

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST BOOK COMPETITION

mirrored

mirrored

COMPETITION RULES

Registration closes on 1st September 2025

Works submission closes on 1st February 2026

Works exhibition from 1st July to 15 November 2026

Competition Organizers

The MAI Nantes Museum (Printing Museum-Workshop)
The Friends of the MAI Nantes Museum

Theme

Each participant is invited to create an artists' book
around the theme :

mirrored

mirrored

Conditions of Participation

This competition is open to professional artists, artist-authors, and professional craftspersons (Siret number or professional tax affiliation number obligatory).
The project leader may work alone or create a collaborative work.

They must complete and send, digitally, the duly completed registration form, accompanied by payment of the registration fee of 25 euros (transfer in euros) before the 1st September 2025.

(Bank account reference at the end of the competition rules and on the registration form).

The participant must accept these rules without reservation.
Registration fees are binding and non-refundable.

The artists' book - Form - Format and Techniques

The artists' book must include both text(s) and illustration(s).

We would like to highlight traditional printing techniques which reflect MAI's fundamentals.

The format of the closed book must be a maximum of 20 cm x 20 cm.

When open, it can unfold in 3 dimensions and the shape of the book is open to interpretation (triangular, circular, rectangular, etc.).

The artist must use one or more of the following printing techniques:

- For the text : typography with lead or wood typeface or engraved text for handwritten texts.
- For the illustrations : intaglio, linocut, woodcut, lithography, screen printing.

All texts and illustrations must be the original production of the artist, author or collective. No digital process, photocopy, or photographic process will be allowed.

For the impressions, only all paper-related support materials are accepted for the creation of the book.

The artist's book must be original, specially created for this event, and fit the theme. It must be an original, include a colophon, be numbered and signed, no photocopies will be accepted.

The author(s) agree to submit only one work for the competition.

The artists' books sent will become the full and complete property of the organizing bodies of the competition without compensation or royalties to the creator; we thank the participants for this. They will enrich the MAI's collection.

Any artist participating in the competition assigns, for an unlimited period, all economic rights to exploit their work within the meaning of Article L.122-1 of the French Intellectual Property Code, including rights of reproduction, presentation, communication to the public, on all media and by all processes known to date, including online networks.

Results

- Works submission closes on 1st February 2026
- A jury will meet in March 2026 and the results will be communicated in May to the winners and to all those whose books have been selected for the exhibition.
- Awards ceremony at the opening of the artists' book exhibition. The opening date will be communicated to you later.

Prizes

First prize : 1 500 euros

Second prize : 1 000 euros

Audience Award attributed at the end of the exhibition : materials offered

How to Submit the Book

Your artists' book may be left directly at the MAI Museum's reception desk or sent, with sufficient postage at the current rate, before 1st February 2026 (midnight/Paris time) by post to the following address :

MAI DE NANTES

Concours du livre d'artiste 2026

24 quai de la Fosse

44000 Nantes - France

Important : please include a copy of your registration form with the artists' book.

Catalogue

A catalogue with the artists' books presented during this exhibition will be published and offered for sale during the event.

If you wish to appear in the catalogue :

please send us 1 photograph of your work in JPG - 300 DPI - 10cm x 15cm, on a white background, properly lit, specifying the format of your work in all its dimensions, also before 1st February 2026, by e-mail to the following address :

concourslivre26@gmail.com

Cancellation Clauses

The MAI of Nantes reserves the right to cancel, shorten, or suspend the competition for any reason whatsoever * or in the event of a "force majeure" and undertakes to notify participants as soon as possible by e-mail.

* If it appears, during the awarding of prizes that fraud has occurred, in any way whatsoever, the MAI reserves the right not to award the prize to the fraudsters.

* Any problem that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of these rules will be resolved by the competent courts after a recourse at conciliation.

REGISTRATION FEE - 25 EUROS - transfer in euros

Bank account name : Les amis du MAI

IBAN FR76 1027 8361 9300 0125 7600 132

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References to include in the transfer details : **your first and last name**