

ROPA

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PSA Recognition of Photographic Achievement 1997-2010 and Updates

The Society, always concerned with the needs of the membership, looks for ways to upgrade services and to recognize members who participate in various forms of activities. Accordingly, at the 1996 Tucson PSA Conference, the Board of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) initiated the Recognition of Photographic Achievement Awards (ROPA). The ROPA program was established to recognize members who excel in the diversity and proficiency displayed in PSA-recognized International Exhibitions, and who adhere to the ethic standards of the Society. In the spring of 1997, two levels of awards were implemented; the first level is Proficiency (PPSA) and the second and higher level is Excellence (EPSA).

In 2002, the Society's Board of Directors once again saw the need to expand the criteria for the Proficiency award, to give members more flexibility and exposure. Through the years, the membership has demonstrated an overwhelming interest in the distinction awards. To date and 14 years later, through 2010, 442 members have received and enjoy ROPA recognition. At the 2009 West Yellowstone Conference, the PSA Board of Directors stepped forward with a major revision, not only in the ROPA awards, but also the related Star Ratings, for a more comprehensive and uniform system. Two new ROPA awards were established: the Master (MPSA) and the Grand Master (GMPSA). Each ROPA award recognizes the recipient's accomplishment and diversity in photography and entitles the member to add the acronym: PPSA, EPSA, MPSA and GMPSA, after his/her name and, if applicable, after the acronym Hon. FPSA, Hon. PSA, FPSA or APSA. Individuals are entitled to use the recognition letters as long as they retain membership. However, lapsed members cannot continue to use the initials of GMPSA, MPSA, EPSA or PPSA. If a member's

status becomes lapsed, he/she will be required to reestablish membership in good standing.

Honorees are recognized annually in the September issue of the *PSA Journal* and at the Annual PSA Conference. In addition, each recipient receives a PSA ROPA certificate suitable for framing and is invited to display a sample of his/her work on the Society's Web site, *Gallery of Distinction Awards*. This year seven members will receive the Excellence Award and thirty-three members will receive the Proficiency Award.

The new ROPA distinctions became effective on July 1, 2010 and all applications after this date will be recognized and presented at the 2011 Colorado Springs, Colorado PSA Conference. Awards are now granted on the basis of the earned number of PSA-recognized Exhibition Acceptances, which must be supported with approved Star Ratings Certificates displaying the number of acceptances on each certificate. The new requirements are:
Proficiency (PPSA): 288 or more acceptances, supported by star rating's certificates, displaying the number of acceptances approved, from one or multiple divisions.

Excellence (EPSA): 700 or more acceptances, supported by star/galaxies rating's certificates, displaying the number of acceptances approved, from one or multiple divisions.

Master (MPSA): 1500 or more acceptances, supported by star/galaxies rating's certificates, displaying the number of acceptances approved, from one or multiple divisions.

Grand Master (GMPSA): 3000 or more acceptances, supported by star/galaxies rating's certificates, displaying the number of certificates approved, from one or multiple divisions.

We congratulate and welcome the following recipients who will be recognized at the 2010 Charleston, South Carolina, PSA Conference.

Each individual wishing to apply for ROPA Distinctions must contact the ROPA Committee Chairman and request a copy of the *latest* requirements and application form, then present his/her qualifications directly to the ROPA Committee Chairman. Each applicant is required to submit: 1) completed application form, 2) proof of photographic achievement(s) [a copy of the certificate(s), which shows the number of acceptances approved.] Do not send a list of acceptances. *Only Star Rated PSA-recognized International Exhibitions, showing the number of acceptances, will be accepted.* 3) a copy of current membership card, and 4) a good quality **color** photo or a digital image of 300 dpi on a CD, **only head and shoulder on a plain and clear background and no props of any kind** [3 1/2" X 5" to 4" X 6" print], **please no web applications or pictures**, and please identify your photo. All documentation must be hard copy and in the Chairman's hands by *June 1 each year*. Applications received too late for processing may risk being postponed to the following PSA Conference. You will be pleased to know that at the 2009 PSA Conference, the Board approved to eliminate all application and processing fees. As of the 2010 PSA Conference, the Society will be absorbing all the processing costs. Members who qualify for EPSA, MPSA and GMPSA, may apply directly for the highest distinction, without first applying for PPSA, EPSA and MPSA. Please always print clearly and *underline the family name*. The best way to communicate is through email! Please include the email address on the application. Applications are processed on an annual basis with a firm annual cut-off date of June 1. Members planning to apply for recognition(s) are responsible for maintaining their own Acceptance and Star records and must supply backup-proof of Acceptances, supported by Star Ratings certificates with each application. Contact the Committee Chairman at any time during the year for updated information, clarification and the latest version of the application form. <unicojjz@cfl.rr.com>