

## VIA Arts Prize Call for Entries 2018

Artists are invited to enter into a “Dialogue” with Ibero-American arts and culture for this year’s VIA Arts Prize 2018. The call for entries opens on Wednesday 6 June 2018 and closes on Monday 22 October 2018.

The VIA Arts Prize, held annually at 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 from Queen Mary University of London, and sponsored by Itaú, is pleased to now open the call for entries for this year’s prize.

Following on from the success of last year’s edition, the theme this year remains “Dialogues”, a theme that remains topical and that embodies the continuity of this London arts prize while promoting a process of intercultural exchange through an engagement with Ibero-American art and cultures.

The Prize is open to all UK based artists who submit original visual artworks that are in keeping with the theme and inspired by Ibero-American artistic cultures, including visual arts, literature, music, dance, performance and film.

All artworks submitted must also fall into one of the following categories:

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

The top 30 works will be carefully selected by a curatorial committee and will be exhibited at The Embassy of Brazil for seven weeks. Two winning entries will be chosen from this top 30 by a high profile jury. Thanks to sponsor Itaú the winner will receive £5,000 and the runner-up £2,000. At the end of the seven-week exhibition, a People’s Choice prize will be awarded to the artist whose work has received the greatest number of votes from the visiting public.

Focused on deepening cultural awareness and improving communications between Ibero-American cultures and other cultures, within the UK and globally, the winning work will be displayed as part of the Embassy of Brazil’s permanent collection. The second prize work will be given to Itaú to be held as part of their international collection.

Ana González, President of ACALASP, says “We were delighted with the response we received for last year’s VIA Arts Prize, which was in large part due to the theme of ‘Dialogues’. In today’s ever-changing world it is important to highlight the necessity of dialogue and understanding between one another, our governments and the international community. We hope to bring together artists and enthusiasts to celebrate the international language of art through the fostering of intercultural connections and exchanges achieved by the VIA Arts Prize. As such we felt it important that the theme reflect our work, and we look forward to seeing this year’s entries’ responses to ‘Dialogues’ inspired by our regions.”

The 2018 jury members will be announced shortly. 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).

Applicants can submit their work between 12:00 on Wednesday 6 June and 23:59 on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 by filling out the submission form on the website <https://www.viaartsprize.org>. There are no submission fees.

Please direct all press enquiries to:

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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

## 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.

### 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 250m<sup>2</sup> and a mezzanine of approximately 60m<sup>2</sup>.

Further information: [londres.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/](http://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](http://itaubba.co.uk)

### 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](http://peoplespalaceprojects.org.uk)