

THE 56TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

Children's art holds a special fascination. For the children who create it, it is a chance to discover a new way of expression using pencils, pastels, crayons and paint. For adults, the art of children provides a glimpse of the world of the child, a place often very different from the hurried, troubled world of the grownup. Children's art holds a freshness and honesty that many older artists struggle vainly for years to try to achieve. What is most surprising is the innate artistic sense many young artists display with little or no artistic training. It reminds us that art should first and foremost be an expression of the heart and mind, and that technique, while important, should never take precedence over the act of describing what is seen and felt.

International art contests and exhibitions provide a means for the children of the world to communicate in a way that transcends race, language and culture. With this in mind, the Biiku Bunka Kyokai (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation of Japan for Culture of Art Education) of Japan since 1970 has annually organized the International Children's Art Exhibition with the aim of building a greater understanding among the children of the world. It is hoped that by seeing the art of their counterparts in other lands, youngsters, and adults as well, will realize that there is a great deal more that they have in common than that which separates them. It seems that many in other countries share the ideals of the Foundation, for since the first contest, the number of countries participating and the number of entries received have been steadily growing and the quality of the artwork has been consistently high.

Last year, the contest drew artwork from 39 countries and regions and over 36,000 entries of exceptionally high standards were received for judging and exhibiting. Entries for the domestic competition amounted to 80,000 reflecting the status of this contest as one of the largest in Japan; each year the judges of the contest are pleasantly surprised at the originality of the pieces received.

This year we take great pleasure in announcing the 56th International Children's Art Exhibition. We look forward to receiving the continued corporation and support from children and teachers throughout the world that have made the contest such a success in the past.

■ ORGANIZED BY :

Biiku Bunka Kyokai (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation of Japan for Culture of Art Education)

■ WITH THE CORPORATION OF :

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan ●The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- The Yomiuri Shimbun ●Japanese Federation of Artistic Design ●Association of Japanese Art Education
- Pentel Co., Ltd.

■ AWARDS :

Each of the following awards will be presented to the most outstanding entries received from each country :

- Japanese Foreign Minister's Award ●Supreme Gold Award ●Gold Award ●Silver Award ●Bronze Award

■ ENTRY INFORMATION :

1. Open to all children aged 3 to 15.
2. We accept applications with unreleased graphic artwork up to approximately 54 cm x 38 cm in size. No applications accepted with quasi-three-dimensional artwork, or a photograph/photocopy/printed matter of the piece.
3. One entry form (FORM NO.1) from this brochure must be filled out and attached to the upper right-hand corner of the back of each work submitted.
4. A list of entries that includes the entry number, title of entry and the name and age of each entrant must be enclosed with each package of entries submitted (FORM NO.2).
5. All entries from a single school should be submitted as one package. Individual entries conforming to the above rules will also be accepted.
6. Each person can enter only one work.
7. Co-production is not allowed.
8. Only entries conforming to the above rules will be accepted.
9. Handling of submitted works
 - Artwork submitted will become the property of the organizer and will not be returned.
 - Ownership and copyright of submitted works belong to the organizer.
 - The submitted works will be used not only for this exhibition but also for the promotion of art education and international exchange.

■ CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES : October 31, 2025

■ JUDGING : January 2026

■ RESULTS ANNOUNCED : May 2026

Awards will be sent soon after the results of the contest are announced.

■ EXHIBITIONS : Tokyo March 2026

Following the Tokyo exhibition selected works will be exhibited in Osaka and other cities in Japan and abroad.

FORM NO.1 ENTRY FORM

Please attach one of these forms to the upper right-hand corner of the back of each entry.
*Entries submitted without these forms will be disqualified.

56TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION		COUNTRY	ENTRY NUMBER
NAME			AGE
TITLE			
SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER'S NAME		

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NAME			AGE
TITLE			
SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER'S NAME		

56TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION		COUNTRY	ENTRY NUMBER
NAME	V		AGE
TITLE			
SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER'S NAME		

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LIST OF ENTRIES Please fill in the blank.

COUNTRY	LIST NUMBER	E-MAIL
SCHOOL NAME	TEACHER'S NAME	
ADDRESS _____ _____	POSTAL CODE	DATE FORWARDED • • 2025
	TELEPHONE NUMBER	NUMBER OF ENTRIES

[illegible]

*** NOTE : 1. Please type or print clearly.**

2. Please write the same entry number with FORM No.1.

3. Please enclose this list with the package of entries.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING YOUR NEAREST PENTEL OFFICE, WHICH WILL ALSO ACT AS COLLECTION POINTS FOR ENTRIES :

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■ HANDLING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Acquisition of personal information

Biiku Bunka Kyokai (the “Foundation”) will acquire applicants’ personal information as indicated below when accepting applications with artwork.

- Name
- Age
- Country of residence
- Name of affiliated organization (e.g. Name of your school)

Use of personal information

The Foundation shall use applicants’ personal information obtained when receiving their applications for the International Children’s Art Exhibition only for the purpose of running the event when sending out award notifications and prizes. The Foundation shall not use personal information it has received from persons concerned for any other purpose.

The Foundation shall use only the Foreign Ministers Award winner’s personal photo at the awards reception and art exhibitions to be held in Japan conforming to its data protection regulation.

The Foundation shall not share the photos with third parties or use them for commercial purposes. All different uses of the photos have to be specifically authorized by the applicants through their legal representative.

Nondisclosure of personal information to third parties

The Foundation shall not provide personal information of applicants to third parties except for subcontractors without the consent of the persons concerned.

Cases in which personal information shall be disclosed

The Foundation reserves the right to disclose personal information without consent from the applicants in the event that the provision of personal information is required by law, or when the provision of personal information is necessary for the immediate protection of life, body, property, or other significant interests of an individual.

Announcement and rights of applicants

The Foundation shall announce the winners of Foreign Minister’s Award and Special Prizes (collectively referred to as “the winners”) in the book “The 56th International Children’s Art Exhibition” published by the Foundation along with its website.

For inquiries:

International applicants with inquiries about the Foundation’s guidelines for handling personal information are kindly advised to contact the following:

Biiku Bunka Kyokai Administration Office FAX +81-3-5856-6162