

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ART

STATUTE

Fourth International Student Biennale “Drawing” – Sofia – 2026

The National Academy of Art is organizing the fourth International Student Biennale “Drawing” in Bulgaria – Sofia – 2026.

In 2026, 130 years will be marked since the founding of the State School of Drawing, which was later renamed the State Academy of Art. Organizing the student biennale “Drawing” is an excellent way to honor this milestone anniversary of the Academy, which for 130 years has combined tradition and modernity in the education and development of generations of artists and has played an important role in the cultural life of the capital.

The aim of the organizers is to present trends and achievements in the field of drawing at various higher educational art institutions, as well as to promote drawing as an independent form of artistic expression.

Eligible participants:

Eligible participants in the student biennale “Drawing” are higher education institutions in the arts with which the National Academy of Art maintains active partnerships.

Exhibition sections:

Eligible participants may submit works in two sections:

1. **Academic Drawing:** “Academic drawing” refers to works created as part of the educational process at the respective higher education institution.
2. **Independent Drawing:** “Independent drawing” refers to works created by students of the respective institution as personal projects outside the formal educational process. This category allows for any stylistic interpretations and techniques.

Regarding Section 1, participants must certify, through a declaration, that the works were created by students at the respective institution with valid student status for the corresponding year.

Regarding Section 2, participants must certify, through a declaration, that the authors of the works have submitted them voluntarily, are familiar with the Biennale’s conditions, and do not object to their works being exhibited, photographed, reproduced, or replicated for non-commercial purposes. Participants also declare that there are no claims from third parties concerning the authorship or exercise of copyright for the submitted works, and that any such claims that may arise will be the sole responsibility of the Participant who submitted the works to the Biennale.

Rules and Regulations for Participation:

Eligible participants may submit works in both sections under the following conditions:

1. Submitted drawings must be created by students with active student status in the corresponding year.
2. The drawings must be created between 2024 and 2026, using any techniques or combinations, including the following media: charcoal, pencil, ink, pastel, chalk, etc., or mixed techniques, excluding digital or other printing methods.
3. The works must be executed on paper. The exhibition format size should be no smaller than 50×70 cm and no larger than 100×70 cm. For works with the maximum size, they must be displayed vertically. It is permissible to place more than one work on a single exhibition panel.

Requirements for Eligible Participants:

Each participant presents their own concept and a collection of drawings, selected and curated by the respective institution, with an exhibition space not exceeding 12 m². If the submitted works exceed the allocated space, the organizers reserve the right to reduce them to the above-mentioned area.

Photographic material of the works for participation must be submitted electronically via FTP server at the address: art_projects@nha.bg between March 25 and April 15, 2026. Each work must be labeled with the artist's name, title, technique, and dimensions.

The resolution of the images must be 300 dpi, with the long side measuring 250 mm, according to the attached form. (High-quality images will facilitate the preparation of the Biennale catalog.)

Deadline for receiving the original works at the National Academy of Art, 1 Shipka Street, Sofia: from May 11 to June 1, 2026.

Works should be submitted unframed.

Participants send their collections by mail. They must be in tubes and shipped without insurance. The package weight must not exceed 7 kg. The tubes must be labeled "**Printed Matter**" (**No commercial value**).

Packaging and transportation costs are the responsibility of the participants. The organizers are not liable for any damage or loss that occurs during transport to or from the exhibition.

Jurying for Awards:

The awards will be determined by a jury with international participation, proposed by the organizers and appointed by the Rector of the National Academy of Art.

Awards:

- National Academy of Art Award – **€600**
- Four equal Biennale Awards – **€500 each**
- Four Biennale Commendations – **€300 each**
- Union of Bulgarian Artists Award – **to be specified**
- Drawing Department of the National Academy of Art Award – **€500**

The awarded works remain the property of the National Academy of Art Museum.

The jury reserves the right to make changes to the award fund.

The National Academy of Art has the right to photograph, reproduce, and replicate the works participating in the Biennale for non-commercial purposes.

After the conclusion of the competition, the organizer will host an exhibition, which will open at the Academia Gallery of the National Academy of Art on the first day of the new academic year.

The organizer undertakes the production and printing of the Biennale catalog.

Deadlines:

- **March 25 – April 15, 2026:** Submission of photographic material electronically
- **May 11 – June 1, 2026:** Submission of original works
- **September 24 – 25, 2026:** Determination of awards
- **September 28, 2026:** Announcement of awards and opening of the Biennale exhibition at the Academia Gallery of the National Academy of Art

Return of Works:

Works that did not receive an award or commendation will be returned within two months after the closing of the exhibition.

Correspondence Address, Contacts, and Additional Information:**International Department**

Tel./Fax: +359 2 987 33 28

E-mail: art_academy@nha.bg

E-mail: art_projects@nha.bg

Website: www.nha.bg

Address for submitting applications and works electronically:

art_projects@nha.bg

Address for sending original works:

Bulgaria, Sofia 1000

1 Shipka Street

National Academy of Art

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