

INTERNATIONAL ART FORUM "THE UNBREAKABLE GOLDEN EASEL-2026"

Held by the Charitable Organization "Lviv Children's Gallery"
on the basis of the Municipal Institution of the Lviv Regional Council
Lviv Regional Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education (LOIPPO),
in partnership with the Kryvyi Rih City Council,
announces the International Children's Art Competition



"THE MAGIC PENCIL TRAVELS THE PLANET OF PEACE"

Organized by
the Charitable Organization "Lviv Children's Gallery" and the Municipal Cultural and Arts Institution
"O. Vasyakin Art School No. 1" of the Kryvyi Rih City Council.

PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To create a cultural bridge between Ukraine and the world and to present, within an interactive global art space, the power and uniqueness of the phenomenal children's art as an instrument of peace, solidarity, and mutual understanding – a universal language that unites people through an equal and open dialogue regardless of borders and cultures.

OBJECTIVES

- To invite talented children and teachers from Ukraine and around the world to participate in the International Competition "The Magic Pencil Travels the Planet of Peace" and to provide participants with access to the Forum's virtual platform, namely:
 - opening registration and publication of creative works starting January 10, 2026;
 - providing access for Jury members;
 - publishing participants' and laureates' artworks;
 - showcasing photo and video materials of the final stage and promoting participants' creative activities in the media and digital space.
- To create an art space on the Forum platform for:
 - professional dialogue, panel discussions, and meetings with artists, cultural diplomats, educators, and experts;
 - access to information about events (master classes, plein airs, workshops, scientific and practical seminars) organized within the Summer Art Residence "The Unbreakable Golden Easel," aimed at artistic development and mutual enrichment through experience, techniques, and ideas for participants and their mentors.
- To engage the international artistic community of young talents in joint projects and intercultural communication, as well as educational programs for competition winners planned to take place in the Forum's art residences.
- To promote art as an instrument of peace and cultural diplomacy through thematic events, conferences, scientific and practical seminars, interactive projections, artistic performances, and public discussions.
- To support the development of partnerships between educational and cultural institutions through program exchanges, networking sessions, and planning of joint international projects.
- To organize certified professional development courses for mentor-teachers in innovative art education and pedagogy.

REGULATIONS

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

Children and youth aged 4 to 17 (optionally from 3 years of age), without any restrictions, including national or territorial ones, except for children from the Russian Federation.

AGE CATEGORIES

- Junior: 3–8 years
- Middle: 9–13 years
- Senior: 14–17 years

COMPETITION THEMES

I. ME AND MY WORLD

The world I live in: exciting adventures, travels, and encounters.
My family, friends, my city, nature, and my hobbies.

II. THE WORLD OF MY DREAMS AND FANTASIES

Complete freedom of imagination: the planet, country, or city of my dreams; fairy-tale and fictional worlds; fantastic images (characters, creatures, animals, plants); space, the future, and magical stories.

III. "CHILDREN'S DIGITAL MUSEUM" (Digital Creativity)

Digital Kids Museum – Children's Digital Museum

Digital works: digital art, photo art, 2D/3D works, collages, graphic characters, stylizations, AR effects.

A contemporary category for children creating in the digital space.
Thematic restrictions do not apply to digital creativity.

STAGES

Stage I – Remote (Online)

January 10, 2026 – May 10, 2026

Registration of applications and submission of competition works in electronic format on the Forum platform: artclass.lviv.ua.

Responsible: Oksana Polishchuk, Competition Curator, and the Forum team.

May 10, 2026 – May 20, 2026

Jury evaluation and summary of electronic voting results. Full platform access is provided to the Competition Curator and Jury members.

June 31, 2026

Based on the Jury's results submitted by the Competition Curator, lists of Final participants are published on the Forum platform artclass.lviv.ua, in the catalog, and presented at international exhibitions, etc.

Attention! Competition laureates must send their artworks by courier mail to the Forum Organizing Committee at the following address:

Lviv, 10/2 Boi-Zhelenskoho Street

(Olha Mykhailiuk, phone: +38 067 843 97 67)

July 10, 2026

Online award ceremony with diplomas and certificates of honor. Diplomas and awards are presented only to laureates whose works have been sent to the Forum Organizing Committee.

FINAL STAGE

Laureates selected by the Jury are invited to participate in the Final.

Final II for international participants is held online.

Finalists record their creative process on video and send the original final artwork by courier mail to the Forum Organizing Committee at the address above.

Final works selected by the Jury are prepared by the Forum team for exhibition in Ukraine and abroad.

August 2026

Laureates who wish to visit Ukraine are invited to participate in plein airs and master classes of the Summer Art Residence.

The detailed program of the Art Residence in Lviv and the Carpathians will be published on May 31, 2026.

FINAL THEME

HEROES AMONG US

HEROIC FIGURES OF MY COUNTRY

Based on the final results, the Jury determines the winners and the Grand Prix recipients.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTWORKS

- Format: A2;
- Technique: participant's choice (e.g., drawing, painting, appliquéd, collage, original technique);
- Attention! Digital format requirements: digital illustrations, 2D/3D works created on graphic tablets or in graphic software;
- Submitted artworks must be signed by the participant on the reverse side; the text must correspond to the registration form completed on artclass.lviv.ua;
- The Jury does not consider works created using artificial intelligence;
- For online registration, files must be submitted in JPG/PNG format (300 dpi).

Attention!

Laureates must send artworks to the Organizing Committee with the following handwritten statement on the reverse side:

"I, (surname and first name of the laureate), residing at (full address and contact phone number of one parent), and my parents (full names), hereby give consent to transfer the competition artwork into the ownership of the Charitable Organization 'Lviv Children's Gallery' for the purpose of exhibiting it at national and international exhibitions and auctions in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine."

JURY

- Professional artists and VIP representatives from Ukraine and around the world.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Creative and original compositional solution;
- Original technical execution;
- An engaging and insightful interpretation of the chosen theme.

AWARDS

- Participants and their mentors receive Diplomas;
- Laureates and their mentors receive "Messenger of Peace" Certificates, valuable gifts, and discounted vouchers to participate in the Art Residence "The Unbreakable Golden Easel";
- Winners and their mentors receive "Messenger of Peace" Certificates and full vouchers to the Art Residence of the Unbreakable Golden Easel;
- For original compositions and creative ideas, the Competition Curator and the Head of the Forum award Grand Prix distinctions to finalists delegated from Ukraine to participate in the International Museum Festival in Frankfurt am Main, Germany (August 22-29, 2026).

FOLLOWING THE COMPETITION RESULTS, THE FOLLOWING ARE PLANNED:

- Organization of exhibitions in prestigious museums in Ukraine and worldwide;
- Publication of the international catalog "Planet of Peace";
- Organization of the Forum's Art Residence in Ukraine and abroad;
- Updating the virtual platform with exhibition presentations in Ukraine and internationally, and their promotion at international art events hosted by partner cultural venues.

FORUM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

For inquiries, please contact: mihajluk@gmail.com