



Fellowship Committee

## ASP FELLOWSHIP GUIDE

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL GUIDE CONTAINING INFORMATION AND  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FELLOW AND HONORARY FELLOW DEGREES

“Through the exhibition and degree programs, the American Society of Photographers encourages the highest standards of practice and principles, endorsing only work which continues to be a credit to the photographic profession and nation.”

- Paul Linwood Gittings

This guide has been created to help candidates applying for the ASP Fellowship degree. It is also intended to assist the Fellowship committee in determining the eligibility of candidates, selecting judges, and governing judging procedures.

It is suggested that candidates for the Fellowship examine this guide and if necessary contact the Fellowship chairman for any additional information.

## **AUTHORITY**

The American Society of Photographers is the governing body for the administration and policy of the Fellowship degrees. The ASP is guided by its bylaws and fellowship provisions. The Fellowship committee has full authority in judging and awarding degrees. Their decisions are final and they are directly responsible to the ASP Board of Governors on all matters pertaining to the eligibility and honoring of candidates.

## **FELLOWSHIP**

The Fellowship of the American Society of Photographers is the highest earned honor that the Society can bestow on member photographers. It is awarded for exemplary work and aspiring achievement in photography.

## **HONORARY FELLOWSHIP**

The Honorary Fellowship is awarded to an individual, not necessarily an ASP or PPA member, who has contributed significantly to photography and photographers. Only one Honorary Fellowship can be awarded in any given year and only by two years of unanimous ASP Board approval. Recommendations may be submitted for consideration to the ASP Board or Fellowship Committee.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

To be eligible to apply for an ASP Fellowship, three requirements must be met:

- 1) You must be a PPA Master of Photography;
- 2) You must have been a member of both the PPA and ASP for at least three consecutive calendar years; and
- 3) You must have earned at least 15 PPA Print Merits after obtaining your Master's degree.

## **THE PERSONAL PAPER**

*What you THINK, as well as what you do, is important to knowing and judging you for the ASP Fellowship. The judges want to know you as a person and your artistic voice.*

Your personal paper must be an original work that describes your life work, professional achievements, personal experiences, future aspirations, and major influences. Your influences can be non-photographers: for example, artists, poets, designers, writers, and other thinkers and doers. Your personal paper should also emphasize your photographic philosophy, explaining your artistic vision and motivation.

You're making a personal statement here, so don't try to make it an exercise in technical writing or an instruction manual. Remember, your audience consists of five PPA Masters of Photography, four of whom are also ASP Fellows. So don't talk down to them, explaining f-stops, lighting ratios, and the like. Rather tell them who you are, how you became a photographer,

what your philosophy of photography is. Also be sure to explain your portfolio. Describe your images, how they exemplify your photographic philosophy, the journey you took to create them, and so on.

Make sure your thesis/person paper is at least 2,000 words. It cannot include any images. At the end of your personal paper, include a resumé summarizing your biography, formal education/training, professional experience, and awards.

Your personal paper should be neatly typed signed. Stapled pages not in a folio with protective covers will be rejected and returned. Send your completed Personal Paper to the ASP Fellowship Chairman as a PDF.

Although the judges understand you're not a professional writer, they expect your personal paper to be well-written, clear and concise with few grammatical errors. So don't be afraid to solicit outside help. Check the ASP website ([www.asofp.com](http://www.asofp.com)) for examples of previously accepted Fellowship theses.

### **Person Paper Requirements:**

- 1) The personal paper needs to be at least 2,000 words, incorporating your photographic philosophy, life work, career achievements, major influences, future aspirations, and personal experiences.
- 2) Include a resumé at the end of the personal paper summarizing your biography, formal education/training, professional experience, and awards.
- 3) Prepare and send a **PDF** to the chairman of the fellowship committee the personal paper should be neatly typed and signed. Images or graphics are not permitted in the personal paper.

### **THE PORTFOLIO**

*The finest work of a candidate must be exemplary photography in scope and quality, highlighting his or her career.*

Your portfolio should consist of 25 of your finest images. These images should represent your area or areas of expertise (e.g., commercial, portraiture, weddings, children, etc.). Each image should have an enduring, timeless quality. Your portfolio should ideally contain a diversity of subject matter, not just a single focused theme. Be sure to avoid repetition; each photograph should be a distinctive visual expression and imaginative interpretation.

These prints should complement your personal paper and further tell the judges about you and your photographic vision. Since your prints will initially be viewed together, it's important to make sure they work together in telling your story. So don't be afraid to pull a particular image, no matter how great it is, if it takes attention away from the other prints. For example, if 24 of your prints are black-and-whites and one is sepia, the sepia will more than likely take attention away from the black-and-whites and hurt your overall portfolio.

Images must be a minimum of 11"x14" and a maximum of 20"x20". They should be impeccably printed and put on mounts suitable for display at the Imaging USA Convention. When using images from print competitions, don't use the actual prints that were in competition, as they've probably been marked and scuffed. Only use titles or legends on the front of the print if it's an integral part of the image. There are currently no provisions for albums, transparencies, film, video, or other media. Make sure to print your name and address on the back of each image.

You can arrange your 25 images in three rows. Be judicious in selecting the order of your images. Work for a harmonious and balanced flow that is cohesive. Make sure your images are numbered on the back in the sequence you would like them displayed. Also include a list that states the sequence your images should be displayed and the title of each print.

Finally you are required to submit a current headshot, your portfolio images in JPEG format (.jpg), and your personal paper in Microsoft Word (.doc) on a CD or DVD

Accepted Fellowship Portfolio's are available for study and download on the ASP website, [www.asofp.com](http://www.asofp.com)

For an entry to be returned, it must be shipped in an approved print case. For maximum protection in shipment, it is recommended that a metal print case be used. The ASP assumes no responsibility for damage to entries or print cases.

**Entries that are accepted must be picked up following the ASP banquet at the Imaging USA Convention. They will not be shipped from the convention.**

Entries that are not accepted will be returned no more than 30 days after your notification from the Fellowship committee (see below).

**Portfolio Requirements:**

- 1) Images must be a minimum of 11"x14" and a maximum of 20"x20" on mounts suitable for display at IUSA.
- 2) Print your name and address on the back of each image.
- 3) Make sure your images are numbered on the back in the sequence you would like them displayed. Also include a list that states the sequence your images should be displayed and the title of each print.
  - a. Submit a current headshot, your portfolio images in JPEG format (.jpg), and your personal paper in Microsoft Word (.doc) on a CD or DVD
- 4) **For an entry to be returned, it must be shipped in an approved print case.**

**NOTIFICATIONS**

The chairman will notify each candidate—first by phone, then by writing—of the judges' decision. Only accepted candidates will be publicly announced. Those not accepted will receive a written or digital summation of the judges' comments.

**RESUBMITTING**

You can resubmit the following year provided you turn in a new application, pay a new application fee, and meet all the other requirements.

**JUDGING PROCESS**

A critical panel of five carefully selected judges evaluates the personal paper and portfolio. The judges are kept anonymous in order to protect them and also ASP from outside criticism. All judges hold a PPA Master's degree and all but one hold an ASP Fellowship. One cannot serve as a judge more than once every **two** years.

The chairman monitors the judging. There are three rounds of judging. After each round, the judges have the opportunity to spend as long as they need discussing and debating their opinions. An applicant must receive at least four votes in the final round of judging in order to receive the Fellowship degree.

**THE DEGREE PRESENTATION**

The formal presentation takes place at the ASP Banquet during the PPA National Convention, IUSA. Recipients of the degree are expected to be present at the formal ceremony. There they will receive a certificate and an ASP silver medallion along with a silver ribbon.

**RIGHTS**

All submitted work remains the property of the candidate but must be made available for exhibition and publication purposes. The accepted portfolio of photographs will be displayed at the next Imaging USA Convention and may also be displayed on the ASP website. The accepted personal paper may be published in the ASP magazine and website or other professional magazines at the discretion of the ASP Board of Governors and Fellowship Committee.

## THE HONOR AND COMMITMENT

Recipients of the Fellowship have a responsibility to pass their photographic knowledge and experience to their fellow photographers, be they students, novices, or experienced professionals. Recipients are expected to uphold and foster the highest ideals of the Society and profession; they should never pass up an opportunity that might help advance photography or enhance the prestige of the degree.

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## HISTORY

The American Society of Photographers was founded in 1937.

In 1965, Paul Linwood Gittings proposed a photographic competition exclusively for those holding the Master of Photography degree. The first Master's exhibit was held in Chicago in 1966. Accepted prints were judged by all present Masters, each casting a vote for the best 25 to 50 photographs. The confidential ballots were computed and the top 100 photographs became the Master's Exhibit. Masters judging Masters became an important aspect of judging. This exhibit encouraged membership participation and provided the most critical evaluation of the work of professional photographer of the time.

In 1968, the ASP received approval from the PPA Board for creating a Fellowship degree program. Prints accepted into the Master's exhibit were awarded merits toward qualifying for what would become the Fellowship degree. Accepted photographs in the PPA general exhibit received 1 merit and photographs accepted into the PPA Loan collection received 2 merits. A total of 15 merits were required to qualify and apply as a candidate for the degree.

The official Guide was prepared and signed by Mr. Gittings on August 28, 1972 and was approved by the Governors and adopted in the bylaws on August 5, 1973.

Revisions: 1979, 2000, 2002, 2009 and 2011.

Paul Linwood Gittings was the architect of the Master's Exhibit and the Fellowship degree. His vision, inspiration and guidance have shaped the Society's principles and activities that have benefited individual photographers, as well as the entire profession.

Revisions: 1972 - Jason Hailey, M. Photog. Cr, F-ASP, FBIPP

1979 – Marion L. Ward, M.Photog. Cr., F-ASAP

2002 – Tim Mathiesen, M.Photog. Cr., A-ASP, F-ASP

2009 – Jason Hailey, M.Photog. Cr., F-ASP, FBIPP

2009 – Donald Emmerich, M.Photog., M.Art, M.EI., Cr., F-ASP

2011 – Donald Emmerich, M.Photog., M.Art, M.EI., Cr., Hon EA, F-ASP

2011 – Doran Wilson, M.Photog., M.EI., Cr., F-ASP

2016 – Doran Wilson, M.Photog., M.EI., Cr., F-ASP