

OPEN CALL

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# MLG PRIZE 2023

/CONTEMPORARY  
PRIMITIVE

INTERNATIONAL  
CONTEMPORARY  
PRINTMAKING  
PRIZE 2023  
DEDICATED TO  
MARIA LUIGIA  
GUAITA

Intellectual, partisan, journalist, publisher, entrepreneur and above all an intrepid woman of culture, Maria Luigia Guaita (Pisa 1912-Florence 2007) founded the art printshop “Il Bisonte” in Florence in 1959. She was joined by intellectuals, writers and a large group of artists from all backgrounds they all started a fervent production of prints. In 1972 she was a leading promoter of the memorable exhibition of sculptures by Henry Moore at Forte Belvedere, flanked by the exhibition of prints at Il Bisonte. In the 1980s, Maria Luigia founded Il Bisonte Art Gallery and School of Graphic Art to protect and transmit the technical mastery acquired in more than twenty years of passionate activity and give adequate showcase to the archive of published artworks and to temporary exhibitions of guest artists. It was finally in 2005 that Maria Luigia gathered the different souls of Il Bisonte into the institution of the homonymous Foundation.

We dedicate to this passionate and clever woman, who was in love with the printmaking, the Prize that we establish here in its first edition.

# PRIZE REGULATION

## Art.1 / PROMOTERS

Fondazione Il Bisonte - Stampa d'Arte  
MAD Murate Art District, Mus.e Firenze  
Associazione Eletto Arte

## Art.2 / BENEFICIARIES

The Prize is open to international artists who are dedicated to research in the field of printmaking. The participation is free of charge

## Art.3 / THEME OF THE CONTEST

The theme chosen for the first edition of the prize is Contemporary Primitive. In 1959, Maria Luigia Guaita chose the name "Il Bisonte" in memory of the first images drawn by prehistoric humans to represent the world in primitive cave paintings. Today, the activities of the International School Il Bisonte aim to promote the tradition of an ancient technique by enriching and reinterpreting it through modes and instances rooted in the contemporary. With a view to perpetrating and at the same time expanding the boundaries of this language, it is therefore essential the profitable dialogue established on the occasion of this award with MAD Murate Art District, a center for contemporary art and artist residencies in the city of Florence that has been configured for years as a synergistic space of creation, a place of transdisciplinary research and experimentation for artists of all ages and backgrounds.

## Art. 4 / ADMISSION CRITERIA

The following criteria are required for participation in the selection process, under penalty of exclusion:

- Older than 18 years old
- Having shown at least one solo or group exhibition in a museum, public institution or private art gallery

## Art 5 / ARTWORKS ELIGIBLE

Each participating artist must submit No. 1 artwork created between 2020 and 2023. The work must be printed on papersheets of a maximum size of 52x72 cm and must present, in pencil preferably on the front of the sheet: signature, progressive number of the copy/edition. Artworks that have previously won other art awards are not accepted.

## Art. 6 / TECHNIQUES

Are eligible for the competition artworks designed and created by the artist, hand-printed through printmaking process (including photomechanical techniques as long as there is direct and manual intervention of the artist on the matrix), woodcut (on wood, linoleum and related materials), collography, lithography and silkscreen. Monotypes, monoprints, digitally printed works, giclée and fine art are not allowed.

## Art.7 / SELECTION

The Scientific Committee, in its sole and final judgment, will determine ten finalists including 1 winner and 2 artists who have distinguished themselves by special mention by February 28th, 2023.

## Art. 8 / PRIZES

Ten works selected by a jury composed of museum directors, art historians and printmaking experts will enter the final round.

- To the winner a prize equivalent to €500;
- To the winner and the 2 artists with special mention a three-week artistic residency at Fondazione Il Bisonte with a final exhibition;
- To the 10 finalists a group exhibition at MAD Murate Art District, Florence;

## Art.9 / RIGHTS OF REPRODUCTION

The authors of the ten selected works acknowledge to the organizers the right, free of charge, to reproduce the works in publications and in the communication of MAD Murate Art District, Fondazione Il Bisonte, Associazione Eletto Arte, in promotional materials and other media for the purpose of promoting the Prize and subsequent editions.

## Art.10 / TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

To participate in the Prize, an entry email must be sent to [info@elettotour.it](mailto:info@elettotour.it). At the same time, the artist must send an envelope containing the original work and the requested materials to Fondazione Il Bisonte - Via di San Niccolò, 24r 50125 Florence no later than 31/01/2023.

The entry email must be sent via wetransfer and contain the following:

- Application for participation (attachment A)
- Photo of the artwork (maximum 2 MB)
- Updated portfolio containing artistic resume and statement

The envelope should contain:

- Printed application form (attachment A)
- No. 1 original print in competition

The following is also notified:

- Participation is free of charge;
- Entries received only by email without sending the printed envelope will not be considered;
- The artworks must be sent properly packaged in a rigid support (including tube) and without passepartout and frame;
- "Print without commercial value" must be marked on the envelope;
- The back of the work should indicate: author, title, techniques, sheet size, year;
- Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered. The organization assumes no responsibility for any damage suffered by the works;
- Shipping costs are borne by the participants, as are the costs of picking up works that will not be selected among the 10 finalists;
- The ten finalist works will become part of the collection of Il Bisonte Foundation and Associazione Eletto Arte;
- The artists taking part in the residency are required to leave ten marketable copies produced during the residency with the Il Bisonte Foundation. Materials (matrices, inks, paper etc.) are not included;
- Each artist must be in possession of a high-definition scan of the artwork in competition that may be requested in case of selection.

## Art.11 / TIMETABLE

January 31th, 2023 / Application deadline

February 28th, 2023 / Publication of winner and special mention names

April 20th-May 4th, 2023 / Group exhibition of the ten finalists at MAD Murate Art District, Florence. During the opening there will be an award ceremony.

April 17th - May 4th, 2023 / Art residency at the studios of Fondazione Il Bisonte, located in the ancient stables of Palazzo Serristori in Florence

May 5th - 19th, 2023 / Exhibition of the artworks realized during the residency set up at the Il Bisonte Foundation Art Gallery

## Art. 12 / RETURN OF NON-SELECTED WORKS

Artworks sent for participation in the Prize that will not be selected among the ten finalists may be withdrawn from the Art Gallery of Fondazione Il Bisonte in via di San Niccolò 24red, Florence by April 30th, 2023 by contacting the organizing secretariat in advance at [info@elettotour.it](mailto:info@elettotour.it). Artworks not withdrawn by the deadline will become part of the collection of the organizations promoting the competition.

## Art.13 / COMMUNICATION AND ADVERTISING

This Notice, the name of the finalists will be published on the institutional websites of: Fondazione Il Bisonte, MAD Murate Art District, Associazione Eletto Arte. All participants will be contacted by email by the organization to communicate the result of the open call.

## Art.14 / ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATIONS

Participation in the competition automatically implies full acceptance of the provisions of these regulations and contextually releases MAD Murate Art District, Fondazione Il Bisonte, Associazione Eletto Arte, and the other promoters involved from any liability (criminal, civil, pecuniary) arising from any damage to the works or loss or theft of the same.

For any further information please contact the Organizing Secretariat at [info@elettotour.it](mailto:info@elettotour.it) or +39 338 8505 427.

ATTACHMENT A

**INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKING PRIZE  
MARIA LUIGIA GUAITA**

**ARTIST**

Name

Surname

Born in

On

Address

Email

Mobile

Website

**ARTWORK**

Title

Technique

year of realization<sup>1</sup>

Edition

Sheet size<sup>2</sup>

Printmaking size

Concept

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the creation of the work must not be prior to the year 2020 and the work must not have won any other art awards

<sup>2</sup> Please note that the maximum sheet size should not exceed 52x72 cm.

## DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I, the undersigned \_\_\_\_\_ having read the regulations of the Award.

### Declare

to accept it in full. I also authorize the promoters of the Prize to lend my submitted work to third parties who will host the various exhibition phases, to donate my work in competition to Fondazione Il Bisonte if selected among the ten finalists of the Prize. In granting my permission, I release Fondazione Il Bisonte, MAD Murate Art District, Associazione Eletto Arte, the other Promoters of the Prize and third parties from any liability (criminal, civil, pecuniary) arising from any damage, loss or theft of my work. I express my consent that the personal data provided with the application may be processed exclusively for the purposes related to this procedure in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003.

Date

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

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