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2026 WORLD ART AWARDS Reveals Hundreds Of The World's Best Contemporary Artworks

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Artists from over 50 countries competed in the 2026 WORLD ART AWARDS where 20 of the most revered galleries in the world were sent online images to score in drawing, painting, sculpture, digital and photography. The 300+ winning works, 1st to 6th Place (and ties) in all 50 categories, will be featured in an upcoming movie and 70+ articles.

The six cash prizes of arguably the most prestigious online art competition in the world go to fine artists in Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Taiwan and USA. These artists won in oil, acrylic, watercolor, graphite, pastel, color pencil, digital and sculpture mediums.

“World Art Awards levels the playing field, so all artists have an equal opportunity,” explains Thom Bierdz, president of World Art Awards, American Art Awards and Art Collectors Choice Awards. “This is why we only send the voting galleries and museums the artwork images, titles, sizes and mediums used. No photos of the artists or bios are allowed. It’s all about initial impact. However, if a gallery is so enamored with a piece, they are free to click on the artist’s web site link and contact them for representation.”

Winners of the 6 cash prizes:

The MOST WINS cash prize goes to Austria’s Tatiana Leimkueller for 27 contemporary winning works in categories ranging from abstract to celebrity portrait to realism to digital to sculpture.

The MASTERPIECE cash prize goes to Eleonora Hadjinikolova of Bulgaria for "Figure In Contrajour." The luminescent 40 inch realistic oil of a female full body profile won in 7 categories.

The BEST OF SHOW / HIGHEST SCORE IN CONTEST cash prize goes to Christian C. Wu of Taiwan for “Yellow Happiness.” The impressionistic 20 inch watercolor on paper depicts the magical allure of a contemporary metropolis.

The 2ND HIGHEST SCORE IN CONTEST cash prize goes to Frances McMahon of Australia for "Showing Off ." The hyperrealist 24 inch watercolor on board captures gyrating Sulphur-crested cockatoos.

The 3RD HIGHEST SCORE IN CONTEST cash prize goes to Krys Von Tornado of USA for “Mama, That’s You!” The endearing 36 inch oil family portrait is a homage to master Gustav Klimt.

The 4TH HIGHEST SCORE IN CONTEST cash prize goes to Hicham Takache of Lebanon for “The Silent Language Of Stones.” The realistic still-life of colorful stones is 28 inches, oil on canvas.

The 1st Place winners in each of 50 categories:

CATEGORY 1. OIL FIGURE: CLOTILDE PALOMINO, FRANCE "The Violinist"

CATEGORY 2. ACRYLIC FIGURE: PEGGY LIEBENOW, GERMANY "Paradise Reflected"

CATEGORY 3. WATERCOLOR FIGURE: MARIO PANIS, PHILIPPINES “Weber”

CATEGORY 4. CHARCOAL/GRAPHITE FIGURE: SILVIA SCHMITT, GERMANY “Back To The Future”

CATEGORY 5. PASTEL FIGURE: CHAI YO-HSIU, TAIWAN “Beyond The War – Waiting”

CATEGORY 6. ABSTRACT: NICHOLAS WATSON, USA "Abstract #002-26"

CATEGORY 7. ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM: DIVNA PESIC GROZDANOV, MACEDONIA/USA
“Embers Of Freedom”

CATEGORY 8. ART BRUT and or TORMENT: AVADKA COLEZ, USA "Dark Hellscape"

CATEGORY 9. CUBISM/CUBIST: YOURI CHASOV, RUSSIA “Mountain”

CATEGORY 10. EROTIC MALE: YOURI CHASOV, RUSSIA “Model Michelngeio-2”

CATEGORY 11. EROTIC FEMALE: HAN SHUAI, CHINA “Graceful And Elegant”

CATEGORY 12. EXPRESSIONISM HUMAN FIGURE: DANGUOLE SERSTINSKAJA, LITHUANIA
"Mysterious Lady"

CATEGORY 13. EXPRESSIONISM OTHER: FRANCES MCMAHON, AUSTRALIA "Showing Off
(Sulphur-crested Cockatoos)"

CATEGORY 14. FANTASY LANDSCAPE: ALEXANDRA FINKELCHTEIN, CANADA, ISRAEL,
MOLDOVA “Water, Land, Sky”

CATEGORY 15. FASHION: CHER PRUYS, CANADA “Super Heroes”

CATEGORY 16. FLORAL NOT REALISTIC: YOURI CHASOV, RUSSIA “Blooming Lily”

CATEGORY 17. FLORAL REALISM: FRANCES MCMAHO, AUSTRALIA "The Banquet (New Holland
Honeyeater)"

CATEGORY 18. FUTURISM or FUTURISTIC: ELYSE JEALETTE, USA "Redox"

CATEGORY 19. HUMOR WIT: PEGGY LIEBENOW, GERMANY "Sir Meerkat"

CATEGORY 20. IMPRESSIONISM ANIMAL: JENNIFER MARSHALL, AUSTRALIA “Rescue And
Retreat At Romani”

CATEGORY 21. IMPRESSIONISM FIGURE: LENA SHULTS, CHZECH REPUBLIC “When The Sea
Smiles Back”

CATEGORY 22. IMPRESSIONISM LANDSCAPE: CHRISTIAN C. WU, TAIWAN "Yellow Happiness"

CATEGORY 23. IMPRESSIONISM STILL LIFE: MAKYE AME. H, CHINA “Days Of Sunshine"

CATEGORY 24. INNOVATIVE: AMANDA PERLYN JACKSON, USA "Roar Of Resilience”

CATEGORY 25. MINIMALISM/MINIMAL: VILIJIA CIAPAITE, LITHUANIA "Ascending Silence"

CATEGORY 26. NAÏVE ART FIGURE: GREGORY SUPPLE, USA "Grand Central Selfie"

CATEGORY 27. NAIVE ART OTHER: TANYA FILICHKIN, USA "On A Perfect Day Like This -
California Coastline”

CATEGORY 28. ORIENTALISM or ASIAN SUBJECT: MARIO PANIS, PHILIPPINES “Bagobo Couple”

CATEGORY 29. POLITICAL COMMENTARY: AVADKA COLEZ, USA "Nuclear2"

CATEGORY 30. POP ART: DANGUOLE SERSTINSKAJ, LITHUANIA "A Floral Enigma"

CATEGORY 31. PORTRAIT OF SOMEONE FAMOUS: SILVIA SCHMITT, GERMANY “Back To The
Future”

CATEGORY 32. PORTRAIT OF SOMEONE NOT FAMOUS: KRYS VON TORNADO, USA “Mama, That’s You!”

CATEGORY 33. REALISM ANIMAL: BATHMAWATHY G, INDIA "The Unbroken Bond"

CATEGORY 34. REALISM HUMAN: BJÖRN NORDSTRÖM, SWEDEN "Searching"

CATEGORY 35. REALISM LANDSCAPE: MARIO PANIS, PHILIPPINES “Pulong Kabyawan”

CATEGORY 36. LANDSCAPE WITH LIFE: DARÍO MAGUIÑA, PERÚ "A Day In Quinoa"

CATEGORY 37. REALISM STILL LIFE: HICHAM TAKACHE, LEBANON “The Silent Language Of Stones”

CATEGORY 38. RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL: CHAITALI V. PURUSHOTHAMAN, INDIA “Higher Consciousness – We Are All One Powerful Divine Force Protected By The Universal Power”

CATEGORY 39. SELF-PORTRAIT: LANE LEE, SOUTH KOREA “Swim Swim Swim”

CATEGORY 40. SURREALISM: URSZULA ŚWITAJ, POLAND “Childhood Dreams"

CATEGORY 41. PHOTOGRAPHY ANIMAL: ADAM SHOCKEY, USA “Zebras, Kenya”

CATEGORY 42. PHOTOGRAPHY HUMAN: BIN LI, CHINA “Mother”

CATEGORY 43. PHOTOGRAPHY LANDSCAPE: RON MORGAN, USA "Eerie Amber Desert Clouds"

CATEGORY 44. PHOTOGRAPHY STILL LIFE: PENNY MCGUIRE, USA “Hadid: Vitra Fire Station”

CATEGORY 45. MANIPULATED PHOTOGRAPHY HUMAN OR ANIMAL: EVELYN ESPINOZA, USA "The Four Seasons Of Japan"

CATEGORY 46. MANIPULATED PHOTOGRAPHY LANDSCAPE OR STILL LIFE: PENNY MCGUIRE, USA “Mies’s: Farnsworth House”

CATEGORY 47. DIGITAL ART REPRESENTATIONAL: ROBERT MEYERS-LUSSIER, USA "Masala Spätzle Geometry"

CATEGORY 48. DIGITAL ART NON-REPRESENTATIONAL: STAN RAGETS, USA "The Explanation"

CATEGORY 49. SCULPTURE REPRESENTATIONAL: RUSDI HENDRA, INDONESIA “Gorilla Metal”

CATEGORY 50. SCULPTURE NON-REPRESENTATIONAL: VALERY OKARSKY, RUSSIA "Does It Exist? — The Theory Of Everything"

Art collectors can see the hundreds of winning images and corresponding contact info to all the artists here:
<https://www.americanartawards.com/2026-winning-art-world-art-awards/>

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