



VIA ARTS
PRIZE

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VIA Arts Prize 2018

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 inviting entries for the **VIA Arts Prize 2018**.

The VIA Arts Prize is dedicated to supporting UK-based artists in the creation of cross-cultural artworks, based on a theme, and contributing to their personal and professional growth. The Prize also promotes engagement with Ibero-American art and cultures, through a process of intercultural exchange. It is an opportunity for the selected artists to exhibit their work in a prestigious, highly visible space in the heart of London.

Following a pre-selection process conducted by the curatorial committee, up to 30 artworks will go on display for around seven weeks at the Embassy of Brazil in central London, with a high profile jury making the final selection of winning entries. Cash prizes, generously provided by Itaú, will be awarded to the Jury's first (£5,000) and second (£2,000) choices.

THEME

Following on from the success of the VIA Arts Prize in its 2017 edition, the theme of **DIALOGUES** is maintained in 2018, strengthening our commitment to the values of unity and conciliation, a vital message for our times. We seek to promote creative collaboration and cultural cohesion.

We invite visual artists to produce original works in dialogue with Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese arts and culture.

This year, the theme is understood in as broad a sense as possible and accommodates all examples of visual artworks that take their inspiration from other creative media from Ibero-American artistic cultures, principally visual arts, literature, music, dance, performance and film.



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SUBMISSIONS

Creative artworks in different formats will be accepted for submission:

- Painting;
- Sculpture;
- Photography;
- Mixed Media/ assemblage;
- Collage;
- Drawing;
- Engraving;
- Digital print (non-photographic);
- Textiles and tapestry.

Film and performance art are not under consideration.

Each artist or collaborative partnership can submit only one piece of work.

Submissions must be made by individuals only, not institutions, and can be solo or collaborative.

Works entered:

- Must be the sole and original work of the entrant or collaborative partnership.
- Must not be replicas of already-existing works.
- Must be easy to transport and made of non-perishable material.
- Must not exceed the maximum dimensions and weights, as follows:
 - Paintings, drawings, other works on paper, photography and prints must measure up to a maximum of 2m (height) by 3.8m (width); artworks which require hanging must not weigh more than 100kg;
 - All artworks must be able to enter a doorway of 2m (height) by 1.5m (width); artworks larger than this must be able to be assembled in parts.
- Must be exhibition-ready:
 - Paintings, drawings, other works on paper, photography, prints, engravings, tapestries and wall sculptures must be ready for hanging, complete with all fixtures and fittings;
 - Sculptures must have plinths, where necessary.
- Must be explicitly contextualized by the artist in relation to the theme of the competition.

There is no submission fee.

Submissions will only be accepted between 12:00 on Wednesday 6th June 2018, and 23:59 on Monday 22nd October 2018, by way of a completed Submissions Form, plus image file attachments. These must be submitted directly on our website following the instructions provided in the online submissions form.



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In summary, applicants must send:

- High-quality image files of their work in JPG or PNG format, in high resolution, sized up to 10MB.
- Contact information for registration and notification.
- A brief written text providing information about the artist or collaborative partnership, 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, including: art form, title, dimensions, year of production, and explanatory remarks on how the artwork ties in with the proposed theme.

Note: Submissions can be made either in English, Portuguese or Spanish, which are the three official languages of the competition.¹

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

TIMETABLE

6 June 2018	Call for submissions opens
22 Oct 2018	Deadline for submissions
19 Nov 2018	Selected artists informed of results of pre-selection process by email
Early December/ 10-11 Dec 2018	Delivery of selected artworks/ exhibition set-up
14 Dec 2018 - 31 Jan 2019	Exhibition period.
TBC 2018	Private view/ award ceremony and reception
1-4 February 2019	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 (with the exception of degree show pieces); 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 or collaborative partnerships will be considered.

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.

¹ Artists who apply in Spanish or Portuguese must note that, should their work be selected for the finalists' exhibition, they should subsequently be willing to provide an English translation of their original application to facilitate the final judging process and for display labelling purposes.



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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.

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), covering transportation costs and making sure it is ready to be displayed– i.e. pictures must be framed; fixtures and fittings must be provided; 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, as an extension of next year's VIA Arts Prize.
- 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 ownership of the physical works submitted (but retain all reproduction and intellectual property rights).

The remaining artworks should be collected from the Embassy in early February 2019, after which the Embassy will not be held responsible for them.

More information for artists is available by contacting the Embassy of Brazil's cultural team:

Andrzej Stuart-Thompson	andrzej.thompson@itamaraty.gov.br	020 7747 4576
Luiz Carlos Chagas	luiz.chagas@itamaraty.gov.br	020 7747 4572
Marcio Junji Sono	marcio.sono@itamaraty.gov.br	020 7747 4567

Please direct all press enquiries to:

Abigail Stuart-Menteth at Damson Communications, abigail@damsonpr.com or 020 7812 0645

www.viaartsprize.org

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END OF CALL FOR ENTRIES



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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE VIA ARTS PRIZE

Established in 2015, the VIA Arts Prize is London's bespoke visual Ibero-American themed arts competition. It celebrates 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. 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. It is organised by the Embassies of Latin America, Spain and Portugal and is hosted annually at the Embassy of Brazil in London.

Previous jury members include Catherine Petitgas (lecturer and writer), José María Cano (visual artist), Marko Daniel (Tate Modern), Robert Bound (Monocle Magazine), Nayia Yiakoumaki (Whitechapel Gallery), Aaron Cezar (Delfina Foundation), Alastair Smart (Christies), Anderson and Lowe (photographer duo), Michael Asbury (Chelsea College of Arts) and Silvia Montes (King's College London). Visual artists Ting Tong Chang, Gwil Hughes, Susan Phillips and Rafael D'Alo have been recognized with top prizes for their outstanding cross-cultural works of art.

ABOUT THE VENUE

Opened in 2012, Sala Brasil has become the main venue for a variety of cultural events carried out by the Embassy of Brazil.

With generous space, suitable for an ambitious cultural programme, Sala Brasil hosts a series of attractions, from art exhibitions to concerts, in an effort to give the public an opportunity to experience the quality and diversity of Brazilian culture. Sala Brasil is a beautiful Grade II listed room, once the P&O ticketing office, where it is said that tickets for the Titanic were sold. It is located on the ground floor of the Embassy with an open plan area of approximately 250m² and a mezzanine of approximately 60m².

Further information: londres.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/

ABOUT ACALASP

The Association of Cultural Attachés from the Embassies of Latin American countries, Spain and Portugal is a non-profit organisation that promotes these cultures within the UK. They run cross-cultural initiatives, events and competitions to provide freelance artists across all disciplines with creative opportunities, which simultaneously help to raise the profile of their Ibero-American home nations.

ABOUT ITAÚ

Itaú Unibanco is one of the largest banks in the world, with approximately 96,000 employees and operations in 20 countries throughout the Americas, Asia and Europe. Itaú BBA International is the EMEA platform of Banco Itaú BBA., Latin America's largest corporate and investment bank and part of the Itaú Unibanco group. Itaú BBA International offers wholesale, investment, and institutional treasury banking activities and services to institutional investors and clients. Our headquarters are in London with offices in Paris, Madrid, Lisbon and Dubai.

Further information: itaubba.co.uk



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ABOUT PEOPLE'S PALACE PROJECTS

People's Palace Projects seeks to ask how the arts can bring about positive social change through participatory arts projects, performances, educational initiatives and debates. The institution brings artists, activists, academics and audiences together for projects that address a wide range of social justice and human rights issues. Based in the East End of London (Queen Mary University of London), they have worked with a wide range of local communities, in partnership with a range of arts organizations and artists across England and Wales with a legacy of international collaborative projects in West Africa, South America and Eastern Europe. For the past two decades they have maintained a special focus on strengthening cultural links between Brazil and the UK.

Further information: peoplespalaceprojects.org.uk