Entry Rules and Guidelines

2024 Cortland Acres Photo Exhibition

Benefits

The residents of Cortland's short-term inpatient rehabilitation unit are the primary beneficiaries of the photography project. However, the benefit extends to all residents, their guests and the many visitors to the nursing home. The vast amount of wall space in Pendleton Lounge, The Gathering and particularly at the indoor porches is perfectly suited to showcase the scenic beauty of the region. Frequently Cortland will have visitors who have stopped in solely to see the beautiful canvas prints. And finally, the photographers who have their work chosen are affirmed in their efforts, skills and generosity in supporting this activity.

2024 Theme: Changes

Continuing a tradition begun several years ago, this year's judge, Frank Ceravalo, has chosen a theme to stimulate thinking about images to submit. This year the Exhibit will feature the theme of "Changes". Ideally, we'll see images that reflect transitions, movement, contrasts or evolutions. This could be changes in time, space, shape, age, light, color, day/night, elevation, weather, seasons, or whatever! These can be images of natural subjects, but representations of human changes are not excluded, so long as they are part of the landscape or represent the cultural character of the area. So, show us your images of the dynamic West Virginia and western Maryland highlands!

Use your imagination to apply this theme. We won't reject any images for not fitting the theme, but the judge will be looking for images that speak to this vision. And all of the rules and guidelines below still apply.

Subject Matter

From the statement of goals for the Exhibition:

"*Desired subjects should highlight the beauty and activities found in the northern West Virginia and western Maryland highlands and be representative of the people, places and pursuits found in this region.*"

Natural subjects, including landscapes, isolated scenes or arrangements, wildlife, wildflowers, insects or macros and the like are preferred.

Buildings and other structures are acceptable, particularly if they showcase the historic or cultural character of the West Virginia highlands or are part of the landscape. Abstract images, without a recognizable subject, are discouraged. Photo illustrations, such as composites, panoramas or strongly altered images are acceptable so long as they do not, in the opinion of the judge, misrepresent the subject or its context or otherwise tend to mislead the viewer. Images that portray abuse, misuse or degradation of nature are not acceptable.

Images including people are acceptable, but images of recognizable people are not acceptable unless a signed release covering public exhibition and potential commercial use is available.

Images must be original photographs, taken by the submitting photographer using a camera. Photographs originally created with a cell phone camera, digital camera, or film camera are acceptable. While developing and processing of images is a normal part of photography, images created solely through the use of software are not acceptable, nor are those that alter or misrepresent the original subject, as described above. Images created through the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), whether in whole or part, are not acceptable.

Display of Images

As in previous years, approximately 14 images will be chosen for prominent display in the main hallway of the Cortland Acres Rehabilitation Center and adjacent areas. These images will be made into a large canvas print appropriate for the wall space.

Cortland Acres will again make the wall space of the Pendleton Lounge in the Rehabilitation Center available for a Gallery display. The Gallery will be able to include pictures of different sizes, horizontal or vertical, or with wider aspect ratios. There is no specified number of images to be selected, and the Gallery will be curated by the judge and Cortland Acres staff. Images may be chosen, arranged and grouped by theme, size and space availability.

Orientation and Aspect Ratio

There are two types of images that can be submitted:

For Large Prints, exhibited in the Rehabilitation Center Hallway: For an entry to be considered for this use, it must be in square or horizontal orientation (wider than it is tall). The aspect ratio (width compared to height) is ideally about 3:2, but images with ratios from 1:1 (square) to 2:1 can be considered. In addition, a high-resolution file must be available to be used for printing; this should be at least 12 megapixels (MP). A 12 MP picture with a 3:2 ratio would be about 4320 x 2880 pixels. ***Do not submit the high-resolution file as your entry.*** If your image is selected, we will ask you to send in the high-resolution file separately.

For exhibition in the Cortland Acres Gallery: Entries can be in vertical, square, or horizontal orientation and the aspect ratio is not limited. A high-resolution file is not required, although low-resolution images, if used, may be printed small.

At the time of submitting your entry you will specify whether or not you want it considered for the Large Print (Hallway) exhibition. We will review these images and if they meet the criteria, they will first be judged for the Large Print display. Images not selected for Large Prints can still be considered for the Gallery.

Preparing Entries

The images will be judged using a web page viewed through a browser, so they should be sized to fit on a single screen, without scrolling. Images that are too large may be reduced to fit the screen and may suffer loss of sharpness as a result. If possible, it is best to submit images close to, but no larger than, about 1600 pixels in the horizontal direction and 1000 pixels in the vertical direction. Use your photo software to resize the image to these dimensions and save it as a separate file for submittal. It is recommended that you apply sharpening to the images at their

final size and be careful not to oversharpen. The DPI or PPI setting doesn't matter. Again, ***do not submit a high-resolution file as your entry.***

Because not all systems and browsers are calibrated and color-managed, it is best to save the image in sRGB color space. If you aren't sure, don't worry – unless you changed it on purpose, your image is probably in sRGB.

Save the image as a jpeg with medium-high to high quality setting (that is, with low compression). ***The size of the image file should be no more than 4 megabytes (MB).***

Do not include any signature, watermark, border, frames or any graphic overlay. Images containing such markings will not be judged.

Submitting Entries

There is no charge for submitting entries, but a maximum of four images is allowed. The images can be split between Large Print and Gallery entries or can be all one or the other, but the maximum is still four. Go to http://blackwater.cortlandacres.org to submit your entries. You will need to fill out information on each image and indicate whether it is to be considered for Large Prints (in which case you must have a high-resolution version available for printing, if your image is selected). Follow the on-screen instructions to upload each image.

Photographer's Rights and Use of Images by Cortland Acres

The photographer retains all rights to the photos, both those that are submitted and selected for display, and those that are not selected. If a photo is selected for display, it will be printed at Cortland Acres' expense, and the photographer agrees to donate one printed image to the Cortland Acres Foundation. An acknowledgement of the donation is available on request. The prints are available to be reserved for later sale during the year, proceeds of which benefit the Cortland Acres Foundation. Any prints that are not reserved by the end of the annual exhibition period are then marketed through other outlets, such as art festivals, the Cortland Acres gift shop, an auction, or through display at local businesses. Selected photos may also be used incidental to publicity or promotion of Cortland Acres or the exhibition itself.