



City Lights Art Gallery

Promoting local art & art education
3 E Army St., Henderson, NV 89015
702.260.0300

Photography Post-Processing Guidelines

(Monthly Challenges & Regular Juried Shows)

These guidelines are based on photographer survey feedback and are intended to keep judging fair while allowing creative freedom.

What's Allowed

- Normal photo editing: exposure, color, contrast, cropping, sharpening
- Removing distractions (trash, power lines, blemishes, etc.)
- Cloning, healing, masking
- HDR, focus stacking, panoramas
- Composites **using only your own photos**
- Sky or background replacement **only if the replacement image is your own photo**

Allowed with Limits

AI tools are allowed when they **assist editing** but **do not create new content**.

Allowed uses include:

- Noise reduction
- Object removal
- Selection and masking tools
- AI features built into Lightroom, Photoshop, or similar software that refine existing image content

Not allowed in photography categories:

- Adding people, animals, objects, skies, or environments using AI
- Prompt-generated content added to a photo
- AI-generated or stock imagery

Authorship Matters

All parts of the image must come from **photos you captured yourself**.

Stock images, internet content, or AI-generated assets are not allowed in photography categories.

AI & Digital Art

Images that rely heavily on AI generation or include significant AI-created content should be entered in a **separate AI / Digital Art category**, when available.

Disclosure

Photographers may be asked to briefly describe how AI tools were used. Transparency helps ensure fair judging.

Bottom Line

If it started as your photo and AI was used only to **refine, not invent**, it belongs in photography. If AI created or added major elements, it belongs in a separate category.

If you have questions or need clarification, please email, clag.photoshow@gmail.com.

City Lights Artists' Co-op is a non-profit 501c3. Proceeds benefit our scholarship & arts programs.

Email - clag.photoshow@gmail.com • Website - citylightsartgallery.org

