

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION THE ROYAL AWARD FOR MODERN PAINTING 2026

General

The Royal Award for Modern Painting is annually presented to encourage talented young painters living and working in the Netherlands. The Award was instituted in 1871 by H.M. King William III as a Royal Subsidy for Modern Painting.

A jury made up of artists, curators, and art critics nominates the award-winners on the basis of the work they have submitted. Three artists are presented a Royal Award by His Majesty the King. A selection of the works submitted for the contest are shown in an exhibition at the Royal Palace. The Royal Palace Amsterdam Foundation is responsible for organizing the Royal Award program.

Artists up to the age of 35 can submit work, from June up to and including 15 August 2025, to compete for the Royal Award for Modern Painting 2026. The award ceremony and opening of the exhibition are in February at the Royal Palace Amsterdam. The dates are subject to change.

Terms and conditions

Dutch nationals who are working as independent, professional artists and were aged under 35 on 1 January 2026 may apply for an award worth € 9,000. Furthermore, artists must be aged 24 or above on 1 January 2026, unless they have successfully received a bachelor's degree at an art academy. The awards are not liable to income tax or social security contributions.

Non-Dutch nationals living in the Netherlands, who satisfy the conditions may also apply provided they are in possession of a valid residence permit and/or a citizen service number (BSN). In addition, they must have permanent ties with the Netherlands.

Students enrolled at an art academy on the date on which the awards are to be presented are not eligible (except for master-students). Artists who have previously been awarded a Royal Award may compete again in 2026 provided they were under 30 years of age on 1 January 2026. Artists who have been awarded a Royal Award on three previous occasions are no longer eligible. The jury will select candidates for the Royal Award on the basis of the works they submit. The jury will also select the works to be exhibited.



Public prize

A public prize is attached to the exhibition. Visitors can vote for their favorite work. The work that has received the most votes is raffled among those who voted for it. The costs (maximum € 3,000 excl. VAT) are reimbursed by the Royal Palace Amsterdam Foundation. If the value of the work exceeds the available amount or the work cannot be transferred for any other reason, an alternative will be offered in consultation with the artist. The artist will have to make another work available, or execute one specially, for the winner. The deadline by which you must reach agreement with the winner and within which the compensation is paid is 1 July 2026.

Jury

This year the members of the jury are: Marcel van den Berg, Amira Gad, Yasmijn Jarram, Rezi van Lankveld, Mounira al Solh, Ina van Zyl and Mirjam Westen (Chair).

Award Ceremony

His Majesty the King will award the Royal Award for Modern Painting 2026 in February 2026 at the Royal Palace Amsterdam. The King simultaneously opens the exhibition of the winning works and a selection from the other entries. All artists nominated for an award will be invited to attend the opening.



First round

If you satisfy the above conditions and wish to apply, you should submit at least five, but no more than eight works. The submitted works have to be available for the judging rounds and exhibition. For the second round you must submit two works that are part of your entry for the first round. If you are selected for the exhibition, these must be available during the loan period (October 2025 - March 2026).

A digital application form can be found on our [website](#).

1. To apply for the Royal Award, please submit five to eight works up to and including 15 August 2025. You can upload the images through the digital application form. One of the images may be a studio or exhibition photo.
 - The works may not exceed 200 cm in height or 300 cm in width.
 - You may submit works on more than one panel providing that the total work does not exceed the maximum size.
 - The images must be in JPG/JPEG-files. Images submitted in other files will not be processed.
2. The digital images will be displayed via a projector to the jury. It is the responsibility of each participant to deliver images in a good resolution. Make sure the images are shown upright.
 - The minimum resolution for the submitted images is 300 DPI.
 - The image is at least 1 200 pixels in width.
 - The minimum size is 1 Mb and the maximum size is 10 Mb.

It is possible that the digital images are not readable. If this is the case, the artist will be notified and asked to re-deliver the images. The artist must notice the applied deadline of 15 August 2025.

3. Non-Dutch nationals living in the Netherlands who satisfy the conditions may also apply provided they are in possession of a valid residence permit and have permanent ties with the Netherlands.
4. Write a brief commentary on the works you are submitting (no more than 100 words).
5. Briefly describe your own, work-related interests (no more than 100 words).



Second round (by invitation only)*

Application procedure

You can only participate in the second round if you are invited based on your entry for the first round. In the second round, you must submit two works that were already submitted in the first round. The assessment focuses exclusively on the two submitted works of the second round. The delivery date for the works of the second round is in the morning of 6 October 2025 in Amsterdam. Judging will take place on 7 and 8 October. If your work is selected for the exhibition, you will be informed by telephone on the afternoon of the second day of adjudication. You are requested to collect your work in the morning the day after the judging if you have not received a call on the second day of the judging in the afternoon.

The submitted works must be available to the Royal Palace Amsterdam Foundation during the loan period. The loan period runs during the second round and for the nominated works up to the end of the exhibition.

The three winners will show three works and the other nominees will show two works at the exhibition of Royal Award in the Palace. The winners will have to hand in their third work personally at the Palace. The exhibition catalogue also includes a photo and interview with the three winners. The photography and the interview will follow as soon as possible after the second round. The winners must be available for this.

Terms for the submitted works:

- Upon arrival at the Palace the artist will have to show a valid ID.
- All works in the exhibition must be submitted in the first round.
- May not exceed 200 cm in height and 300 cm in width. All works will be checked and measured upon arrival. The works will not be accepted if they exceed the maximum size.
- The work may be submitted on more than one panel providing that the total work does not exceed the maximum size.
- Each work must clearly contain the artist's name on the back.
- Please indicate which way up your work should be viewed. Indicate what is the top and the bottom of the work.
- Indicate in advance whether the work contains fragile or loose parts.
- If you do not deliver/pick up your own work, you should inform the palace in advance.
- You must bring your own packaging material upon delivery/pick up.
- At delivery and pick-up you are responsible for the packaging of your works.
- The transport of your work is at your own risk and cost.
- Group entries must be supervised by a representative of the participants.
- If the work does not satisfy these conditions, it will be excluded from further participation.



Other terms and conditions:

- No correspondence is possible regarding the results.
- The organization will install the exhibition works on wooden walls, if necessary the artist will install their works themselves.
- The Royal Palace Amsterdam has no museum-like climate and light control. By submitting your work you agree to this.
- The Royal Palace Amsterdam does not provide a facility report. No condition report will be drawn up upon return and collection. However, a receipt and pick-up receipt is made in which the condition is recorded.
- No loan fee is paid for works on loan to the Royal Palace Amsterdam Foundation for the Royal Award.
- Participants give the Royal Palace Amsterdam permission to use data submitted after a nomination (such as e-mail address, date of birth, education, social media channels and data about the work) and images of their work free of rights, both in print and online, for current and future exhibitions, publications and publicity.
- When artists participate in the Royal Award, they automatically indicate that they accept all the aforementioned conditions.

Submitted works that satisfy the above conditions are covered by an all-risk insurance policy throughout the loan period by the Royal Palace Amsterdam Foundation.

Dates 2025/2026*

June - 15 August	apply for the Royal Award at www.koninklijkeprijns.nl
16 September	first round**
7 & 8 October	second round
Beginning of February 2026	His Majesty the King awards the Royal Award for Modern Painting 2026 at the Royal Palace Amsterdam
Beginning of February – March 2026	exhibition of the Royal Award for Modern Painting 2026

* Dates under reserve. The second round of judging, the award ceremony and opening of the exhibition in the autumn are subject to change. If necessary, they will take place in a different form.

** Shortly after the first round you will receive notice of the results. When you are invited to participate in the second round, you will receive the exact location, time and date.

Royal Palace Amsterdam
P.O. BOX 3708
1001 AM Amsterdam

T: +31 (0)20 – 522 6161
E: info@dkh.nl
I: www.paleisamsterdam.nl/en