

START21ART Competition Rules

Article I. Basic Provisions

- 1.1. The START21ART 2025/26 Competition Rules are a binding document that sets out the rules and conditions of the art competition organised by the NADÁCIA KUBIKUM in a clear and precise manner.
- 1.2. The competition is intended for selected fourth-year students at art schools within the meaning of Article IV of these rules.
- 1.3. Participants in the competition express their agreement with these rules by electronic confirmation upon registration, which is a condition of participation in the competition.

Article II. Announcer and Organiser

- 2.1. The competition is announced and organised by NADÁCIA KUBIKUM, established on 7 July 2010 with registration number 203/Na-2002/956, with its registered office at Hálkova 2968/22, 010 01 Žilina, ID No.: 42213495 (hereinafter also referred to as the "announcer" or "organiser").
- 2.2. The main communication channel of the organiser, through which communication regarding the competition and registration pursuant to Article IX of these rules will take place, is the website www.start21art.sk for the first level of the competition in the Slovak Republic, the website www.start21art.cz for the first level of the competition in the Czech Republic, and the website www.start21art.eu for the competition finals. Affiliation to the website, unless otherwise specified below, is governed by the country in which the school is based.

Article III. Aim of the Competition

- 3.1. The main objective of the competition is to support and promote the work of young artists at the start of their professional careers and to help them:
 - prepare for artistic practice or an artistic profession
 - gain experience and learn about the specifics of the artistic field,
 - acquire creative skills and become more familiar with authorship rights and obligations (independence, self-discipline, further education, etc.).
- 3.2. Other objectives of the competition are:
 - to raise the profile of young artists – students,
 - to set a positive example for other artists – students,
 - presenting artistic role models,
 - to raise awareness of authors and their works, art schools and institutions,
 - supporting artistic creation,
 - supporting art education – schools and teachers,
 - supporting art and culture in each country, region, etc.

Article IV. Competitors

- 4.1. Selected fourth-year students at art schools (hereinafter referred to as "competitors" or "authors" or "students") are eligible to participate in the competition. Selected means that the student must be nominated by the school at which they are studying in the current year (hereinafter also referred to as the "school" or "sending school"). The method of selecting nominated students is chosen by the school. A school may only participate in the competition and

nominate a competitor if its art fields/programmes account for at least 50% of all fields/programmes it offers. The condition for a student's participation in the competition is that they are of legal age at the time of registration for the competition and are registered in the KUBIKUM register no later than the deadline for student registration according to Article VI.

4.2. The school may nominate a maximum of 10% of all students in their final (fourth) year in the current academic year to the competition, using the following formula: one nominated competitor for every ten students in their fourth year. (For example, if there are 1 to 10 fourth-year students, there will be one nominated competitor; if there are 11 students, two competitors may be nominated, etc.).

Article V. Guarantors

5.1. The competition allows competitors to be supervised by a teacher from their sending school (hereinafter referred to as the "guarantor") during the competition. Each competitor may have a maximum of two guarantors. Competitors shall provide details of their guarantor when registering their competition work. The organiser recommends that each competitor have at least one guarantor.

5.2. The guarantor is not entitled to financial remuneration for their activities and is not eligible for any prizes in this competition.

5.3. A guarantor may also be a judge in the competition.

Article VI. Competition Schedule

6.1. Competition schedule:

- 22. 9. 2025 Announcement of the START21ART competition,
- 22. 9. 2025 – 30. 9. 2025 School registration at www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country where the school is located) via the online form,
- 1. 10. 2025 – 21. 11. 2025 Registration of students and their competition works at www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country where the school is located) using the online form,
- 1. 10. 2025 – 21. 11. 2025 Registration of judges at www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country where the school is located) via the online form,
- 1. 12. 2025 – 12. 1. 2026 Evaluation of works by the jury,
- 21. 1. 2026 Publication of the results of the first level of the competition,
- 2. 2. 2026 – 21. 2. 2026 Evaluation of works in final level by the jury at www.start21art.eu,
- 23. 2. 2026 Publication of the results of the final level of the competition at www.start21art.eu,
- 25. 2. 2026 – 27. 2. 2026 ONLINE STAR competition,
- 28. 3. 2026 – 18. 4. 2026 Auction of all competition works at www.kubikum.com,
- 28. 3. 2026 – May 2026 TOP42 live exhibition
- by 18. 4. 2026 Delivery of prizes.

6.2. Unless otherwise stated, the deadline is 23:59:59 on the specified date.

Article VII. Competition Works

7.1. Each author may submit only one work to the competition.

7.2. The work must be created exclusively for this competition and must not have been exhibited anywhere or submitted to any other competition prior to this competition.

7.3. The theme of the work is PARADOX.

7.4. The technique used is at the author's discretion, unless specified otherwise by the organiser. The work must be two-dimensional and tangible (it cannot be a video, etc.).

7.5. The dimensions of the competition work must not be less than 297 x 420 mm and must not exceed 100 x 100 cm. In the case of multi-part works, so-called polyptychs, the sum of the dimensions of their parts must comply with the specified dimensions.

- 7.6. The work must be signed by the author and labelled on the back according to the organiser's requirements. A sample label for the author to fill in will be generated after registration for the competition. If the work is a graphic or photograph, the author is required to register and label the first original author's print of the graphic or photograph.
- 7.7. The competition does not allow the inclusion of works created in collaboration with multiple authors.
- 7.8. The competition work of a registered student must be approved by the sending school.
- 7.9. The work will be evaluated based on its digitised form.
 - 7.9.1. The required parameters for the digitised form of the work are minimum 3000 px and minimum resolution of 72 dpi.
 - 7.9.2. The maximum file size (digitised form of the work) is 10 MB.
 - 7.9.3. Permitted file formats: JPEG, SVG, PNG.
 - 7.9.4. The appearance of the work in the photograph, especially its colour, must correspond to reality.
 - 7.9.5. The student shall submit a representative photograph of the work (for publication in the book) and a positional photograph of the work for the purposes of its evaluation in the competition. The work must be photographed in such a way that both the front and back of the work are visible, with the label clearly visible in accordance with point 7.6 of the rules.
 - 7.9.6. The student is responsible for producing and uploading a digitised version of the work to the system in the required quality.
- 7.10. When registering the work, the sending school will confirm that the work and its digitised form comply with the competition rules. The work is then definitively entered into the competition and further manipulation of the work, and its digitised form is not possible.
- 7.11. The organiser reserves the right to exclude from the competition works that do not meet the conditions set out in these rules, or works that are offensive, defamatory, contrary to good morals or damaging to the reputation of the organiser.

Apart from the above, the school or competitor is responsible for the work (for its quality and compliance with legal and ethical standards).
- 7.12. From the moment of registration of the competition work, the organiser acquires, based on a licence agreement concluded between the organiser and the author of the work, the right to use the work in any way for the purposes of the competition and promotion of the work. The organiser also has the right to sell the work on behalf of the competitor after the competition has ended, based on a commission sale agreement, at auction or in a special shop as part of a live exhibition. After registering the work, the competitor shall conclude a licence agreement and a commission sale agreement by electronically completing and submitting the forms displayed on the website after registration. Failure to complete or submit the licence agreement and commission sale agreement forms to the organiser is grounds for disqualification of the work from the competition.
- 7.13. After the competition, the digitised version of the work will remain published on the website www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country where the school is located) and on the website www.start21art.eu (final level competition works) as a competition work for that year's competition.
- 7.14. The competition includes a public electronic auction of the competition entries and a live exhibition of the TOP42. The conditions of the auction and live exhibition are specified in more detail in Article XI of these rules.

Article VIII. **Jury and Evaluation of Competition Works**

- 8.1. Competition works are evaluated in the first level of the competition by a jury composed of representatives of the sending schools and other representatives from the field of artistic practice and education, separately for the Slovak Republic and separately for the Czech Republic.
- 8.2. Each sending school has the right to nominate one juror for the first level of the competition, and this juror will be included in the jury evaluating works from the country of the sending school, i.e. a Slovak school nominates a juror for the jury evaluating the works of students from Slovak schools. For this purpose, a judge code will be generated, the use of which will be conditional on the registration of at least one competitor.
- 8.3. Other representatives from the field of artistic practice and education will be nominated separately to the jury for the Slovak Republic and separately to the jury for the Czech Republic by the competition organiser.
- 8.4. In first level, the evaluation is carried out separately for the Slovak Republic and separately for the Czech Republic according to the following rules for evaluating competition works.
 - 8.4.1. The evaluation of works takes place online, and each juror evaluates the submitted works based on their digitised form.
 - 8.4.2. The jury evaluates the works identified only by an assigned code; the names and other details of the authors of the individual works are not disclosed to them.

- 8.4.3. The juror selects the 21 best works from all the entries at their discretion and awards them points from 1 to 21, with the best work receiving 21 points, the second best 20 points, and so on. Each score can only be assigned once, i.e. two works cannot receive the same number of points from one juror.
- 8.4.4. The jurors are bound by confidentiality regarding their evaluation of the competition works and the points awarded during the ongoing evaluation of the entries. The jurors are obliged to evaluate the competition entries objectively.
- 8.4.5. The ranking of the competition works will be determined by the total number of points awarded by all jurors.
- 8.4.6. In the event of a tie in points, the competition organiser will decide on the ranking and distribution of prizes.
- 8.4.7. The jury's decision is final.
- 8.5. The competition entries are evaluated in the final level of the competition by a joint international jury for the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. The jurors for the final level are nominated by the competition organiser, and the members of this jury may or may not be jurors from the first level.
- 8.6. All winning works from first level, i.e. 21 works from the Slovak Republic and 21 works from the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as "TOP42"), advance to the final level. These works will be evaluated according to the following rules for evaluating competition works.
 - 8.6.1. The evaluation of the works takes place online, and each juror evaluates the submitted works based on their digitised form.
 - 8.6.2. The jury evaluates the works identified by the names of the authors and the names of the schools that nominated them for the competition.
 - 8.6.3. The juror will select the 21 best works from all the competition works at its discretion and award them points from 1 to 21, with the best work receiving 21 points, the second best 20 points, and so on. Each score can only be awarded once, i.e. two works cannot receive the same number of points from one juror.
 - 8.6.4. The jurors are bound by confidentiality regarding their evaluation of the competition works and the points awarded during the ongoing evaluation of the works. The jurors are obliged to evaluate the competition works objectively.
 - 8.6.5. The ranking of the competition works will be determined by the total number of points awarded by all jurors.
 - 8.6.6. In the event of a tie in points, the competition organiser will decide on the ranking and distribution of prizes.
 - 8.6.7. The jury's decision is final.
- 8.7. The condition for holding the competition in first level or in the final level is the registration of a minimum of 22 works in first level separately for the Slovak Republic and separately for the Czech Republic, and in the final level jointly for the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. If fewer than 22 works are registered in first level in each country, first level will not take place for that country, and all registered works will automatically advance to the final level. If at least 22 works from both countries do not advance to the final level, the organiser reserves the right to cancel the competition or to award prizes or part of the prizes to participating students in the form of support for their further education.

Article IX. **Conditions of Registration**

- 9.1. Conditions and procedure for school registration.
 - 9.1.1. The school shall enter the competition by registering via the online form on the website www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country where the school is located) within the deadline specified in the Competition Schedule (Article VI of these rules) and by entering the number of students who may be nominated for the competition according to the criteria specified in Article IV, point 4.2 of these rules.
 - 9.1.2. After successful registration, the school will be given unique codes for the contestants and juror nominated by the school, which are needed for their registration in the competition.
 - 9.1.3. The school will assign these codes to the nominated juror and nominated students who meet the conditions set out in Article IV, point 4.1 of these rules. The selection of students is the responsibility of the school.
 - 9.1.4. The school is required to publish the START21ART competition logo or banner on its website, choosing one of the pre-prepared options that will be offered after registration, together with a link to the START21ART competition website www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country in which the school is located) no later than the deadline for school registration as specified in the Competition Schedule. The selected logo or banner must be published on the school's website for the entire duration of the competition as specified in the Competition Schedule. If the school breaches its obligation, the organiser may decide that the school's actions have violated the rules of the competition and may refuse to award the school any prizes or rewards under Article X of these rules.
 - 9.1.5. By registering for the competition, the school expresses its agreement with the competition rules.

9.2. Conditions and procedure for student registration.

- 9.2.1. Students enter the competition by registering via the online form on the website www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country in which the school is located) using the code obtained from the school that nominated them for the competition. They can register within the deadline specified in the Competition Schedule (Article VI of these rules).
- 9.2.2. By registering for the competition, students express their agreement with the competition rules.

9.3. Conditions and procedure for registering a competition work.

- 9.3.1. Registered students enter their work into the competition by registering it and uploading a digital version to the designated area on the website www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country in which the school is located) within the deadline specified in the Competition Schedule (Article VI of these rules).
- 9.3.2. The student is responsible for creating and uploading the digitised version of the work to the system in the required quality in accordance with Article VII, point 7.9 of these rules.
- 9.3.3. When registering their competition work, students shall state the name of the guarantor who supervised them during the competition.
- 9.3.4. The registered work must be approved by the sending school in accordance with Article VII, point 7.10 of these rules.
- 9.3.5. Once the work has been approved by the school, it is definitively entered into the competition and any further manipulation of the work, and its digitised form is prohibited.

9.4. Conditions and procedure for registering jurors nominated by schools participating in the competition.

- 9.4.1. Each participating school may nominate one juror. For this purpose, it will be assigned a generated code for registering the juror in the competition. The juror code can be used after at least one competitor from the school has been registered.
- 9.4.2. The juror will enter the competition by registering via the online form on the website www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country in which the school is located) using the code obtained from the school that nominated them as a juror. They can register within the deadline specified in the Competition Schedule (Article VI of these Rules).
- 9.4.3. By registering for the competition, the juror undertakes to evaluate the works in accordance with Article VIII, in particular point 8.4. and the following of these rules, to the best of their knowledge and belief and in accordance with general ethical principles.
- 9.4.4. By registering for the competition, the juror expresses their agreement with the competition rules.

9.5. Conditions and procedure for registering jurors nominated by the competition organiser.

- 9.5.1. The juror shall enter the competition by registering via the online form on the website www.start21art.sk or www.start21art.cz (depending on the country designated by the organiser), using the code sent in the invitation email from the competition organiser. They can register within the deadline specified in the Competition Schedule (Article VI of these Rules).
- 9.5.2. A juror nominated by the competition organiser may not be employed by or have a similar relationship with a school participating in the competition.
- 9.5.3. By registering for the competition, the juror undertakes to evaluate the works in accordance with Article VIII, in particular point 8.4. and following of these rules, to the best of their knowledge and belief and in accordance with general ethical principles.
- 9.5.4. By registering for the competition, the juror expresses their agreement with the competition rules.

Article X. Winnings, Prizes and Rewards

- 10.1. All participating students will receive prizes as a reward for participating in the competition, as decided by the competition organiser, registration in the KUBIKUM register for 1 year with the KUBIKUM L package, 1 author's certificate and 1 confirmation of registration, which will be automatically issued for the competition work.
- 10.2. Students whose works are ranked 1st to 21st in first level will each win €210. If, in accordance with Article VIII, point 8.7, the first level of the competition in each country does not take place due to an insufficient number of registered works, the prize under this point may be awarded to each competitor in the form of support for their education from the organiser.

- 10.3. Students who place first in first level will be offered the opportunity to participate in the jury for the following year's competition for first level evaluation. This does not apply if first level of the competition does not take place due to an insufficient number of registered works in accordance with Article VIII, point 8.7.
- 10.4. Schools whose students place first in first level will receive a prize of €2,121 from the competition organiser for the further development of arts education. This does not apply if first level of the competition does not take place due to an insufficient number of registered works in accordance with Article VIII, point 8.7.
- 10.5. Students who place 1st to 3rd in the final level will win registration in the KUBIKUM registry with the KUBIKUM GOLD package (in addition to the reward under Article X, point 10.1, which will be provided to students in the second year after using the KUBIKUM GOLD package), 5 author certificates and 5 confirmations of registration of works sold through the KUBIKUM register.
- 10.6. Students who place 1st to 3rd in the final level may win an additional prize at the organiser's discretion.
- 10.7. After the competition, the works that have advanced to the final level will be forwarded to a live exhibition combined with a public auction and a special sale based on a commission sale agreement, whereby after the auction, the authors will be paid 80% of the auction price of the work (20% is the organiser's commission). The conclusion of a commission sale agreement and the transfer of the works that have advanced to the final level to a live exhibition combined with a public auction and a special sale is a prerequisite for the awarding of prizes within the meaning of point 10.5 of these rules. Transfer also means the physical handover of the original work to the organiser, with the organiser covering the costs of the handover.
- 10.8. Income from the sale of the work is subject to taxation in accordance with the legislation in force at the time of payment. Competitors are obliged to settle all tax and other obligations related to this income themselves.

Article XI. **Live Exhibition and Electronic Auction of Competition Works**

- 11.1. All competition works that have advanced to the final will be included in a live exhibition held in Žilina after the results have been announced. The organiser will arrange for the delivery of the original of competition works to the live exhibition and their display.
- 11.2. All competition works that have advanced to the final level will be entered into a public auction on the website www.kubikum.com in accordance with the general terms and conditions of this website after the competition results have been announced. Competitors whose works did not advance to the final level may also participate in the auction at their own request, provided that a commission sale agreement is concluded for the work to be included in the auction.
- 11.3. The conditions, method, place and time of the auction will be determined by the competition organiser.
- 11.4. The auction is organised by the NADÁCIA KUBIKUM.
- 11.5. The starting price for each work will be €42.
- 11.6. Competitors whose works do not make it into the TOP42 are obliged to send their works to the buyer at their own expense and responsibility. The shipment must also include the author's certificate for the work. The organiser may provide the competitor with an advance payment for transport costs up to the amount of the postage determined by the organiser. The contestant is liable to the organiser for any damage caused by failure to comply with this obligation. The organiser shall arrange for the shipment of the works included in the TOP42 on behalf of the contestant after the end of the exhibition.
- 11.7. Works included in the TOP42 that are not sold at auction will be included in a special shop connected with the exhibition until the end of the exhibition. The sale of works in the special shop will take place on the website www.kubikum.com in accordance with the general terms and conditions of this website. The selling price of the work is determined by the competitor.
- 11.8. The organiser will send the competition works sold in the special shop on behalf of the competitor after the end of the exhibition.
- 11.9. The condition for the payment of prizes under Article X of these rules, as well as the purchase price for the work under Article X, point 10.7 of these rules, is the fulfilment of all conditions of these rules from registration to the end of the auction, inclusive.

Article XII. **Final Provisions**

- 12.1. Participation in the competition and the prize cannot be enforced by legal means or alternatively fulfilled in cash. Winners are not entitled to demand any further performance from the organiser beyond the prize provided. Participants are not entitled to any other performance from the organiser other than that specified in these rules.

- 12.2. The costs associated with participation in the competition shall be borne by the competitors, schools and guarantors, depending on who incurs these costs, unless otherwise specified in these rules. No participant in the competition in any capacity (i.e. competitors, schools, guarantors) is entitled to reimbursement of costs from other participants in the competition (i.e. competitors, schools, guarantors) or from the competition organiser.
- 12.3. The organiser reserves the right to change or modify the competition rules at any time, as well as the right to shorten, postpone, interrupt or completely cancel the competition, even without giving a reason and without providing compensation. Any changes or modifications to the competition rules will be made in the same manner as the competition was announced.
- 12.4. By participating in the competition, the participant grants the competition organiser consent to process all personal data provided by them. The organiser is entitled to process the participant's personal data primarily for the purposes of conducting the competition, its promotion and evaluation, in compliance with the relevant provisions of Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on the protection of personal data and on amendments to certain acts and the provisions of Regulation (EU) (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). Consent to the processing of personal data is given voluntarily for an indefinite period and may be revoked at any time, free of charge, in writing, by letter delivered to the authorised entity (however, during the competition period, this will result in the participant's exclusion from the competition).
- 12.5. Participants and winners also agree that they may be required to participate in promotional activities without further consent and without entitlement to any form of remuneration for such promotional activities. Such promotion may include, but is not limited to, their names, photographs from the award ceremony, etc.
- 12.6. All personal data provided to the organiser will be used exclusively in connection with this competition and will not be disclosed to third parties except for the purposes of the competition (including subsequent promotion, as specified in these rules).
- 12.7. The organiser is not responsible for any technical problems arising during the transfer of data by electronic means or for any problems with the functionality of the websites listed in Article II, point 2.2 of these rules.
- 12.8. The organiser is not liable for any damage caused by or in connection with the prize. The organiser reserves the right to replace the prize under these rules with another prize of a similar type and corresponding value, as well as to change the conditions for awarding the prize.
- 12.9. In the event of a conflict between the competition rules and the texts contained in promotional materials or other materials intended for the public, the wording of these rules shall prevail.
- 12.10. The organiser declares that all legal relationships arising from these rules or in connection with these rules and the competition shall be governed by the laws of the Slovak Republic.
- 12.11. These rules shall enter into force on the date of the public announcement of the competition.

In Žilina, on 21st September of 2025.