Competition Topic	Competition Date	Competition Type
Open Color – Any Subject • _Must be taken in the past 24 months (From January 2023 through January 2025)._ • All elements and layers of the image must meet the 24-month criteria	1/8 *(submit by 12/25/24)*	Print
Sidelight: Primary lighting is from the side • Primary light is at an approximately 90-degree angle to the camera lens • Used in classical still life images to create depth. • Used to create the impression that a living subject is conflicted (good vs. evil). • Sidelight can be used with glass objects with light from one or both sides to create an outline of the object. • Especially effective with cylindrical objects.	1/22 *(submit by 1/8)*	Digital
Parts of the Whole • The subject is a part or a component of a larger item (e.g., a button, nose, fender). • The item can be living or inanimate	2/12 *(submit by 1/22)*	Print
Article(s) of Clothing • Subjects include clothing, footwear, hats and/or gloves. • Items can be new or vintage. • Clothing could be worn, hanging, for sale, displayed in a museum, arranged as in a still life, or depicted in any setting. • Image should feature the item(s) of clothing.	2/26 (submit by 2/12)	Digital
Shallow Depth of Field • Emphasize your subject using shallow (narrow) depth of field. • Shallow depth of field minimizes distracting backgrounds. • Frequently used for portraits & close-up images. • The shallow depth of field must be created in-camera - it cannot be created using a blur filter in post-processing.	3/12 (submit by 2/26)	Print
Open: Color - One or Two Colors Dominate the Image – Any Subject • One or two colors are dominant in the image.	3/26 (submit by 3/12)	Digital

- The image must be taken within the past 24 months *(from March 2023 through March 2025).* - The image may include black, white and/or neutral gray, but these colors cannot be the colors selected to dominate the image. - Choose two complimentary colors that are opposite on the color wheel for a high contrast image that highlights the subject. - Choose two analogous colors (colors adjacent to each other on the color wheel) for images that are well-balanced with nice flow. - Choose one color to create a sense of "oneness" with the image, and to make the image easy to look at. - Choose one or two colors that hold special meaning to you. - All elements and layers of the image must meet the date criteria		
Vintage, Antiques, & Collectibles - The subject of this image is a vintage item (or items), antiques or collectibles. - Items can include those you own or those found at an antique store or marketplace. (Note: most antique stores will allow you to photograph if you ask first). - Consider the story conveyed by the object and the story you want to tell through your image. - Choose objects of a consistent age or theme, or objects that illustrate chronological development in design	4/9 (submit by 3/26)	Print
People's Choice of Topic: - To be Decided 2/26 - Topic to be decided at the February digital meeting by club members. - The topic list will be updated to describe the topic after 2/26. *Must be taken between topic selection on 2/26 and the submission deadline on 4/9.* - All elements in the image (including cloned items and layers) must have been taken or created between 2/26 and 4/9.	4/23 (submit by 4/9)	Digital
Open: Square Dimension – Any Subject - Can be any subject - Image can be color, B&W or monotone	5/14 (submit by 4/23)	Print

• *The image must have been taken within the past 24 months (May 2023-May 2025).* • The image must be sized in a square (L=W) dimension. • All elements and layers of the image must meet the date criteria.		
Rule of Odds • The composition should have an odd number of items (e.g., 1, 3, 5 or 7). • The *Rule of Odds* capitalizes on the brain's propensity for order. The brain wants to pair items, but odd numbers can't be paired. As such, the viewer's brain works harder, and the viewer looks at the image longer. • Works better with seven or fewer objects.	5/28 (submit by 5/14)	Digital
Toys, Games or Sports • Image features a toy, game, puzzle, sporting activity or the equipment (parts) used in any of these. • The image may or may not include people. • If the image includes spectators, participants or cheerleaders, the type or game or sporting event should be clear from the image.	6/11 (submit by 5/28)	Print
Distorted • Capture everyday object(s), but distorted. • Tools to achieve distortion include a fish-eye lens, crystal balls (lens balls), a distorted mirror, water droplet refractions, windows / water reflections, and intentional camera movement. • The distortion must be created in-camera, not in post-processing of the image.	6/25 (submit by 6/11)	Digital
Minimalism • Images are distinguished by extreme simplicity • Focus on the smallest number of objects or repeating patterns • There are often very subtle differences in colors or tones in the image • Might use long exposures to eliminate texture (as in water ripples) • May use low-color or B&W images	7/9 (submit by 6/25)	Print
Open – Digital – Any Subject • *Must be taken in the last 24 months (July 2023 through July 2025).* • Image can be color, B&W or monotone	7/23 (submit by 7/9)	Digital

• All elements and layers of the image must meet the date criteria		
Glass • Take a photo that features or uses glass in a significant way • The image may be either (1) taken of items made of glass or (2) shot through glass. For option (2), the glass itself need not be the subject. • When photographing glass subjects, experiment with different lighting (back vs. side) to obtain different effects. Beware distracting specular highlights. • If the image is shot through glass (e.g., windows, eyeglasses, a magnifying glass), the glass should enhance the image. These images might include window treatments, reflections, refractions and/or objects appearing behind the class. • If the image is taken through a window or portal, the opening must contain some glass. • Non-transparent mirrors are excluded from the definition of glass for this competition. • Glass lens filters do not, by themselves, meet the criteria of images shot through glass.	8/13 (submit by 7/23)	Print
For Sale • Photograph a place of commerce. • The image can depict a marketplace, part of the marketplace, or an item or items for sale. • For images that focus on one or more specific items, it must be clear from the photo that the items are "for sale." • Image can be indoors or outdoors. *Ask permission first when photographing indoors as many merchants prohibit photography* • Colorful items at an outdoor marketplace can provide interesting subjects • You may choose to seek displays that feature attractive patterns or interesting knick-knacks. • Conversely, you might choose to capture interactions between shoppers and their purchases or interactions between shoppers and merchants.	8/27 (submit by 8/13)	Digital

The Blue Hour *The blue hour is the period of twilight when the sun is below the horizon and the sunlight takes on a mostly blue shade. It occurs just before sunrise or after sunset, and is also known as dawn, dusk, or the magic hour.* • Take an image during the blue hour • The blue hour can convey emotions such as darkness, unease, or melancholy. It often conveys a sense of cold and can be ideal for winter photography. • What moods or emotions can you capture in this part of the day?	9/10 (submit by 8/27)	Print
Gravity – It's the Law • Capture an image of something that is either suspended in the air, ascending or descending. • Subjects can include objects that are lighter than air or aircraft. • People who are ascending/descending can be found at carnivals, in playgrounds, and participating in many types of sporting events. • Subjects may also include birds, animals, insects and pets that meet the category.	9/24 (submit by 9/10)	Digital
Open – Off Center Subject – Any Subject • Capture an image where the subject is placed off-center • Can be any subject • The image can be color, B&W or monochrome • The image can have a horizontal, vertical or square orientation. • *Must have been taken in the past 24 months (October 2023 – October 2025).* • Consider subjects placed using the rule-of-thirds, the golden ratio, the golden spiral or other compositional rules. • All elements and layers of the image must meet the date criteria	10/8 (submit by 9/24)	Print

Everyone Photographs at his or her choice of one the following Cincinnati Locations:
   1) **Northside**
   2) **Findlay Market**
   3) **The Clifton Gaslight District**
• *Must be taken within the past 12 months (October 2024-October 2025)*
	10/22
	(submit by 10/8)
		Digital

• The image can be color, B&W or monochrome • All elements and layers of the image must meet the date criteria.		
Vertical Landscape • Capture a landscape in vertical orientation (height > width) • The landscape should be well suited to a vertical orientation (e.g., have vertically oriented subjects of interest, have leading lines that extend upward etc.) • The landscape can be urban, rural or depict the natural world • One or more people can be included in the image. However, if you choose to include people, they should not occupy a substantial portion of the image.	11/12 (submit by 10/22)	Print
Bird or Bird-Related Subject • Capture an image of a bird. • The bird can be captive (farm / pet / zoo) or found in the wild. • Alternatively, capture a bird-related object. These can include bird houses, cages, nests, eggs, feathers or items made of feathers, or anything with the shape or image of a bird or bird related object (natural or man-made).	11/12 (submit by 10/22)	Digital
Rust • Capture an image featuring rust. • This image could be an abstract created by zooming in on the rust. • Alternatively, photographing the entire object or an identifiable part of an object can maintain some reality, and evoke thoughts of what might have been. • Look for leading lines, symmetry, textures, patterns, colors, shapes, etc.	12/10 (submit by 11/26)	Print
Open – Your Best of the Year – Any Subject • Can be B&W, color or monochrome. • *Must have been taken in 2025.* • Can be taken at any location, local or otherwise. • Images placing first through sixth in any PCGC club competition of 2025 (except for PSA entries) are ineligible. • Images receiving one-point, honorable mention and images not submitted to any competition are eligible if they also meet the date criteria.	12/10 (submit by 11/26)	Digital

• All elements and layers of the image must meet the date criteria		