



National Nail Competition

4th & 5th October 2009. RDS, Simonscourt, Dublin



COMPETITION ENTRY DEADLINE – 11th September 2009

Rules and Regulations - PHOTOGRAPHIC NAILS

1. The theme for this category is **IRISH MYTHS AND LEGENDS**. Points are awarded for originality.
2. You can enter as many photographs as you want providing each photograph is paid for as a separate entry. Only one photograph is allowed per paid entry. Do not submit more than one photograph per paid entry. If you do so, your photographs will not be judged and you will be disqualified.
3. College students or groups can work together on a photograph and submit it under a group name. This is proving a very popular idea in competitions as you can use the skills of other students that are studying photography, fashion and make-up etc. Please note that if the photograph is placed only ONE certificate, trophy and prize will be given.
4. Photographs can be sent in to Expo Events by post prior to the competition. Expo Events are NOT responsible for the loss or damage of any photographs sent in by post.
5. Photographs must be handed in at the Competition Registration Area by **1.00pm on Sunday 4th October** at the latest.
6. You must NOT enter any photograph previously entered for competitions or used in other work / magazines etc.
7. All photographs and step by steps MUST be clearly marked on the BACK only, with the competitor's name and address. These details are concealed by the organisers prior to judging.
8. Photographs MUST be a minimum of 8 x 10 inches and can be black and white, sepia or colour.
9. Do NOT display your photograph in a picture frame. A card mount is preferred for display reasons.
10. Nails can be natural, polished, have nail extensions and/or nail art designs. Points are awarded for nail art design so even basic art work is recommended.
11. Judging will also be on the content, style and background of the photograph.
12. You must provide a clearly written step-by-step of how you achieved your final photograph. This must include detailed explanations and photographs of each stage of the process. Please also include photographs of your model, props and accessories to confirm the authenticity of your photograph. It must be handed to the judges at the 'Nail Competition Registration Area' with your photograph. If you do not observe this rule you will be disqualified.
13. Photographs can be collected from the judges after the awards ceremony. Organisers will retain any remaining photographs and if you then wish to have your photograph returned, a postage charge may be made.
14. An official photographer from Expo Events may photograph your work and they reserve the right to use the photographs and your submitted entry for promotional use. Your photograph may possibly be used in future magazine issues and therefore MUST also be supplied on a disc or by email in a high quality format if requested.

Guidance - PHOTOGRAPHIC NAILS

- Research your design idea to see if it has not been done in other competitions.
- Judges will look for originality and new ideas.
- The design does not have to be suitable for every day occasions.
- You are aiming to achieve a photograph that is suitable for a front cover magazine shot. Look at previous magazine front covers to give you ideas. Look for inspiration on the internet, in travel brochures and in picture books.
- Ideas of subjects you can choose from are hands only, hands and feet, hands and head, hands and body, or a hands and props shot i.e. hands holding an item relating to the theme.
- Plan your design in advance. Is it clear what your idea is and does it match the set theme and written step-by-step?
- Do you need the services of hair or make-up professionals?
- Your choice of colours, hair style or wig, costume and make-up (if appropriate) to create your setting is important.
- Do you need props to enhance the picture? Props and accessories can be used to complement your theme but do not detract from your nails.
- Remember, this is a nail photographic competition and when you first look at your photo, your eyes should always be drawn to the nails first. Print out a copy and ask 10 people to look at it, then ask them what they were drawn to first!
- It is essential that the nails are the main focus as your photograph may be used as a future cover shot.
- Does the whole photograph reflect the **IRISH MYTHS AND LEGENDS** theme?
Some of the great Irish figures, myths and legends include;

- 🍀 Leprechauns and St Patrick
- 🍀 The Fairy Race
- 🍀 The Children of Lir
- 🍀 Kiss the Blarney Stone
- 🍀 Ireland's Magic Harp
- 🍀 The Bull of Cooley
- 🍀 The Gallic Celts
- 🍀 Cuchulain



- Look at your budget. Are you taking the picture yourself or hiring a photographer?
- Does it have a "wow" factor?
- Look at the position of the hands. If the back of the nails can be seen they must be decorated as well.
- Can you see the nails and design clearly? Points are lost if the judges cannot see each nail.
- The photograph must be in focus and not too dark.
- The model should have good skin and hands, long slender fingers without abrasions, scars or bruises.
- Your step by step should be well presented; a folder is a good idea. It is recommended that it is 3-5 pages long and preferably in colour. It should include a detailed description of what gave you the inspiration for your idea and how each stage of the design was achieved. You can use photographs or hand drawn designs and samples of the products used. A step by step can be handwritten or produced on a computer. It is essential to confirm the authenticity of your photograph.