

Combine24



1.3.2024 — 31.5.2024

A generative art competition hosted by the Finnish National Gallery

1. GENERAL

COMPETITION PROGRAMME AND RULES

The Finnish National Gallery is hosting an open generative art competition **Combine24** as part of the Digital Finnish National Gallery programme. The aim of the competition is to seek out new generative artworks that incorporate the Finnish National Gallery's CC0 licensed collection data and blockchain technology. The competition is arranged in two phases.

A Webinar related to the competition will be organised on Friday, 1 March 2024.

A recording of the webinar will be made available on the competition website:

combine24.alusta.art

1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The competition is a general and open international generative art competition for all natural persons or working groups consisting of natural persons. However, the Finnish National Gallery excludes from the competition any artist or group of artists which is (a) subject to an international sanction (see [Sanctions - Foreign Ministry \(um.fi\)](#)); or (b) burdened by one of the following exclusion criteria: involvement in or financing of organised criminal activity, terrorism and/or human trafficking, money laundering and/or art forgery in the five years prior to 2024.

Participants confirm that they have read and understood the aforementioned conditions of exclusion from the competition and that none of the conditions apply to the participant. Participants undertake to provide the Finnish National Gallery with all the additional information necessary to verify the matter upon request. In unclear situations, the Finnish National Gallery reserves the right to exclude the participant or participants in question from the competition.

1.2 PRIZES

The competition has three prizes. One winner is selected for each prize:

1. First prize (€10,000)
2. Second prize (€8,000)
3. Audience favourite (€5,000)

The winners of the first and second prizes are selected by an international jury of experts (more information in section 1.3). The winner of the Audience Favourite prize is selected through an open vote which will begin after the shortlisted works have been announced (from 1 September to 1 October 2024). The work with the most votes is chosen as the Audience Favourite winner. Competition winners for all three prizes will be announced at an event organised during the competition exhibition in early October 2024.

The Ministry of Finance has granted tax exemption for the prizes of the Combine24 competition in Finland. The tax exemption only applies to participants who are working under Finnish tax law. Participants from outside Finland are responsible for any tax liabilities.

Decree of the Ministry of Finance on the tax exemption for art competition prizes in Finland for 2024 (in Finnish): <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2023/20231153>

1.3 JURY AND SHORT-LIST COMMITTEE

The winners of the first and second prizes are selected by a Jury of international arts professionals.

A Shortlist Committee, consisting of five international art experts, will select a shortlisted set of ten finalists from eligible submissions. The identities of Shortlist Committee members will be announced by 1 March 2024.

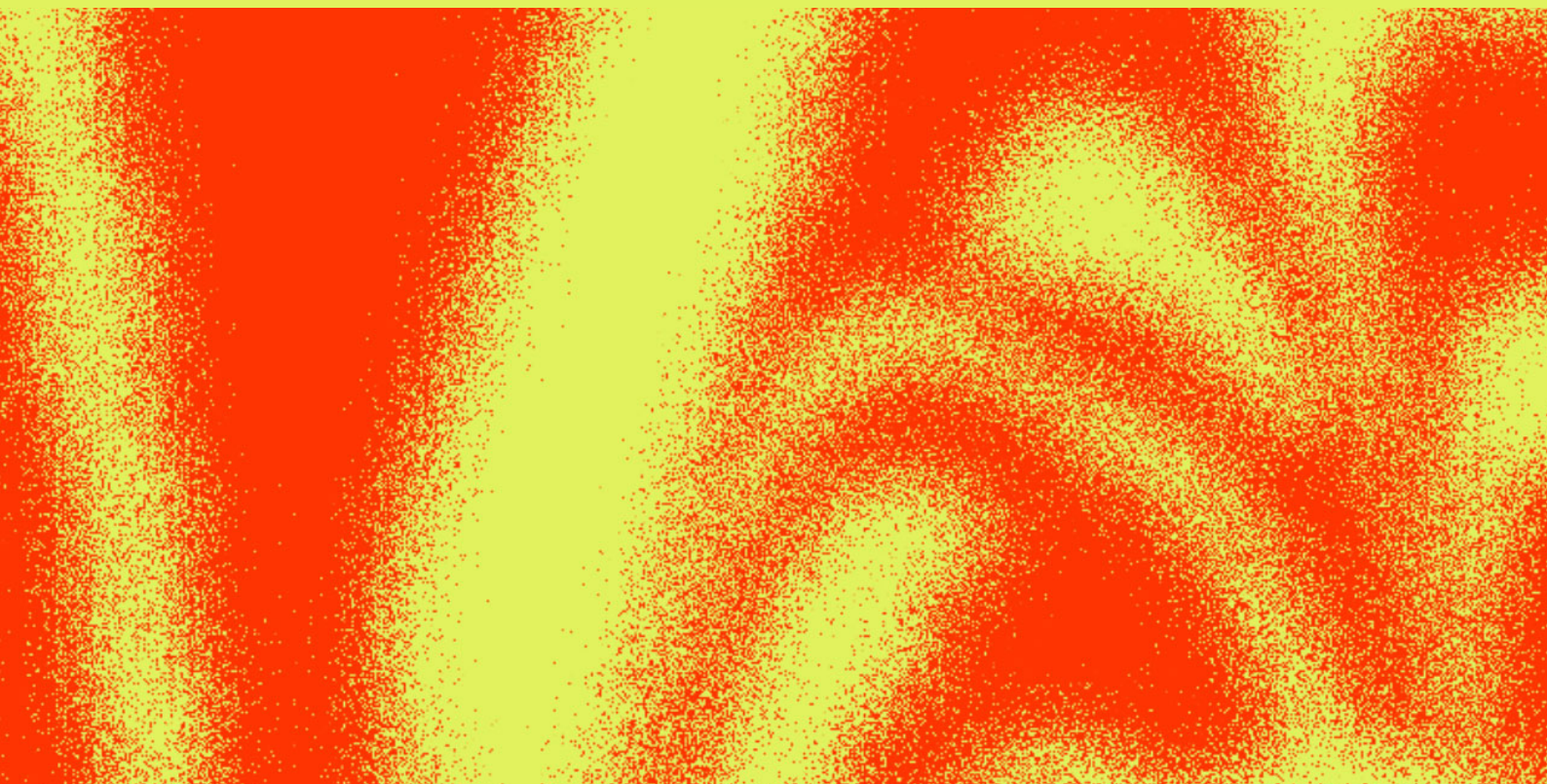
The acting secretary of the Jury and Shortlist Committee is Anna Puhakka, Community Producer at the Finnish National Gallery. The secretary does not participate in the decision making of the Jury or Shortlist Committee.

Jury and Shortlist Committee deliberations are confidential. Members of the Jury and Shortlist Committee, as well as the secretary and the competition contact person may not participate in the competition personally or by proxy. All private discussions and exchanges of views between competition participants and members of the Jury and/or Shortlist Committee on matters relating to the competition are strictly prohibited.

Any attempt by a contestant to contact a member of the Jury or Shortlist Committee regarding the competition or to influence the competition will result in immediate disqualification of such contestant. The Jury and Shortlist Committee are entitled to consult any other experts they deem necessary. The experts cannot participate in the deliberations, nor are they entitled to participate in the competition.

1.4 APPROVAL OF THE COMPETITION PROGRAMME

The competition programme and rules are approved by the Finnish National Gallery.



2. COMPETITION BRIEF

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE FINNISH NATIONAL GALLERY AND ITS COLLECTION

THE FINNISH NATIONAL GALLERY

The Finnish National Gallery is the largest art museum in Finland. The Finnish National Gallery comprises the [Ateneum Art Museum](#), the [Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma](#) and the [Sinebrychoff Art Museum](#).

In addition to its art museums, the Finnish National Gallery is responsible for: [the Finnish National Gallery collection](#) and [the Finnish State Art Commission](#) and its collection. These collections contain more than 50 000 works of art. The collections include paintings, sculptures, printmaking, photographs, installations, and films, as well as documents such as artists' letters, photographs, and sound recordings.

The collection of the Finnish National Gallery is used in the work of museums. Artworks from the collections are also on display in the country's most significant buildings, providing art experiences. A large part of the collection of the Finnish State Art Commission is on display in state-managed properties in Finland and around the world.

The Finnish National Gallery is a public foundation. Its establishment and operations are governed by the act and government decree on the Finnish National Gallery that entered into force on 1 January 2014.

[The Finnish National Gallery Act](#) (in Finnish)

[Decree on the Finnish National Gallery](#) (in Finnish)

DIGITAL FINNISH NATIONAL GALLERY PROGRAMME

The three-year programme (2022–2024) strengthens the Finnish National Gallery's expertise and creates the basis for new digital and experiential art services online. The purpose of the programme is to test new operating models and service concepts, pilot digital art experiences and look for new business opportunities arising from them. A digital ticketing service for the Finnish National Gallery was also implemented as a sub-project of the programme. The goal of the pilot programme is to create a continuous operating model from 2025 onwards.

The programme also explores what blockchain technology can bring to the art field and how art, culture and museum activities can be built communally around the opportunities brought by Web3. The international generative art competition, Combine24 will be held during the programme. The Web3 project is funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FINNISH NATIONAL GALLERY'S COPYRIGHT-FREE COLLECTION

The Finnish National Gallery first made images of artworks available for free use in 2016. Since then, many more images have been added, as the artists' copyrights have expired, and new works have been photographed. Today, there are more than 25,000 freely downloadable and copyright-free images of artworks available. These also include a large variety of sketches by artists, as well as other documents within the Finnish National Gallery collection, such as photographs and letters.

Providing the public with access to our collections, is one way of offering enriching and rewarding museum experiences. We want to offer the public an opportunity to gain some of the cultural and human values we feel that our collection can convey.

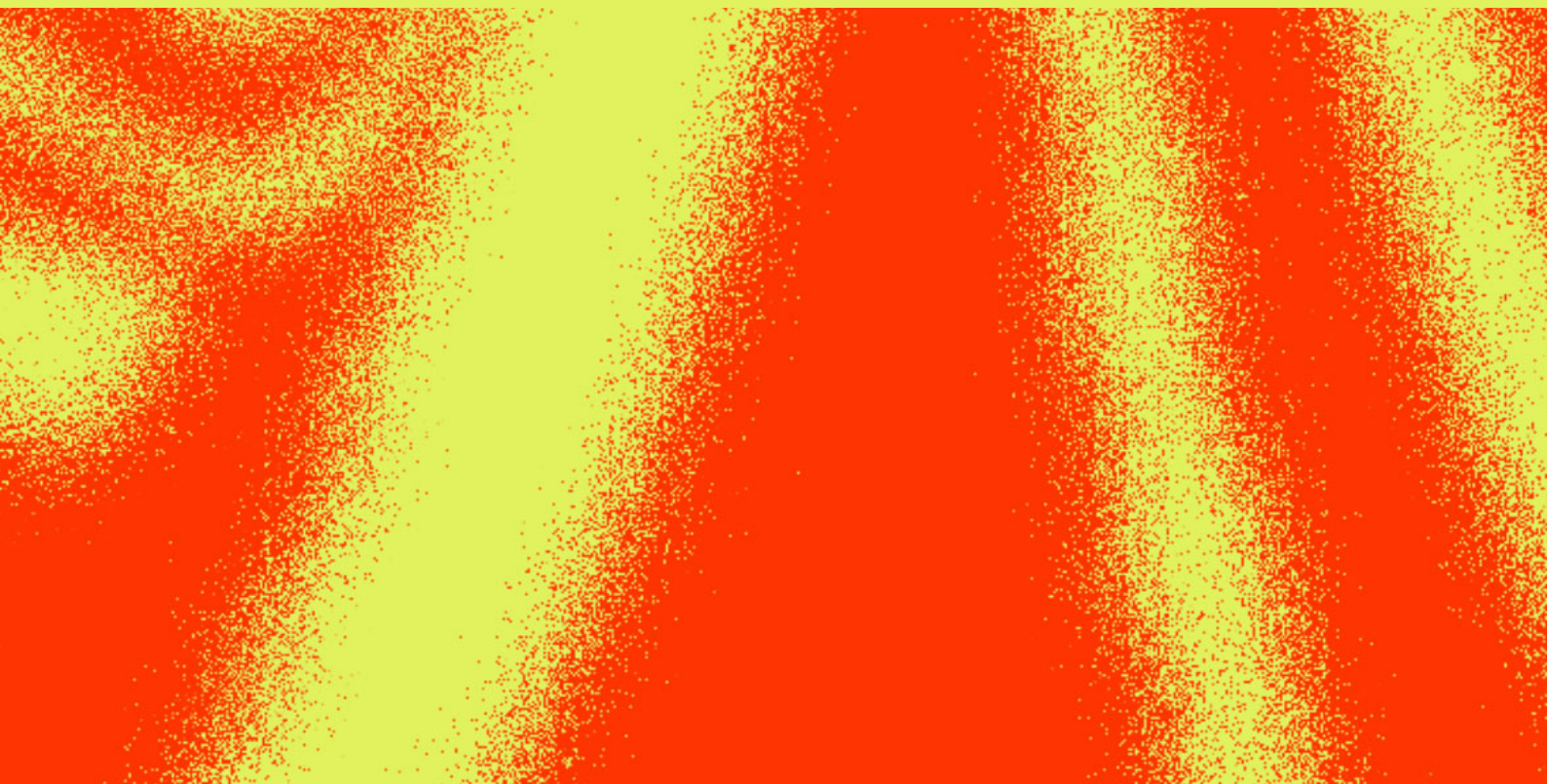
The copyright protection for works of visual art is 70 years from the year of the artists' death. After this period, the published images become available for free public domain use, without a permission procedure. The images are a great resource for example for academia.

Images intended for public domain use can be downloaded from the Finnish National Gallery website. Images marked as copyright-free are available for public to use without restrictions, including commercial use.

The Finnish National Gallery collection also includes copyright-free artworks by internationally renowned artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, and Edvard Munch.

2.2 THE COMPETITION BRIEF

Participants are asked to create a new generative artwork that innovatively uses the copyright-free, CC0-licensed collection data of the Finnish National Gallery in its implementation as well as blockchain technology. By generative art, we refer to works that use an algorithm governed by artist-defined rules and parameters, and that generates dynamic variations.



2.3 COMPETITION CONDITIONS

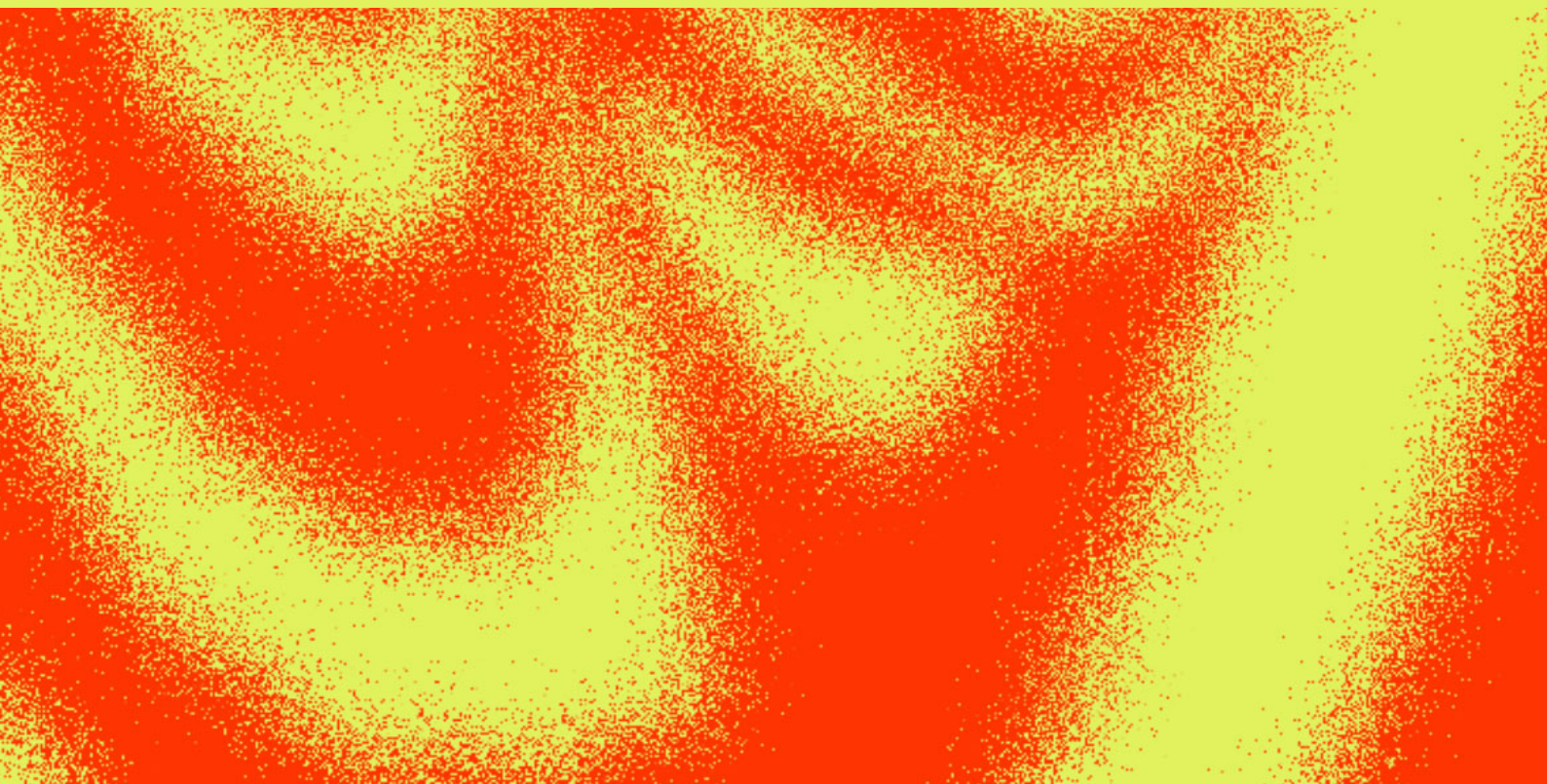
Works participating in the competition must meet the following conditions: :

- The work must be created for the competition and the result of the creative work of a natural person or persons.
- The work participating in the competition must be new, and it must not infringe the copyrights of others.
- The work must use the Finnish National Gallery's copyright-free collection data as part of the implementation of the work.
- Submitted artworks must be created using an algorithm governed by artist-defined rules and parameters, generating dynamic variations. The work can be presented as a limited or an unlimited series. The submission and evaluation of the work takes place in the Highlight service, where a generative series is created from the work: <https://highlight.xyz>. The work can be presented as a limited or and unlimited series.
- The work must meet the technical conditions set out by Highlight: highlight.xyz/generative-nfts and github.com/highlightxyz/generative-art
- The submitted work must be created on the test network, and a link to the work must be provided on the submission form. Works created on other networks are not considered in the competition.
- Submissions must include a detailed description of the artworks concept, that also explains how the collection data of the Finnish National Gallery has been used within the work.
- When registering for the competition, the competition participants must ensure that they supply all the requested attachments and information. Only works entered within the set timeframe and accompanied by all the necessary information can be accepted as part of the competition. All written documents in the application must be submitted **in English**.
- Participation in the competition is open for both individual artists and artist groups. Artists or artist groups can participate with a maximum of three submissions. From these submitted works, a maximum of one can be selected for the shortlist.
- Shortlisted works will be presented at the competition exhibition organised in Helsinki in autumn 2024. If selected for the shortlist, participants must undertake to expand and refine the written material related to the work at the request of the Finnish National Gallery within one month of being notified of the result.
- Jury and Shortlist Committee members have the right to examine the submitted works source code.
- Shortlisted participants agree to make the submitted artwork and the generated series produced by it available for purchase for the duration of the exhibition through the Highlight service, under the same parameters it was submitted to the competition. Each participant shall set the price for the submitted artwork at their sole discretion.
- The evaluation of submitted works, to select the shortlisted works, is carried out anonymously.
- Competition participants retain ownership of and copyright to their works.
- By participating in the competition, the participant(s) accept and agree to comply with the rules set out in the competition programme.

2.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria for submitted works are the artistic and technical quality of the work; the innovative use of the Finnish National Gallery's collection data; and the strength of the works concept in relation to the collection data.

In evaluating the work, the suitability of the work in a physical exhibition may also be considered. Submitted works must be unpublished, new, and specifically created for the competition.



3. TIMETABLE AND PHASES OF THE COMPETITION

3.1 PHASE I OF THE COMPETITION

TIMETABLE

The submission time for entering the competition begins on Friday, 1 March 2024, and ends on Friday, 31 May 2024 at 11.59 p.m. (UTC+2).

After the submission time has ended the Shortlist Committee will, by the end of June 2024, select ten artworks to take part in phase II of the competition. A compliance check for shortlisted artists and/or artists groups will be conducted between June and July 2024 (see section 1.1). The shortlisted works will be announced in August 2024.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE COMPETITION

Competitors have the right to request clarifications and additional information about the competition. All questions and answers related to the competition will be anonymously posted and answered on the competition website's frequently asked questions (FAQ) section. This will be updated on a continuous basis and available for everyone to view. All questions in relation to the competition must be sent no later than Friday, 1 May 2024 to the Combine24 competition's official e-mail address combine@fng.fi.

SUBMISSION PROCESS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

The competition is open for submissions from Friday 1 March 2024, and ends on Friday, 31 May 2024 at 11.59 p.m. (UTC+2). Submissions must use the copyright-free collection data of the Finnish National Gallery as part of the implementation of the work.

The collection data materials used for the competition can be found at kansallisgalleria.fi/en/api-sovelluskehittajille.

The submission form will be available on the competition website from the 1st of March 2024. Submitted works and all associated documents must be provided by the 31st of May 2024 at 11.59 p.m. (UTC+2), in English. Detailed competition conditions and technical requirements can be found in section 2.3.

To be considered in the competition, submissions must contain all the attachments, text files and links requested on the submission form, including a list of copyright holders, if the copyrights do not belong to the entire working group.

Only proposals that arrive by the submission deadline and that contain all the required documents specified on the submission form will be accepted for the competition. In unclear cases, it is the participant's responsibility to demonstrate that the proposal has arrived on time.

PHASE I: EVALUATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHORTLIST

The Shortlist Committee aims to resolve the Phase I of the competition, so that the shortlisted works selected for phase II can be announced on Monday, 5 August 2023. Shortlisted works will be announced on the competition website.

An evaluation report will be prepared, which will contain general feedback on the submitted works and individual evaluations of the best proposals, as well as information on which artists or artist groups have been selected for Phase II. The evaluation report will be available on the competition website (5.8.–31.12.2024).

3.2 PHASE II OF THE COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

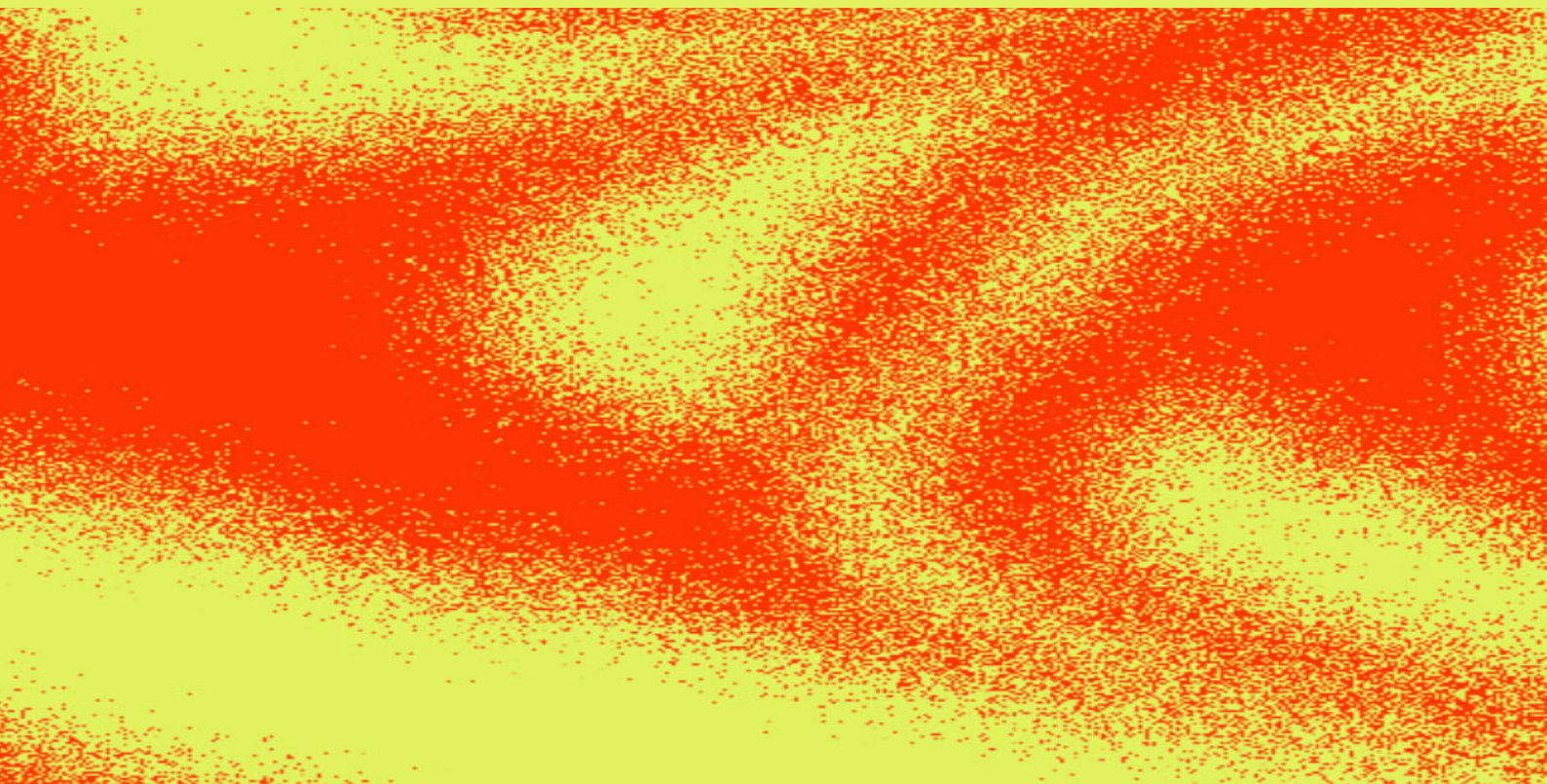
The second phase of the competition begins on Friday, 1 August 2024, and ends in late October 2024 after the competition exhibition has ended. Only the ten shortlisted works and their creators selected in phase I will participate in the second phase of the competition.

Selected participants will receive personalised notifications regarding the results and will be provided with additional instructions pertaining to the compliance check. Shortlisted competitors who successfully pass the compliance check will then receive a request for additional written materials required for the competition exhibition.

In phase II, the shortlisted works will take part in a physical exhibition organised as part of the competition in Helsinki in autumn 2024 (September and October).

Voting for the Audience Favourite prize will take place between 1 September and 1 October 2024. Shortlisted works will be made available for purchase on the opening day of the exhibition, under the parameters by which they were submitted via the Highlight platform. Participants have the autonomy to set the price for their work.

The winners, for each of the three prize, will be announced in early October 2024 at a separate event, midway through the exhibition



4. RULES OF THE COMPETITION

4.1 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Finnish National Gallery does not insure the competition proposals, and it is not responsible for any possible damages to files in connection with the competition or related activities.

Participants retain full ownership, copyright and intellectual property rights to the works submitted to the competition. However, the Finnish National Gallery reserves the right to use the submitted materials of the works selected for phase II of the competition (also in a modified form as is necessary for the intended purpose) and the names of competitors without separate compensation:

- in all communication and marketing related to the competition and exhibition, across all media, platforms, and channels, including all social media platforms and channels; and
- to create materials in any form suitable for the aforementioned purposes.

The works selected for phase II of the competition will be displayed without separate compensation on the Finnish National Gallery website, the Highlight platform, the competition website and/or in a physical exhibition.

Participants accept the terms of service of the Highlight service: <https://highlight.xyz/privacy-policy> and <https://highlight.xyz/terms-of-service>

Competition participants warrant that the work submitted to the competition is the result of their independent creative work, and that the work and its use in accordance with the competition rules do not infringe the copyright or other intellectual property rights of any party and does not require

consent from other parties or entitle them to compensation. Plagiarism in any form is strictly prohibited and will lead to the exclusion of the work and the creator from the competition.

If the work infringes any copyrights or intellectual property rights, the creator(s) of the work is responsible for all costs and damages resulting thereof.

The Finnish National Gallery and/or Highlight are not responsible in any way for the works entered in the competition; the full responsibility lies with the participant. The Finnish National Gallery reserves the right to disqualify any submitted works from the competition that it deems to contain offensive material or to violate any applicable laws.

Submissions will be disqualified if they are received before or after the specified competition submission period, or if it is in violation or does not comply with this competition programme and/or rules. If a proposal is disqualified from the competition, the reason for this will be given in the evaluation report.

Competition participants accept that the Finnish National Gallery reserves the right of final and binding interpretation in all matters related to the competition programme and its rules.

Disputes related to the competition are primarily resolved through negotiations between the parties. If the negotiations do not lead to a solution within a reasonable time, the parties agree that the dispute will be resolved by applying Finnish law (excluding its conflict of laws principles) in the District Court of Helsinki.

4.2 CHANGES TO THE COMPETITION PROGRAMME

The competition follows this competition programme. In case of discrepancies between the language versions, the English version will prevail. In the event, that alterations or additions to the competition programme are required, competitors will receive notification, at least 30 days prior to the conclusion of the competition period, posted on the competition website. If necessary, the competition period may be extended.

4.3 CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE COMPETITION

Phase I of the competition is confidential. The identity of the artist/artists must not be revealed in written material accompanying submissions to the competition. Submitted materials will only be processed by the contact person of the competition. Once the shortlisted works have been selected, the contact person will disclose the identities of the shortlisted artists to the members of the Shortlist Committee and Jury.

In phase II of the competition, the Jury will make decisions on, which of the shortlisted works will receive the first and second prize in the competition. Jurors will be aware of the identities of the submitted works throughout the jurying process. Unawarded entries and their identifying data will be destroyed six months after the resolution of the competition.

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