

# APS Code of Conduct

The Auckland Photographic Society (APS) is one of the largest and most active clubs in New Zealand.

It is appropriate that we have a Code of Conduct based on a shared commitment to ethical practice and common values. Such a Code sets out our commitment to preserve and enhance the reputation of the Club, and identifies what we collectively embrace as acceptable and unacceptable behavior in pursuing our photographic endeavours.

We have an obligation, collectively and individually, to behave in accordance with this Code in all situations, from interactions with each other in the Club, our approach to competitions, and in pursuing our photographic interests more generally.

The values we aspire to cannot be described by written rules alone, but depend on the understanding and judgment of individuals and the collective.

## Values

Our key values are to behave at all times with

- integrity
- sensitivity
- respect

**and** in a manner that supports:

- trust in our collective and individual endeavours in taking and creating a photograph and submitting it for competition or exhibition
- responsibility and accountability
- the reputation of the APS.

To this end, in addition to adhering to all laws, regulations and customs applicable to the place in which they are photographing, including overseas, members will not:

- behave or engage in activity, including disrespectful behavior, that may bring the APS or individuals into disrepute
- engage in any form of plagiarism and should appropriately acknowledge copyright in other photographers' work
- unjustly claim ownership or creative endeavor when using or incorporating another photographer's or artist's work
- explicitly copy an idea or approach of another photographer

For example: create a photograph that draws directly on familiar, well publicised subjects found on the internet or in books by recreating the same scene, or obvious variation of it, and present it as original authorship

- misrepresent their own involvement in creating the work or misrepresent it as entirely their own creative and intellectual property.

For example. APS encourages members to take part in workshops/mentoring. When is it acceptable or unacceptable for a photograph taken in a workshop/under mentorship to be entered into competition as the author's own work?

**Acceptable:** where the photographer sets up their own scene within the workshop environs (e.g. takes a model to another location or pursues a new perspective on a landscape) and is responsible for the choice of all camera settings and artistic input.

**Unacceptable:** where the scene, lighting and other creative input (instructions re speed, aperture, ISO, and/or framing, etc.) are provided by the instructor and where the photographer is effectively only pushing the shutter button.

There will always be **shades of grey** between acceptable and unacceptable practice. Each member is encouraged to reflect on, and represent, the values

of the club in deciding whether to claim a work represents their authorship.

## **Discipline**

Where it is judged that this Code of Conduct has been breached, the APS Committee may, on taking account of representations from parties and having regard to the best interests of the Club, take appropriate action, including but not restricted to:

- warning a member of the need to observe the principles and general behavior expected of all club members consistent with the values underpinning this Code of Conduct
- asking the author to withdraw a photograph from competition
- directly, as a decision of the Committee, withdraw a photograph from competition
- nullify a competition result retrospectively in the face of observations that the author's photograph or behavior did not live up to the values of this Code of Conduct
- refuse to accept a photograph for inclusion in an APS exhibition.

**It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that their actions reflect positively on the APS and on the wider photographic community in New Zealand and beyond. This will be achieved if we collectively commit to always act with sensitivity and respect towards each other.**