

Regulations on the International Art and Ecological Project “In My Homeland”

Generalities

The project began in 2001, when the Green Cross Belarus NGO (GCB) initiated, organised and held the 1st Republican Festival for Schoolchildren and students “Earth Day. Belarus”. The festival included the following contests: Art, Fine Arts, Literature, Photography, Eco-journalism, Performing arts, and environmental projects. The festival was successful and became an annual event. In the process of its further development, the artistic direction grew rapidly, which by 2005 had transformed into the International Art and Ecological Project “In My Homeland”.

The project has an annual cycle that begins with the publication of the contests’ terms in May of each year and ends with the award ceremony in April of the following year and the mailing and electronic distribution of diplomas and thank-you letters.

Organisers and partners

Green Cross Belarus NGO with the support of the Green Cross International, Science and Practical Center for Bioresources of the National Academy of Science of Belarus, International Union of Teachers-Artists.

Over the years, the project's partners have also been the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, ROSSOTRUDNICHESTVO, the Swiss Green Cross, the Russian Green Cross, the magazine "Art School", the magazine "Vvedenskaya Storona", the magazine "Artclass", the State Educational Institution "Republican Ecological Center for Children and Youth", Art Gallery "University of culture", Belprint publishing house and others.

Project overall objectives

1. To present the results of children's creativity to a wide audience and attract the attention of the public and specialists.
2. Create a fund for creative works of children and youth from different countries.
3. To draw the attention of the new generation to their native land, its values, beauty, traditions, and care for it.
4. Contribute to strengthening international cooperation and good neighborliness.

Project specific objectives

- Formation of a collection of children and youth creative works from different countries and regions for analytical, methodological and exhibition activities.

- Actualisation of the role of the teacher-artist in the educational process. Preservation and development of traditions of national and regional art education.
- Search, support and promotion of young talented artists, presenting their work to a wide audience.
- Presentation and dissemination of the successful experience of art teachers.
- Promotion of the value of a high-quality visual environment in various spheres of human activity.
- Encouraging authors and viewers to deeply understand and rethink the processes taking place around them based on a value-based attitude towards their surrounding life, nature and traditions.
- Formation of a common artistic and pedagogical environment through international conferences, exhibitions, webinars, workshops, plein-air, meetings, round tables and other events, including international ones, using materials from the project and its participants.
- Support and mutual information promotion of partner contests, creative initiatives and other events of the participating project participants.

Participants

- Schools, art schools and studios.
- Museums, galleries, exhibition halls, libraries, creative clubs.
- Children and youth, parents and families.
- Wide audience of participating countries.

Project Contests:

- Art Contest;
- Cartoons and Strip-Films;
- Photography.

General information about contests

Over the past time within the Project 21 editions of the International Art and Graphics Contest was held. More than 212 thousand children from 61 countries took part in the Contest. Permanent participants are art schools and studios from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Hungary, Germany, Hong Kong, Greece, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Canada, Qatar, Kenya, China, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Moldova, Namibia, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates United Arab Emirates, Poland, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Philippines, Croatia, Sri Lanka, Estonia.

Annually, about 10,000 works from more than 30 countries come to the Project contests, more than 70 young artists take part in the award ceremony and the opening of the final exhibition.

All information about the contests – the Terms, the Jury List, the lists of winners, the electronic exhibition of works – is published on the official website of the organiser in the "Projects" section (<https://greencross.by/ru/projects/7/news>),

and also on the official website of the project (www.children-art.org).

The Terms of the 22nd International Art and Graphics Contest “In My Homeland” is in Annex 1.

The Terms of the 12th International Cartoon Contest is in Annex 2.

Contests Jury

The Jury consists of professional artists, art teachers, animation artists and directors from Belarus, Russia and other countries, art historians, representatives of museums and galleries. The Organising Committee determines the composition of the contest Jury, including the chairman and secretary of the jury, and publishes it on the project's information resources no later than one month before the start of the jury's work.

The Jury reviews the works annually in February (4-5 days). The viewing is conducted openly, and the decision on awarding is made by the jury members collectively based on criteria and experience gained over the previous years of the project. (see Annex 3).

Observation Council

The members of the Observation Council may be representatives of art educational institutions, artists, representatives of museums, exhibition galleries and venues.

The task of each member of the Observation Council is to review the competitive works that were not included in the number of winners according to the results of the general jury vote, and create their own mini-exhibition. These mini-exhibitions are discussed at the conference of artists and teachers just after the end of the jury's work. The importance of such an independent professional choice lies in the opportunity to see and discuss an alternative point of view.

Summing up the results

The number of winners in each of the contests is not limited. The jury awards the Grand Prix (at the discretion of the jury), Diplomas of I, II, III degrees and Thank-You Letters.

Members of the Jury and/or the Observation Council may be granted the right to award a Special Diploma from a certain Jury member and/or the Observation Council member by decision of the organising committee of the contests.

The project partners have the right to propose additional nominations and award their own Diplomas.

Summing up the results of the competition takes place just after the jury's work completion. The secretary of the jury prepares the protocol, the members of the jury sign the protocol.

The lists of winners are published on the project's information resources during April, at least one week before the award ceremony and the opening of the final exhibition.

Resolution or final document

Based on the results of the work, the members of the International Jury and Observation Council together with the representatives of the Organising Committee can adopt a resolution to share the conclusions and identified problems with the organisers of children's art competitions, teachers and administrators of participating schools, heads of children's art studios. The document is published on the project's resources.

Exhibition

The final exhibition of the Art and Graphics Contest begins its work annually in April in the gallery of the GCB center (Smolevichi district, Minsk region).

Within the framework of the exhibition, the best films of the Cartoon Contest are shown. Then cartoons are available for viewing on the GCB website at <https://greencross.by/ru/projects/7/video-gallery>.

The exhibition is on display until the end of the calendar year. Upon completion of the exhibition in the gallery of the GCB center, it can be transferred for temporary exhibition at the sites of partners and interested art institutions.

The electronic exhibition is published on the project's information resources and is available at <https://greencross.by/ru/projects/7/exhibitions>.

Over all previous Project period, the works of the Contest winners have been exhibited at the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, the Bundestag in Germany, the State Duma of Russia, the Podlaska Gallery in Poland, the Andrei Sheptytsky National Museum in Lviv, the Museum of Books and Typography of Ukraine in the Kiev Pechersk Lavra. In May 2011, the exhibition of the International Art and Graphics Contest "In My Homeland" was held in Strasbourg (France) during the 10th session of the Council of Europe on Cultural Issues. In 2009 and 2010 printed catalogues of the Art and Graphics Contest were published. They included the works of the winners, as well as photographs and reflections by members of the international jury.

Golden Collection

Since 2025, the Golden Collection of the Art and Graphics Contest has been formed. The members of the Observation Council annually select up to 70 works from among the winners of previous years. Currently, 140 works from among the winners of 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 have been selected for the Golden Collection of the contest.

The Golden Fund forms a methodological exhibition and is transferred to partners and interested institutions upon request.

Organisers Rights

The organisers reserve the right to use the originals and copies of the works for the promotion, support and development of the contest, as well as in methodological and charitable activities without the consent of the author and without payment of royalties.

Conference

The International Conference of Art Educators is held in February just after jury complete their work.

Conference objectives:

- summing up the results of contest jury work;
- discussing of the actual topics on art education;
- sharing of experience and top practices of teaching art;
- establishing cooperation between art educational institutions.

Conference participants: heads, methodologists and teachers of art schools and studios, teachers of higher art educational institutions, specialists in the field of fine arts, art history researchers and representatives of art magazines from Belarus, Russia and other countries.

The Organising Committee prepares conference information letter, sends it to interested parties by e-mail and publishes on the project's information resources no later than three months before the conference start.

The Organising Committee determines the venue of the conference, forms the program and publishes it on the information resources of the project no later than two weeks before the conference start.

The conference can include reviews, exhibitions of art teachers, workshops, and guided tours to art educational institutions and galleries in Minsk.

Conference materials (presentations, theses, recordings of speeches) are published on the information resources of the project.

Thematic events

Thematic exhibitions based on the results of the contest, creative laboratories, plein-airs, workshops, discussions, trips can be held in consultation with partners and interested institutions of an artistic profile.

The events could be organized in face-to-face, distant or mixed formats. Information, terms for participants, programs and results are published on the information resources of the project.

Preliminary list of the thematic events is in Annex 4 (updated).

During previous Project period, the most significant thematic events were the International Artistic Plein Air "Roll Call of the Centuries: 1812-2012", dedicated to the events of the Russian company of Napoleon (2012); the International Summer Plein Air and the 1st International socio-scientific Readings "Roll Call of the Centuries: The First World War and the World Today" (2013); the 2nd International socio-scientific readings "Roll call of centuries: The First World War and the world today" (2014); International cross-border artistic plein air "Dneprovsky Ferry" (2016).

Organising Committee

1	Chairman	Shevtsov V.S.	Minsk, Belarus
2	Project manager	Sviatkina N.A.	Minsk, Belarus
3	Secretary	Popova E.V.	Minsk, Belarus
4	Manager Assistant	Zhukovskaya Yu.R.	Barysau, Belarus
5	Art Expert	Vyhonnaya A.A.	Minsk, Belarus

6 Members

Representatives of the artistic educational institutions, museums and other organisations from different countries

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Terms of the 22nd International Art and Graphics Contest “In My Homeland”

Green Cross Belarus NGO with the support of the Green Cross International, Science and Practical Center for Bioresources of the National Academy of Science of Belarus, International Union of Teachers-Artists announces 22nd International contest-exhibition “In My Homeland”.

Contest themes:

- **“In My Homeland”** – traditional free theme of the contest.
- **“Dedicated to Petrov-Vodkin”**

2028 will mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of the famous Russian artist Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin. Not everyone knows that he wrote two excellent autobiographical novels: "Khlynovsk" and "Euclid's Space". In "Euclid's Space", the artist talks about the search for his creative method, about the discovery of a new perception of space. We strongly recommend reading them!

We suggest you to do your creative work using the system of space that Petrov-Vodkin created in his works (spherical perspective), his color scheme. **NOT a copy** of the artist's work or a portrait against the background of his work, but **yours own**.

- **“Me and...”**

This nomination is not just a SELF-PORTRAIT, but about your favorite places, events and situations.: "I'm at the theater, I'm at the museum, I'm in the open air, I'm with friends, I'm at home, me and my journey...". I'm in that place or with those people where I'm interested. It will be good if your creative work will be not only well organised and executed, but also convey your passion to the audience.

- **“Disappearing Nature: Keepsake pictures”** (together with SPC for Bioresources of the National Academy of Science of Belarus)

The disappearing landscapes of the small Homeland are most vulnerable to climate change. The flora and fauna of open habitats – meadows, steppes, swamps, deserts – was under special threat in the era of the sixth global extinction. Biologists note that in recent decades, against the background of rising global temperatures around the world, biodiversity has been declining at an alarming rate. Scientists have found that most terrestrial cold-blooded organisms are not sufficiently resistant to high temperatures to survive in open habitats. Insects were in the greatest danger. Since insects perform central functions among terrestrial animals as pollinators, consumers of living plants, and utilizers of dead organic matter, their disappearance affects the rest of the natural world, primarily swamps, meadows, steppes, and deserts.

Let's try to preserve this world in our paintings!

Please pay special attention to the species from the Red Book of your region.

In works on this theme, in addition to reproducing the appearance of animals and plants, there should be a plot reflecting the interactions between the characters inside.

It will also be interesting if you can convey the recognition of a particular place in your work!

As an example, we suggest you get acquainted with the works of the artist John James Audubon.

The nomination is conducted in partnership with the SPC for Bioresources of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Additional diplomas from the partner will be awarded in this nomination and an exhibition will be organised at the Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

- **“Art in the process” – photographic nomination for young artists**

About where and how creative people grow up, about clubs, studios and interesting schools. About young artists, musicians, artists, craftsmen, inventors, ballerinas, gymnasts, figure skaters, photographers... and about their teachers. About everything related to creativity in and outside of school, about imaginations, performances, experiments, open-air performances, self-trials, aspirations and experiences – in general, about a young life filled with creativity.

Entries for this nomination are accepted only in electronic form via the form on the website (to be published on the website on October 1, 2026). The image resolution must be at least 2000 pixels on the smaller side.

The photo must be taken by the author.

Color and monochrome images taken during the same shooting that have a common graphic content (duplicates) are not considered.

It is not allowed to collage or add labels/elements to the original image. Images generated using AI are not accepted for consideration..

Suggested techniques (optional):

Contemporary art is dynamic – artists incessantly come up with new drawing techniques that help them to better reflect the world around us and their attitude to it.

We suggest our contest applicants try their hand at **collage**, as well as remember the somewhat neglected **technique of lead or color pencil drawing**.

Collage (participants' age from 10 to 18 y.o.)

Conventionality! Symbolism! Generalization! Experiment! Collage presents a new way of depicting both familiar themes and new ones as well as of expressing our emotional attitude to the things we depict.

Have you ever noticed how much our life resembles a collage? Isn't it, like a collage, made up of various bits and pieces: home, family, school, friends, love, hobbies, travels, conversations, music, films, etc? Each of these numerous pieces has its own size, emotional value, color, shape, texture, and significance we allocate to it depending on the role it plays in the canvas of our life.

By the way, the name collage originates from the French word meaning TO GLUE. There are a few different forms of collage – paper, magazine, art and even floral. This technique allows gluing, layering and combining totally different elements as long as it agrees with the author's concept.

When one starts a collage, the result is impossible to predict. How will fragments of color paper, cardboard and newspaper come together in each particular project? This is an amazing opportunity for experiment. **There is no answer or prearranged solution!**

Pencil drawing technique

This technique is not particularly popular with young artists probably due to its association with tedious hours of sketching in the classroom. By creating a separate nomination for this technique we would like to emphasize its potential. It is not only the general color scheme of your drawing but also a variety of stroke methods that can enhance the expressive impact of your work even if it has been created with an ordinary lead pencil.

Using color pencils/crayons can be exciting, too! For instance, you can mix colors by covering one layer with another or by interspersing strokes of different colors. What is more, the untouched areas of the paper you use might become an element of your composition.

Tip: take your time to study works by famous graphic illustrators in order to know more about/master the pencil drawing technique.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

1/ Возраст участников ОТ 5 ДО 18 ЛЕТ включительно.

1. 2/ Artwork should be creative, original and performed entirely by its author in the current year. **NB. ALL ARTWORKS WILL BE CHECKED FOR PLAGIARISM.**

NB. РАБОТЫ ПРОХОДЯТ ПРОВЕРКУ НА ПЛАГИАТ! WE RECOMMEND YOU TO CHECK WORKS FOR PLAGIARISM LOCALLY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR WORK TO THE CONTEST.

3/ Artwork dimensions are at the author's discretion, no framing.

4/ Original works are submitted to the contest. A REGISTRATION FORM is pasted on the back of each work. The form must be filled out on a computer or by hand in legible block letters.

[Download the form](#)

5/ No works will be criticized or returned to their authors. The contest organisers reserve the right to use the originals and copies of the artworks to popularize and promote the contest as well as for their educational and charitable activities without asking for the author's consent or paying the author's fee.

APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED FROM OCTOBER 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.

WORKS are to BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING POSTAL ADDRESS:

Non-governmental Organization «Green Cross Belarus»
Contest «In My Homeland»
222201, Minsk oblast, Smolevichi, the Republic of Belarus

(The provided postal address is complete. The works will be picked up directly from the post office by the organizers.)

We ask all the participants to use the services of REGULAR or EMS post. DO NOT INDICATE the value (price) of the goods on parcels.

RESULTS OF THE CONTEST:

The jury will consider all applications in February 2027 and name winners / diploma recipients in all nominations. The awarded works will be used to compile an exhibition and presented on the [GCB website](#).

The 22nd INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF ART AND GRAPHICS «IN MY HOMELAND» is to be opened in April 2027.

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Terms of the 12th International Cartoon Contest

New time brings new opportunities. Digital photos and computers facilitated greatly the hard work on filming cartoons and opened a page of animated cartoons made at school and home. Currently, there is a unique niche for little and young artists and their teachers to express their creative ideas in a form of a cartoon and a strip-film.

In 2027 we will be glad to see the art works at the **FREE topic**. Also this year we are announcing an experimental Computer Animation theme.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

1/ The contest work should be made in stop-motion technology with the use of any materials. Works made using computer graphics are considered only in the topic of Computer animation. Works created with the help of AI are not considered.

2/ Technical requirements for a work: no more than 5 minutes, resolution of at least 720x576 for the frame size of 4:3 or 720x480 for the frame size of 16:9; a recommended codec is H.264

3/ Who can participate:

- Creative teams of art schools, schools of arts, colleges of arts, art studios;
- Family creative groups;
- Separate participants made the whole work by themselves.

Young people, aged 5-18, have to be creators of the works.

4/ The work should be captioned with the title, author(s), materials used with indication of the author and title (musical compositions, film fragments, paintings, drawings, etc.), place and year of publication.

5/ Works in foreign languages should have subtitles in Russian, Belarusian or English.

6/ The work is sent to the contest via special free file-sharing services (for example: drive.google.com, cloud.mail.ru, www.dropbox.com, disk.yandex.ru). The link is indicated in the registration form.

[Fill in the registration form](#)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE WORKS – JANUARY 15, 2027.

RESULTS OF THE CONTEST:

The jury board will include animation artists, directors, artists, artists-teachers and other animation experts.

The jury will consider the works submitted for the Contest in February 2027 and name winners / diploma recipients. Works of winners will be shown during the work of the International Conference of Artists-Teachers in Minsk and at the opening ceremony of the exhibition “In My Homeland” which is to be held in April 2027. Moreover, they will be available in the electronic gallery of art and animation works on the official website of the Contest “In My Homeland”.

The Organizers retain the right to reproduce the submitted works in order to promote and develop the Contest and to use in methodical activities without the author's consent.

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Resolution on the results of the XXI International Art and Graphics Contest “In My homeland” jury work

The authors of the resolution are members of the independent jury and the observatory council, teachers and artists from different cities of Russia and Belarus.

In the process of evaluating the works, the jury members came to the following conclusions and identified problems that they would like to share with the organisers of children's art competitions, teachers and administrators of participating schools, and heads of children's art studios.

About the “In My Homeland” Contest Objectives

- Creating an atmosphere of trust between the participants, due to:
 - the open position and the presence of a Observatory Council composed of a wide range of representatives from different schools and regions;
 - the opportunity to discuss potential winning jobs during selection process.
 - relying on a proven circle of experienced experts with rotation.
- Formation of a discussion platform for understanding the modern problems of children's and youth art education.
- The language of culture provides an opportunity for fruitful communication and cooperation between representatives of different regions, peoples and countries, promotes the emergence of horizontal links between educational institutions and teachers.

The jury highly appreciates:

- The completeness of the art sheet.
- Creative idea and creative execution of work.
- Rhythmic and tonal organization of the image.
- Conscious format solution and placement of the objects.
- Expressiveness of silhouette, character, emotion.

Problems:

- Among the contest entries, works made in watercolor, simple pencil, colored pencils, and soft materials became "disappearing".
- The contest receives works from the same school or teacher that are monotonous in technique, idea, and composition.
- Works based on exercises from online resources, works by artists, or any subjects previously recreated by an adult, child, or artificial intelligence.
- Child's lack of independent preparing of work.
- There are schools and teachers who have found successful techniques, cliches, methods, and may be afraid to try new things and experiment, i.e. they allow self-citation every year.
- It is necessary to use markers and markers consciously and justifiably as a technique for children's creativity.

Errors noted by the jury:

- Lack of a clear plot – the viewer does not understand what is depicted and why.
- Disorder of the rhythm of spots and tone relationships.

- Random cropping of shapes, objects, architecture along the edges of the sheet. Fragmentation is acceptable only as a conscious artistic method for expressing an idea, and not because it "didn't fit".
- An ill-conceived color scheme – a random set of local colors without a common coloristic solution.
- Schematic faces – lack of character and emotion, faceless "template" faces.
- Poorly fixed pastel, soft material in the absence of tracing paper – the work crumbles.
- In printed graphics: cropping of margins, non-printing, shifts, creases.
- The use of technology for the sake of technology itself, for the sake of effect, and not for the sake of expressing the idea.

Conclusion:

- A more thorough selection of works at the school or studio level is required.
- It is not recommended to submit incomplete works, exercises, technical defects (for printed graphics), or low-level work to the contest.

Plan of the thematic events of the International Art and Ecological Project “In My Homeland” for 2026–2027

- International children’s plein air (GCB center, June 9-10, 2026)
- Creative laboratory for artists-teachers (GCB center, June 20-28, 2026)