visual communication has been achieved.
Level 5 Bronze	<p style="text-align: center;">Sound image with at least one strong element.</p> Approaches art photography - message present but not strong. Any flaws are minor or compensated by other successful elements. Evidence of intent to combine skill and artistry.
Level 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Possibly no flaws but no significant strengths.</p> Content and medium may be acceptable but message is not clear or strong. Centre of interest usually obvious. Usually technically good - often called a record shot.
Level 3	<p style="text-align: center;">Some attempt has been made to control content and medium.</p> Needs more effort to convey message and meaning. Centre of interest may not be clear. Flaws and/or distractions may be evident.
Level 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Quality of content and medium is not adequate.</p> Improvement required in the craft of photography. Little attempt at deliberate composition or light handling. Flaws and distractions may be present. Snapshot quality
Level 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Little evidence of good camera skills</p> An unacceptable image for a photographic exhibition No indication of the centre of interest. Flaws and distractions usually present.
<i>Note: the presence of flaws or distractions will devalue any image, even those with a strong message</i>	

WAPJA Judging Criteria and Elements

Message (Visual communication)

Evokes feelings, emotion, mood. Conveys a statement or story.
Transmits an idea or thought.

Content

Lighting, framing, composition, background, focus, juxtaposition of tone and/or colours.
Exploitation of perspective. Intimation of movement. Critical timing.
Time of day. Size, shape, form and proportion.
Use of texture or pattern.

Medium (technical skill or craft)

Appropriate exposure/density of output.
Contrast - tones - clipping? Colour cast? Image sharpness.
Evidence of retouching. Quality of post-production.
Appropriate choice of colour rendition (mono, split-tone, saturation, vibrance, chroma).
Presentation - choice of paper, matting, mounting.