



RULES

XX International Art Competition „The Garden of Beauty, Kindness and Joy. Birds”

Organizers:

Mr Ludomir Handzel Mayor of Nowy Sącz
Youth Palace in Nowy Sącz, Poland

2026 theme: Birds.

This year's edition is dedicated to birds. Over 10,000 bird types are found all across the world. Birds are incredible creatures that bring colour, pattern and sound to our landscape.

They come in all shapes and sizes. Some birds are massive, while others can fit in the palm of our hand. Some are beautiful, some – powerful and dangerous, others (hens, ducks, geese or turkeys) - offer unique benefits to farmers and their land.

We encourage young artists to portray birds of their choice.

Age requirement

This juried art competition is open to children and youth aged **5 -19**.

A sister city is allowed to submit **ten pieces of art** of each category (age group) after a careful selection:

I category – children aged 5 -7

II category – children aged 8 -11

III category – youth aged 12 – 15

IV category – youth aged 16 – 19.

Medium and format

1. The work can be expressed in any still medium. Acceptable examples of media include, but are not limited to: painting, drawing, photography, digital art, collage, mixed media.
2. A chosen medium ought to be flat. The maximum format for an entry is **50 × 70 cm**.
3. Each contestant must be the creator of the art submitted to the competition. It must not be a copy of anyone else's copyrighted material.

Judging criteria

The art will be judged on three primary artistic elements: creativity, skill, expression and if it fits the theme of the competition.

The judges will be looking for works which present the young artist's unique interpretation of the theme – birds and how colours define their works.

The judges' decision is final.

Submission deadlines

All artworks must be submitted until **March 13, 2026**.

Their original work should be sent by post to: **Pałac Młodzieży, Rynek 14, 33-300 Nowy Sącz Poland („Birds”)**

Artist notification

Certificates will be awarded to those young artists **from international sister cities** who will receive First Place, Second Place, Third Place and Honorable Mention.

Winners will be notified by e-mail and on our website on **March 21, 2026**. All winning entries will be displayed in art exhibition in Youth Palace and on our website in the **“Multimedia Gallery”**.

Application form

1. Mail-in entries must be accompanied by one [Application Form](#) per artist.
2. Each artwork must be clearly marked with the artist's name, age and the contact on a label stuck on the back.
3. Only properly marked works, together with fully completed Application Forms will be accepted.

Terms

1. By entering this competition you are granting us a license to exhibit, reproduce, copy and print images of your artwork on our website and in our newsletters for the purpose of promoting the art competition to the general public.
2. Artworks will not be used for any other purpose than that which is stated here.
3. The works are not returned.

Please send all questions regarding the competition to the coordinator Lucyna Urbańska at:

l.urbanska@palacmlodziezy.pl

