

Photography Awards Masterclass

Facebook Group User Guide



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How to use the Facebook Community.

Our Intent

It is really important that this community all are on the same page so we want to explain the philosophy behind what we plan for us.

I had the idea for a very long time to create a master class for photography awards but felt like there was still a missing piece. Then I read a book called Principles by Ray Dalio and found the missing part of the puzzle, how to bring together the right mindset as a group and community. Now this book should be mandatory reading for every person on the planet. It has lots of my values and principles put into simple to understand words but it goes beyond that.

For this community though I am taking just one small part of the book to make this community work. I want to create a “real idea meritocracy in which the goal was to have meaningful work and meaningful relationships and the way we went after them was through radical truthfulness and radical transparency.”

I’m going to ask you to go and read the following:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/key-bridgewaters-success-real-idea-meritocracy-ray-dalio/>

I want this community to be free to say what they think and how they feel without being judged for it. (Radical Truthfulness: not filtering one’s thoughts and one’s questions, especially about problems and weaknesses.) I want us to create meaningful work that everyone is excited about. I want us to create a community that genuinely care about each other. Tough Love will be what we do. We will give people the benefit of the doubt before we attack them because we took what they said the wrong way.

We are going to use our logical brains and not our emotional animal brains to communicate without hurting each other. We are going to be grown ups and if there is a problem we will deal with it in a grown up way. We will have each other’s backs and we will never talk badly about anyone from our group. If you have a problem with someone or something, then let’s talk about it and be open about it. We will protect each other and be there for each other every step of the way.

This way of thinking initially is exciting and uncomfortable because we have learned to be guarded (well I have anyway). I don’t know about you but I want to be in a place that is safe and useful. I am sick of the nice to your face but rip you down behind your back kind of life we seem to live now.

So welcome to our space. We have lots to offer but I know that I will learn lots from you all. I know what I know and some of that might be wrong. So I am open to learn from you what you know, no matter where you might be on your journey.

Facebook Tags

To make it easy to find things in our Facebook group we have developed a series of Facebook tags. This way if you are looking for information on an assignment or a critique then you can search on the Facebook tag.

There is a series of tags for general use then specific ones for assignments. We want to hear about how you are doing so always feel free to start a conversation.

General Purpose Tags:

#Connections: Use this tag if you are doing a call out to see if there is anyone in your area or would like to connect online to work together and help push each other.

#Feedback: We will use this one when we have a question to ask our community to gain feedback before we make decisions. The idea here is that this is your community and we want to hear what you have to say before we make any changes or if we are working on new parts of the site.

#FYI: we will use this tag for information that is time sensitive. These posts will be removed after a few weeks. So things like our live Facebook videos that is just keeping you up to date with what is new and happening, or if there are events in your local area for competitions or awards, those kind of things that are time sensitive and not permanently needed.

#Wins: so you did it, you actually entered. Let us know how you went!!

Getting Image Feedback.

Remember that honesty is the best policy and that images added for critique are there for us to give you honesty in what we see and feel. Don't take anything personally. Don't try to defend what you have done in your images. This is about getting food for thought. What is said in this group is for you to consider then make your own decisions about what you do or don't do with your images. There is no right and wrong answers and now silly questions. All questions and comments are valid and believe that people are trying to help you become a better photographer and are not here to

#Critique: Anything that you want looked at and you are happy for any kind of critique back

#First Draft: Use this tag if you don't know where to start or if you want some feedback on an image before you do any editing on it. Remember that comment is just suggestions and it will be up to you to decide how the end result will look.

#Critiquefirsttimer: if this is the very first time you have posted then use this tag so we know that you are new to this critique business.

#CritiqueBeGentle: use this if you want some love with some gentle correction.

#CritiqueGoYourHardest: use this if you are ready for really vigorous debate and suggestions.

ASSIGNMENT

Lesson 1

#IntroducingMyself

This one is about telling everyone who you are and what you are here for. Tell us a bit about yourself. What you want to do with your photography and who you are as a person.

Lesson 2

#GrowYourSkills

This one is all about getting a study buddy and growing your skills as a photographer. Show us what you have been up to and share what you have learned. This can also be images you have captured to strengthen your skills in photography.

#TrainYourEye

This one is all about seeing images. Show us those camera phone shots and tell us about what you saw and how it made you think about photography differently. Share with us those AhHa moments.

#ResearchLocalEvents

Tell us about what you find for our local events. Share with the community so we can all know more. Also look for events that might make for interesting images and share those too.

LESSON 3

#GrowYourSmallThoughts

What are you doing to grow those small thoughts? How are you collating them? This doesn't need to be written, you can photograph what you are doing to show us if you want to.

#DownloadYourBrain

This is a great tool, doing a brain dump to clear your mind. Share some of the funny things that come up in your list!! How has this made you feel. Sometimes your story will encourage others to give it a try.

#WhatDoWeNeedMoreOfRightNow

What do you think the human race needs more of right now? Where are the gaps. What is missing. Just put it out there.

LESSON 4

#PreviousCompExperience

If you have entered competitions before tell us your experience.

#WhatsStoppingYou

This is a HUGE one. We all think we are alone in our reasons why we don't move forward, but if we can dig deep and find out what is truly blocking us it is liberating. By sharing your thoughts, you will give others food for thought and they might understand where their fear is coming from to.

#EmotionalPreparation

This one is all about being ready for whatever comes. Share how you are doing this. What do you find works for you?

LESSON 5

#PrintBeforeYouPerfect

Printing images to perfect them is not easy. Time restraints often give us a damn good reason to skip this one. Show us what you are doing. Tell us what is working for you. Let us know what you found by printing images before they are perfect

#PaperResearch

What did you learn. What is currently your favorite paper and why. Not sure what an image will look good on, then you can use this tag to also get some suggestions.

LESSON 6

#WriteAboutIt

Share your image and that bit of creative writing we asked you to do. it's a great way to perfect your blog writing and we are genuinely interested in the stories and how you feel about the images you are producing.

#HowIShareWhatICreate

Tell us how you show off your work. Do you keep it to yourself, or do you share with only family and friends. Or are you not confident to share it at all? We want to know your thoughts about this one..

LESSON 7

#FirstDraft

Use this tag if you want some feedback on an image before you do any editing on it. Remember that comment is just suggestions and it will be up to you to decide how the end result will look.

#DocumentYourProcess

Share your process with us. What works for you. What has giving you insight into entering competitions.

#ReadTheRules

This is a great tag to use to share confusion about competitions rules. If something is confusing, use this tag and we will see if we can work it out together.

LESSON 8

#Critique #critiquefirsttimer #CritiqueBeGentle #CritiqueGoYourHardest

Time to start thinking about adding some images into our Facebook group for critique. Remember that it is a safe place to get honest feedback so don't take negative comments personally. Remember to also use this as a chance to be the judge. I am usually the first to say don't judge, but in this environment, you have to. You have an opinion that is just as valid as the next personal. Tell the artist how the image makes you feel. What is the first thing that you noticed about the image. What stands out the most.

#PhotoWatchDog

This tag can be used to highlight any problem competitions and we will use it to share any current posts from the photo watch dog Facebook page.

#Livestream

Use this tag to post any livestream info about competitions.

LESSON 9

#DrawTheLine

Think about how far you will go to win. This could be quite an interesting online debate because it's all about morals and values and very personal ideas of what is ok and what is not ok. Remember that this is a process of actually weighing different points of view to make decisions. There is no right and wrong answers and we can agree to disagree and still be friends.

LESSON 10

#BurnoutSolutions

What methods work for you to keep you firing on all cylinders.

#Top3BurnoutSolutions

What is your top 3 burnout solutions.

#PersonalProjectIdeas

There are so many ideas out there for personal projects so add them here or share a project of your own.

LESSON 11

#FindTheLovelyPeople

Gratitude is so very important. Have you found someone that you want to give a shout out to for being so very helpful. Here is your chance to do so. We are grateful every day for the community that we are building and we know you are the lovely people.

#RemindingYourselfToBeInspired

We often struggle with isolation, criticism and wallow in our own disappointment at the level of our own work. The trick is to be inspired by your rivals because there will always be someone out there better than you. Don't overanalyze criticism. Take it and see if you can learn from it but don't obsess over it. Think about what you can learn from your experience and how you can use that for what is coming next. Can you do this? What can you do to remind yourself of this?

#WriteAboutYourPrints

You entered and you scored. Show us what you wrote and feel free to add the #Wins to this one if you want to.

LESSON 12

#HowImFeeling

Sometimes we just want to put it out there how we are feeling about things. Sometimes we feel like we are the only one feeling a certain way but as soon as we start talking we find we are not the only ones. So lets feel free here to talk about how we are feeling, be it good, bad, or somewhere in the middle.

#Goals

Say it out loud, state what you want your goals to be. Put it out there and let us know and help make you accountable to achieve them.

#RandomThoughts

We all have them, lets share them. And the more random the better.