

# ART WINNERS

Art competitions, prizes,  
awards and opportunities

Eric d'Espiguers

*Ars vivens*

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## Key findings

- ◆ 120 high-level art competitions that are the most representative of current art trends. The number of these national and international competitions in the field of plastic arts has increased from 30 to 120 in twenty years. That is to say 4 new artistic competitions created each year.
- ◆ 104 competitions are endowed, 16 competitions are honorary.
- ◆ The artistic competitions have total annual endowments equal to €6,788,000 (\$7,543,000) distributed to the prize-winning artists. On average, a competition awards the winner €65,000 (\$72,500). In Europe, Swiss competitions are the most generous, offering €74,200 (\$82,500). The average European endowment equals €38,300 (\$42,600). In the United States, it rises to €84,000 (\$93,800).
- ◆ Of the competitions selected, 41 (34%) are exploration competitions in search of new emerging talents, 52 (43%) are confirmation competitions that crown the most active and renowned artists, 27 (22%) are consecration competitions that establish the preponderance and influence of the most important artists of the time.
- ◆ Nearly 20% of the competitions (23 out of 120) are totally open, a remarkable fact for competitions of this level. Artists apply freely if they

## Art winners

meet the conditions laid down in the rules. The other competitions provide for more or less binding arrangements, ranging from open selection from a wide panel of experts to a very restrictive invitation.

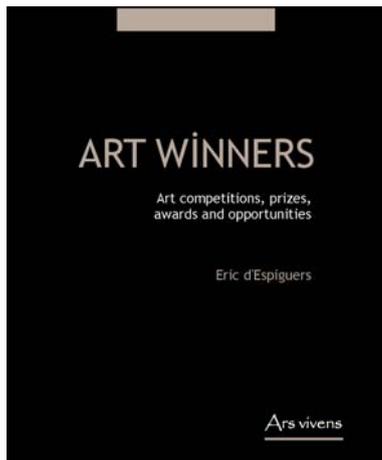
- ◆ Approximately 5,000 quality competitions take place worldwide every year. They select more than 15,000 artists from the shortlist and crown nearly 7,000, with some competitions having one, two or even three winners.

- ◆ Winning artists receive an average of €3,400 per competition, including monetary prizes and material benefits (calculated from panels and surveys covering more than 60 countries). This amount remains indicative, as there are wide disparities between countries and geographical areas. It will be higher in the United States and Europe than in Asia, Africa or Latin America.

- ◆ Each year, we estimate that 150 artists are distinguished by these high-level competitions. They receive an average of €65,000 (\$72,500) plus numerous benefits in kind: publication of a catalogue, organisation of often prestigious exhibitions, invitation in residence, production and/or acquisition of works, etc. Invaluable career accelerators, these aids and support can represent tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars.

- ◆ Artistic competitions and awards are now among the most objective and appreciated instances of legitimization of contemporary art.

- ◆ The results of the competitions mirror the purely commercial classifications of artists, confirming or relativizing the ratings and evaluations.



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Art competitions, prizes, awards and opportunities ♦ 2020

Artistic competitions are now among the most objective and appreciated instances of legitimization of contemporary art. Their results refine the purely commercial rankings of artists, confirming or relativizing the ratings and evaluations.

Their endowments and awards also provide substantial resources and income and exhibition opportunities for artists.

This book is a reasoned selection of the 120 best and more endowed of the world's artistic competitions and prizes, distributing over \$7,500,000 in rewards, with their access conditions, their endowments and the list of past and present laureates and winners. This extraordinary work lists more than a thousand artists who are or will be making the contemporary art of tomorrow. Result of a rigorous methodology developed within the *Arte fideis institute*, it offers:

- artists essential information on the most eminent paths to fame and to success in the art world.
- art lovers, collectors and art professionals a tool to appreciate and anticipate the best trends in contemporary art.

#Author - Dr Eric d'Espiguers is an author and professor, after having been the director of an economic evaluation centre and then a wealth strategy consultant specialising in art. He is notably the author of *Art and investment* and *Art prices and value* published by Ars vivens.

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