The mission of Pictures of the Year Latam (POY Latam) is to recognize excellence in documentary photography and photojournalism in Latin America. We propose a visual reflection on the development of human rights in Ibero-America, and on the issues that compromise and affect us. The contest sheds light on the remarkable realities of the past two years.
Important note: In 2021’s POY Latam we will only accept images made in Latin America, Spain and Portugal, except in the News (series and singles) and Ibero-American Photographer of the Year categories, in which images made anywhere in the world will be accepted. Images must have been taken between January 1st, 2019 and January 2nd, 2021.

01 Everyday Life (single) – A natural, unposed image, reflecting human experience, culture or celebrating life. Respect for the dignity of the subject is essential.

02 Everyday Life (series) – Up to ten unposed images that reflect human experience, culture, or celebrate life. Respect for the dignity of the subject is essential.

03 News (single) – A photograph of a news event or a current social issue. This category also allows the presentation of a photo taken outside of Latin America.

04 News (series) – A series of up to ten photographs of a news event or current social issue. This category also allows for the presentation of a series or essay made outside of Latin America.

05 Portrait (single) – A posed photograph of one or several people that reveals their essence or personality.

06 Portrait (series) – A series of up to ten portraits of people or groups of people that reveal their essence or personality.

07 Sports (single) – A photograph that captures a peak moment in an individual or collective sport, that promotes an appreciation of sport or celebrates the role sport plays in the lives of professional athletes, amateurs or the public.

08 Carolina Hidalgo Vivar Environmental Award (series) – This special category awards a photo essay of up to ten images that expands our appreciation of nature and/or understanding of the damage humans are causing to the environment and the enormous challenges of climate change.

09 The Nuestra Mirada Award (series) – This special category of up to ten images rewards documentary or artistic work that reflects on the times we have lived through. This category is the only one in which the photos
may have been taken at any time and also the only one that accepts real or digital manipulations, as long as they are conceptually justified. It is forbidden to submit essays that have already been presented in previous editions of POY Latam.

10 The Latin American Photographer of the Year (portfolio) – This special category is open to all photographers. Submit a maximum of forty (40) photographs. A portfolio must be diverse and must include at least four individual photographs and two photo essays. Only one of the essays can be made outside of Latin America. Individual photos within this portfolio must not be repeated in the essays. Organize the portfolio with the individual photos first, followed by the essays. Insert a black image (.jpg) at the beginning of each essay to separate them. No text should be included in these separators. Photographers should present the individual photos and essays in other categories so that the judges are familiar with the work. POY Latam will not take photos from one category for inclusion in another. If you want to enter other categories you must submit duplicate files. This portfolio must include work published or created in the twenty-four months prior to the closing of the competition.

Janssen’s special categories on health

11 The Pandemic in Ibero-America (series): Up to ten documentary images and/or portraits. While the world searches anxiously for a vaccine, hundreds of thousands of people have suffered the direct and indirect consequences of the pandemic: confinement, overflowing hospitals, economic crisis, illness and in many cases, death. This category is related to the new reality society has had to adapt due to the pandemic.

12 Patients (series): Up to ten documentary images and/or portraits that reflect the experience of patients coping with illnesses other than COVID-19 during this pandemic. This category will reward images of patients around Latin America who suffer from diseases such as cancer, high blood pressure, multiple myeloma, psoriasis among many others, and who have seen the world come to a halt, while their diseases have not. Respect for the dignity of the subject is essential.
13 Caregivers (series): Up to ten documentary images and/or portraits that reflect the passion and dedication that caregivers (doctors, nurses, health care providers, family and friends) have shown for their patients. This category is dedicated to those who, throughout the pandemic, have never stopped their admirable work caring for patients or loved ones who suffer from illnesses other than COVID-19.

14 Mental Health (series): Up to ten documentary images and/or portraits showing the importance of mental health during this pandemic. This category seeks to show strategies people are using to care for their mental, physical and emotional health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Note:** The photographs submitted to the contest will not be used by Janssen outside the context of promoting POY Latam and its winners. Any other use will be agreed upon directly by Janssen and the photographers, upon payment of appropriate compensation.

The book category will not be judged this year due to the inability to gather the judges.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The images must reflect the news and the issues that concern society, while respecting the integrity of the scene and the real circumstances. Images assembled or constructed by the photographer do not honor the essence of documentary photography. Only in the portrait categories are posed and/or constructed photos allowed, and in the Nuestra Mirada category, digitally constructed or manipulated photos are allowed, as long as such manipulation has a conceptual justification. All photos must have been taken in Latin America in the two years prior to the closing of the competition.

You must be a citizen of an Iberoamerican country (meaning all of Latin America, plus Spain, Portugal and the Caribbean), or a legal resident of an Iberoamerican country for at least one year. If there is any doubt, we will ask you for proof of nationality or residence.

Images must be submitted in the corresponding category. They will not be changed by the judges.
COLLECTIVES AND INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHERS
The photographs must be taken by a person or a collective, and must bear only the name of the photographer or collective in the credit. Each photographer or collective must fill out an entry form.

REGISTRATION
Participation in the POY Latam is completely free, but each registration only allows the submission of up to 10 projects in total, and a maximum of 2 per category. A photo in an individual category is considered a project.

PREPARATION OF SUBMISSIONS
We have decided to use Picter to receive submissions. Create an account at Picter if you haven’t already done so. You will receive an email with a confirmation link. You can return as many times as necessary to upload your material. POY Latam will appear in Picter starting on November 30, 2020 and will close on January 2, 2021 at 11:59pm Quito and Bogotá time.

SUBMIT BY PICTER
https://contests.picter.com/poylatam-2021

PHOTO CAPTIONS AND INFORMATION
Captions can be indispensable during judging. Write the captions carefully. Incorporate your credit and where the photo was taken and the full caption into your file using a captioning program such as Bridge, Photo Mechanic or Lightroom. Captions can be written in Spanish, Portuguese or English.

Please include all information within each file in the IPTC field. There are different programs that can be used to embed the captions. There are tutorials like this one on the internet that explain how to embed the information into the files.

It is essential to fill in at least the following fields: Creator/Photographer (name of the photographer or group), Caption, City, Country, State. Place the description of the entire essay in the caption field of the first image of the essay.

You will be able to sort the photos and make sure all the information is present in Picter. Please edit or add information to the file BEFORE uploading to Picter by embedding the information. Replace the photo in Picter if you need to make changes. We cannot read the information if it is not embedded in the file.
INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS AND SERIES

- Only one image is allowed within each .jpg file. Multiple photos in the same file will not be accepted except in the Nuestra Mirada category.
- A photo can only be submitted once in an individual category.
- A photo submitted in an individual category may appear in a single series.
- A series can only be submitted once.
- All series or essays consist of a group of 5 to 10 photos.
- Entries will not be changed by the judges.

FILE TYPE

- Images should only be submitted as .jpg files
- The .jpg image should be recorded in “maximum quality”, or with a compression ratio greater than 9. The minimum size is 4,000 pixels high or wide, but it is preferable to send them in the original size.
- If your original photos are less than 4000px on the long side, we suggest you enlarge them in photoshop to the minimum size accepted by our platform.
- All images must be recorded in 8bits, in Adobe RGB (preferred) or sRGB color space.

RULES FOR DIGITAL PROCESSING, THE USE OF MOBILE APPLICATIONS AND THE DOCUMENTARY NATURE OF THE IMAGES

POY Latam accepts two types of images: color and black and white. With respect to color images, the goal is to replicate what the human eye sees. Routine corrections of tone, white balance and exposure are acceptable. Photos that have been exaggeratedly manipulated may be disqualified by the jury.

Alteration of content, armed or constructed photographs, double exposures, masks, frames, backgrounds, text, handwritten notes, or other artistic effects are prohibited, except in the Nuestra Mirada category.

Diptychs or triptychs are not allowed, except in the Nuestra Mirada category.

Film borders are acceptable only if the image was originally taken on negative, slide or polaroid film, and if such a border is part of the nature of the medium used.
FAQ

- All series must have 5 to 10 photos.
- All images must be taken in Latin America, except in the category News (series) and/or Photographer of the Year.
- The photos do not need to be published to participate in the contest.
- Anyone can participate, however most participants are professional photographers.
- The photographs must have been taken between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020, but there is a special category – The Nuestra Mirada Award – which is not subject to this time frame.
- Photographs must include captions within the digital file. You will be able to verify that the information is correctly incorporated into the file when you upload your images to Picter. Please do not send photos without information.
- Each photographer or group must fill out an individual registration form.
- The deadline for uploading your work is January 2, 2021 at 11:59pm (Quito or Bogotá time).

JUDGING & WINNERS

The judging of the amateur and professional photography categories will take place on January 14-17, and the video and interactive judging will take place on January 21-24. We will soon announce the judges.

The judging

The photo judges will meet online and review each and every photo submitted to the contest. Unlike the previous POY Latam, and due to the inability to gather jurors in the same place, the judges will vote independently and anonymously within the Picter platform, and only the images that have received at least two affirmative votes from the judges will move on to the final round, which will be broadcast live on our social networks.

The decision of the judges is final.

The winners will be announced by Friday, January 29, 2021.
AWARDS

**Ibero-American Photographer of the Year:**
One thousand dollars paid directly by POY Latam.

**Janssen’s health categories:**
One thousand dollars paid by Janssen.

**Winners of the other categories:**
Digitally sent certificates

COPYRIGHT

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The participants guarantee that the work presented is original from the artist or the collective and, as such, said artist or collective is the only and exclusive owner and holder of the copyright of the work presented; and that the party that presents the work has the right to publish it or present it for its possible exhibition and grants POY Latam all the required permissions. Participants agree not to submit works that (1) infringe the copyright, intellectual property, industrial property, personal or moral rights of others, or of any other nature, including but not limited to, copyright, trademark, patent, professional secrecy, privacy, publicity or confidentiality obligations; and (2) in no case violate applicable state, federal, provincial or local law.

The photographs submitted to the contest will not be used by Janssen or any other sponsor outside the context of the POY Latam promotion and its winners. Any other use will be agreed upon directly by the sponsors and photographers, upon payment of appropriate compensation.