

2025 Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest

The Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Exhibition has been held since 2007 with the aim of providing a stage for photographers to show their talent. Unlike most competitions, this event allows participants to decide their own photographic themes and tell a visual story with five images. Beyond a test of photographic technique, this approach also challenges the artists' subject selection, conceptual clarity, and communication ability. In addition to the prizewinners receiving generous awards, the prize-winning works will be exhibited at the SKM Photography art fair in March 2025, allowing more people to appreciate your visual storytelling.

- I. Term:** September 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024
- II. Qualifications:** All photography lovers are welcome
- III. How to participate:**
 - 1. Theme:**

Determined by participants, who must submit a series of five photographs on one subject of their own choosing (other entries will not be accepted).
 - 2. Medium:**

Any photography equipment (digital camera, traditional camera, cell phone, etc.) may be used.
 - 3. Work specifications:**
 - (1) **Photographs:** May be color or black-and-white. Printed dimensions may be 8x10", 8x12", or A4. (21x29.7 cm). If the image of a work is square, it must be within the short dimension of one these sizes. The participant may decide whether to leave a white margin around their work, and this will not affect participation qualifications or judging results. However, if an entered work wins a prize, each single photograph must be submitted as a digital file at least 3000x3600 pixels or 8 MP (JPG or TIFF) in size.
 - (2) **Registration form** Appendix 1: Please fill out this document carefully, and print it out on A4 paper.
 - (3) **Work Description** Appendix 2: Please accurately fill in each column and attach a sequential schematic diagram of your works to ensure clear identification of all your works.
 - (4) **Contest agreement** Appendix 3: Please sign or affix your seal after printing out the agreement on A4 paper. A legal agent must sign/affix their seal if the applicant is under 20 years of age.
 - 4. Submission Method:**

Please place all of the foregoing (1) Photographs, (2) Original copy of the registration form, and (3) Original copy of the Work Description in an envelope and select any of the following methods of submission:

 - **Submission in person:** May be submitted at the 1st floor service counter of any Shin Kong Mitsukoshi department store in Taiwan. (Query store information here: <http://www.skm.com.tw>)
 - **Submission by post:** Post to 7F, 19 Songgao Road, Xinyi District, Taipei City 110. Indicate "Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest Group" on the envelope. (The date of receipt shall be the postmark date. Applications dated later than 10/31/2024 will not be accepted.)

※ Please pack your work carefully to avoid damage. There are no restrictions on packing materials, but the package as a whole may not exceed 30×40 cm in size. Avoid damage during the transport process due to improper taping or over-sized packages.

5. Public announcement of prizewinners:

Prizewinners will be announced on the official Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Cultural and Educational Foundation website before December 31, 2024. Prizewinners will also be notified by e-mail or telephone.

IV. Awards

- **First Place** (1 winner): USD 5,000
- **Second Place** (1 winner): USD 2,000
- **Third Place** (1 winner): USD 1,000
- **Special Jury Award** (2 winners): 【SmallRig】 RC350B COB light combination
- **Outstanding Work Award** (5 winners):【Hobolite】IRIS 5W Creator Kit (Creative fashion lamp)
- **Selected Work Award** (10 winners): 【FUJIFILM 】 Instax SQUARE Link Smartphone Printer
- **Special Award of the Year** (3 winners): 【Apacer】 512GB CFexpress TypeB PA32CF Memory card

※ Special Award of the Year is an award for individual works, and 3 works will be chosen from entered works of the year by the judges; this award is independently established, and winners of other awards are still eligible for this award.

※ All prizewinning works may participate in the showings of the "2025 SKM Photography art fair,"and the prizewinners will also receive one "2025 Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest Commemorative Album", one "Certificate of merit," and tickets to the " SKM PHOTO Art Fair." (Actual prizes awarded are at the sole discretion of the organizer.)

V. Judging

Submitted works will be judged based on: **image quality (60%)**, **creativity (20%)** and **composition (20%)**.

■ Image quality

The role of photography equipment and functions of peripheral devices has continuously evolved along with rapid developments in science and technology. Likewise, this competition has also advanced with the times and technology trends. Novel and diverse media challenge the creator's interpretation of the art of photography, and in turn new interpretations change the viewer's perspective on appreciating the art of photography. What does not change is the artist's expression of the essence of photography, including technical understanding of the tools of photography, observation of the environment, source lighting, timing, composition and the interaction between the photographer and the photographed. Only after careful consideration and evaluation from different points of view can the photographer faithfully capture the moment. This is why image quality is weighted 60% of the total score.

■ Creativity and Composition

Since this contest is themed around "Five photographs tell a visual story" the artist must come up with ideas of how to tell a story through five photographs. Creativity, composition, visual energy, the logic and relationship among the five photographs, as well as the overall subject matter are all

criteria considered for this portion of the score.

■ Post-processing

The ever increasing sophistication of technology provides the photographer with a diverse array of new techniques to realize the visual creativity of their photographs. Different aspects of the media can be used to achieve a variety of effects. The artist may consider the degree of post processing required for the photograph according to the type of image being created. Fine tuning of the image to enhance the aesthetic quality of the image, to bring out details and layers, or to express the story that the artist has in mind – all of these may add to the score of your work, however over-processing a photo may lose the original essence of the image. Though technology brings powerful functions and convenience, these new features further test the artist's visual creativity and creative expression.

If any of the following conditions apply to a submitted work, it will be deemed as having not complied with the contest requirements, and will not be eligible for judging:

1. This year's Registration Form per [Appendix 1](#) hasn't been used; using registration forms from past years of this contest will also be deemed as eligible.
2. Work Description per [Appendix 2](#) hasn't been submitted.
3. An original signed copy of the Consent Letter per [Appendix 3](#) hasn't been submitted.
4. Relevant documents don't meet the requirements of the General Regulations of Contribution (e.g print format, no signature or seal of a legal representative).
5. The output size of photos does not meet requirements (sizes such as 4x6, 3x5).
6. A watermark or any text, symbol, or modification is added on the front or back of a photo for entrant identification.

VI. Participation rules and statement

1. Those who wish to register to participate in the contest should carefully read these rules and statements. By submitting works to participate in the contest you agree to comply with the rules of the contest and agree to allow the organizer, in accordance with the law, to collect, process and use your personal information.
2. All entered works must have been personally photographed by the participant, and must be entered under the participant's real ID information; no anonymous submissions will be accepted. The participant must possess all rights to the entered work, and the organizer may revoke the qualifications of any work that does not comply with regulations.
3. The participant shall be responsible for confirming that all written information is truthful and correct, and that the entered work does not infringe upon the trademark, patent, or copyright of a third party, or violate other laws and regulations. If an application is untruthful or violates the contest rules, and the facts have been verified, the participant agrees that the organizer may revoke his or her prizewinning qualifications, and any awards (including prize money, prizes, certificate of merit, etc.) have already been accepted must be immediately returned. The participant shall be willing to bear all responsibility in such cases, and the organizer shall not be involved.

4. An entered work must have been completed no earlier than three years prior to the contest (2021/09/1-2024/10/31); the work may not have received any domestic or foreign competitive award, nor may it have been publicly issued or displayed, including in print publication and exhibition. However, this restriction shall not apply if the work has been posted on the individual's personal website, blog, or on a Facebook page.
5. There is no restriction on sets of works registered by each entrant; if multiple works are awarded, the organizer will select the best one though the Award of the Year can be attained along with other awards.
6. Participants must respect the final decisions of the judging committee engaged by the organizer, and may not demand the cancellation of award qualifications.
7. Regardless of whether they win an award, entered works that have been submitted successfully will not be returned (including those works not complying with requirements); please be aware of this condition. Participants who wish to preserve their original works are asked to preserve the works ahead of time or reconsider participation.
8. If entered works suffer any damage prior to delivery to the organizer, the organizer shall not accept any responsibility.
9. The organizer shall contact the prizewinners by e-mail and telephone after the announcement of the prizewinner list. After confirming their identity, the prizewinners must submit a high-resolution digital file on disk of the prizewinning work within a certain period of time, and those who fail to do so shall be deemed to have given up their prize-winning right.
10. Entrants agree to authorize gratis copyright of the prize-winning work to the organizer, which will be irrevocable, with permanent effect, and applicable worldwide, i.e. the right to reproduce, distribute the prize-winning work or make derivatives thereof (including record of the creator's name) on any media at the present or in the future, e.g. use it in series events of Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photo Joint Exhibition for the purpose of event promotion, display the prize winner's work publicly, use it in graphic productions of this event and publish it on websites, etc. Prize winners that don't consent to the above conditions will be deemed as waiving their prize-winning right. Entrants cannot take any action or make any statement violating rules of this contest once entered.
11. Prizewinners must bring personal identification (foreign nationals must bring their passport and alien residence certificate)
12. In accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the Standards of Withholding Rates for Various Incomes," a 10% award income tax must be paid when the award value exceeds NT\$20,000; if prize winners are not individuals residing in the ROC (i.e., natives and foreign nationals who have not resided in the ROC for over 183 days), regardless of the amount received by the prize winners, they can only receive their prize after a 20% award income tax has been deducted from the award income. In case of cash awards, tax will be deducted from the amount of such award before being remitted to a designated account (foreign currency account will be limited to USD, and exchange rate will be based on the actual exchange rate on the day of remittance) .

13. With regard to any matters not dealt with in the foregoing paragraphs, when the English and Chinese versions of relevant regulations or explanations are inconsistent, the Chinese shall take precedence. The organizer reserves the right to explain, revise, and add to these contest rules, statements, and explanation of awards.

VII. Contact information

Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest Reception Staff

Phone : 0800-008-808

Service hours: 10:00-12:00 AM, 2:00-6:00 PM, Monday through Friday

E-mail : culture@skm.com.tw

Organizer

財團法人新光三越文教基金會
SHIN KONG MITSUKOSHI CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

新光三越
SHIN KONG MITSUKOSHI

Partners

EPSON 光影手工暗房工作室
Kuangyin Arts Co.

Cooperation

CS 正成集團
影視器材總匯

SmallRig
FREE YOUR DREAM

Y 湧蓮國際
Yung Lien

Hobolite

FUJIFILM

Apacer

MGH Mitsui Garden Hotel
Taipei Zhongxiao

法雅客

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Appendix 1

2025 Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest **Registration Form**

Theme	[]		Work Serial No.	(for official use)
Name	[]			
Sex	[<input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female]	ID/passport No.	[]	
Birthday	[]	Year	[]	Month [] Day
Contact Number	[]	Mobile phone	[]	
E-mail	[]			
Address	[][][][][] []			
Occupation	<input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Public servant <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer <input type="checkbox"/> Laborer <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Self employed <input type="checkbox"/> Service industry <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Beverage <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Finance and Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Information technology <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising <input type="checkbox"/> Design <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker <input type="checkbox"/> Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Source of contest information (multiple choice)	<input type="checkbox"/> Shin Kong Mitsukoshi DM publicity <input type="checkbox"/> Online media/advertisement <input type="checkbox"/> Shin Kong Mitsukoshi website/e-bulletin <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper/magazine <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation website/Facebook page <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to by friend or relative <input type="checkbox"/> Taipei Metro poster <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation by school/instructor <input type="checkbox"/> Saw poster/postcard, location: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Motive for participation	<input type="checkbox"/> Prizes <input type="checkbox"/> Prize money <input type="checkbox"/> Prize-winning works can participate in touring exhibition <input type="checkbox"/> Prestige of event <input type="checkbox"/> Personal challenge <input type="checkbox"/> The organizer strives to support and promote new talented photographers <input type="checkbox"/> Other : _____			

Date: _____, 2024

1. A registration form must be filled out for each set of (five photographs) comprising an entry; for example, three registration forms must be filled out if three sets of works are entered.
2. If you wish to fill out this form by hand, please fill out with block letters to help ensure the legibility of the form's content.

Appendix 2 2025 Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest **Work Description**

Name	[]	Age	[]	Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female
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Theme	[]	Work Serial No.	(for official use)
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Schematic Diagram of the Work

1. Please paste the works in sequence in the form 2. Graphic height should be 3.5cm 3. Please print in color to facilitate identification.	1.	2.
	[]	[]
3.	4.	5.
[]	[]	[]

Year(s) photographed	[If the five photographs were taken in different years, please number them 1-5 in order of preference.]
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Location(s) photographed	[If the five photographs were taken at different locations, please number them 1-5 in order of preference.]
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Work size	[]	Output paper	[]
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Artistic concept (in 400 words or less)	[]
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Date: _____, 2024

1. Please be sure to read the General Regulations of Contribution, especially the content in “VI, Rules, Regulations and Statements,” and once entered into this contest you should accept and consent to the rules and regulations of this contest.
2. The organizer shall fill out the "Work serial number" field.
3. Please do not write the participant's name on a work label or on the back of a photograph.
4. To avoid legibility problems, please fill out the form using block letters if filling out an application by hand.

Appendix 3 2025 Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest Agreement

_____ participating in the 2025 Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photography Contest” (herein referred to as the “Contest”) held by the Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Cultural and Educational Foundation and the Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store (herein referred to as the “Organizer”) agrees to license the property rights at no cost to the Organizer and agrees to abide by the following:

1. Guarantee that all personal information provided to the organizer is true and correct, and that no personal information is incorrect, false, forged or modified, and that the rules and regulations of the contest have been read in detail, been accepted and agreed.
2. Guarantee that the prize-winning entry of the contest is an original work of my own and has not previously been awarded at any photo contests, nor has it been published or displayed, published graphically or exhibited.
3. The Participant guarantees that relevant images and/or texts in the winning work do not infringe on the trademark, patent or intellectual property rights of any third party. Should an infringement occur, the Participant shall be solely responsible for such infringement. The Organizer and SKM shall not be liable for such infringements. If the organizer suffers damages for this reason, the participant shall bear responsibility for compensation.
4. The Participant guarantees that the right to publicize relevant portraits, images, and/or texts in the winning work has been authorized by the owners of said portraits, images, and/or texts. Should the Participant be unable to secure such rights due to geographical or temporal reasons, the Participant is willing to bear the ensuing consequences, which shall be no concern of the organizer. If the organizer suffers damages for this reason, the participant shall bear responsibility for compensation.
5. Agree to authorize gratis copyright of prize-winning entries of this contest to the organizer, and that the organizer can use it on a gratis basis without limitations on location, time, number of times and manner (including but not limited to the organizer using it in series events of Shin Kong Mitsukoshi International Photo Joint Exhibition for the purpose of event promotion, other exhibition events and in relevant products, advertisement or reproduce, distribute, issue or publish it, etc.), and the organizer can authorize a third party for relevant use.
6. The Participant agrees to permit the Organizer to provide the name and other related and essential information of the Participant to the press, other mass media, advertising agencies, jury members of the Contest, and the general public.
7. After being notified by the organizer of relevant rights conferred by the Personal Data Protection Act (i.e., the right to add to, correct, stop collecting, processing or using and delete any personal data provided herein under the condition of not affecting the organizer’s rights; an application may be made for these actions in accordance with the Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Cultural and Educational Foundation's regulations via personal negotiation with the Foundation), I agree to allow the organizer to acquire my personal data which shows my identity and traits for the purpose of contact and notification based on this activity and similar activities in the future, and allow the organizer to process and use my personal data via computer, e-mail, fax, telephone, text message, or writing within the ROC from the date the organizer receives my entry until the date that I request to cease the collecting, processing, or using of such information under the condition of not affecting the organizer’s rights and that the deletion operation has been completed.

8. If any person signing the agreement disagrees with or violates the foregoing matters, this shall be equivalent to automatically forfeiting prize-winning qualifications, and the organizer shall have the right to revoke the person's prize-winning qualifications and request the return of any awarded prize, prize money, or certificate of merit, and may request compensation for any losses incurred as a result thereof.
9. Should litigation arise from the Agreement, the Participant agrees that the Taipei District Court shall be the court of first instance.

By signing below, the Participant agrees to abide by the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Name of work:	Work No.: (filled out by organizer)
Agreement signer: _____ (signature or seal imprint)	ID card number:
Legal representative/guardian: _____ (signature or seal imprint)	ID card number:
Date: _____(YYYY/MM/DD)	

*This agreement shall only take effect after works have been awarded. For works that are not awarded, this agreement will have no legal effect.