



VIA ARTS
PRIZE

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VIA Arts Prize 2017

The Visual Ibero-American Arts Prize

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The **Embassy of Brazil to the UK**, in partnership with **ACALASP** (the Association of Cultural Attachés of Latin America, Spain and Portugal), **People's Palace Projects** (Queen Mary University of London) and **Itaú**, is currently inviting entries for the **VIA Arts Prize 2017**.

Following a pre-selection process conducted by the curatorial committee, up to 30 artworks will go on display for three weeks at the Embassy of Brazil (14-16 Cockspur Street, SW1Y 5BL). A special Jury will then choose the final selection. Cash prizes, generously provided by Itaú, will be awarded to the Jury's first (£5,000) and second (£2,000) choices.

HISTORY

This year marks the third edition of this dedicated visual Ibero-American arts prize.

The 2016 edition, entitled the "Ibero-American Arts Award", was a resounding success, attracting a richly diverse range of entries responding to the theme of "Utopias". The Jury consisted of Catherine Petitgas (lecturer and writer), José María Cano (visual artist), Marko Daniel (Tate Modern), Robert Bound (Monocole Magazine) and Nayia Yiakoumaki (Whitechapel Gallery). They were delighted to award visual artists Ting Tong Chang and Gwil Hughes with the first and second prizes respectively.

This year we have re-named the competition "VIA Arts Prize" to better reflect the prize's mission. In all three official languages of the competition, "via" conveys a sense of travel, of establishing pathways and communication links, of being on the threshold, of "throughness" and liminality. All of these ideas encapsulate the ethos of the endeavour, which is to celebrate the coming together of Ibero-American cultures in London, arguably at the centre of the world's artistic and communication networks, with its rich migrant population and even richer arts scene.



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OBJECTIVE

The VIA Arts Prize is dedicated to supporting UK-based artists in the production of cross-cultural artworks, giving them the freedom to develop their creative ideas, based on a theme, and contributing to their personal and professional growth. It also encourages them to engage with and take inspiration from Ibero-American art and cultures, through a process of intercultural exchange. It will be an opportunity for the artists to exhibit their work in a prestigious and highly visible space in the heart of London and to raise their profile correspondingly.

THEME

This year's theme will be 'DIALOGUES'.

We are inviting visual artists working in the media of painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and print-making, **to produce original works in dialogue with a work or the oeuvre of Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese art and artists.**

SUBMISSIONS

- Creative artworks in different formats will be accepted, for example: paintings, drawings and other works on paper; sculpture; photography; and prints.
- Film and performance art are not under consideration.
- Replicas of already-existing works will not be accepted.
- Each artist can submit only **one** piece of work, and submissions must be made by individuals only.
- The works must be easy to transport and made of non-perishable material.
- Works must measure less than 2.5m (height) by 2m (width).
- All works must be exhibition-ready and able to withstand mirror plating for hanging purposes.
- There is no submission fee.

Submissions can be made from 25 May to 16 October 2017, in the form of image files attachments, using our online submissions form which opens on the 22 May. The minimum requirements are that applicants send:

- High-quality image files of their work in JPG format, min 300dpi resolution, sized between 3 and 5MB.
- Contact information for registration and notification.



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- A brief written text providing information about the artist (**maximum 200 words**), with a link to their website/blog or any other digital platform where their work can be seen (if applicable).
- A brief written description of the artwork (**maximum 300 words**), including: art form, title, dimensions, and explanatory remarks on how the artwork ties in with the proposed theme.

Note: Submissions can be made either in English, Portuguese or Spanish.

Please send an email to info@viaartsprize.org if you have any queries.

TIMETABLE

25 May 2017	Call for submissions opens
16 Oct 2017	Deadline for submissions
23 Oct 2017	Selected artists informed of results of pre-selection process by email
31 Oct - 1 Nov 2017	Delivery of selected artworks/exhibition set-up
3 Nov - 23 Nov 2017	Exhibition period (Private View TBC).
TBC 2017	Award ceremony and reception
TBC 2017	Exhibition disassembly

ELIGIBILITY

The Award is open to all UK-based artists of any nationality. Participants must be aged 16 or over. All artworks must be original and not previously exhibited; they must not infringe the copyrights or intellectual property rights of any person or entity. Artworks must not violate the privacy of any person, nor can they have any sexually explicit, violent or racist content. Only works by individuals will be considered; collaborations will not be accepted.

JURY

The Jury this year will consist of 6 high-profile personalities from the Arts world who combine expertise from the areas of curating and practicing art, as well as academia and cultural journalism. Their decisions will be final. The Jury will choose the two prizewinners from among the 30 pre-selected works on display.

ACALASP's curatorial committee will be responsible for pre-selecting the 30 works that go on display, from among all valid submissions.



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SELECTED ARTISTS

Artists will be contacted if their work has been selected for display. It will then be the artists' responsibility to deliver their work to the Embassy of Brazil (14-16 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5BL), making sure it is ready to be displayed – i.e. pictures must be framed; plinths must be provided for any work which needs one.

PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded:

- First prize will receive £5,000 plus the chance to put on a solo exhibition at the Embassy of Brazil, either as an extension of the VIA Arts Prize at Sala Brazil's Mezzanine level, or else in our second, bespoke, modern gallery space, Gallery 32.
- Second prize will receive £2,000.
- There will also be a People's Choice Prize awarded by visitors to the exhibition but with no cash award.

The first-placed artwork will be kept by and displayed in the Embassy of Brazil as part of its permanent collection and the second-placed work will be given to Itaú. Please note, given the above, the two winning artists will therefore have to relinquish all rights in relation to the physical works submitted (but not to reproduction rights).

The remaining artworks should be collected from the Embassy between 23 November and 30 November 2017, after which the Embassy will not be held responsible for them.

London, May 2017

ACALASP -

Association of Cultural Attachés of Latin America, Spain and Portugal