THE COMPETITION

SINCE 1965, SPD’S COMPETITION HAS YIELDED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ENTRIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

SPD recognizes and promotes the best in editorial design, photography and illustration in print and digital mediums. We welcome entries from a diverse range of consumer print publications, independent magazines, custom-published magazines, trade and educational magazines; as well as their mobile and web platforms. If you are a digital-only magazine, you will find a variety of categories to show off your innovative design as well.

All entries selected by the jury during the second round of judging are either Merit or Medal Finalists, and will be included in the PUB 55 Annual. During the second round, judges vote on the Gold Awards for Excellence, the Silver Awards for Distinctive Achievement, and the finalists for Magazine of the Year and Brand of the Year.

THE LIST OF FINALISTS FOR PRINT AND DIGITAL CATEGORIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN MARCH 2020.
**STEP 1**

Go to SPD.org and click the SPD55 “ENTER HERE” button. Then log in or set up a profile if you don’t have an account.

**STEP 2**

Submit entry information. Choose what categories you’re entering, submit issue dates and credits for all entries. Only submit credit information that is specific to the entry.

We will use this information later if you win!

IT’S THE SAME FOR BOTH PRINT AND DIGITAL CATEGORIES.

**STEP 3**

Once you’re done entering your entry information, click the “CREATE BARCODE LABELS PDF” button and the bar code entry labels will automatically generate. Print all of the bar code entry labels. Stick the bar code entry labels to the back of the last page(s) of all the print work being entered.

WE RECOMMEND PRINTING LABELS ON AVERY 8164, 5264 OR L 716.

SEE THE “GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING ENTRIES” PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.

**STEP 4**

Package your entries carefully and send or hand-deliver to:

**SPD**

27 UNION SQUARE WEST, SUITE 207

NEW YORK, NY 10003

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**PRINT**

Editorial publications of any genre, including all newsstand publications, newspaper magazines, trade, custom publishing, educational/institutional, special interest publications, and independent/self-published magazines are eligible.

All entries submitted in the competition must be published and dated 2019; this includes magazines with a split date 2019/2020.

(PLEASE NOTE: 2018/2019 ISSUES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.)

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**DIGITAL/VIDEO**

Websites, apps and other digital publications containing dynamic or regularly updated editorial content including text, pictures, video, audio, animation or a combination. Entries may be affiliated with a print magazine, but are not required to be. Websites and apps must be live to the public, and not demos or private betas.

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**FAQ’S**

**WHAT IS AN “INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE?”**

A publication for which the person or people responsible for the magazine’s content and/or design are also responsible for financial decisions; or magazines that are not owned by a major media company. Circulation that is under 20,000.

**WHAT IS A “BRAND MAGAZINE?”**

A magazine published to promote a brand, business or organization.

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* ONLY ORIGINAL TEAR SHEETS WILL BE ACCEPTED; DIGITAL PRINTOUTS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE SPD 55 GALA IN NEW YORK IN MAY 2020.

To be included in the Gala’s presentation program, you will be required to send digital files of winning entries accompanied by the credits to SPD by March 27, 2020. The same files will be used in the SPD 55 Annual.

The notification email will include instructions for submitting hi-res files, uploading credit information, and remitting payment for publication fees for the SPD 55 Annual. If you don’t win, you won’t receive the email. All winning publications will be listed on the SPD website, www.spd.org, on or about March 6, 2020.

NOTE: NOT ALL CATEGORIES RESULT IN MEDAL WINNERS DUE TO LOW JURY SCORES OR SIGNIFICANTLY LOW ENTRY VOLUME.

CATEGORIES

HIGHLIGHTS

#1
BRAND OF THE YEAR
THE HIGHEST HONOR

#2
MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR
THE HIGHEST PRINT AWARD

#4
MEMBERS’ CHOICE: BEST COVER
THE ONLY AWARD CHOSEN BY SPD MEMBERS

#5
LOST IN SPACE
THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT IN SPACE-RELATED DESIGN

#61
WEBSITE OF THE YEAR
THE HIGHEST DIGITAL AWARD

#82
VIDEO OF THE YEAR
THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF STORYTELLING

IF YOU WIN

YOU’LL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL ON OR ABOUT MARCH 6, 2020.
BRAND OF THE YEAR
THE HIGHEST HONOR

We are seeing the emergence of editorial brands that are equally adept at multiple mediums, from print and digital to video and live events.

If your brand demonstrates an imaginative use of design, illustration, photography, and typography across multiple platforms and channels, then this category is for you.

If you go to great lengths to express the needs of the story, to engage the reader with your visual voice, that’s what we want to honor here!

TO COMPETE IN THIS CATEGORY PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

Each brand must submit a short written statement describing their effort of telling stories across multiple platforms (no more than 150 words).

IF PRINT IS YOUR PRIMARY PLATFORM:

1. Submit 2-3 issues of the publication.
   In addition, submit 3 types of assets from the following list. Your entry will consist of 4 types of assets — print plus 3 additional.
2. URLs: 3-5 specific page URLs within the same site. In addition, you can submit the home page URL.
3. Print Supplement, book, or special edition
4. Video Series (submit up to 3 videos from the same series or different subjects that reflect your brand’s voice.
5. Live Event in the form of a video or sizzle reel
6. App
7. Social Media Channel

IF DIGITAL IS YOUR PRIMARY PLATFORM:

1. Submit the home page URL, plus 3-5 specific page URLs within the same site. In addition, submit 3 types of assets from the following list. Your entry will consist of 4 types of assets — a web URL plus 3 additional.
2. Print Supplement, book, or special edition
3. Video Series (submit up to 3 videos from the same series or different subjects that reflect your brand’s voice.
4. Live Event in the form of a video or sizzle reel
5. App
6. Social Media Channel

MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Magazine of the Year is given to the art director whose magazine demonstrates the most effective and imaginative use of design, typography, illustration and photography.

To be eligible, your magazine has to have a frequency of at least 3 issues per year. Submit 3 copies each of 3 different issues (a total of 9 magazines) from 2019.

By Entering Magazine of the Year, you will automatically be entered into Best of Genre. You do not have to submit additional issues as a separate entry. We want to recognize excellence in different types of publications. This is a special opportunity for the best in each genre to be recognized. Each genre is eligible for one gold medal, no silver.

MEMBERS’ CHOICE: BEST COVER

Only $10 to Enter! This is the only award voted on by members of SPD! Only one entry per publication is allowed, not one entry per member. An entry is defined as a cover from a print or digital platform.

WANT TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE?
JOIN SPD TODAY!

LOST IN SPACE

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the MOON LANDING, we’re looking for your best work of anything (design, typography, photographs, illustrations, etc) with a SPACE element. You can submit covers, single pages, spreads, stories, web URLs, gifs, or videos representing SPACE.

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

This award is given to the site that demonstrates the absolute highest standards in editorial web design for desktop and mobile. Sites will be judged based on the quality of design, photography, typography, use of interactivity, user experience, and responsive behavior across platforms. To submit enter the homepage URL, plus 8-10 specific page URLs within the same site. The site must be a stand-alone domain not a subdomain. Work must be viewable via a standard browser, with standard plugins or downloads. Entries will be viewed on both desktop and mobile devices. In addition, upload screenshots to ensure we judge the correct entry.

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

This award is given to the video that demonstrates the absolute highest quality of storytelling and production appearing on a site, app, or social platform. Entries may include: one video or no more than three thematically linked videos in a series.
1 **BRAND OF THE YEAR**

2 **MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR**

3 **BEST OF GENRE**

   By entering Magazine of the Year, you will automatically be considered for one of the Best of Genre categories. That means, it's FREE with your Magazine of the Year entry. Just indicate your genre and you are automatically entered in the Best of Genre Category. See “Guidelines for Preparing Entries” for more specifics.

   - General Interest/News
   - City/Regional
   - Women’s Interest
   - Men’s Interest
   - Lifestyle/Travel/Food/Shelter

4 **MEMBERS’ CHOICE: BEST COVER**

5 **LOST IN SPACE**

   In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the MOON LANDING, we’re looking for your best print or digital work with a SPACE element.

### DESIGN

- **6 Cover**
- **7 Entire Issue**
- **8 Section: not feature (single/spread; single issue)**
- **9 Section: not feature (singles/spreads; multiple issues)**
- **10 Feature — Service (single/spread)**
- **11 Feature — Service (story)**
- **12 Feature — Profile, Non-Celebrity (single/spread)**
- **13 Feature — Profile, Non-Celebrity (story)**
- **14 Feature — Profile, Celebrity / Entertainment (single/spread)**
- **15 Feature — Profile, Celebrity / Entertainment (story)**
- **16 Feature — News / Documentary / Essay (single/spread)**

### REDESIGN

- **31 Entire Issue**

### PHOTOGRAPHY

- **32 Cover**
- **33 Entire Issue**
- **34 Section: not feature (single/spread; single issue)**
- **35 Section: not feature (singles/spreads; multiple issues)**
- **36 Feature — Service (single/spread)**
- **37 Feature — Service (story)**
- **38 Feature — Profile, Non-Celebrity (single/spread)**
- **39 Feature — Profile, Non-Celebrity (story)**

### INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING

- **23 Entire Issue**
- **24 Cover**
- **25 Single / Spread**
- **26 Story**

### CUSTOM PUB / BRAND / CORPORATE / INSTITUTIONAL / EDUCATIONAL

- **27 Entire Issue**
- **28 Cover**
- **29 Single / Spread**
- **30 Story**

### ILLUSTRATION

- **56 Cover**
- **57 Photo-Illustration**
- **58 Single / Spread**
- **59 Story**
- **60 Info-graphic (Data Visualization)**
MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

To be eligible to enter, your magazine has to have a frequency of at least 3 issues per year. Submit 3 copies each of 3 different issues (a total of 9 magazines) from 2019.

If we don’t receive 3 copies of 3 different issues, we will be unable to judge your entry.

BEST OF GENRE

By entering Magazine of the Year, you will automatically be entered into Best of Genre. You do not have to submit additional issues as a separate entry. We want to recognize excellence in different types of publications. This is a special opportunity for the best in each genre to be recognized. Each genre is eligible for one gold medal, no silver.

BRAND OF THE YEAR

Each brand must submit a short written statement describing their effort of telling stories across multiple platforms (no more than 150 words). Please submit 4 assets per brand.

CONTINUED
MEMBERS’ CHOICE:
BEST COVER

Only $10 to Enter! This is the only award voted on by members of SPD! Only one entry per publication is allowed, not one entry per member. An entry is defined as a cover from a print or digital platform. This category is judged on-screen only, and will be awarded one gold medal, no silver.

UPLOAD JPEGS OR ANIMATED GIFS FOR YOUR ENTRY. DO NOT SEND TEARSHEETS FOR MEMBERS’ CHOICE.

FEATURE-WELL
SINGLE PAGE OPENERS
Enter typographic and image driven single page openers for the feature-well. Stick the bar code entry label to the back of every single page being entered. DO NOT SEND SPREADS for this category.

SPREAD ENTRIES
Submit only spreads.

Spreads should be taped along the spine on the back of the page(s) being entered. Stick the bar code entry label to the back of every spread being entered.

IN THE NEXT SPACE

STORY ENTRIES
These entries are for two or more single pages/spreads from the same story or package.

The single pages/spreads of the story should be placed in order, and stapled together in the upper left corner. Stick the bar code entry label to the back of every spread being entered.

FOB, BOB, SECTION / NON-FEATURES
(From the Front of the Book or Back of the Book Section of the magazine) Submissions will be judged for visual excellence and cohesiveness. These entries may come from any part of your magazine that is not a feature, or not part of the feature well. Entries may be from a FOB, BOB section from one issue, or the same parts of a FOB, BOB section from multiple issues. Each FOB, BOB Section entry should not include more than three spreads or six total pages. The FOB, BOB section pages should be placed in order.

For pages from multiple issues, sequence by issue date (no more than six pages). Staple all the pages together in the upper left corner. Stick the bar code entry label to the back of the last page of every FOB, BOB section being entered.

REDESIGN
Submit the last issue BEFORE the redesign. Submit one issue from AFTER the redesign. It does not need to be the first redesigned issue.

Stick labels to the back of the before and after issues.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATION, AND DATA VISUALIZATION

Submit the entire editorial page(s) on which the work appeared.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
An original editorial image for which the primary method of creation is manipulating, combining and/or stylizing photographs in Photoshop or other image editing software. All photo and illustration entries must be original work and must not have been previously published.

Images that have previously appeared in any type of publication, including digital formats, are not eligible. However, layouts that include previously published images may be entered in any design category.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATION, AND DATA VISUALIZATION

Submit the entire editorial page(s) on which the work appeared.

Please provide a translation of the headline and subhead. Tape the translation to the back of your entry next to the label.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CATEGORIES:
DO NOT MOUNT ANY ENTRIES IN ANY WAY.
ALSO, DO NOT SUBMIT PAGES AS A BOOKLET OR ACCORDION FOLD LIKE BELOW.

BOOKLET

ACCORDION

(Continued)
GENERAL DIGITAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

For all submissions, please provide screenshots to ensure judges evaluate the correct entry.

For any site or app submissions that are not freely accessible (e.g. behind a paywall or a paid app), you must provide log-in information and/or add the cost of the app to the entry fee at checkout.

WEBSITES (MOBILE/DESKTOP)

This category honors overall excellence in editorial website design across desktop and mobile.

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

This award is given to the site that demonstrates the absolute highest standards in editorial web design for desktop and mobile. Sites will be judged based on the quality of design, photography, typography, use of interactivity, user experience, and responsive behavior across platforms. To submit enter the homepage URL, plus 8-10 specific page URLs within the same site. The site must be a stand-alone domain not a subdomain. Work must be viewable via a standard browser, with standard plugins or downloads. Entries will be viewed on both desktop and mobile devices. In addition, upload screenshots to ensure we judge the correct entry.

SINGLE PAGE DESIGN

Any single page or opener that is designed to work exceptionally well across both mobile and desktop platforms, including homepages. Please include 1 representative screenshot.

WEBSITE HTML TYPOGRAPHY

Recognizing exceptional use of web-based typography in digital editorial experiences. Submissions must use web/HTML typography; a static image representation of typography is not eligible. Submit full URL and screenshot(s). Can be individual stories or full site (no more than 3 URLs per entry).

ANIMATED CONTENT

Including animation of typography, illustration, graphics, titles/headlines.

CONTINUED ▶
INFORMATION GRAPHICS
Including data visualization with the use of interactivity to display information in a user-friendly experience.

ORIGINAL DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
Recognizing exceptional original editorial illustration conceived specifically for digital platforms. Includes singles and up to three in a series.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

ORIGINAL DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Original Digital Photography categories recognize photography conceived specifically for digital platforms. Submit within the appropriate sub-category. Submit full URL and screenshot(s).

FEATURE, PORTFOLIO
Feature Portfolio recognizes work that is entirely driven by the photographic concept or approach, and portfolio entries can overlap with other categories. Submit photographs (still photographs, photo essays, photo-illustrations, GIFs, or photo-based animation) created primarily for digital platforms. Includes singles and up to six in a series.

NEW! DIGITAL PHOTO EDITING — NON-COMMISSIONED PHOTOGRAPHY
This award recognizes strength and excellence in photo editing and photo research. Entries should exemplify the highest standards and instincts in elevating a story with only pickup photography. Please submit 1 URL for a single story and up to 3 URLs for a series.

SOCIAL

SOCIAL STORY
Any editorial content designed specifically for Instagram Stories or Snapchat Stories. Please submit a recording of the story’s experience (including sound if applicable) in addition to screenshots for reference. Please submit 1 file per entry.

NEW! SOCIAL EXPERIENCE (SINGLE CHANNEL)
This category honors outstanding use of design and photography by an editorial brand on a social platform (e.g., Instagram feed & stories, TikTok, etc.). Please submit 3–5 pieces (can include screen captures or mp4 of stories) of the publication’s content in addition to screenshots for reference.

VIDEO
Any video that was created to tell or support an editorial story, appearing on a site, app, or social platform. Videos will be judged based on quality of storytelling, editing, motion graphics and typography. Please provide the URL with screenshot(s) or upload the video file.

VIDEO OF THE YEAR
This award is given to the video that demonstrates the absolute highest quality of storytelling and production appearing on a site, app, or social platform. Entries may include: one video or no more than three thematically linked videos in a series.

NEW! VISUAL IDENTITY & BRANDING

NEW! VISUAL EXPERIENCE (SINGLE CHANNEL)
This award is given to a suite of motion graphics (such as, but not limited to: logo, title sequence, in-show graphics, credits, outtro, etc.) intended to brand a show/series or network from an editorial division or custom publishing outlet. Please provide at least 3 screenshots or a graphics reel (recommended runtime: 60 seconds max).

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY (AR / VR / 360 VIDEO)
Recognizing stories that utilize new digital technologies to create innovative design and visual storytelling including, but not limited to, AR, VR, and 360° video. Entries will be judged on how each entry utilizes a given format to make a compelling visual and/or narrative experience. Please be prepared to provide instructions or devices if specialized hardware (such as: 3d glasses, oculus rift, etc.) is needed for judging.
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AND SAVE ON YOUR SPD 55 ENTRIES!

MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a member of the Society of Publication Designers allows you to join a community of your peers, obtain crucial information on the inner workings of your profession and meet other talented and influential visual professionals. Your membership also makes it possible for us to continue our educational programs, speaker series, social events and other initiatives that celebrate and support our industry.

AS A MEMBER, YOU WILL RECEIVE 50% OFF COMPETITION ENTRIES, PLUS THREE FREE WHEN YOU ENTER 10 ENTRIES OR MORE.

FOR THE FULL LIST OF MEMBER BENEFITS, VISIT SPD.ORG/MEMBERSHIP.

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE
DECEMBER 20, 2019
$40 MEMBERS, $80 FOR NON-MEMBERS.

STANDARD DEADLINE
JANUARY 17, 2020
$50 MEMBERS, $100 FOR NON-MEMBERS

LATE DEADLINE
JANUARY 24, 2020
$60 MEMBERS, $120 FOR NON-MEMBERS

THAT’S 50% OFF FOR MEMBERS!

MEMBERS
WITH 10 OR MORE ENTRIES, YOU CAN SUBMIT AN ADDITIONAL THREE ENTRIES FREE. (BUT ONLY THREE. NOT THREE FOR EVERY 10.)

PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUAL
LOCATED IN NY, NJ, CT
$225

CORPORATE
3+ PROFESSIONALS FROM THE SAME ORGANIZATION
$200 EA

PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUAL
FOR OUR COMMUNITY OUTSIDE NY, NJ, CT AND OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES
$150

That's 50% off for members!
IʼM A STORYTELLER; THATʼS WHAT EXPLORATION REALLY IS ALL ABOUT. GOING TO PLACES WHERE OTHERS HAVENʼT BEEN AND RETURNING TO TELL A STORY THEY HAVENʼT HEARD BEFORE.