

OPEN CALL

YOUNG SYRIAN ART AWARD 2023

This year, the Takla Foundation is announcing the 2023 Prize for Young Syrian Art under the umbrella word **Utopia**.

The word **utopia** comes from the Greek and means "nowhere" or "without a place" or "good place". We use utopia in our language as a term for something that may be conceivable but may not or may not yet, be true.

Nevertheless, art opens up unexpected possibilities to formulate, shape and make visible these visions. Utopias give people hope and encouragement even in difficult times.

Time and again it was art that in history had both prophetic character and formulated visions of a new world.

Conditions:

The Takla Stiftung (Takla Foundation) is dedicated to promoting contemporary Syrian art.

In 2023, the foundation will award a sponsorship prize for young artists, which will be linked to an exhibition in 2024 in the House of Syrian Art in Bremen. The prize is endowed with a total of 5000 euros, with the 1st prize winner receiving 2500 euros, the 2nd prize winner 1500 euros and the 3rd prize winner 1000 euros.

Jury

A three-person jury (art historian, artist and director of the House of Syrian Art) decides on the award and participation in the exhibition. The selected applicants are represented in the exhibition with one or more works. There is no entitlement to the presentation of all submitted works. The jury decides on the award of the prize and the works on display. The winner will be announced at the opening of the exhibition in February 2024.

Application

The Takla Stiftung (Takla Foundation's) sponsorship award for young Syrian art is aimed at young artists of Syrian origin who are not older than 40 years (as of November 30, 2023). They should provide evidence of an artistic degree or full-time work as a freelance artist. Up to five works can be submitted (paintings, drawings, graphics, photography, sculpture and video art as images by e-mail to **Kunstpreis2023@Takla-Stiftung.org** (subject: **Art Prize 2023**).

The submission deadline for the application is November 30th, 2023. The application should contain a short CV with an artist statement on the work (idea sketch), contact details, images of the works as jpg files and information on the title, material, technique and dimensions.

Formats: Attention!

Paintings must not exceed 100 cm in width and must be rolled. Paper works should not be larger than A1. Sculptures are only possible in small and light formats (hand luggage).

Sequence

The notification about participation in the exhibition will be made by 15.12.2023. The shortlisted artists are asked to either deliver their works to the exhibition venue by February 15, 2024, or, if necessary, to hand them over to an agreed location in Damascus, on which will be informed promptly on the Foundation's website. After the end of the exhibition, the return will be organized according to individual agreement. **By submitting the application, the conditions of participation are accepted. The legal process is excluded.**

The prize consists of a one-off payment of prize money and participation in a group exhibition in the House of Syrian Art in Bremen.

ANNEXES:

Utopias can also be understood as a drive for social inventions in a desirable future. The journalist, publicist and one of the first futurologists Robert Jungk (1913-94) advocated the democratization of utopian thinking by promoting the imagination and understood this as a political means of not drowning into passivity and resignation in the face of social crises. The future workshop concept he developed includes a utopia phase.

In view of the global crisis situation at national and international level, the Takla Foundation would like to set UTOPIA as the theme for this year's award for young Syrian art. Since the utopian intention is a deeply human quality that simply belongs to human beings, no matter what the situation in life, it can be found in every form of artistic expression.