



Galeria
Sztuki
Wozownia



RULES AND REGULATIONS

3rd Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA 2026–27

These Rules and Regulations define the terms and conditions for participation in the 3rd VIA Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA, edition 2026–27, hereinafter referred to as the “Competition”.

General Information

§1

The main organiser of the Competition is the Ada Sari Centre for Culture and Arts in Stary Sącz | IMO Contemporary Art Gallery.

The Organiser – the Ada Sari Centre for Culture and Arts (address: Rynek 5, 33-340 Stary Sącz, Poland) – is entered in the Register of Cultural Institutions under number 3/4 maintained by the Municipal Office of Stary Sącz, Tax Identification Number (NIP): 734-33-34-514, REGON: 000968351.

The partner institution is the Wozownia Art Gallery in Toruń.

§2

The 3rd Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA 2026–27 is an international competition in the field of visual arts. Entries may include works in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, photography, video, animation, object art, installation, performance documentation, documentation of activities involving local communities, intermedia and multimedia projects.

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) must be clearly and specifically indicated in the description attached to the application.

The aim of the Competition is to identify and present the most compelling artistic phenomena emerging from the New Europe region within the VIA CARPATIA area through a post-competition exhibition.

§3

Participation in the Competition is voluntary. The Competition is open to adult artists up to the age of 45 in 2026 (born in 1981 or later), including graduates and students of higher art education institutions.

The Competition is addressed to artists connected with the VIA CARPATIA region and the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, namely artists who were born, live, create, studied or received education in these areas.

In this edition, artists from the indicated regions of the following countries may participate: Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus (persons originating from Belarus but not residing there), Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Greece.

A full list of geographical areas covered by the Competition is included in Appendix No. 3 to these Regulations (3rd VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial 2026–27. Area).

National capitals are excluded from the Competition area unless artists associated with them maintain substantial ties to the Competition region.

§4

The motto of the 3rd Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA is a quotation from Olga Tokarczuk's book *Tender Narrator*:

“Tenderness is the mode of looking that shows the world as alive, living, interconnected, cooperating and interdependent.”

The theme is described in detail in Appendix No. 1 to these Regulations (3rd VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial 2026–27. Theme).

Submitted works should relate to the motto of the Competition in a manner determined by the artist.

§5

Works by a maximum of 42 artists will be selected for the competition exhibition. Selection will be made by the Competition Jury. In the event of a tie, the final decision shall be made by the Chairperson of the Jury – the curator of the IMO Contemporary Art Gallery in Stary Sącz and representative of the Organiser.

The decisions of the Jury are final and not subject to appeal.

Among the works selected for the exhibition, the Jury will award statutory prizes and distinctions.

The post-competition exhibition will be presented at the IMO Contemporary Art Gallery in Stary Sącz and in other venues designated by the Organiser. In the first half of 2027, the exhibition will also be presented at the Competition's partner institution – Wozownia Art Gallery.

Conditions of Participation

§6

Participants must meet the eligibility criteria specified in §3 of these Regulations regarding qualifications, age and connection with the Competition region.

§7

Participants may submit between one and three works.

Artists are encouraged to creatively engage with the motto of the current edition of the Competition – the quotation from Olga Tokarczuk's *Tender Narrator*. The motto is further explained in Appendix No. 1 to these Regulations (3rd VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial 2026–27. Theme).

§8

An entry fee of PLN 50 / EUR 12 must be paid.

Bank transfer details:

Ada Sari Centre for Culture and Arts in Stary Sącz
Rynek 5, 33-340 Stary Sącz, Poland

Account number:
23 8816 0001 2001 0000 0837 0001
(Bank Spółdzielczy Stary Sącz)

For payments in EUR:

Ada Sari Centre for Culture and Arts in Stary Sącz
Rynek 5, 33-340 Stary Sącz, Poland

Bank Spółdzielczy w Starym Sączu
Account number: 23 8816 0001 2001 0000 0837 0001

SWIFT code: POLUPLPR
IBAN: PL12 8816 0001 2001 0000 0837 0005

The entry fee is non-refundable.

§8

The Competition accepts works created between 2024 and 2026 that have not previously received awards in other competitions, are the original work and property of the artist/artistic group, and are technically prepared for exhibition.

Detailed technical specifications, including dimensions, are included in Appendix No. 2 to these Regulations (3rd Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA 2026–27. Technical Notes Regarding Works).

§9

Artists selected for the exhibition will be asked to submit a brief description of the concept of their work (maximum 3,000 characters including spaces) referring to the motto of the current edition of the VIA CARPATIA Triennial (Appendix No. 1).

The Organiser reserves the right to publish the entire text or excerpts thereof in the catalogue and promotional materials.

Statutory Awards

§10

Each of the 42 artists selected for the competition exhibition will receive financial remuneration intended, among other things, to compensate shipping costs. The remuneration amounts to PLN 200 (approximately EUR 47), plus an additional PLN 100 (approximately EUR 23) for artists sending works from abroad.

Receipt of the remuneration is conditional upon delivery of the exhibition-ready work within the deadline specified by the Organiser. The amount of remuneration does not depend on the number of works selected.

The laureates of the 3rd VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial 2026–27 will be selected by the Competition Jury. The following prizes will be awarded:

- Grand Prix and 2 main prizes
- 3 distinctions worth PLN 5,000 each (approximately EUR 1,180)

Awards:

- **Grand Prix** – PLN 20,000 (approximately EUR 4,700)
- **Second Prize** – PLN 15,000 (approximately EUR 3,500), funded by the Marshal of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship
- **Third Prize** – PLN 10,000 (approximately EUR 2,360), funded by the Mayor of Stary Sącz
- 3 distinctions worth PLN 5,000 each (approximately EUR 1,180)¹

Additionally, Wozownia Art Gallery in Toruń will organise a solo exhibition accompanied by a catalogue for one selected artist.

The work awarded the Grand Prix shall become the property of the Organiser and will be incorporated into the Contemporary Art Collection of the IMO Gallery in Stary Sącz. Transfer of ownership takes place upon payment of the prize and does not require a separate agreement.

Furthermore, the Grand Prix laureate will be offered a one-month artistic residency at the IMO Gallery in Stary Sącz in 2027².

The Organiser reserves the right to redistribute the prizes differently, including the possibility of not awarding the Grand Prix. The Organiser also permits additional prizes funded by partners and sponsors, as well as honorary awards.

All prize amounts are gross amounts.

For payments made outside Poland, the amount will be paid in EUR according to the official exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland applicable on the date of the announcement of results.

If a submitted work was created collectively, the prize shall be transferred to the representative designated by the group, who will represent the group in all Competition procedures.

Statutory prizes and exhibition participation remuneration will be paid no later than the end of January 2027.

The Organiser shall deduct taxes due in accordance with Polish law.

Competition Schedule and Procedure

¹ The official NBP exchange rate as of 06.05.2026 is: 1 Euro = PLN 4.23. The amounts will be adjusted according to the official exchange rate applicable on the date the results are announced. This applies to all amounts listed in the statement.

² If a laureate is unable to take part in the residency, the offer to participate in the residency will be extended to the prize winners and subsequently to the recipients of distinctions, in alphabetical order.

§11

Preliminary Stage

Preselection of works submitted electronically will be conducted by competent persons appointed by the Organiser, including the management of the IMO Gallery, and subsequently forwarded to the Jury for evaluation.

The Jury will evaluate works in two stages:

1. Preliminary qualification for the exhibition based on electronic submissions;
2. Awarding of prizes and distinctions based on the original works.

The main evaluation criteria are:

- artistic value,
- originality of interpretation of the theme,
- quality of execution.

a. Deadline for submission of digital reproductions:

31 August 2026

Applications for Stage 1 may be submitted using the APPLICATION FORM available in Polish and English in Appendix No. 4 and on the website:

<https://imogaleria.pl/>

The completed, signed and scanned application form, together with electronic reproductions of works and proof of payment of the entry fee, should be sent to:
viacarpattia@imogaleria.pl

Each file should be named as follows:

Surname_First name_Title_Technique_Dimensions_Year

Example:

Kowalski_Jan_Title_acrylic on canvas_100x70x2_2025

Accepted formats:

- JPG, MP4 or MOV
- JPG files: max. 2480 × 1748 px, RGB colour mode, 300 dpi, max. 15 MB
- MP4/MOV files: max. duration 10 minutes, max. 2 GB

For intermedia and multimedia works, submissions may include a project description with dimensions and technical specifications, together with photographic documentation in one PDF file (max. 10 MB).

Materials submitted for Stage 1 will not be returned.

b. Announcement of Stage 1 results:

17 September 2026

Results will be published at:

<https://imogaleria.pl/>

c. Deadline for delivery of original works:

18 September – 19 October 2026

Shipping costs will not be reimbursed. The artist is also responsible for any insurance costs.

The shipment must include the original signed APPLICATION FORM (Appendix No. 4). Failure to provide the signed original may result in disqualification.

Shipping address:

IMO Contemporary Art Gallery
Rynek 5
33-340 Stary Sącz
Poland

The package should be marked:

“3rd VIA CARPATIA Triennial”³

d. Stage 2 evaluation and selection of laureates:

19–31 October 2026

The Jury’s decisions are final.

The Jury also reserves the right to revise decisions made during Stage 1 and exclude works from the final exhibition if they do not meet the expectations of the committee.

e. Opening of the exhibition and announcement of laureates:

30 October – 6 November 2026

f. Exhibition duration at IMO Gallery:

November 2026 – February 2027

g. Presentation at Wozownia Art Gallery in Toruń:

First half of 2027

h. Possible presentation in other galleries in Poland and abroad:

until 31 December 2027

i. Completion of return shipping of works:

until 30 April 2028

³ Replacing a submitted work with another one or altering its characteristics, such as its dimensions, shall be deemed a violation of the Competition Rules and will result in the work being excluded from the Competition.

The works should be sent in packaging that enables the organizers to return them in the same packaging. The Organizer shall not be held liable for any damage to shipments occurring during transport or resulting from improper packaging by the Participant. Submitted works should be equipped with all necessary elements enabling their installation and display.

Return of Works

The commencement of return shipping depends on the number of presentations of the Triennial in other galleries.

Artists will receive their works back no later than 30 April 2028. The return shipping schedule will be announced on the Organiser's website.

The Organiser covers return shipping costs up to PLN 200. If shipping costs exceed this amount, the additional cost shall be borne by the artist.

In such cases, the Organiser will dispatch the work after the artist transfers the supplementary amount to the indicated account.

Works may also be collected in person by prior arrangement with the Organiser.

In particular, oversized or non-standard works may require the artist's direct involvement in transport and collection.

If the artist fails to pay the supplementary amount or collect the works within the specified deadline, the works may become the property of the Organiser after a three-notice procedure and the expiry of the final collection deadline, i.e. by 31 December 2028.

Additional Provisions

§12

The Organiser reserves the right to reject works that cannot be exhibited due to technical reasons.

Submission to the Competition is equivalent to entrusting the work(s) to the Organiser until 30 April 2028.

The Organiser shall ensure conditions guaranteeing the safe exhibition of works and assumes responsibility for them from the moment of receipt until dispatch for return shipping.

In the event of damage, destruction or loss caused by the Organiser, liability is limited to PLN 5,000 (EUR 1,200) per entrusted work.

The Organiser reserves the right to amend these Regulations until the official opening of the final exhibition and announcement of the laureates, excluding participation, evaluation criteria and work return policies.

The Organiser plans to publish a catalogue including reproductions of exhibited works. Artists whose works are exhibited are entitled to two complimentary copies of the catalogue.

Submission of works to the Competition constitutes acceptance of these Regulations.

Questions concerning the Competition and these Regulations may be addressed to:
viacarpattia@imogaleria.pl

Tel. +48 18 446 18 58

General Provisions

§13

By submitting works to the Competition, the Participant grants the Organiser a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence (including the right to sublicense), without territorial limitations and for an indefinite period, covering both the duration of the Competition and its archiving and further promotion.⁴ The licence applies to photographic reproductions of works, stills from video works and excerpts from video works for purposes related to the organisation and promotion of the Competition across various fields of use. The licence applies solely to the promotion of the Competition and its outcomes and does not include commercial use.

By submitting an application, participants consent to the processing of their personal data by the Organiser solely for the purposes necessary for proper administration of the Competition, in accordance with GDPR Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Submission of a work to the Competition constitutes confirmation that:

- the submitted works were created personally by the participant,
- the participant accepts these Regulations,
- the works do not infringe the rights of third parties, including copyright and related rights.

Should any third party assert claims arising from infringement of such rights, the submitting party shall fully indemnify the Organiser against all resulting claims, damages and costs.

This Competition is not a game of chance within the meaning of the Polish Act of 29 July 1992 on Games of Chance and Mutual Betting.

§14

These Regulations shall be governed by Polish law.

Any disputes shall be settled by the court competent for the registered office of the Organiser.

APPENDIX NO. 1

3rd Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA 2026–27. Theme

The motto of the 3rd edition of the international VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial is a quotation from Olga Tokarczuk's *Tender Narrator*:

“Tenderness is the mode of looking that shows the world as alive, living, interconnected, cooperating and interdependent.”

Referring to the ideas of the Polish Nobel Prize laureate, we wish to inspire young artists from different countries of the VIA CARPATIA region to reflect visually on being in the world, everyday and

⁴ With regard to fixation and reproduction: producing an unlimited number of copies by any technique, including printing, reprographic, audiovisual, magnetic recording, and digital techniques; with regard to dissemination by other means: public exhibition, display, performance, broadcasting and rebroadcasting, including via the Internet, storage in computer memory, transmission through multimedia networks, including the Internet, as well as any other form of public access enabling anyone to access them at a place and time of their choosing.

life choices, shared responsibility, interdependence and community, while emphasising the affirmation of existence in its various forms.

We wish to draw attention to tenderness as one of the modes of perceiving the world and to the need for particular sensitivity towards various manifestations of what is fragile and endangered.

The universal message of the Triennial and its final exhibition will allow for the creation of a meaningful and timely whole, interpreted through a multiplicity of individual perspectives and cultural contexts.

Interpretation of the motto is entirely at the artist's discretion and may be realised using any chosen artistic medium.

APPENDIX NO. 2

3rd Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA 2026–27. Technical notes regarding artworks

Dimensions of submitted works:

Two-dimensional works:

The maximum dimensions of a single element are 150 cm × 240 cm. If the work consists of multiple elements, each element may not exceed the dimensions specified above. If the work is composed of a larger number of elements, it may be submitted as a single work provided that its display area does not exceed 340 cm × 720 cm.

Three-dimensional works:

The required exhibition space may not exceed 250 × 200 × 300 cm. During transport, the work must fit within dimensions of 125 cm (width) × 240 cm (length) × 150 cm (height).

Digital works:

The duration of any projection may not exceed 10 minutes.

Any intention to submit a large-format work with non-standard dimensions/parameters should be consulted with the Organizer, who may decide whether to include it in the exhibition. The artist is responsible for the delivery and collection/return of such works.

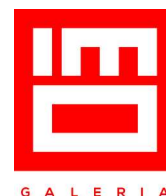
APPENDIX NO. 3

3rd Art Triennale VIA CARPATIA 2026–27. AREA

The name VIA CARPATIA defines the geographical scope of the Triennial, encompassing dozens of European regions located along the real and symbolic communication axis stretching from Klaipėda on the Baltic Sea to Thessaloniki on the Aegean Sea.

Within the sphere of its social, cultural, and economic influence are areas located in the following countries: Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Greece. Due to the ongoing armed conflict, artists from Russia and artists residing in Belarus are excluded from participation in the 3rd VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial 2026–2027.

The competition area includes regions directly or indirectly connected with the VIA CARPATIA corridor, understood both as an infrastructural transport route and as a space for cultural, social, and



Application Form

Surname and first name / name of the artistic group and its members, indicating the person representing the group	Address	
Contact telephone number	e-mail	Year of Birth

Submitted Works

Lp.	Title of the Artwork	Technique	Dimention	Year of creation
1				
2				
3				

I declare that the submitted works were created by me personally and that I have read the regulations of the 3rd VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial, edition 2026–27, and accept their terms and conditions.

I graduated from the following art school / I am studying at the following art school / I belong to the following organization of professional artists. Please underline the appropriate option and provide the name:

.....

My connections with the Competition area are: place of residence, place of birth, place of study, other. Please underline the appropriate option and, in the case of "other," specify which.

.....

.....
Date, signature of the Author



Consent to the Processing of Personal Data

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, we hereby inform you that:

The controller of personal data is the Centrum Kultury i Sztuki im. Ady Sari w Starym Sączu, Rynek 5, 33-340 Stary Sącz.

The Personal Data Protection Officer is the Director of the CKiS in Stary Sącz – Wojciech Knapik, contact via e-mail: ckisstarysacz@gmail.com

1. Personal data are collected for the purpose of carrying out the 3rd VIA CARPATIA Art Triennial, edition 2026–27, which includes their processing and publication in various media in accordance with the Regulations.
2. Personal data may be made available to entities authorized to process personal data under applicable legal provisions.
3. Personal data are collected for archival purposes.
4. Participants of cultural events organized by the Centrum Kultury i Sztuki im. Ady Sari w Starym Sączu have the right to access the content of their data and to correct, rectify, delete, object to the processing of personal data, transfer personal data, and lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority.
5. Providing personal data is voluntary, but necessary for the implementation of the above-mentioned purposes of data collection.
6. Personal data will be processed for the period required under applicable legal regulations.

Having read the information provided above, I consent to the processing of my personal data for the purposes and according to the principles specified in the above Consent.

.....

Date, signature of the Author