

DI DIGITAL COMPETITION 2026

RPS DI Raymond Wallace Thompson DPI Open Annual 2026

Entry rules - April 2026

This DPI competition is open to all RPS Digital Imaging members, including overseas members. The Raymond Wallace Thompson Trophy (RWT) will be awarded to the overall winner. There will be 15 selected images in each class that will go forward to the final. The Selectors will be particularly looking for new work that has not been previously seen in competitions and exhibitions.

Key dates

- Open Colour class: Opens 1 May 2026 - closes 31 May 2026
- Open Mono class: Opens 1 July 2026 - closes 31 July 2026
- The Final for the RWT Trophy will be held in September 2026

The images selected to go into the final will be announced online and in our social media after selection of each class. The final session to award the trophy will be held online with Awards announced on the day.

Classes

There are two classes. You may enter a maximum of three images in each class. An entrant's images will be selected only within the Class in which they have been entered. Any image entered in the wrong class may be disqualified during the selection process.

- No Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated images or parts thereof will be accepted in either class.
- All creative techniques including combined images, montages, ICM (intentional camera movement), HDR (High Dynamic Range), etc. are acceptable. Manipulation can be in-camera, via post-processing or a combination thereof.
- Images will be selected on visual impact, composition and technical excellence, as well as the artistic impact and mood depicted.

See below for more information.



1. **Open Colour**

Colour images of any subject and of any style are allowed. The images will be selected on their pictorial merit with the emphasis on interest, visual impact, composition and technical excellence. Images may be enhanced in camera or using software.

Images that might normally be judged to 'nature rules' will be judged in this competition on their pictorial merit only.

2. **Open Mono**

A mono image uses shades of a single hue, commonly black/grey/white, but shades of any single hue are eligible. Split /partial toning and selective colour are not eligible and should be entered in the Open Colour class.

Image specification and titling

Images must be 2500px on the longest side for digital submission.

Files should be in sRGB and JPEG format.

Maximum file size 5Mb.

Image titles in the format *n_title.jpg*

Example: 1_Pier at Sunset.jpg

Each of your 3 images should be numbered 1, 2 or 3. You are guaranteed to have your images marked 1 and 2 in the competition. Image 3 is at the discretion of the organisers depending on the total number of entries in each class.

Do not use your name or RPS letters in the titling of your images. We collect that from the submission software. Do please use your registered RPS email address as we use this to ratify your DI membership.

Selectors

There will be 3 selectors for each of the two classes and the final.

Competition Rules

Image Content, Manipulation, and Use of AI:

- The predominant image content must be directly derived from original photographic image(s) which are entirely the work of the entrant; images may not be constructed entirely within a computer.
- All parts of each image must be the copyright of the entrant.
 - The use of **any** source images which are generated by any image generation programs, including those that are AI-based, is forbidden.
 - We accept that the use of AI-based editing tools in image editors such as Photoshop is becoming increasingly prevalent in photographers' workflows.
 - We do allow the use of AI-based tools in Photoshop, Lightroom, and similar editing programs, including noise reduction and sharpening, but with limitations outlined below.
 - The use of tools like (but not limited to) Photoshop's Remove and Generative Fill must be limited to a small area of the final image (no more than around 10% total area) and the resultant product of such tools must be akin to manipulating the image with a clone/stamp tool.



- The use of any tool which introduces a significant visual element which is not in your own source photograph(s) is forbidden. For example, Generative Fill may or may not be allowed depending on whether it introduces new visual element(s). It is acceptable to remove minor distractions and/or extend the canvas in any direction by a small amount, filling the blank area sympathetically with the existing background.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the use of text-based generative fill or image creation is forbidden.

Note: Entrants must be able to supply evidence, if requested, that the rules governing image source and manipulation have been followed. This might include:

- Original image file(s), with EXIF data intact, or films,
- Adjacent photos,
- Images used when making up a composite (where allowed),
- GPS coordinates and/or exact location,
- An explanation of the use of AI tools used to construct the final image

Entering, rights and ownership

Members do not have to enter all classes.

There is no entry fee.

All images must be submitted online as digital files.

Entries must be submitted via the Digital Imaging website at <https://rps.org/di/di-competition>, using your registered RPS email address.

Please note that PollUnit, the submission software, permits users to delete/change their entries as well as submit their entries. An email acknowledgement will be sent for every image uploaded or deleted. Changes can be made up to the closing date/time of the class.

If you have any questions or problems with entry, contact the organiser on digcompsec@rps.org.

The Competition Organiser and the Digital Imaging Committee's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. We reserve the right to withdraw acceptances should it become apparent that an image was ineligible or contravened the entry rules. Furthermore, we reserve the right to reject an image, or not to show an accepted image, if it is deemed offensive to a wider public audience.

Images must be the original work of the entrant and must comply with the rules and definitions in this document. Any entrants who are the subject of international photographic sanctions or are found to have plagiarised an image will be disqualified. We reserve the right to request the original camera file or high-resolution scan or RAW image file for authentication.

The copyright of all entries remains with the photographers.

The Royal Photographic Society and the Digital Imaging Group accept no liability for any misuse or breach of copyright by an entrant. The copyright of all submitted work, including full control of use, must be at the disposal of the entrant. All photographic content in an image must be the sole work of the photographer and by submitting an entry, the entrant certifies the work as his or her own (aliases are not permitted).

By submitting an entry, the entrant licences the Society to reproduce all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to the competition and



the Society, including the Society's website, the Digital Imaging website, DI social media, *DI Online* and in the final eZine of the winning images.

Awards

15 winning images will be selected from each class. Class winners will be announced in *DI Online* in the first issue after the selection.

These will go through to the final, to select the DI Digital Image of the Year and winner of The Raymond Wallace Thompson Trophy.

The final will be run as an open online meeting where the results will be announced on the day.

Damage / loss

The responsibility for damage or loss of images, however caused, is the responsibility of the photographer. The Royal Photographic Society and Digital Imaging will not be responsible for any loss or damage, whether or not caused by negligence.

Acceptance of rules

Submission of an entry will be taken as acceptance of these entry rules. An entry will be disqualified if the Society, or Digital Imaging, believes it does not conform to these rules and conditions.

Privacy policy

This competition is run and managed under the guidance and rules of the privacy policy of the RPS.

