

Photographic – Salon Style Themed: Bridal

This category showcases fashion-forward salon nail design through a photographic lens. Competitors are encouraged to create designs that sit between wearable and editorial—drawing inspiration from runway or festival-style looks while maintaining traditional shapes, controlled length, and a refined finish. Emphasis is placed on detail, creativity, and the ability to produce a bold yet balanced, client-relevant design.

1. This category is submitted online via email.
2. Entries must be emailed to gndaqld@gmail.com by August 9th 2026
3. Theme for this category is Bridal
4. A minimum of 5 nails must be highly visible. This can be any 5 nails.
5. The image must be A4 size (8.5 x 11 inches) and submitted in portrait orientation only.
6. The image should be suitable for the cover of a magazine. (international standard)
7. Smart phone images are acceptable.
8. Image file must not exceed 25MB
9. General image enhancement is permitted; however, the nails must not be digitally altered in any way. Any editing to the nail shape, design, structure, or surrounding nail area is not permitted. This is an important rule to follow with the upraising of AI and photoshop and will be monitored and will be followed up if deemed necessary.
10. You may use photographers, makeup artists and hair stylists.
11. The design may be created on a model or produced as a press-on set.
12. Nails can be any nail salon shape
13. Nails must not exceed 10cm length
14. The nail must fit the natural nail area correctly, with proper cuticle placement.
15. Art design must be completed using a minimum of 3 Mediums (e.g. Acrylic Powder & Liquid, Gel Products, Acrylic Water based paints)
16. All nail art products are allowed including but not limited to, gel polish, gel paint, acrylic (L&P), foils, glitter, studs, crystals, bullion beads, pigments, chromes, pearls.
17. Nail embellishments may be used but must not exceed 20% of the overall design. Embellishments are defined as any pre-made or non-handcrafted decorative items, including but not limited to crystals, rhinestones, studs, chains, and similar material
18. NO 3D printed or precast items are permitted. This includes any commercially made or pre-formed decorative pieces such as charms, resin shapes, or ready-made components.
19. All 3D elements must be hand-sculpted by the competitor.
20. NO moulds are permitted
21. NO airbrushing is permitted
22. NO stickers or decals are permitted.
23. A brief 1 paragraph description of the mediums used, and inspiration for the design to be included with your submission, this needs to be a typed sheet giving a short step by step of your design no more than 2 pages long.