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International FiKVA Award for painters 2026

OPEN CALL

The FiKVA Foundation proudly presents the 4th International FiKVA Award for Representational & Figurative Painters - a remarkable opportunity for artists worldwide to gain international recognition, share their talent globally, and earn substantial financial rewards. Best of all, the entire process is online - no need to ship your work or part with it!

Submit your best paintings from the past two years for a chance to win up to €5500 in cash, premium art supplies, a 6-month gallery representation or be featured in a celebrated online exhibition!

The **International FiKVA Award** for painters is open to all artists 18 years of age or older. The **FiKVA Award** is open to all styles of representational painting - modern and classical realism, imaginative realism, hyperrealism, photorealism, luminism, surrealism etc - as long as the artwork reads as representational and not stylized or abstract. If your work captures the essence of the real world while reflecting your unique artistic voice, we want to see it!

KEY DATES

Submissions Open: December 3, 2025

Submissions Close: April 22, 2026, at 12:00 PM (Brussels Time)

Top 100 Announcement: June 2, 2026 (via email and social media)

Winners Announcement: June 11, 2026 (Finalists and winners will be notified by email and listed on the **FiKVA** website and social media channels)

Online Exhibition Launch (Top 35): June 20, 2026

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

The **FiKVA Award** is open to all painters aged 18 and older, from anywhere in the world.

ARTWORK ELIGIBILITY

- The work must be the artist's original creation, produced solely by the artist, with copyrights exclusively owned by the artist.
- The work may be signed and may have participated in previous competitions.
- The work may be sold, provided the copyright of its image remains solely with the artist.
- Works must have been produced between 2024 and 2026.
- Works must be available for inclusion in an online exhibition.
- Works do not need to be available for sale.

Accepted Media:

Oil, water-soluble oil paint, acrylic paint, watercolor, ink, gouache, tempera, and all traditional wet mediums on any support - canvas, board, paper, wood, panel, wall, aluminium, glass, etc. All works must be handmade; digital or mechanical works will not be considered.

SUBJECT MATTER & SIZE

No restrictions - submit what you consider your best work from the last two years.

NO SHIPPING REQUIRED

This competition is entirely online - just submit high-quality images of your artwork to participate. Even if you win, your painting stays with you; no need to part with it.

FEES

To submit your work, you must register and pay a submission fee:

- Participation in the **FiKVA Award** with just one work: €36
- You can enter up to 5 works; each additional work will add €16 to your participation fee.

PRIZES

First Prize:

€3500 cash prize + Art supplies package, courtesy of **M. Graham** (12 color paints, valued at €300) + Digital and social media marketing, valued at €300 + Certificate of Achievement + Participation in the online group exhibition of finalists + Published interview with the **FiKVA Foundation** + Permanent display of the submitted artwork on the **FiKVA website** + 6-month online gallery representation for a selected artwork

Second Prize:

€1500 cash prize + Certificate of Achievement + Participation in the online group exhibition of finalists + Published interview with the **FiKVA Foundation** + Permanent display of the submitted artwork on the **FiKVA website** + 6-month online gallery representation for a selected artwork + Digital and social media marketing, valued at €300

Third Prize:

€500 cash prize + Certificate of Achievement + Participation in the online group exhibition of finalists + Published interview with the **FiKVA Foundation** + Permanent display of the submitted artwork on the **FiKVA website** + 6-month online gallery representation for a selected artwork + Digital and social media marketing, valued at €300

Purchase Prize (only awarded if a work fits the objectives and possibilities of the FiKva-collection):

Acquisition of one selected artwork for the **FiKVA Collection** + Certificate of Achievement + Permanent display of the purchased artwork on the **FiKVA website** + Digital and social media marketing, valued at €300

Honorable Mention (3 will be awarded):

Certificate of Achievement + Participation in the online group exhibition of the finalists + Permanent place on the **FiKVA website** + Digital and social media marketing, valued at €300

Top 35:

Participation in the online group exhibition of the finalists + Permanent display on the **FiKVA website** + Digital and social media marketing, valued at €200

Gallery Representation Prize:

Up to 10 outstanding artworks from the Top 100 will be handpicked for a 6-month gallery representation with the **FiKVA Online Gallery**. This exclusive opportunity is by invitation only, with no obligation to the artist.

THE JURY

The jury for 2026 consists of eleven art-professionals:

Alessandro Tomassetti - Painter, Canada/Spain
Anna Wypych - Painter, Poland
Arina Gordienko - Painter, Russia/UK
Christiane Vleugels - Painter, Belgium
Christoph Eberle - Painter, Switzerland
Francien Krieg - Painter, The Netherlands
Lucas Bononi - Painter, USA
Nadine Robbins - Painter, USA
Samuel De Maré - Painter, Belgium
Tanya Atanasova - Painter, Bulgaria/Belgium
Zhang Hongbin - Cultural Manager, China

The jury evaluates the originality, subject matter, and technical skill of each work. Their selection of the winning works is final, and the decision cannot be appealed on any grounds. Judges are not allowed to participate in the competition in the year they are serving as jurors, nor are their family members or members of the **FiKVA Foundation**.

HOW TO ENTER

Submission to the **FiKVA Award** is exclusively through the website: www.fikva.art
The deadline for entry is April 22, 2026, at 12:00 PM (Brussels Time).

1. **Complete the submission form** with the data of the artist and the painting (please, do not use accents or punctuation marks). In the case that the data entered is incorrect/untrue, the foundation reserves the right to invalidate and disqualify the submission.

2. **Upload Your Artwork:** Provide a high-quality JPG or PNG image (minimum 1000 pixels wide, maximum of 4MB). Name your file as: *Artist Name_Artwork Title_Material_Size_Year of production* (e.g., *Maria Simone_Summer Days_Oil on Canvas_60x80cm_2024*). If the work is framed, please, do not include the frame in the image.

3. **Pay the Entry Fee:** Your submission is complete once you receive a confirmation email with your Order Number.

By entering, you grant **FiKVA** the right to use your images for promotional purposes. All intellectual rights remain with the artist.

CONTACT US

For any questions, reach out at award@fikva.art

Don't miss this opportunity to share your vision with the world. **Submit by April 22, 2026, at 12:00 PM (Brussels Time)**. Join us in celebrating excellence in representational art!

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR:

