

XX  
International  
Nature  
Photography  
Competition

asferico 2026  
*English*

[www.asfericocontest.it](http://www.asfericocontest.it)

# asferico 2026

ph. Matthew Sullivan

## XX° International Nature Photography Competition

Send your images to participate in Asferico 2026, one of the most important naturalistic photography competitions, now at its 20th edition.

This year the total value of the prizes will be over **15,000 €**.

Participants can enter their images into ten different categories. The **overall winner**, selected from the pool of winners of these eight categories (from A to I), will receive **3,000 €** cash. Instead, the winner of the Stories category will win a cash prize of **1,000 €**.

Each of the **remaining 8 winners** will win a cash prize of **500 €**, while the **runner up** of each category will receive a **250 €** cash prize. Furthermore, 8 more photographers will be selected in each of the nine categories.

In the Young Photographers category, the winning pictures for each of the 2 age groups will be awarded a **200 €** gift card \*. The runner up of each age group will receive the competition catalogue.

All winners and selected photographers will receive the competition catalogue, and will be invited to participate in the awards ceremony and to attend the gala dinner during the Asferico 2026 Photofestival.

### DATES AND DEADLINES

**21 October ÷ 07 December 2025**

Submit of images

from 21/10 to 30/11: 30 €

from 01/12 to 07/12: 35 €

2 January 2026

Pre-selection outcomes

2 ÷ 18 January 2026

Request for high-resolution RAW and JPEG format files and image descriptions

30 January ÷ 1 February 2026

Judging

8 February 2026

Notification of winners

[www.asfericocontest.it](http://www.asfericocontest.it)

[www.afni.org](http://www.afni.org)

\* Non-cash prizes not redeemable for cash.



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ph. Norbert Kaszás

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### CATEGORIES

#### A - Landscape

From open, majestic scenery to intimate corners of the landscape: these are the inspiration of every photographer, who must instil in the viewer that feeling of amazement generated by an uncontaminated, pure nature.

#### B - Underwater worlds

The underwater world is a mystery to most people. The myriad of plants, animals and habitats that go to make up submarine life in both marine and freshwater environments is a fascinating subject that can be portrayed with unique, unforgettable images.

#### C - Mammals

#### D - Birds

#### E - Other animals

The fantastic diversity of the shapes, behaviours and relationships of the animal kingdom can be pictured through portraits, environmental settings or action scenes that reveal the character or the soul of the subject in an original and exciting way.

#### F - Plants and fungi

The delicacy of a flower or the strength of an ancient tree are examples of a biodiversity that can be portrayed in many different ways by the sensitivity of a careful observer.

#### G - Composition and forms

The beauty of nature can be revealed with imagination and creativity by playing with shapes, colours, depth of field and reflections, while seeking a unique and personal vision.

#### H - Man and nature

A combination of contrasts and contradictions, but also of balance and coexistence. Every photographer at least once in their life has created meaningful images that impress the observer, generating in them a newly found respect for nature that is all too often lacking.

#### I - Black and white

A category that changes with each edition, this year it tackles a classic of photography: introduce simplicity and drama into your shot through the use of black and white images.

#### L - Stories

Images can tell a story which, if adequately illustrated, can bring the observer to see reality from unusual or difficult-to-understand points of view.



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ph. Henrik Schultz

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*Neil Aldridge* (UK), Wildlife photographer  
[www.conservationphotojournalism.com](http://www.conservationphotojournalism.com)



*Marco Ferrari* (Italy), Science journalist, collaborator of Focus magazine and editor in chief of Asferico magazine



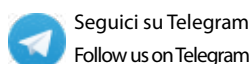
*Paul Kornacker* (Germany), Wildlife photographer  
[www.pkornacker.de](http://www.pkornacker.de)



*Ilaria Mariagiulia Rizzuto* (Italy), Wildlife photographer  
[ilariamariagiulia.com](http://ilariamariagiulia.com)



*Cristobal Serrano* (Spain), Wildlife photographer  
[www.cristobalserrano.com](http://www.cristobalserrano.com)



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# asferico 2026

ph. Joshua Galsterer

## XX° International Nature Photography Competition

### COMPETITION RULES

#### Participation

1. The competition is open to amateur and professional photographers of any age or nationality.
2. The subscription fee is **€ 30.00** per adult until **30 November**, and **€ 35.00 from 1-7 December**. For young photographers (aged 17 and under on the opening date of the competition) subscription is **free** (see rule 16).
3. Participation is exclusively on line on the website [www.asfericocontest.it](http://www.asfericocontest.it).
4. All communications should be sent by email only to: [info@asfericocontest.it](mailto:info@asfericocontest.it). Each entrant is responsible for ensuring that their own security/spam restrictions do not restrict communications with the Asferico Staff: please verify your own restrictions.
5. By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to these Rules. English and Italian are the languages used by the staff and for the final texts printed in the competition catalogue.

#### Images

6. Each entrant can enter a maximum of **thirty (30) images** into the competition: said total can be distributed freely across the different categories.
7. Digital files and scans of slides are accepted. Editing of said files is permitted only if limited to a basic cleaning (removal of stains due to dust on the camera sensor and noise reduction), slight adjustments of saturation, contrast, tonal values or curves. **Cropping** is allowed but must **not exceed 35%** of the original image area and must always take into account the effects on the final file size. Borders, signatures and watermarks must **not** be applied to the images. The colour space must be Adobe RGB (1998).
8. Digitally manipulated images are not accepted unless compliant with the limits described in rule 7), i.e. the image must be an intact and faithful representation of the shapes, behaviours or natural phenomena. The insertion or deletion of elements within the image is not allowed.
9. Pictures resulting from the fusion of two or more images are allowed only in order to obtain panoramic images or to extend the dynamic range (HDR). The single images used must be taken in the same place and at the same time and the resulting picture must comply with rules 7) and 8) in order to guarantee the authenticity of the final picture. Multiple exposures are allowed only if they are native, in-camera functions that generate a single RAW file.
10. Images must be submitted in low resolution: each image must be 1920 pixels on the long side, have a resolution of 72 dpi, be in **jpg** format and not exceed 3 MB. The renaming of files is not necessary.
11. Entrants will be contacted by email if any submitted images have passed the pre-selection stage and will receive instructions on how to upload their **RAW** and **high resolution** files, a compulsory step to enter the final phase of the competition. Every entrant will be able to track the progress of each single image through their online account.
12. High-resolution digital files in JPEG format must measure at least 3000 pixels on the long side, and have the same crop and colour as their jpg counterparts uploaded during the registration process. The original capture files in RAW as recorded by the camera with no manipulation must also be provided. In the case of panoramic or HDR images, all the single RAW files used must be included in a compressed folder (for example ZIP). **If the high resolution digital files and original capture files are not submitted or do not comply with the rules, the participant will be disqualified.**
13. The jury may request the original slides if the scans are considered as commended or winning pictures. **If same are not provided, the images will be disqualified.**
14. In category L, the jury will choose a story comprising 6-8 images accompanied by a text of at least 1.700 characters, which will be an integral part of the story. the images and text will be judged in equal measure by the jury. The story can be about one or more of the other categories in the competition.

# asferico 2026

ph. Imre Potyo

## XX° International Nature Photography Competition

### Young photographers

15. The category for young photographers is subdivided into the following age groups:
  - I. 14 and under
  - II. 15-17
16. For young photographers, entry **is free** and subject to authorization by a parent or guardian.
17. A document that attests the age of the young entrants is required.
18. Young photographers may submit a maximum of **five (5) images** distributed over the various categories.
19. The categories are those mentioned in the general competition rules (A ÷ I).
20. In the event of preselection, the RAW files will be requested or, in their absence and only for the young photographers' section, the original JPGs as taken by the camera. If necessary, the jury reserves the right to request the images taken immediately before and after the selected one.
21. Only the photos of the winner and the runner-up of each age group (I and II) will be awarded and published.

### Ethics and behaviour

22. Subjects must be photographed in their natural environment. Photographs of pets and animals bred in captivity, of birds in their nests and of cultivated plants or landscapes including human elements, will not be accepted. The jury reserves the right to reject images which may be in contrast with the ethic of the competition
23. The judges will particularly appreciate images that have not won other competitions and which are if possible unpublished.

### Selection

24. The jury selection will be according the following steps:
  - I. Image compliance:** all the images submitted on time will be checked by the Asferico Staff for compliance with rules 7 and 22 ONLY.
  - II. Pre-selection:** each jury member will independently choose the images for the final selection.
  - III. Final Selection:** the jury will meet and select the winning images.
25. The Jury reserves the right to move entries from one category to another where applicable and appropriate.
26. The jury's decisions will be final.
27. No refund will be due for rejected images.

### Usage rights

28. All the rights to photos entered in the competition must be owned by the author and be entirely free from obligations or ties to agencies or publishers.
29. AFNI and Asferico, will be entitled to use the winning and selected images free of charge for their publication in the magazine, in the competition catalogue, on websites and in brochures and calendars. Furthermore, photos may be showed in exhibitions related to the competition and whenever the organizers of the competition deem it necessary. The names of the images' authors will always be mentioned.
30. You can find all additional information on the site [www.asfericocontest.it](http://www.asfericocontest.it) (**FAQ page**).



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Foto: gentile concessione Carlo Ottaviano Casana

Baryta Photographique 310 è una vera carta baritata progettata appositamente per la tecnologia a getto d'inchiostro. Consiste in una carta bianco puro, in fibra di  $\alpha$ -cellulosa, senza acidi, rivestita con uno strato di Solfato di Bario – lo stesso rivestimento utilizzato nelle carte all'argento – ed una patinatura per trattenere i colori a getto d'inchiostro.

Baryta Photographique 310 offre gli stessi risultati estetici e di resa dell'immagine delle tradizionali stampe baritate eseguite in camera oscura ed è conforme agli standard richiesti dalla norma ISO 9706 per una massima conservazione nel tempo.

Questa carta fotografica "qualità museo" offre un'eccellente densità dei neri e un'ottima nitidezza delle immagini, rendendola ideale per fotografie in bianco e nero.

- Ottimizzata per inchiostri a pigmenti
- Asciuga istantaneamente
- Resistente all'acqua
- Rispetta gli standard della norma ISO 9706 per garantire la massima conservazione delle stampe:
  - contiene riserva alcalina per resistere all'azione dell'atmosfera ( $\text{CO}_2$ , ozono, ecc.), dell'umidità e dei gas
  - certificata senza acidi, per evitare il degrado della carta



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[www.afni.org](http://www.afni.org)



Asferico is the only Italian nature photography magazine, distributed by subscription and to the AFNI members.

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