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**Applications for the Competition should be sent to the address** **foundationmaticamira@gmail.com**

Invitation for the members of Fine and Applied Art Associations to participate in the International Competition **"ART FOR A NEW NON-VIOLENT CULTURE OF PEACE"**

on the occasion of the celebration and performing cultural programmes

**"NOVI SAD, EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2022"**

**Spiritual and theoretical frameworks of the competition**

Modern world is in a critical situation, exposed to "transformational changes of an uncertain outcome" and is threatened by decades of pandemics and information, biological and classical wars. The world has entered a period of profound political, economic, social and technological changes that have the potential to stop the era of economic integrations and international partnerships. The world is threatened firstly by fundamentalist, terrorist attacks, then interstate conflicts of regional and continental consequences, economic- financial hardship and growing inequality, extreme climate disasters, collapse of states or crises of countries and high structural unemployment. The vain ethnocentrism of individual, large and small nations and the fanaticism of certain religions claiming that they are the only true pilgrims of the messianic path, deny the rest of the humanity a joint participation in the creative spiritual economy of survival and transformation of humanity and the world. Nevertheless, an apocalyptic future is not inevitable!

After the peaceful, non-violent Neolithic Vinča-Danubian civilisation, a period of five millennia of incessant conflicts and wars began, caused by the irreconcilability of different experiences and ideas about God, man and the world, then conflicts of religious, racial and national fundamentalisms started, subsequently conflicts over mineral and energy resources, economic and monetary dominance, then conflicts over environmental, educational, health and nutrition ideas, and now besides these "classic" conflicts, new conflict phenomena are added such as pandemics and the protection from them, transhumanism and artificial intelligence. The great creative energy that is being annihilated through all these mutual conflicts of humanity on all these levels can be redirected and synchronised around the phenomenon of tolerant communication among different people, gathering the strength of all people and not creating conflict among them, by comprehensive gathering of human personality and not splitting their genes, soul and spirit, by gathering positive historical experiences and not by erasing them, by gathering the forces of nature and not by splitting atoms, repairing geoclimatic changes by soft technologies that use infinite energy sources ( sun, wind, biomass, gravity…) and not final sources (minerals), by the improvement of education and health, the development of compassion and coexistence with others, all for sustainable future of the man and the planet Earth. We live in a world dominated by politics, science, technology, computing, pharmaceuticals and religion, and the importance of social studies and arts has been significantly diminished.

Political systems and politicians are tearing humanity apart at various seams; science, technology and informatics divide humanity into those who create new sciences, technologies and information technologies and those who more or less use them or do not use them; religions divide humanity into those who believe in God and those who do not, and thus divide people according to specific dogmatic approaches to God. Politics, science and religion have not only failed to bring happiness and peace over the past few millennia, but have constantly created new divisions, a perpetuum mobile of divisions and conflicts and the incorporation of fears in every individual; that is why humanity is divided in many ways, and so are individuals themselves, constantly having many doubts and being at various crossroads.

Is the mankind following the prophetic visions of Aldous Huxley's " Brave New World, George Orwell's 1984 or Inside the Whale in which he predicts a bleak future? It is almost certain that we are moving towards an era of totalitarian dictatorships, an era in which the freedom of thought will first represent a mortal sin and then an insignificant abstraction. An independent individual will no longer exist. " If the 20th century artists have seen the future predicted by St John on the island of Patmos in the I century AD, the Apocalypse, we can suppose that artists today can see and present us their artistic visions that do not lead to any kind of totalitarianism or new divisions and conflicts but offer us inspiring elements of a new, non-violent culture of peace." They can succeed in that on the condition that they release their creative powers from the ghetto in which the dominant goals are: denial and destruction of everything from the past, i.e., undermining the work of their colleague predecessors, the absence of harmony and coherence, shocking the audience with various deviations, or anesthetizing the audience with various kinds of absurdities.

 Art seems to be the only thing that can speak the universal language of understanding for all humanity. It is art that understands that new divisions should not be made, that old divisions cannot be abolished by violence and that peace matrices can be created to enable, on one hand, the spotting of differences, divisions and conflicts of interest, and on the other, the possibility of different intersections and transformations, to avoid fears, hatred, violence and wars. The role of art is not to fight against political systems, science, religions and various pyramids of power (earth, water and fire). Its role is much more important. Art should, on one hand, overcome them, and on the other hand, pass them a creative urging, vital stimulus of non-violent harmonies and new spirituality without arousing fears.

Every nation, religion, language and culture should preserve their roots. For all the roots, identities, words, colours, forms and vibrations there is enough space and time under the sun, on the soil of mother earth.

Every nation, religion, language and culture that agree "voluntarily" to be cut off from their roots will fall into gravitational fields of those peoples, religions, languages and cultures that develop, but remain rooted in their origins and will be decoded and sucked in by them and will disappear from the historical scene as a difference of specifics.

Every artist bears their responsibility for the state of diminished power of art, put aside, in the contemporary world. New models of creation should be found, as well as a new peace-making and myth-making language and art code of a non-violent culture of peace.

Can the language of fine and applied arts, for a start, bring closer and connect cultures and peoples (their ideas and symbols) who are in conflict and rivalry, so that they can better recognize each other's right to different meaning of lifestyles, creation and existence? Can art, artists and their works, build a bridge between opposing fundamentalist and radical political, economic, philosophical and religious ideologies and dogmas and thus reduce extreme hatred and radical conflict?

Art for a new, non-violent culture of peace is such an art that possesses the power to overcome tensions between religions, languages, peoples and cultures. It is an art that, with its wave matrices of forms, symbols, colours and materials, restores faith in the common genetic fund of all humanity, which no longer wants to deal only with itself, i.e., to support unnatural programmes and agendas that lead to new divisions, conflicts and "voluntary", read violent, domination of one over the other, to elimination of the "different", read disobedient, to a war of all against all and to self-destruction.

Every responsible artist should try to design and realize in his works a beneficial intersection and permeation of opposite forces of reality and utopia, restrictions and freedom, subjective and objective, material and spiritual. It is necessary to create a new ascetic art of non-violent culture of peace that can become the common heritage of people today, if we want to preserve and guarantee the sustainable development of humanity tomorrow.

The person who knows how to revive symbols-resurrects the past, and he who knows how to balance religions, peoples, languages and cultures enables a sustainable future for humanity and the planet Earth. Compassion is the greatest virtue of man, and achieving peace and tolerance among the different is the primordial aim of humanity. In order to achieve peace and balance in the world, it is necessary to develop a sense of universal responsibility, deep care for everyone, regardless of religion, race, gender or nationality.

That new art of non-violent culture of peace with still undiscovered reserves of the power of influence can be based in these difficult and harsh times, on the one hand ,on the differences of the specifics of one's own traditional culture, and on the other, on creative freedom that advocates works of art whose power encourages people to emerge from the armour of fear and hatred to participate in the new renaissance of non-violent humanity.

**Novi Sad, as the European Capital of Culture in 2022,** has the historical and moral right of a suffering city to contribute, with its actions, competitions and manifestations in maintaining the balance of peace and cooperation between East and West in Pannonia, the Balkans, Europe, Euro-Asia and throughout the world. Fine and applied artists who have just been engaged can contribute, with their works, to the path of solidarity, cooperation, non-violence and peace-making. This is the essential meaning of our competition **"Art for a new non-violent culture of peace":** to give a chance to you, engaged and responsible fine and applied artists, to compete for awards with their works of art and their projects.

**Competition rules**

**The organiser of the competition:** Foundation "Matica mira" Novi Sad

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**The city of Novi Sad is one of the sponsors of this international competition.**

**The competition is global and selective, two-stage in two rounds of judging.**

**The competition is open from September 5 2021. to April 1, 2022.**

**Applications for the Competition should be sent to the address** **foundationmaticamira@gmail.com**

**Everyone is invited, and the best 100 works will be selected for the central exhibition from July 1 to July 31, 2022 in Novi Sad.**

**Every adult fine and applied artist from any country in the world has the right to prepare an author's work in a free technique and free size by March 1, 2022, to photograph it and to compete with it.**

**The criteria of the competition are:** anti-war engagement of non-violence and peace-keeping, ahimsa, criticism of stable narratives, new spirituality, ascetic art of freedom, newly created artistic values without annihilation of tradition, art towards tradition and renewal, ascetic art and balancing, art in the diplomacy of peace-keeping, the future of peace-keeping art, art inspired by the sources of harmony, anti-apocalyptic peace-keeping art.

The work is sent in the form of a photograph in electronic form, dimensions 50 x 50 cm, with a completed application form (attached) and a scanned payment receipt of the registration fee for the participation in the competition. It should be sent to the organiser by email in JPEG format in the resolution 300 x 300 dpi.

Participation costs-registration fee in the international competition is:

* 20 euros for students and young artists up to 25 years old and artists -pensioners over 65
* 40 euros for artists from 26 to 64 years old

**Registration fee is paid to the foreign account of the Foundation** **"Matica Mira" Novi Sad (IBAN RS35330007080000415089). Instructions for payment from abroad are attached.**

**Members of the jury in the national competition "ART FOR A NEW NON-VIOLENT CULTURE OF PEACE", who have confirmed their participation in the jury:**

1.**Vojislav D. Dević**, architect, MSA academician, manager of the Foundation "Matica mira" Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia

2. **Dušan Milovanović**, art historian, theorist, critic and publicist, Republic of Serbia

3. **Vladimir Aleksandrovič Babošin**, academician of St-Petersburg Academy of Science and Art, Russian Federation

4. **Grozdana Šarčević**, art critic and museum advisor, AICA member, Republic of Serbia

5. **PhD Professor John A. Lent**, art historian and an expert for visual literature, USA

6. **Zoran Stefanović**, writer, cultural researcher and international cultural activist, President of the International Cultural Network Project Rastko-Republic of Serbia

We are expecting the confirmation of one jury member from the EU, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India.

**Programme calendar**

The jury of the competition will select in the first round (from 2 to April 30,2022) all the works that arrive by March 31, 2022, and the works received after the April 1, will not be taken into account.

All the participants in the first round of the competition will be informed by May 1, 2022 whose work has been selected to enter the best 100 works, i.e., to the second round of judging for awards and diplomas and will receive a certificate in electronic format which means that their participation in our international competition has launched a new page in contemporary art.

Hundred works selected for the second round of judging will be printed (in 50 x 50 cm format), laminated and exhibited at the central exhibition in the Great Hall of the Digital Youth Centre from July 1 to 31, 2022 in Vojvode Putnika 1, the City of Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia and will be presented to the media, posted on the Foundation's website and on social networks.

Foundation "Matica Mira" Novi Sad will publish a trilingual Serbian-English-Russian catalogue that will be visible and sent in electronic format to all the participants in the first round of judging via the website [www.idobravoj.com](http://www.idobravoj.com) , posted on social networks and forwarded to all the Associations whose members send their works, as well as to all the selected participants whose work will enter the second round of judging.

* Exhibition catalogue in electronic format
* Promo-film of the project CENPANTRANS, CENTRE FOR PANHARMONIOUS TRANSFIGURATION OF MAN AND THE WORLD
* a diploma that they have entered the selection of 100 best fine and applied art anti-war and peacekeeping works

**Every artist whose work enters the second round of judging will be obliged to send us by Mayl 30, 2022 the following:**

* their photograph (300 dpi resolution)
* short biography (300 characters with spaces) with the address and email
* the price of their original work

Under each printed and laminated exhibition work the name and surname of the author, year of birth, the title of the work, technique, city and country where they live, the price of the original work (which remains in the author's possession and is not sent to the exhibition) and the author's email address.

Buyers interested in the original works will make purchases in direct communication with the author, without the mediation of the Foundation "Matica mira" Novi Sad. The biography and the photograph of the author (top 100) with the basic information and email will be published with a photograph of the selected work in the trilingual catalogue of the exhibition.

Of all the selected and exhibited works (maximum 100) the jury will select in the second round (Jun 1–15, 2022) the ones that will best meet the criteria of the competition, anti-war engagement, non-violence and peace-keeping, ahimsa, the criticism of stable narratives, new spirituality, ascetic art, freedom, newly created artistic values without annulment of tradition, art towards tradition and renewal, ascetic art and balance, art in peacekeeping diplomacy, future of peace art, art inspired by sources of harmony, anti-apocalyptic peace art, and award three best works in gold, silver and bronze Knight of the Art of Peace of the Matica Mira Foundation, Novi Sad. All 100 artists will receive diplomas and will be informed which three works received the most points.

The three winners of the competition will be informed by Jun 16, 2022 and invited to attend the opening of the exhibition of selected works at the international competition "Art for a New Non-violent Culture of Peace" and will be awarded orders and diplomas, and in the case of more art participants and sponsors they will get appropriate monetary prizes.

The award ceremony of the winners, awarding of diplomas, orders and desirable monetary prizes will take place on the very day of the exhibition opening on July 1, 2022. The orders will be handed to them in person or by email if they cannot, due to possible Covid measures, come to the opening of the exhibition in Novi Sad. The authors of all exhibited works will be sent the diplomas in electronic form or presented in printed cardboard frame if they come to the exhibition in person.

**The three first-prize-winning and awarded artists will also receive the title of Knight of the Art of Peace of the** **"Matica Mira" Foundation in Novi Sad, and their warded works will be sent in electronic form, with our recommendation to the United Nations and UNESCO.**

All the three award-winning artists will be able to give short lectures (live or via skype) to the public about their views on the engaged art of peace and peace-making in the contemporary world.

During the exhibition, a round table will be held (the official languages of the round table will be Serbian, English and Russian) with the eponymous theme of the competition "Art for a new non-violent culture of peace", which will sign the manifesto of respectable art of new non-violent culture of peace. The draft text of the Manifesto will be submitted for inspection by the end of May 2022 to all Associations of Fine and Applied Arts, whose members apply and send their works to the international competition "Art for a New Non-violent Culture of Peace".

The exhibition will also have its nine-language Serbian-English-Russian-Chinese-French-Spanish-German-Hindu-Arabic catalogue.

Can the art of non-violence and non-violent art awaken and reconcile the divided and feuding humanity? Your artwork will answer this question of all questions.

**We invite all fine and applied artists to submit their engaged peacekeeping anti-war works to our international competition and we are waiting for you, when and if you have an opportunity, to visit our City of Novi Sad, European Capital of Culture 2022, The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the Republic of Serbia. We look forward to welcoming you!**

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**Manager Vojislav D.Dević, MSA academician**

**"Matica Mira" Foundation, Novi Sad**

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